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The York University Brief

September 2023

Government Relations Update and Highlights



Markham Campus Hard Hat Tour

On September 12, York University President Rhonda Lenton provided a hard hat tour of the Markham Campus construction site to Mayor Scarpitti, Members of Markham City Council, and Senior City Staff. President Lenton also provided an update on academic programming offered at the Markham Campus.



Blue Ribbon Panel Meetings

York University's government relations team had constructive meetings with MPP Billy Pang's office as well as Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities David Wai to discuss the province's Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education.

York University on the Move

Congratulations to the following York University Alumni who have recently entered new positions:

- The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree (Osgoode LLB) becomes Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, previously Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
- The Honourable Ahmed Hussen (LA&PS BA) becomes Minister of International Development, previously Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion
- The Honourable Kamal Khera (Health BSCN) becomes Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, previously Minister of Seniors
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy (Osgoode LLB) becomes Associate Minister of Transportation, previously Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board

Thank you for being such wonderful ambassadors for York University, we wish you all the best in your new roles!

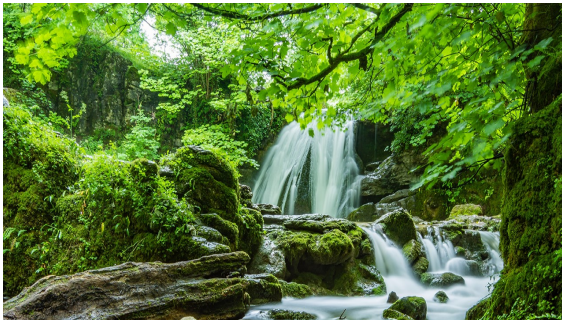
Research Stories and Institutional Highlights



Work-integrated learning for Black students in health breaks down barriers

During the summer, 18 Black undergraduate students from three units in the Faculty of Health (Psychology, Global Health and Kinesiology) participated in work-integrated learning opportunities across six health-sector organizations, where they will support diverse programs, services, research and other organizational priorities.

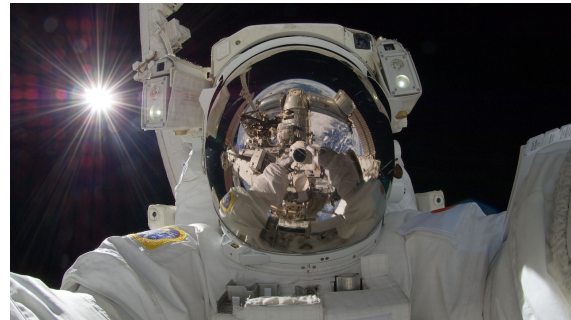
Funded by a Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada iHub grant, this initiative helps students gain real-world experience in their field of interest and develop knowledge and skills to support their academic and professional journeys. [Read More](#)



York professor takes a fresh look at climate change mitigation

Climate change mitigation is typically assessed through the lens of technologies and policies; York University Professor Ellie Perkins investigates the role of governance and social capital in the creation of effective climate policies.

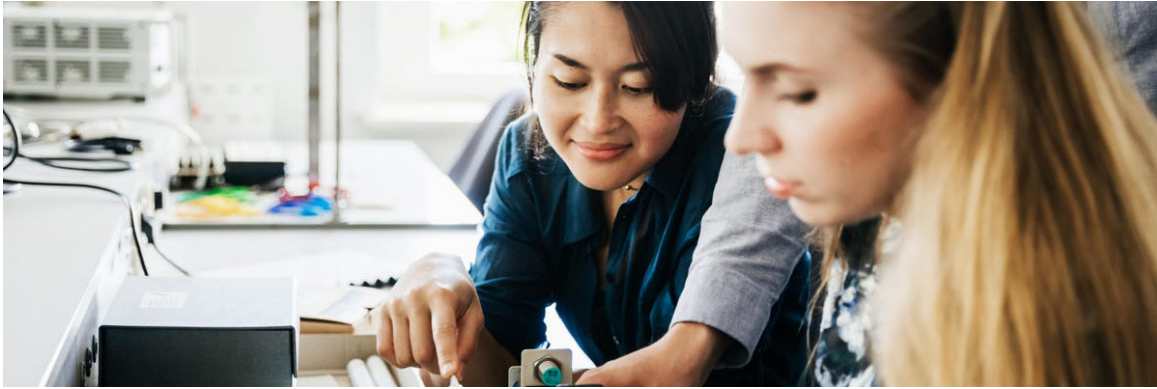
The researchers reveal that the quality of governance underpins social capital, interpersonal trust, equality and effective climate change mitigation policies. [Read More](#)



Lassonde research advancing astronaut training

In space, unusual environments such as zero and partial gravity can significantly alter human perception of self-motion, leading to challenges with self-orientation and visual processing.

Effective astronaut training is critical to ensuring survival and mission success. However, current training measures are based on heavily skewed data from human performance studies that concentrate on a very specific group of people. [Read More](#)



k2i academy's Bringing STEM to Life empowers young minds

Bringing STEM to Life, a program run by the k2i academy at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering, allows students entering grades 11 and 12 to participate in a one-month paid summer research experience while earning an Ontario high-school course credit in physics or English. This year, 100 per cent of high-school students earned their credit with a cumulative course median over 91 per cent across all programs.

Black and Indigenous youth, students from priority communities and girls, who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM, were invited to partake in the program, to help break down systemic barriers and create more equitable access to STEM education. [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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