

November 29, 2017

Office of the President

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**A Message from President Lenton:
York University's Board of Governors Approves Markham Centre Campus**

I am delighted to announce that yesterday York University's Board of Governors approved the preliminary design and budget for our [Markham Centre Campus project](#). Board approval of the approximately \$253-million project means that we can now move forward with the design development and tendering phases. We plan to begin construction in late 2018, with the campus opening to students in September 2021.

The Markham Centre Campus supports our commitment to increase access to a high-quality, research-intensive university education, and to enhance our connectedness to our local and international communities. We are working closely with our partners in York Region, who are eager to bring this unique opportunity to life.

The York University Markham Centre Campus, located west of the Markham Pan Am Centre, will offer 4,200 students in a high-growth part of the province access to more than 20 degree programs, including a variety of professional programs as well as innovative joint programs with Seneca College, our academic partner in this project. York will also partner with local businesses and industry to provide unique experiential learning opportunities for students, and contribute to the region's major economic clusters.


The preliminary design, developed by Diamond Schmitt Architects Inc., represents York's first new campus in the GTA since our main Keele campus opened in 1965. The design process followed extensive consultation and workshops with representatives of York Faculties to gather information about planned courses, requirements for teaching and learning space and projected enrolment. The design also reflects the feedback of students who responded to a university-wide survey about what they value in terms of common space. The result is a dramatic preliminary design that features light-filled flexible spaces that will create academic neighbourhoods within the buildings and connection between them, with a focus on access and student life.

The Ontario government committed in June to provide \$127.3 million toward the cost of the new campus, which will be built on a site of approximately five acres contributed by the City of Markham. The Regional Municipality of York is investing \$25 million in the new campus. The University has also launched a fundraising campaign to support this project.



This is an important step forward for the York University community and our partners, and we will keep you informed of our progress as we move ahead with these plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda L. Lenton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Rhonda L. Lenton, PhD
President & Vice-Chancellor