

PRESIDENT'S



report

TO THE COMMUNITY 2009



As York's 50th anniversary celebrations draw to a close, it is my pleasure to present my annual Report to the Community – a look back at the year and the progress we were able to achieve.

The academic year 2008-09 was a challenging one for York University: we endured a strike and a very difficult budgetary situation driven by the downturn of the economy and a looming deficit in our academic budget.

Despite these challenges, we were still able to move the strategic plan of York University forward – albeit more slowly than originally hoped – in a way that is consistent with our strategic objectives.

As we begin York's next 50 years, things are moving in the right direction: we have created the position of Provost; initiated a White Paper Process to think about who we are and where we want to be in the coming decade and beyond; we are in the process of creating a new Vice-President of University Relations to help tell our story to the community and the world; and we have listened to the concerns of the York community through the Task Force on Student Life, Learning and Community and have acted on many of their recommendations.

We are making headway in regaining the trust of our key stakeholders and the government, and so we end this year on a hopeful note, knowing that we still have work to do, but knowing we are equal to the task at hand. I believe we are well positioned to embark on York's next 50 years.

Mamdouh Shoukri
President and Vice-Chancellor

Growth and Planning

York has been defining a clearer strategic direction by aligning the University's aspirations, as outlined in the University Academic Plan, with the needs of the province.

Throughout 2008-09, we continued to articulate the need to become a more comprehensive university, with increased emphasis on sciences and applied sciences and with a parallel commitment to protecting and enhancing our current strength in arts, social sciences, business and law. This vision aligns closely with the projected increase in the demand for university education and for preparing young Canadians for the new economy. This strategic direction continues to gain support both internally and externally.

We have made progress on a number of long-term initiatives; along with the establishment of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, plans were either developed, or are under development, for the medical school, engineering school, science expansion, and Glendon expansion. This effort to plan York's future appeared to pay dividends as the University received one of the largest budget allocations – nearly \$100 million – under the federal-provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a decision that reflects growing confidence in the future of York University.

Creating the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

With the strong commitment of the restructuring team, all matters related to governance and the academic programs of the new Faculty of LA&PS were completed. Founding dean Martin Singer was appointed after an extensive search.

LA&PS is York's largest faculty, offering a range of courses and programs with strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity. The faculty is helping to intensify

York's research capability, improve student experience by amalgamating duplicate course offerings and standardizing transfer requirements, and offer innovative graduate programs across the humanities, social sciences and related professional programs.

Medical School

A proposal for the establishment of a medical school at York University was submitted to the provincial government in the fall of 2008. The proposal development was led by Dr. Peter Walker on the basis of extensive consultation with the medical and academic communities and local hospitals. The vision of the school received significant interest from various government departments, particularly from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and from local communities and elected politicians.

Engineering Expansion

We continue to pursue the idea of expanding the engineering faculty at York. Based on an extensive review of our areas of strength, societal needs and the state of the engineering profession, a committee comprised of external and internal experts developed a detailed plan for engineering expansion at York University. The plan included program details, enrolment, needed resources and a complete business case. The plan will be reviewed by the Provost and will serve as part of York's plan in dealing with the projected future enrolment growth in the GTA.

Science Expansion

Given the growing enrolment demand for life sciences, a plan is being developed for expanding our offerings in this area. Initiating the development of this plan allowed us to respond to the urgent federal government call for proposals for infrastructure projects. We were, accordingly, awarded a \$70 million grant for a new life sciences building under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. This building will be completed by spring 2011.



► Men's Soccer

In November 2008, the York Lions men's soccer team captured the Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championship for the second time with a 1-0 win in the championship game over the Trinity Western Spartans from Langley, BC. This championship was the first for the men's soccer team in more than 30 years.



► York University turns 50

On March 26, 1959, the York University Act received royal assent – the approval of the lieutenant governor – after its passage in the Ontario legislature. The law chartering York University was introduced in the chamber on Feb. 17, 1959 as a private member's bill by York West Progressive Conservative MPP H.L. Rowntree (with the blessing of then-premier Leslie Frost), and passed its third reading on March 16. Ten days later, York was born.



► **Roundtables**

President Shoukri held a series of roundtable discussions in the spring and fall to allow students, faculty and staff an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on how the University should move forward into its next 50 years.

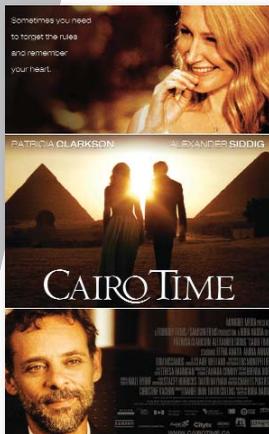


► **York team wins the Mars Rover Challenge**

The York University Rover Team placed first in the 2009 University Rover Challenge in Hanksville, Utah. Teams design and build an exploration vehicle capable of withstanding the conditions found on Mars. The York team – made up of undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines – improved on its 2008 third-place finish.

