

QUICK FACTS

A year of listening

Over a year-long listening initiative, #futuring, we asked Ontarians to tell us their hopes, concerns, and aspirations. We engaged with:

1,000

business, government and community leaders at roundtables, consultations and conferences

6,394

people who completed our online survey

36,000

visitors to the ontariosuniversities.ca website

13,100+

people who engaged with Ontario's Universities on social media

Ontario's universities' commitments

Helping Students Thrive

- Prepare students to be engaged and successful members of society
- Give students the skills they need for the present and future workforce
- Expand experiential learning in programs
- Provide students with career, social and mental-health support
- Ensure every qualified Ontarian can access a university place

Supporting Communities

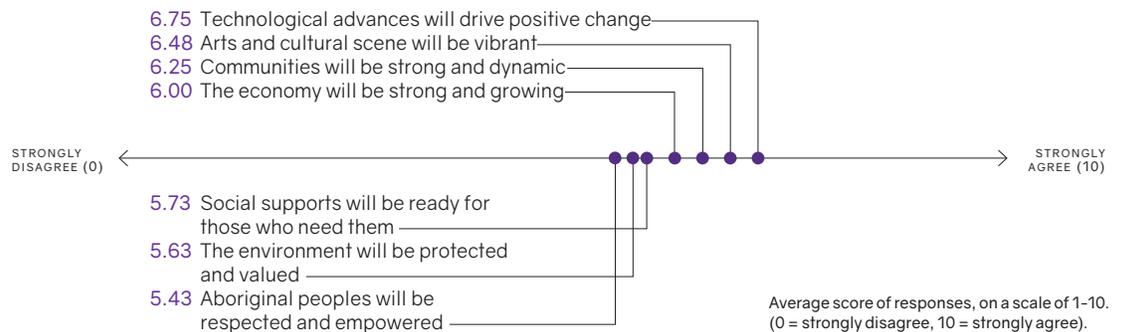
- Conduct leading-edge research and partner with municipalities and local organizations to enhance Ontarians' quality of life in areas that include:
- Health care and the aging population
 - Public services
 - Infrastructure
 - Transit
 - Arts and culture

Driving a Growing, Dynamic Province

- Produce highly-skilled graduates to fill the talent pipeline that employers need to be competitive
- Support entrepreneurship and innovation
- Attract the best global talent to Ontario
- Contribute to clean technologies and low-carbon practices to promote sustainable growth

What Ontarians think about the future

Average responses to the following statements on our #futuring survey:



Workforce challenges...

Automation and machine learning

have only just started disrupting how most Ontarians will work in the coming decades. Service and other white-collar jobs may be affected as much as manufacturing.

...will require these top five skills of the future...

According to respondents to our #futuring survey, these are the skills most critical for students to succeed in the evolving workplace:



The 'gig economy'

is taking hold: Temporary employment more than doubled from 4.7 per cent in 1989 to 10.7 per cent in 2016, according to the provincial government.

...and more experiential learning

Experiential Learning is when students learn by doing, using their theoretical knowledge in practical, real-life, or work-related situations.

There are many types of experiential learning activities available at Ontario universities that are designed to give students practical skills for their future career, including co-ops and internships, as well as projects in which students work on solutions to employer or industry challenges.

Ontario's universities call on the Ontario government to invest in experiential learning through:

- Sustained funding for a full range of experiential learning at universities
- Incentives to employers, particularly small businesses and not-for-profit organizations, to partner with universities to create more experiential learning opportunities for all students
- Development in collaboration with PSE and employers of an online information resource to encourage and support employers to provide experiential learning opportunities

Job insecurity

was frequently cited as a major concern among respondents to our #futuring survey.

Universities' economic impact

Estimated annual contribution to Ontario's economy driven by the activities of universities:

\$48.7 billion

Human capital: total extra income earned by university alumni

\$42.4 billion

Spending in the province by universities, students, alumni and visitors

\$24.7 billion

Increase in economic activity due to university research and development

\$1.5 million

Average additional lifetime earnings of an Ontario university graduate compared to high school graduate

Source: *Driving a Prosperous Future: Economic Analysis of the Lasting Impact of Ontario Universities*, Council of Ontario Universities, 2017. *University Works*, Council of Ontario Universities, 2015.

Partnering with municipalities

Ontario's universities aim to make partnerships such as these a model for future prosperity:

Looking for solutions to its urban challenges, the City of Oshawa is partnering with the **University of Ontario Institute of Technology**, other PSE institutions and think-tanks to become a Teaching City. It will bring students and academics together with city staff to work on issues such as waste management, transit, digital connectivity, diversity and the environment.



Brock University and the Town of Lincoln have a formal partnership in which the university's students work together with town officials on projects to improve the community. To date, the collaboration has helped plan and implement a town bus service and a Living Lab to work on sustainability issues.



Wilfrid Laurier University helped spark urban renewal in Brantford by opening a small satellite campus downtown in 1999. Laurier has spent an estimated \$80 million on the campus, which has grown to 17 buildings and houses 3,000 students, revitalizing the downtown core as a bustling centre. The private sector has contributed student residences, a public plaza and new retail and services outlets.



An affordable education

\$900 million

provided annually in university scholarships and bursaries

210,000

estimated number of Ontario students receiving free tuition under expanded OSAP rules

Aboriginal access

ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES:

- Have created or are creating programs to be more inclusive of Aboriginal students
- Are committed to supporting and increasing access for Aboriginal peoples and other under-represented youth

42%

growth in Aboriginal population between 2006 and 2016

27%

of the Aboriginal population is 14 and under

Research impact

Seventeen of Ontario's 21 universities have added new research initiatives or institutes on sustainability since 2013.

Their work includes research on new biofuels and other clean energy sources, electric vehicles and transit, eco-friendly construction and low-carbon households, all the way to sustainable agriculture.

\$5.2B

in work is carried out by the higher education sector in R&D, translating into:

\$24.7B

Estimated annual increase in Ontario's economic activity due to university R&D

R&D made up:

34%

of the province's research activities in 2014

Student mental health

75%

of mental-health problems start during childhood or adolescence

Ontario's universities, colleges, and student groups have come together to propose a 'whole of community' approach to student mental health called **In It Together** that begins in kindergarten and continues through high school, postsecondary life and adulthood.

It involves PSE, government, health-care providers, community agencies, and proposes: mandatory curriculum changes to teach resiliency before young people start PSE, culturally diverse counselling, more use of technology, and peer counselling – all free to students, on and off campus.