UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

October 2026

As we move through another busy fall term, I continue to be encouraged by the energy and sense of purpose across the University of Saskatchewan (USask). I see students, faculty, and staff bringing talent, curiosity, and commitment to the work they do.

This time of year offers a valuable reminder of what makes USask distinctive: a commitment to discovery, learning, and service. Whether we are welcoming new members to this community, celebrating accomplishments, or addressing complex challenges together, we remain focused on building a strong future for the people and places we serve.

UPLAN 2035 UPDATE

Development of UPlan 2035 is entering its final refinement and endorsement phase through discussions with students, academic leadership, governance bodies and external stakeholders and partners. This follows an extensive engagement process involving more than 3,500 members of the university community and nearly 200 external partners, including Indigenous leaders and Knowledge Keepers, governments, industry leaders, research partners, alumni, donors, and community partners. Analysis of more than 17,000 data points has informed the vision that has taken shape: to strengthen Saskatchewan, Canada and the world by focusing on people and solutions.

The vision identifies areas where USask has strengths that enable it to make distinct contributions, including food and water security, health and well-being, thriving communities, sustainable energy and resource futures, and responsible technological transformation.

The Local to Global mission is grounded in Saskatchewan's strengths and communities, and a strong and supported university community, to facilitate accessible and meaningful lifelong learning, advance discovery and insight, and deepen our connection and

commitment to community. Local to Global means that our connection to Saskatchewan grounds who we are and how we contribute to our nation and the world. It shapes the questions we ask, the people with whom we learn, the partnerships we build, and the opportunities and solutions we pursue.

I look forward to presenting the UPlan 2035 to University Council at its October meeting. Council members will have an opportunity to provide feedback through an emailed survey in advance of the endorsement vote anticipated in November. The central components of the UPlan 2035 vision, mission and priorities are appended to this report for reference.

Following review and endorsement processes through the fall and winter, UPlan 2035 is expected to launch in February 2027.

CAMPUS PLANNING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

USask continues to advance long-term campus planning while responding to significant transportation and infrastructure projects affecting the campus community.

City of Saskatoon projects, including construction along College Drive and the Link Rapid Transit project on Preston Avenue, continue to affect access to campus, resulting in changing traffic patterns and increased traffic volumes on surrounding roadways. In response, the university has implemented temporary traffic measures and is advancing a comprehensive Transportation Master Plan to inform future improvements to traffic flow, accessibility, and pedestrian safety.

The Bowl Remediation Project has also entered its final major phase. Following extensive underground infrastructure work, restoration of landscaping and green spaces is underway. The Bowl is expected to remain closed until Fall 2027 to allow vegetation and landscape features time to establish and ensure the long-term sustainability of this important campus gathering space.

HONORARY DEGREE

USask will recognize distinguished alumnus Tim Gitzel with an honorary degree during Fall Convocation.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Cameco, Gitzel has demonstrated exceptional leadership in Canada's resource sector while maintaining strong connections to the university. A globally respected leader in the nuclear energy industry, he has also

championed student success and educational opportunity through his longstanding support of USask, including investments in mental health, energy education, and STEM pathways for northern and Indigenous learners. His contributions to USask students, industry, community development, and Saskatchewan's economic growth exemplify the impact of USask alumni both locally and globally.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION

USask continues to strengthen its reputation as a global research leader.

Rankings

In the latest ShanghaiRanking Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, USask ranked first in Canada and among the top 10 institutions globally in Water Resources. This recognition reflects decades of leadership in hydrology, climate adaptation, and water security research and reinforces the university's international reputation for excellence in water science.

In the recent Maclean's University Rankings, USask placed sixth among 19 institutions in the new mid-sized university category, with top-five results in research impact, library acquisitions and reputation. Because Maclean's significantly changed its categories, indicators and weighting for 2027, the results establish a new baseline and should not be directly compared with previous years. USask will review the detailed findings in the coming weeks.

PAW Congress 2026

This week, USask welcomed researchers, industry leaders, and decision-makers from around the world for PAW Congress 2026. The congress has focused on the critical connections between responsible minerals development, sustainable energy, and thriving communities, highlighting issues that are increasingly important to Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

VIDO scientists

USask's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) has strengthened its research capacity with the recruitment of three internationally recognized scientists: Dr. Troy Sutton (PhD), an expert in emerging influenza viruses; Dr. Anna Lacasta (PhD), a leader in livestock vaccine development and African swine fever research; and Dr. Leonie Bettin (DVM, PhD), a veterinarian and immunologist specializing in swine immunity and vaccine responses. Their expertise will support research into diseases that affect animals, food systems, and global

health security, reinforcing VIDO's role as a leader in infectious disease research and preparedness.

Canada's Top 40 Under 40

Dr. Arinjay Banerjee (PhD), principal scientist at VIDO, adjunct professor in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and Canada Research Chair in Zoonotic Virus and Animal Reservoirs, has been named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40. The recognition honours exceptional leaders who are making significant contributions in their professions and communities. Banerjee is internationally recognized for his research on zoonotic viruses and for advancing solutions that strengthen both animal and human health. His achievement reflects the excellence and global impact of USask researchers.

