



Leadership in a time of uncertainty

Quebec City, April 16-17, 2024

Le leadership en période d'incertitude

Québec, les 16 et 17 avril 2024

In times of uncertainty, leadership serves as a guiding force, offering stability, direction and reassurance to navigate through adversity and ambiguity. Canada's universities can inspire confidence, foster resilience and develop strategies critical for adapting to changing circumstances and charting a path forward amidst uncertainty. Universities Canada's Spring 2024 Membership Meeting brings together Canada's university leaders to share vision and strategic thinking on how universities can foster innovation and solutions to help guide Canada through emerging, ongoing and often unpredictable challenges.

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

All times in this program are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) | Plenary sessions livestreamed via zoom

7:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Place D'Armes room
Lobby level

Networking breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Jacques Cartier room
Lobby level

Land acknowledgement and welcome remarks

Welcome remarks by Gabriel Miller, president and CEO, Universities Canada

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Jacques Cartier room

2024 public opinion polling results

David Coletto will present results of 2024 polling of public opinion on universities by Abacus Data. The results will build upon polling from 2023 and will help to develop a picture of emerging or ongoing trends and the impact of recent events on the sector, the country and the broader public.

Speaker

David Coletto, CEO, Abacus Data

Introduction

Alexandre Cloutier, président, Université du Québec

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Place D'Armes room

Morning refreshment break



10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Jacques Cartier room

2024 public opinion polling results continued

Members will have the opportunity to further discuss the polling results in small groups, and their meaning for universities and for Universities Canada, as members look ahead to the remaining time of the current government and the prospect of a federal election within the next 18 months.

Session lead

Gabriel Miller, president and CEO, Universities Canada

11:30 a.m. - 12:15

p.m.

Jacques Cartier room

Keynote: The Honorable Senator Michèle Audette

Introduction & thanks

Lucie Laflamme, Directrice générale, Université TÉLUQ

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Place D'Armes room

Networking Buffet Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Jacques Cartier room

Cross-country checkup: Pressures on sustainability

While Canada's universities continue to deliver on their mandates, providing quality educational programming, driving research and innovation in Canada, as well as providing thought leadership and action on climate change, reconciliation and EDI, the long-term financial sustainability of universities across jurisdiction is not always certain. To help surface the impact of recent developments as well as the federal government's decision to cap international students, presidents from different parts of the country will share their institutional and regional perspectives on this issue through a moderated panel and plenary discussion.

Moderator

- Benoit-Antoine Bacon, president, The University of British Columbia

Panelists

- Andrew Hakin, president, St. Francis Xavier University
- Pierre Cossette, recteur, Université de Sherbrooke
- Ana Serrano, president, OCAD University
- Joanne MacLean, president, University of the Fraser Valley
- Michael Benarroch, president, University of Manitoba

2:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Place D'Armes room

Refreshment Break



2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

[Jacques Cartier room](#)

Freedom of Expression on Campus

In recent years, universities have seen increased political, public and media scrutiny regarding freedom of expression, respectful discourse and safety on campus, especially in the light of recent geopolitical events, as well as the targeting of academia in a time of polarized discourse that aims to position universities at the centre of social and cultural shifts. In some jurisdictions, provincial governments have required universities to adhere to the Chicago Principles, which are grounded in US, rather than Canadian jurisprudence and context. This session is an opportunity for members to learn about initiatives happening on campuses across the country and to consider the merit of a Canadian set of principles on freedom of expression, whether there is value in developing something sector-wide or advance institutional principles based on best practices and individual contexts.

Moderator

- Joy Johnson, president, Simon Fraser University

Panelists

- Hugo Cyr, Directeur général, École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP)
- Scott Kline, Co-Chair, FoE Task Force, University of Waterloo
- Melanie Humphreys, president, The King's University

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

[Jacques Cartier room](#)

Remarks to wrap up Day 1 of program and preview budget conversation

4:00– 7:00 p.m.

[Jacques Cartier room](#)

Federal budget viewing (4:00-6:30 p.m.)

Hybrid member budget call (6:30-7:00 p.m.)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

[Cellier room](#)

Evening reception

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

[Place D'Armes room](#)

Networking Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

[Jacques Cartier room](#)

Universities Canada Business Meeting

Members are invited to join the business meeting of Universities Canada for discussion and votes on matters to advance the business of the organization. Updates on key policy files and other membership matters will also be provided.



10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
Place D'Armes room

Morning refreshment break

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Jacques Cartier room

Maintaining momentum on climate mitigation and adaptation in a challenging economic and political environment

Increasingly the impacts of climate change are being felt on campuses across the country. At the same time, Canadian universities are navigating other immediate challenges posed by inflation, geopolitical tensions, housing shortages, and shifting governmental priorities and programs. In this session, Universities Canada will provide an overview of its Canada's universities: Action for Net Zero initiative's first year, followed by a member discussion on how to maintain momentum on the university sector's work to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change while responding to other acute challenges as they arise.

Moderator

- Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Directeur général, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)

Speakers

- Bill Flanagan, president, University of Alberta
- Rhonda MacEwan, president, Victoria University in the University of Toronto
- Maud Cohen, rectrice, Polytechnique Montréal
- Rob Summerby-Murray, president, Saint Mary's University

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Place D'Armes room

Networking Buffet Lunch

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.
Jacques Cartier room

Interview of Chief Science and Innovation Officers

This session will delve into the dynamic world of research and innovation in Quebec. We are honored to host Rémi Quirion and Luc Sirois, two prominent figures in Quebec's research and innovation ecosystem. They will offer initial insights into their pivotal roles and their strategic positioning within Quebec's landscape. The discussion will explore the mandates and collaborative successes of these offices, shedding light on the strategic approach adopted by the Quebec government to advance science and innovation in partnership with the province's universities.

Moderator

- Sophie D'Amours, rectrice, Université Laval

Speakers

- Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Québec
- Luc Sirois, Chief Innovation Officer, Conseil de l'innovation du Québec

1:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Jacques Cartier room

Adjournment and next steps