

# 50 WAYS Ontario Universities are Partnering for Stronger Communities



Ontario's universities strive to be good neighbours, anchored firmly in the fabric of their local communities. Existing campuses support hundreds of thousands of jobs and stimulate local economies, while new campuses help revitalize communities and create jobs.

Beyond the economic impact, whether it's working together on better health care or transit services, mentoring at-risk groups or helping farmers feed Ontarians, universities are committed to partnering for a healthy and thriving province for all the people of Ontario.

Find out more about these projects at [ontariosuniversities.ca/50-ways-community-partnerships/](http://ontariosuniversities.ca/50-ways-community-partnerships/)



## ● On Health Care & Aging

1. McMaster University's Institute for Research on Aging is improving the lives of seniors and finding creative solutions to the challenges posed by the rapidly greying population.
2. Health Ecosphere, a multipartner collaboration led by York University and Southlake Regional Health Centre, is working on new technologies to improve patient outcomes and make health care more efficient.
3. A mobile laboratory, M-CROSH, operated by Laurentian University researchers, visits Northern Ontario workers in industries such as mining and forestry, providing on-site training and education on occupational safety.
4. Researchers at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University have developed a portable testing device to allow clinics to quickly and accurately test users' drugs for the deadly additive fentanyl, potentially saving lives.
5. Patients are getting easier access to mental health therapy via a digital platform called TranQool, created by entrepreneurs from OCAD University's Imagination Catalyst incubator, which allows users to connect with therapists by video from home.
6. The University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health is partnering with the City of Barrie on Healthy Barrie, an initiative tackling factors such as transit and housing to help residents lead healthier lives.
7. The University of Waterloo partners with Grand River Hospital on developing new treatments and technologies to improve the health and well-being of the community.

8. Wilfrid Laurier University's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education operates the Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities, offering programs to improve activity levels in young people at risk.

9. Researchers at Trent University have partnered with Canada's National Ballet School to study the effectiveness of using dance to help improve the quality of life in seniors with dementia.

## ● On Community Service & Sharing Knowledge

10. Algoma University's Community Economic and Social Development Program connects students with urban, rural, and First Nations communities to do work placements in communities that benefit from their help.
11. Education students at Nipissing University developed NU Reads, in which they work with low-income children aged four to 12 on reading activities to improve their literacy skills.
12. Western University Professor Alan Leschied carried out the largest study of foster care in Canada, leading to recommendations on needed reforms to the system as well as the creation of an online resource for foster families.
13. Through the Imani Academic Mentorship Program, black students at the University of Toronto Scarborough volunteer as mentors to underserved black youth in their community.
14. The Indigenous Mentorship Network Program, based at Western University, supports community health research and training opportunities for Indigenous students and researchers.

15. Magnet is an online job-matching network co-founded by Ryerson University and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce that helps underserved youth, new immigrants and people with disabilities find employment.

16. Brock University accounting students partner with the Canada Revenue Agency and volunteer their time to provide free tax-filing clinics for low-income people in the Niagara community.

17. Each February, Queen's University students volunteer for one week in the community, working with people with intellectual disabilities, mentoring children, helping job seekers and similar projects.

18. York University's YSpace building in Markham helps the community's budding entrepreneurs connect with industry, build prototypes, and access opportunities.

19. Students at the law schools at York, Queen's, Lakehead, Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor and Western offer free legal clinics to low-income and marginalized members of the community.

20. Wilfrid Laurier University supported the opening of a Library of Things in Kitchener, where low-income users can borrow objects such as tools and household items, and which employs people with disabilities.

21. Homeless and low-income Ottawans have access to free, confidence-building university-level courses through Discovery University, a partnership between the University of Ottawa and the Ottawa Mission.

22. About 40 student research projects into local social issues, such as housing and accessibility, are conducted each year under a partnership between Trent University and the Trent Community Research Centre.

**23.** Nipissing University's Biidaaban Community Service Learning program gives Indigenous students opportunities to enhance their work experience while helping those at need in the community at not-for-profits.

### ● On Research in the Community

**24.** Algoma University's NORDIK Institute is doing pioneering research to enhance the lives of Northern Ontarians, including work on agricultural innovation, social enterprise and driving economic development.

**25.** Carleton University's Immersive Media Studio is building a detailed, digital 3-D model of eastern Ontario to help visualize the region's economic and agricultural activity and aid planners in forging new opportunities.

**26.** The University of Windsor's Freshwater Restoration Ecology Centre provides students with state-of-the-art technology to study Great Lakes challenges, such as restoration of damaged ecosystems.

