



*Accelerate 2024 is where academia, industry, and government come together to shape Canada's social and economic renewal. It is a platform where ideas transform into actionable collaborations, fostering a collective commitment to address real-world problems and propel Canada forward.*

## Tuesday, February 6, 2024

All times in this program are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

<b>5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>National Arts Centre</b> O'Born Room	<b>Registration</b> The registration desk will be open prior to the networking reception.
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<b>6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b> O'Born Room	<b>Opening reception</b>
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## Wednesday, February 7, 2024

All times in this program are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

<b>9:00 – 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>National Arts Centre</b> Canada room foyer	<b>Registration</b>
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<b>9:30 - 9:45 a.m.</b> <b>Canada room</b> Pacific/Atlantic	<b>Opening remarks</b>  <i>Speaker:</i> Philip Landon, interim president and CEO, Universities Canada
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<b>9:45 - 11:00 a.m.</b> <b>Canada room</b> Pacific/Atlantic	<b>Addressing everyday challenges: the pivotal role of AI</b> Artificial Intelligence has emerged as an agent of change. Its impact will increasingly be felt in higher education, the labour market, across all sectors and in the everyday life of Canadians. While risks associated with AI are regularly discussed in media, opportunities exist to leverage AI to address both daily and global challenges. This session will explore the pivotal role of AI and its ongoing development to drive change, economic prosperity, and identify solutions to the most pressing challenges today.
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*Moderator:*

Graham Carr, president, Concordia University

*Speakers:*

- Mark Daley, Chief AI officer, Western University
- Julie Hussin, Associate Academic Member, Mila – Quebec AI Institute; Université de Montréal
- Adegboyega Ojo, Canada Research Chair in Governance and Artificial Intelligence, Carleton University

**11:00 - 11:15 a.m.**

Foyer

**Health break**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Canada room**

*Pacific/Atlantic*

**Thought leadership and Canadian healthcare: partnerships for solutions**

Primary healthcare in Canada is in crisis. One in six Canadians lack a regular family physician. Surgeries are backlogged. Emergency rooms across the country are routinely overwhelmed. Systemic changes are needed. Are there ways to address the healthcare crisis beyond public funding? What is the impact of technologies? What collaborative and innovative efforts between universities the healthcare sector can tackle systemic challenges and health human resources? This session will explore these questions and what can be done to advance solutions for Canadians and communities across the country.

*Moderator:*

Joy Johnson, president, Simon Fraser University

*Speakers:*

- Katherine Frohlich, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health
- Darryl Galusha, CEO, Geraldton District Hospital
- Luigi Lepanto, clinical professor, Faculté de médecine and École de Santé Publique, Université de Montréal

**12:30 - 1:45 p.m.**

**Canada room**

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**Networking luncheon**

**1:45 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Canada room**

*Pacific/Atlantic*

**Leadership across sectors to address Canada's housing crisis**

In communities across the country, housing costs have skyrocketed, and the issue has grown to become a key concern for Canadians, industry, and policymakers at all levels of government. We have seen the federal government make significant investments; however, more must be done to address the growing housing crisis. What does Canada need to address the crisis and how can key actors support governments in advancing solutions? How can university research



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support this work? This session will explore these questions and seek to address how universities can be part of the solution to addressing Canada's housing crisis.

*Moderator:*

Paul Mazerolle, president, University of New Brunswick

*Speakers:*

- Ian Arthur, Founder and President, Nidus3D
- Laurent Levesque, Co-Founder and CEO, UTILE
- Catherine McKenney, Co-founder and executive director, CitySHAPES

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**3:00 - 3:15 p.m.**

Foyer

**Health break**

**3:15 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Canada room**

*Pacific/Atlantic*

**Keynote speaker: Paul Wells**

In most jurisdictions across Canada, public funding for universities has declined or failed to keep pace with inflation. Federal investment in university research is failing to keep pace with research investments in other countries. At the same time, universities are increasingly being positioned in populist rhetoric as “woke” or out of touch with the needs of everyday Canadians. Yet, fundamental and applied research is being advanced to address the everyday problems facing Canadians and our graduates elevate the national capacity to overcome these challenges. Paul Wells will deliver keynote remarks looking at the current climate in which universities are operating, the challenges they face and share reflections on pathways forward.

*Introduction:*

Rhonda Lenton, president, York University

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**Closing remarks**

**4:00 - 4:15 p.m.**

**Canada room**

*Pacific/Atlantic*

*Speaker:*

Philip Landon, interim president and CEO, Universities Canada

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