April 28, 2014

Message from the President:
Announcement of Appointment of York University’s Thirteenth Chancellor

It is my tremendous honour and pleasure to inform you that the search for York University’s thirteenth Chancellor has reached a successful conclusion.

Following a widely disseminated call for nominations to the York community, a total of fifty-three nominations were received, all distinguished Canadians. I am delighted to announce that on April 28, 2014, our Board of Governors approved the selection committee’s recommendation to appoint Mr. Gregory Sorbara as York’s thirteenth Chancellor, to succeed the Honourable R. Roy McMurtry. I am very pleased to confirm Mr. Sorbara’s willingness and enthusiasm in accepting this appointment for a three-year term. He will be officially installed at York’s first spring Convocation Ceremony on Friday, June 13, 2014 at 10:30 am.

As ceremonial head, Mr. Sorbara will serve as lead ambassador of the University, preside over all convocation ceremonies and confer degrees. A double York alumnus, Mr. Sorbara’s appointment builds on his commitment to and engagement with York University and its broader community. Among the committee’s observations leading to their recommendation it was noted that Mr. Sorbara, as the son of Italian immigrants, shares a family history with many of York’s students. He has had a long and close association with York, graduating from both Glendon College (BA ’78) and Osgoode Hall Law School (LLB ’81), and has been an active participant in alumni affairs both with Osgoode and the University at large.

During Mr. Sorbara’s long and distinguished public service career, he enhanced significantly the lives of Ontarians, championed postsecondary education in the province, and supported and advanced many of York’s own ambitions. He held numerous cabinet positions in the Ontario Legislature, including Minister of Finance, Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Labour & Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues, and as the Member representing Vaughan. His legacy as a public servant includes increasing accessibility for low-income post-secondary Ontario students through loans and grants, while investing in enrolments, expanded faculty complement, graduate scholarships and research.

This esteemed community leader has worked in the interests of the Greater Toronto Area and has contributed substantially to its infrastructure and financial growth. His many leadership contributions include serving as a member of the Boards of the York University Alumni Association and York Region United Way. The University had previously recognized his contributions to the institution and to society at large by granting him an honorary doctorate of laws in 2013.
I would like to take this opportunity to express my warmest appreciation to the Honorable R. Roy McMurtry for the exemplary service, support and leadership he has provided to the University and to me personally during his term as Chancellor.

We are extremely proud to welcome Mr. Gregory Sorbara to our helm as a champion of postsecondary education and longtime friend of York University as he undertakes this important leadership role. I hope that all members of the broader York community will join me in congratulating and welcoming him.

Sincerely,

Mamdouh Shoukri
President and Vice-Chancellor

Cc: University Senate
    PVP
    UEC