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The York University Brief

May 2023

Government Relations Updates and Highlights



York University receives \$105.7 million grant from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund

York University has been awarded a monumental grant of \$105.7 million from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The funding from the Government of Canada is the largest single federal grant ever awarded to York and is in support of Connected Minds: Neural and Machine Systems for a Healthy, Just Society. [Read More](#)



Toronto City Council considers feasibility study for geothermal heating and cooling at York University

On May 10th, Toronto City Council considered item Member Motion 6.38 Keele Reservoir Feasibility for Heating and Cooling at York University. The motion outlined City Council's support for a feasibility study for using of the Keele Street Reservoir as a site for geothermal heating and cooling exchange at York's Keele campus and to report back to City Council by the end of 2023. The feasibility work would determine if the York Campus could offset all or some of its heating and cooling needs from Natural Gas to electric heat pumps and would decrease greenhouse emissions. [Read More](#)



York University meets with Mayor James Leduc to discuss a proposed School of Medicine

On May 8th, York University met with Mayor James Leduc of Bradford West Gwillimbury to discuss our plans for a proposed [School of Medicine](#).

Research Stories and Institutional Highlights



York University satellites headed to space

One CubeSat – a square-shaped satellite the size of a Rubik’s cube – created by York University students, and another with hardware supplied by students, will launch from the Kennedy Space Center and be placed in orbit by International Space Station astronauts. [Read More](#)



Sculpture by York professor debuts at Keele and Finch



York receives \$300K from provincial agency to advance research commercialization

Designed by Brandon Vickerd, artist and professor of visual arts at York University, the 41-foot sculpture made of Corten steel is titled “The Heights” and is meant to evoke how the history of a place informs its present and future.

The seed of “The Heights” began in 2020, when the Duke Heights Business Improvement Area (BIA) put out a public call for professional Canadian artists to propose a landmark public artwork that would bring back and reassert the Finch-Keele community after years of construction in the area preparing for the forthcoming Light Rail Transit (LRT) line. [Read More](#)

Commercialization efforts for York University research have received a \$300,000 boost in funding from Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON).

The new funding will support the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation and the IP Innovation Clinic at York University to enhance its intellectual property and commercialization services to York researchers and their partners, particularly for increasing research outputs related to artificial intelligence, automotive and medical technology. [Read More](#)



New Frontiers in Research Fund awards \$2.4M to York University researchers

Seven projects led by York University researchers were awarded a combined \$2.4 million from the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) in two of its funding streams: Exploration and Special Calls.

The NFRF: Exploration stream is a federal program that supports high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research, and the Special Call stream, in this latest funding round, supports research for post-pandemic recovery. [Read More](#)

The York University Brief is York University's monthly newsletter that showcases some of our latest research and institutional news. Although anyone can subscribe, our readership

primarily consists of our government and community partners and is meant to provide insight into the work done at the University and its potential links to work done in government and in the community. The York University Brief is typically published monthly from September to June.

If you would like more information on any of the stories in this edition, please find the contact information for the members of our Government and Community Relations team listed below.

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