

A PLEDGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADS

NOVEMBER 2009

The Ontario university community is deeply aware of the challenges that face the world arising from climate change and the degradation of natural environments. Our universities accept this special responsibility on three scores: to assist in finding solutions to the challenges of environmental sustainability; to share knowledge about sustainability and climate change; and to incorporate, wherever possible, principles of sustainability into our own operations.

Ontario universities, ranging in size from small and rural institutions to large and urban ones, began work on the creation of sustainable campuses many years ago, and we continue to demonstrate leadership in advancing a greener world. In particular, Ontario universities will work together to do the following:

- Develop and implement multi-pronged strategies to reduce energy consumption.
- Promote reuse and recycling in all aspects of our operations.
- Transition purchasing decisions toward producers and suppliers who have adopted environmentally responsible practices.
- Ensure the availability of locally grown and fair-trade foods and beverages on our campuses.
- Build new facilities in accordance with principles of sustainability and energy efficiency.
- Renovate existing facilities to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste.
- Seek to preserve green space on our campuses wherever possible.
- Share information across campuses regarding best practices from the standpoint of sustainability and environmental impact.
- Develop institutional environmental sustainability plans with measurable objectives.
- Publish an annual report documenting the efforts of all Ontario universities to modify their operations in ways that are responsive to the threats of global climate change and environmental degradation.

We further accept our responsibility to do the following:

- Provide forums for the discussion and development of solutions regarding sustainability issues.
- Share research insights and best practices regarding climate change and sustainable development.
- Work in partnership with governments, the public, businesses and others in the academic world so that we may together create an environmentally sustainable Ontario.

Mr. Sheldon Levy
Chair of Council and
President & Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University

Prof. Bonnie M. Patterson
Interim President
Council of Ontario Universities

ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES COMMITTED TO A GREENER WORLD

Dr. Celia Ross
President
Algoma University

Dr. Jack Lightstone
President & Vice-Chancellor
Brock University

Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte
President & Vice-Chancellor
Carleton University

Dr. Alastair Summerlee
President & Vice-Chancellor
University of Guelph

Dr. Frederick Gilbert
President & Vice-Chancellor
Lakehead University

Mr. Dominic Giroux
President
Laurentian University

Dr. Peter George
President & Vice-Chancellor
McMaster University

Dr. Lesley Lovett-Doust
President & Vice-Chancellor
Nipissing University

Dr. Ronald Bordessa
President & Vice-Chancellor
**University of Ontario
Institute of Technology**

Mr. Allan Rock
President & Vice-Chancellor
University of Ottawa

Dr. Daniel Woolf
Principal & Vice-Chancellor
Queen's University

Mr. Sheldon Levy
President & Vice-Chancellor
Ryerson University

Dr. David Naylor
President
University of Toronto

Dr. Steven Franklin
President & Vice-Chancellor
Trent University

Prof. David Johnston
President & Vice-Chancellor
University of Waterloo

Dr. Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Ontario

Dr. Max Blouw
President & Vice-Chancellor
Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. Alan Wildeman
President & Vice-Chancellor
University of Windsor

Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri
President & Vice-Chancellor
York University

Ms. Sara Diamond
President
Ontario College of Art & Design

Dr. Joel Sokolsky
Principal
**Royal Military College
of Canada**