



SUPPORTING DIVERSE CAMPUSES

The Issue: As Canada and Ontario grow increasingly diverse, it's vital that universities reflect the province's population and help create inclusive environments. Ontario's diversity is one of the province's greatest strengths, and ensuring inclusive and welcoming campuses is essential for the sake of our students and the province.



KEY FACTS

36%

Percentage of Ontario's population projected to be immigrants by 2036

42%

Growth of Canada's Aboriginal population from 2006 to 2016

¹ Statistics Canada, "Immigration and Diversity: Population Projections for Canada and its Regions, 2011 to 2036." <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-551-x/91-551-x2017001-eng.htm>.

² Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016155.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Statistics Canada. "The educational attainment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada", 2011. http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-012-x/99-012-x2011003_3-eng.cfm

The background

- Ontario and Canada's populations are growing today because of immigration. Statistics Canada estimates that immigrants will account for up to 30 per cent of Canada's population, and 36 per cent of Ontario's population, by 2036.¹
- The Aboriginal population grew by 42 per cent between 2006 and 2016, more than four times faster than the non-Aboriginal population.² Twenty-seven per cent of that population is 14 and under.³ But Aboriginal peoples in Ontario and across the country are less likely to have a postsecondary education than non-Aboriginal people.⁴
- Fostering inclusive campuses that reflect the population of Ontario and Canada is essential to ensuring the province thrives in the future and benefits fully from the knowledge and ideas of its diverse population.
- Universities are proud of their diverse campuses, and they also know that diversity brings a responsibility to ensure there are culturally sensitive supports on campus and spaces where all students can gather and feel comfortable.
- Committing to the work of reconciliation is fundamental, not just on campuses but across the province. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) outlined recommendations in its 2015 report on how educators can help repair the harm caused by residential schools. Universities have since redoubled their Indigenization efforts.

"Innovation is just new thinking translated into the marketplace. So if you have the same people talking about the same issues over and over again, you're not going to get innovation."

– Matthew Fortier, Vice-President of Policy at the Institute of Corporate Directors, at the Ontario's Universities Roundtable on Diversity and Inclusion



KEY FACTS

27%

Percentage of Canada's Aboriginal population that is 14 years of age and under

Ontario's universities are home to

64,000+

international students from

200+

countries

CONTACT US

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What Ontario's universities are doing

Ontario's universities are committed to building diverse and inclusive campuses across the province. To achieve that, they are:

- Working with Aboriginal communities to ensure Aboriginal students encounter a welcoming and supportive environment on campus.
Fostering diversity on campuses by recruiting international students from around the world.
Offering a wide range of cultural supports that ensure international students and students from immigrant and minority communities feel safe and welcomed while on campus.

Partnering for diversity and inclusion:

The Aboriginal Access to Engineering program at Queen's University promotes math and science to elementary and high school students and supports teachers in order to increase the number of Aboriginal engineers in Canada.

Lakehead University's Orillia campus has allowed many local students in Simcoe county to live at home while attending university. The county is a popular destination for new Canadians, who - along with long-time residents - are benefitting from the opportunities provided by the campus.

For more examples of how universities are partnering for success, visit ontariosuniversities.ca.

How government can help

To support diverse campuses, the Ontario government should:

- Increase the investment in culturally-sensitive student services and the implementation of cultural awareness and safety training for students, faculty and staff.
Increase investments to attract and support Aboriginal students, including incentives to increase the numbers of Aboriginal faculty.

Partnering for a better future

- By fostering diversity and inclusion on campuses and across the province, Ontario can ensure it is benefitting from the range of knowledge and ideas that help make our communities vibrant, our workplaces innovative, and the province a great place to live.

Stay informed

- Go to ontariosuniversities.ca to learn more about how to support diverse and inclusive campuses.