

Development of Draft Themes

Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

1. Advancing Fundamental Discovery and Critical Knowledge
2. Building Healthy Lives and Communities
3. Challenging/Exploring the Frontiers of Science & Technology
4. Forging a Just and Sustainable World
5. Integrating Entrepreneurial Innovation and the Public Good
6. Mobilizing Culture and Creativity

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Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

1. Advancing Fundamental Discovery and Critical Knowledge

- Whether in the humanities, social sciences, natural and applied sciences, pure and open-ended research occupies a large sector of York's research enterprise, in and beyond these fields.
- Many of the greatest advances in the social, natural, and medical sciences are due to exemplary individual contributions. University-based research must provide ample space for letting researchers reach uncharted territory in their areas of expertise.
- The advancement of knowledge entails the examination and critique of existing structures and thinking, as well as the exploration of new forms and expressions. Universities must breed the drivers of innovative or critical ideas and creation.

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2. Building Healthy Lives and Communities

- The study of Health, from age-related ailments to health prevention, cognitive and physical health and the influence of income inequality, the social determinants of health and global health as well as the health of communities as a whole.
- It includes but is not limited to changes in health care delivery, systems and services, and research in the biomedical and clinical sciences.
- This theme speaks to the nature of well-being and encompasses how to achieve high-quality, lifelong well-being for individuals and for society, including physical, mental and social well-being.
- Contributing disciplines include but are not limited to: biology, psychology, law, sociology, political science, anthropology, education, economics, environmental and mathematical sciences.

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Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

3. Challenging/Exploring the Frontiers of Science & Technology

- The theme spans from the examination of the foundations of science and engineering, to probing technological innovation, to addressing the fundamental questions regarding the existence and evolution of the universe.
- The theme includes, but is not limited to, research and development in biology, chemistry, physics and computer science as well as engineering and often entails industrially-relevant discovery and creation.
- There is a wide range of contributing disciplines which include not only the mathematical and information sciences, but also the humanities, social sciences, health sciences, environmental studies, and science and technology studies.

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Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

4. Forging a Just and Sustainable World

- This theme spans from understanding the global and international environment to exploring identity, citizenship, and movement of peoples.
- The theme focuses on research challenges posed by the social, economic and environmental transitions shaping human activity including local and international policy making with particular emphasis on environmental sustainability and climate change, urbanization, socio-political systems, the international political economy, history, security, governance and law.
- This theme also explores public and international affairs and a broader examination of Canadian public institutions and the international environments in which they function, with particular emphasis on Canada's bilingual heritage, emerging multilingual contexts and First Peoples.

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Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

5. Integrating Entrepreneurial Innovation and the Public Good

- Innovation relies on the entrepreneurial spirit and courage but at York is always contextualized within the principles of social justice and the public good. York is uniquely positioned to meet this multi-faceted challenge.
- Research under this theme involves disciplines such as business, engineering, ethics and law, corporate social responsibility, corporate governance, sustainable economic development and human rights.
- This theme is closely linked to “Forging a Just and Sustainable World” as the development of knowledge and good practices must be carefully tested from the perspective of sustainability.

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Draft Strategic Research Plan Themes:

6. Mobilizing Culture and Creativity

- This theme addresses the creation of knowledge through culture and heritage, creativity and social innovation.
- It addresses directly York's diverse and strong expertise in the fine arts, including dance, design, film, music, theatre, creative writing, visual arts and digital arts, as well as a broad spectrum of research in liberal-arts based disciplines and interdisciplines, including languages, linguistics, humanities and social sciences.
- The theme also encompasses scholarship in other disciplines, ranging from education to environmental studies.