Alumni Achievement Awards

On Oct. 26, USask will celebrate six exceptional graduates at the 2026 Alumni Achievement Awards. The recipients have distinguished themselves through leadership, service, and professional achievement in fields including health care, sport, journalism, Indigenous economic development, vaccine research, and agriculture.

Their accomplishments reflect the far-reaching impact of a USask education and demonstrate how contributions rooted in Saskatchewan can create positive change in communities across Canada and around the world.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On Sept. 30, USask observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Leading up to the day, the university hosted a Week of Reflection that provided opportunities for learning, dialogue, and remembrance. Members of the university community also participated in the Saskatoon Tribal Council Every Child Matters Powwow, joining others in honouring Survivors, remembering the children who never returned home, and reaffirming our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

This work continues to be guided by the principles of respect, accountability, and relationship-building that are essential to meaningful reconciliation.

HUSKIE ATHLETICS

Huskie student-athletes continue to demonstrate excellence both in competition and in the classroom as the 2026–27 season progresses.

The fall season has seen strong performances across several programs. Football remains among the top teams in Canada West and continues to build momentum heading toward the postseason. Soccer, cross-country, and hockey student-athletes are also representing USask with determination, skill, and pride as their seasons unfold. Volleyball starts tomorrow and basketball, next week.

Huskie Athletics remains an important source of community connection and institutional pride, showcasing the leadership, resilience, and achievements of our student-athletes both on and off the field of play.

CLOSING REMARKS

This fall has highlighted a university that is ambitious, collaborative, and deeply connected to the communities it serves.

Whether through the development of UPlan 2035, investments in campus infrastructure, achievements in research and scholarship, or the accomplishments of students and alumni, USask continues to build on a strong foundation while creating new opportunities for the future.

As President, I thank you for your continued leadership, guidance, and support. The progress highlighted in this report reflects the collective efforts of people across the university and beyond. Together, we will continue advancing the work that strengthens Saskatchewan, contributes to global challenges, and creates lasting impact for generations to come.

APPENDIX 1



University Plan 2035

University of Saskatchewan

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

UPlan 2035 vision

We strengthen Saskatchewan and the world through future-focused people and solutions in:

- **Global food and water security:** We advance ecological, social, policy, and economic innovations needed for food and water security that matter to the world.
- **Healthy people, animals, and ecosystems:** We foster health and wellbeing and contribute to progressive and equitable pathways that sustain all life.
- **Thriving communities for all:** We deepen our understanding of peoples, perspectives, and places to turn insight into action that solves problems, contributing to connected, equitable, and thriving communities.
- **Sustainable energy and resource futures:** We develop sustainable energy and critical mineral systems that fuel equitable prosperity, strong communities, and healthy ecosystems.
- **Responsible technological transformation:** We create and advance technologies to open new possibilities that drive ethical, leading-edge change.

UPlan 2035 mission: Local to global

Grounded in Saskatchewan's strengths and communities, and fuelled by a university community equipped to learn, contribute, and thrive, we collaborate across disciplines, sectors, and society to create local to global impact.

1. **We facilitate accessible and meaningful lifelong learning** through teaching and experiences that expand people's capacities to shape and serve organizations and society.
2. **We advance discovery and insight** through research, scholarly and artistic work that develops knowledge and expertise, creates solutions to complex challenges and contributes to economic and social progress.
3. **We deepen our connection and commitment to community** by
   a) **creating space** for meaningful collaboration, partnership, and innovation with Indigenous Peoples, and
   b) **leading innovation** that strengthens Saskatchewan's health, economic, social, cultural, and environmental future while delivering ethical solutions for a sustainable world.

Local to global priorities

Over the next 10 years, we will achieve these priorities, turning our deep commitment to place into meaningful impact, locally, nationally and globally.

1. **We provide transformative learning** that prepares learners, across their educational and professional journeys, to contribute effectively to communities and industries, creating a sustainable future.
2. **We offer students connected, accessible, and high-quality University of Saskatchewan experiences** facilitating their success, wellbeing and belonging.
3. **We generate and share innovations, research, scholarly and artistic works that impact the future of society** by developing knowledge and expertise that addresses complex social, economic, and environmental challenges.
4. **We uplift Indigenous Peoples, knowledges, and Indigenous-determined priorities,** creating contexts where Indigenous Peoples, cultures, languages, and worldviews thrive.
5. **We strengthen and sustain our physical, digital, and operational infrastructure** to create safe, high-performing, and future-ready environments.
6. **We foster environments, create opportunities, and provide supports** that promote safety, respect, inclusion and wellbeing.
7. **We build resilience and strengthen our capacity, stewarding our financial resources responsibly** to achieve USask's mission and success for generations.