**27.** Trent University's Cleantech Commons, in partnership with the City of Peterborough, is designed to spur growth in the green technology field by enhancing entrepreneurship, supporting start-ups, attracting new business and creating jobs.

**28.** The Intact Centre on Climate Change Adaptation, a partnership between the University of Waterloo and Intact Financial Corporation, houses researchers examining ways to help communities and businesses reduce risks from extreme weather events.

**29.** Inhabitants of Rigolet, an Inuit community in Labrador, are using the eNuk app developed at the University of Guelph to help keep track of the effects of climate change on their health and their landscape.

### ● On Helping Farmers Feed Ontario

**30.** Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute helps the wine and grape industry avoid crop damage through programs such as VineAlert, which measures the cold hardiness of vines and signals when to use frost-fighting wind machines.

**31.** The Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph connects food research experts with food producers to ensure sustainability, economic growth and food security for Ontarians and Canadians.

**32.** The University of Waterloo's Bruce Muirhead is helping egg farmers with research on Canada's supply management system, leading to new insights on how it impacts global trade discussions and how it ensures high-quality locally produced eggs.

### ● On a New Era of Municipal Partnerships

**33.** Under the TeachingCity partnership, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Durham College and the University of Toronto are sharing knowledge and student resources with the City of Oshawa to find smart solutions to urban challenges.

**34.** Queen's University and the City of Kingston have an official partnership to collaborate on projects that support economic development, innovation, and encourage young people to stay and work in the city.

**35.** The Guelph Lab, a partnership between the University of Guelph and the City of Guelph, connects students and faculty with city staff to design and implement projects on issues such as reducing water consumption.

**36.** The City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Mohawk College and Redeemer University College are partnering on CityLAB Hamilton, in which students and academics work with city staff on bold ideas to tackle Hamilton's urban challenges.

**37.** Brock University is leading a research consortium with Niagara College and the Niagara Workforce Planning Board to help civic leaders develop policies to boost the region's economy and stimulate job creation.

### ● On Building Better Spaces to Live and Work

**38.** McMaster University students and faculty are working with Hamilton's bus operator, Hamilton Street Railway, on a major research project to improve the efficiency of the system, which carries 21 million riders a year.

**39.** The University of Windsor, Ryerson University and University of Guelph are research partners in the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Network (SWIFT), a major project to build an ultrahigh-speed Internet network across southwestern Ontario.

**40.** iCity is a collaboration between the University of Toronto, OCAD University, the University of Waterloo and IBM Canada, bringing together experts in areas such as big data and 3-D design to find innovative ways to improve transit and urban design.

### ● On Revitalizing Communities

**41.** After a period of decline, Brantford's downtown has been revitalized as a business and social hub following the 1999 arrival of Wilfrid Laurier University's campus, an \$80-million investment now comprising 17 buildings and hosting 3,000 students.

**42.** Lakehead University's Orillia campus has contributed significantly to Simcoe County's economy, with an estimated \$40-million economic impact, growing from just 100 students in 2006 to almost 1,500 in 2016.

**43.** Laurentian University's L-Care project is aiming to reclaim 30,000 hectares of wasteland around greater Sudbury left behind by old mines, and use the sites to sequester carbon generated by the mining industry.

### ● On Campus Buildings Serving the Community

**44.** The old Armouries Building built in downtown Windsor in 1900 has been converted by the University of Windsor into the architecturally-stunning School of Creative Arts, housing a concert hall, practice rooms and art studios.

**45.** Carleton University has purchased Ottawa's historic Dominion-Chalmers United Church, and aims to enhance its role as a cultural and performing arts hub for the community as well as a space for the university's growing music program.

**46.** University athletics facilities bring many benefits to the public. Ryerson University transformed historic Maple Leaf Gardens into the Mattamy Athletics Centre, University of Toronto's Olympic-size aquatics centre is open to community use, while Algoma's University's George Leach Centre, whose facilities were recently voted the best in Sault Ste. Marie, is a hub of the community.

**47.** The 80,000 square-foot Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts is both a home for creative arts students at Queen's University and a hub of vibrant artistic study, creation and exhibition for the Kingston community.

### ● On Public Safety

**48.** University of Toronto Mississauga psychology professor Judith Andersen has been working with Peel Regional Police to implement use-of-force training called iPREP that will help officers hone their split-second decision-making skills in high-stress policing situations.

**49.** York University professors undertook the largest Canadian study of police-based racial profiling to help the Ottawa Police Service enact new guidelines for officers based on their report's recommendations.

**50.** Criminology professor Jennifer Lavoie of Wilfrid Laurier University is working to develop a program for police services to help them improve how officers respond to people in mental health crises and reduce the use of force.