► **TIFF entry by former York student wins award**

A former York University student won the Best Canadian Feature Film award at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. The movie, *Cairo Time*, was directed by Ruba Nadda. The jury called it a “superbly directed lyrical waltz of longing and desire.”



Glendon's Center of Excellence

In 2008-09 we were awarded a \$20 million grant for renovating and expanding the Glendon facilities on the basis of a proposal to establish a center of excellence in bilingual postsecondary education and research. The proposal involves expanding our enrolment and collaborating with other institutions (College Boreal, La Cité Collegiale and U. of Ottawa). Collaborative agreements have been signed and a proposal for a second phase of expansion is under development.

Graduate Realignment

The Dean of Graduate Studies prepared a report on the realignment of graduate studies. The main objective of the report was to align the responsibility for graduate education with the responsibility for resource allocation and faculty hiring and to reduce duplications in graduate program offerings. Extensive consultation, led by Dr. George Fallis, is underway to examine future implementation.

Academic Planning

Reorganization of Senior Management

Reorganization of the senior management team was undertaken in order to provide a more streamlined structure better able to respond to the needs of the University in terms of accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of decision-making and, most importantly, in ensuring close alignment between academic objectives and budgetary decisions.

The reorganization included:

- Creating the position of Provost and VP Academic, who is accountable for university-wide academic planning, including Integrated Resource Planning, all academic students affairs, and academic labour relations (jointly with the VP Finance and Administration)

- Creating the position of Vice-President University Relations to better co-ordinate and focus the outreach efforts of the divisions of Alumni and Advancement, Marketing and Communications, and University Events and Community Relations
- Consolidating of all central IT activities under the CIO, who will report to the VP Finance and Administration
- Reorganizing the Office of Human Rights and Ombudsperson by separating the two functions and creating the Center for Human Rights (to assist individuals and groups to address and resolve allegations of discrimination and harassment as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code) and the Office of the Ombudsperson (to provide an impartial and confidential service to assist current members of York University who have been unable to resolve their concerns about University authorities' application of University policies, procedures and practices).

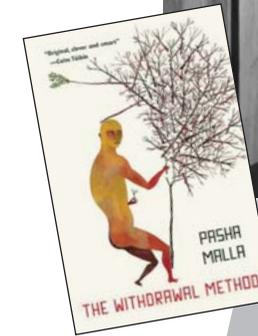
Senior Academic Appointments

A number of searches for senior academic administrators were completed successfully in 2008-09:

- Patrick Monahan was appointed Provost and Vice-President Academic
- Martin Singer, former Dean of Arts and Science and former Provost at Concordia, was appointed Dean of the new Faculty of LA&PS
- Ken McRoberts was appointed Principal of Glendon College.

Provostial White Paper

The Vice-President Academic and Provost is in the process of developing a Provostial White Paper to articulate York's longer-term strategic priorities, identify how York can differentiate itself, and provide a context for existing academic and administrative planning processes, including the development of the next University Academic Plan.



► **Pasha Malla wins Trillium Book Award**

York alum Pasha Malla won the prestigious Trillium Book Award for his debut collection of short stories, *The Withdrawal Method*. Mr. Malla attended York for film production; he graduated from the Faculty of Arts with an honours BA and, not surprisingly, made the dean's list. The Trillium Prize jury hailed Malla as “a brave new voice in Canadian fiction”. It was the second major prize awarded to Malla in as many months; he also won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award in May, and his book was also long-listed for the Giller Prize in 2008.



► **Archives of Ontario**

Ted McMeekin, provincial minister of government &

consumer services, visited York's Keele campus in June, 2009, to officially open the new Archives of Ontario building. The new, purpose-built building gives Ontarians access to the vast collection of over 45,000 maps, some 1.7 million photos, almost 2,500 historical and contemporary art works and over 50,000 films.

Research at York

The University Academic Plan sets the intensification and expansion of research as York's paramount objective. Key to enhancing the research culture at York University is integrating research planning into the overall academic planning of the University. This can only be achieved by engaging the academic resource managers (Deans and Chairs) in research planning and advocacy.

To help raise the profile of research at York, and as a legacy of our 50th anniversary, the President's Research Excellence Awards will recognize faculty members whose scholarly achievements have had a real impact on their field and who have made a significant contribution to advancing the University's international reputation for research excellence.

World-class researchers need world-class facilities, and the opening of the Sherman Health Research Building in spring 2010 will provide an expanded home for York's renowned vision research into the brain and create much-needed research lab space for kinesiology and psychology.

