Meeting the moment: Preserving Canada's promise in an age of crisis

Halifax, April 8-9, 2025

Saisir le moment : préserver la promesse du Canada en temps de crise

Halifax, les 8 et 9 avril 2025



7:00-9:00 PM

Government House 1451 Barrington Street RECEPTION LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

8:00-9:30 AM SABLE	NETWORKING BREAKFAST	
10:15 - 10:30 AM ACADIA	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND WELCOME REMARKS	Welcome remarks by Gabriel Miller, President and CEO, Universities Canada
10:30 - 11:45 AM ACADIA	UNIVERSITIES IN THE ERA OF TRUMP, TARIFFS AND GLOBAL TURMOIL	This session will explore the gravity of changes coming out of the United States, as well as reverberations around the world, and consider their impact on Canada. Moderator: Joy Johnson, President, Simon Fraser University Speakers: Robert ("RJ") Johnston, Senior Director of Research, Center on Global Energy Policy Columbia University Colin Robertson, Fellow, Canadian Global Affairs Institute Sarah Spreitzer, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Government Relations, American
11:45 - 1:00 PM SABLE	KEYNOTE LUNCHEON: SECURING CANADA'S FUTURE IN AN INSECURE WORLD	Council on Education This keynote will focus on how government will need to address Canada's promise and future security, but also how universities can bring to the table their capacity to support government in this achieving success.



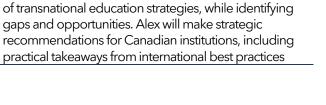
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		Introduction:
		Deep Saini, President, McGill University
		Speaker: The Honourable Jean Charest
		Partner, Therrien, Couture, Joli-Coeur
		Premier of Québec (2003-2012)
		Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (1993)
1:00-2:30 PM	FRAMING THE	Against the backdrop of the federal election, Canadian
ACADIA	FEDERAL ELECTION	are increasingly concerned about global political
	AND PLANNING FOR	instability, economic volatility and external threats,
	RESULTS	including tariffs and talk of annexation.
		This session will explore change in the public mindset
		and how it may impact both ballot box questions and
		electoral results, and what that might mean for the
		sector in both the near- and longer-term.
		Moderator:
		Gabriel Miller, President and CEO, Universities Canada
		Speakers:
		 David Coletto, CEO, Abacus Data
		 Fraser Macdonald, Principal, Strategy Corp
		Marci Surkes, Chief Strategy Officer and
		Managing Director, Compass Rose
2:30-2:45 PM FOYER	BREAK	
2:45-3:45 PM	DELIVERING CANADA'S	This session will focus on the role of universities
ACADIA	HIGHLY-SKILLED	in training and delivering the highly qualified
	WORKFORCE	people that Canada urgently needs and explore
	WORKI OKCL	partnership opportunities across sectors in
		developing the next generation of Canada's
		highly skilled workforce.
		Moderator:
		Kim Brooks, President, Dalhousie University
		Speakers:
		 Michael Burt, Vice-President, The
		Conference Board of Canada
		 Daryl Genge, President and CEO,
		Springboard Atlantic
		Eva Reddington, Acting Vice President,
		Policy and Program Development,
		Mitacs
3:45-4:00 PM	REMARKS TO WRAP UP	Wrap up remarks by Gabriel Miller, president
ACADIA	DAY 1	and CEO, Universities Canada
	DINNER	Join us for a member dinner
6:00-8:30 PM SABLE	DAY 1 DINNER	and CEO, Universities Canada Join us for a member dinner



Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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8:00-9:00AM SABLE	NETWORKING BREAKFAST	
9:00 - 10:30 AM ACADIA	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.
10:30 - 10:45 AM FOYER	BREAK	
10:45 - 11:45 AM ACADIA	INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	Universities across the country are focused on ensuring their financial sustainability. The continuum of challenges, from new limits on international students to tuition freezes, to shrinking operational budgets to increased accountability measures - have only exacerbated ongoing financial challenges. This session will explore these challenges as well as recent provincial government pressures and consider how university leaders might lead institutional responses.
		 Moderator: Bill Flanagan, President, University of Alberta Speakers: Andrew Hakin, President, St. Francis Xavier University Natalie Laporte, Executive Director, Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) Rhonda Lenton, President, York University
12:00-1:00 PM SABLE	LUNCH	
1:00-2:00 PM ACADIA	CLOSING KEYNOTE: ALEX USHER	This closing session will feature a presentation and armchair discussion with Alex Usher. He will provide an



overview of current trends in international education for Canadian universities, as well as a comparative analysis





that could inform Canadian universities' approaches to global engagement and student recruitment.

Moderator:

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

Speaker:

 Alex Usher, President, Higher Education Strategy Associates

2:00-2:15 PM ACADIA ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Closing remarks by Gabriel Miller, President and CEO, Universities Canada



