

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

Monday, April 7, 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 Council on Education

11:45 - 1:00 PM
SABLE

**KEYNOTE LUNCHEON:
SECURING CANADA'S
FUTURE IN AN INSECURE
WORLD**

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.



**Universities
Canada.** **Universités
Canada.**

		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 ACADIA	FRAMING THE FEDERAL ELECTION AND PLANNING FOR RESULTS	<p>Against the backdrop of the federal election, Canadians are increasingly concerned about global political instability, economic volatility and external threats, including tariffs and talk of annexation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Moderator: Gabriel Miller, President and CEO, Universities Canada</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ACADIA	DELIVERING CANADA'S HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKFORCE	<p>This session will focus on the role of universities in training and delivering the highly qualified people that Canada urgently needs and explore partnership opportunities across sectors in developing the next generation of Canada's highly skilled workforce.</p> <p>Moderator: Kim Brooks, President, Dalhousie University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ACADIA	REMARKS TO WRAP UP DAY 1	Wrap up remarks by Gabriel Miller, president and CEO, Universities Canada
6:00-8:30 PM SABLE	DINNER	Join us for a member dinner



Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

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 of transnational education strategies, while identifying gaps and opportunities. Alex will make strategic recommendations for Canadian institutions, including practical takeaways from international best practices



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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