York University Relations

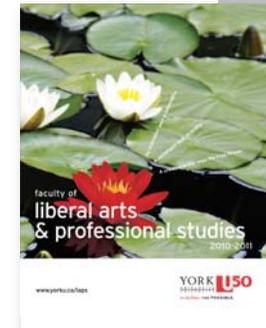
A number of initiatives are underway to enhance the relationships among various groups on campus and in the wider community, as well as the relationships between them and the university administration, including:

1. The establishment of a **Task Force on Student Life, Learning and Community** mandated to address the broad spectrum of student life, the learning environment and student community at York University, with special attention to the relationships between students, as well as between students and other parts of the community. The report was delivered in August 2009.
2. The third-party **safety audit**, initiated last year and undertaken by METRAC, is progressing. The final report is expected in early 2010.
3. The President's **Task Force on Community Relations**, led by Dr. R. Lenton, continued its work to monitor and coordinate York's initiatives in the local community. The report is expected in early 2010.
4. **The York University – TD Community Engagement Center** – the University's storefront in the Jane and Finch area where faculty and students provide social, financial and legal services to the community – was established in the fall of 2008. To date, some 12,000 community members have taken advantage of the services offered by the Centre.
5. The **Convocation Task Force** presented its findings in 2008; as a result, convocation ceremonies were successfully relocated to the Rexall Centre in partnership with Tennis Canada.

Government Relations

Government Relations seeks to foster awareness of York University and its aspirations and initiatives among the different levels of government; it is key to promoting a broader understanding of the university community, its complexities and requirements.

Recognizing the importance of government policies and decision-making on our ability to pursue York's aspirations, we have appointed a new government relations officer to help develop a strategy to regain the provincial government's confidence and reignite interest in York University's long-term initiatives.



► LA&PS

On July 1, 2009, York University launched the new Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), combining the strengths of the former Atkinson Faculty of Liberal & Professional Studies and the Faculty of Arts. As a champion of pioneering and socially relevant liberal arts education, related professional programs and research, LA&PS addresses real world issues that affect the complex societies in which we live with a unique interdisciplinary approach.

► Cox & Gill

Two York professors – Professor Stephen Gill and Professor emeritus Robert Cox – were named two of the world's leading thinkers in international relations – past and present – in an authoritative work called *Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations*.

► Canada Summer Games

York's student athletes did incredibly well at this year's Canada Summer Games held in Charlottetown, PEI. The final medal tally was seven, including gold in men's beach volleyball, silver medals in women's volleyball and in sprint and hurdling events, and bronze in sprint, hammer throw and shotput.



—JEUX DU—
CANADA
—GAMES—

► Schulich Rankings

The Schulich School of Business at York University was ranked No. 1 in the world in the Aspen Institute's Beyond Grey Pinstripes ranking of the top 100 MBA programs that are preparing future leaders for the environmental, social and ethical complexities of modern-day business. It is the first time a Canadian business school has ever ranked first in a global survey of management education.



Schulich
School of Business
York University

► Dedicated Busway to York

The dedicated busway from Downsview subway station officially opened in the fall of 2009, an important step forward in making York more accessible by cutting commute times for people studying, living and working in the community. The busway is the first phase of a two-phase project to improve access to York's Keele campus. The second is the Toronto-York Spadina subway extension to the Vaughan Corporate Centre, which will be completed by 2015. The arrival of the subway will transform York, eliminating some 1,700 buses per day from the Keele campus and making York a commuter hub connecting the City of Toronto with Vaughan and York Region, and points east and west.



Sustainability at York

York has a range of sustainability initiatives in place, and much work has been done to improve the University's standards of sustainability, but until now, this work has not been envisioned as a coherent, university-wide strategy. The President's Sustainability Council, chaired by Faculty of Environmental Studies Professor Jennifer Foster, will report to the President in December 2009 with recommendations on ways to better address issues of sustainability on a pan-university level.

York is about halfway towards implementing our Energy Management Program at both the Keele and Glendon campuses. The goal is to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in energy costs through initiatives such as energy-efficient lighting; heating, ventilation and air conditioning modifications and upgrades; advanced metering; and optimizing our use of cogeneration and renewable energy.

In the fall of 2009, York received a B+ for sustainability in the College Sustainability Report Card – the highest ranking of any Canadian university in the US-Canada survey. Among more than 330 schools evaluated, York scored first in Ontario and shares the top Canadian ranking with the universities of Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary and McGill. We're on the right track when it comes to sustainability, but there's more to be done.

YORK TO THE POWER OF 50

As we turn the page on York's 50th year, we look ahead with confidence to the next 50. Our 50th celebrations have been as much about celebrating how far we have come in a relatively short time as they have been about anticipating where we want York to go in the next 50 years.

In honour of the 50th anniversary, the York University Foundation launched the York to the Power of 50 campaign to support the University's academic and research priorities. Despite challenging economic times, the campaign has raised more than \$190 million towards its \$200 million goal.

One thing York has done from the very beginning – and that we will continue to do – is to build bridges to the communities we serve. Our job is not only to create new knowledge through research, but to share that knowledge as quickly and as widely as we can.

So to mark the beginning of York's next 50 years, we have created the York Circle – an organization that will engage various communities in York's vibrant academic and research life. The vision for the York Circle is to host several events annually that allow members to hear York's leading faculty members and researchers present ideas and topics that engage us every day, and to provide opportunities for members to interact with like-minded people who never want to stop learning.



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