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The York University Brief

April 2024

Government Relations Update and Highlights



Ontario Government Approves York University School of Medicine

In the 2024 Budget, the government of Ontario approved York's School of Medicine proposal, as well as \$9 million in start-up funding. York is exceptionally pleased with this outcome and thanks the government for partnering with us on this historic initiative. On April 3, President Rhonda Lenton joined Premier Doug Ford, Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca, Minister Jill Dunlop and others at the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital to celebrate this important milestone. York thanks everyone who helped get us to this point, and we're excited to continuing our work to welcome our first medical school cohort in July, 2028. [Learn more.](#)



Minister Mulrone Announces Funding for YSpace

The YSpace team was pleased to welcome Minister Caroline Mulrone earlier this month to their Georgina Entrepreneurship Hub, a partnership between YSpace, Georgina, and East Gwillimbury. Minister Mulrone announced up to \$150,000 in funding, through the Rural Economic Development program, for the YSpace Northern York Region Hub in Georgina. As York University's entrepreneurship and innovation hub, YSpace has supported hundreds of ventures, leading to the creation of over 1,300 jobs.



York at the Vaughan Future of Health Innovation Forum

Earlier this month, York representatives were pleased to attend the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural Future of Health Innovation Forum. Provost Lisa Philipps joined a panel of experts and leaders from government, academia, and industry to address critical topics shaping the future of healthcare. Thanks to all those who attended.

York University on the Move

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

- Deepak Anand, MBA '07 becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance.
- Hardeep Grewal becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities.
- Laura Smith becomes Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

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

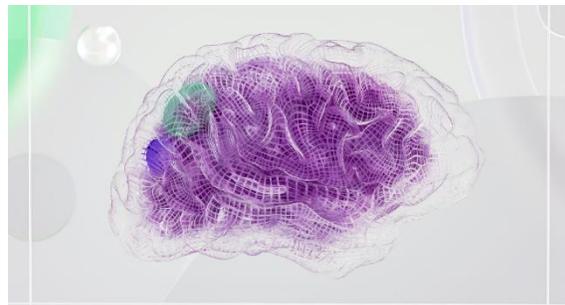
Research Stories and Institutional Highlights



York research advances flood risk management with AI

In a recently published paper, Rahma Khalid, a PhD candidate in the Civil Engineering Department at York University's Lassonde School of Engineering, and her supervisor, Associate Professor Usman Khan, proposed a promising new model for flood susceptibility mapping (FSM) that incorporates artificial intelligence (AI) machine learning (ML) methods.

[Learn more.](#)

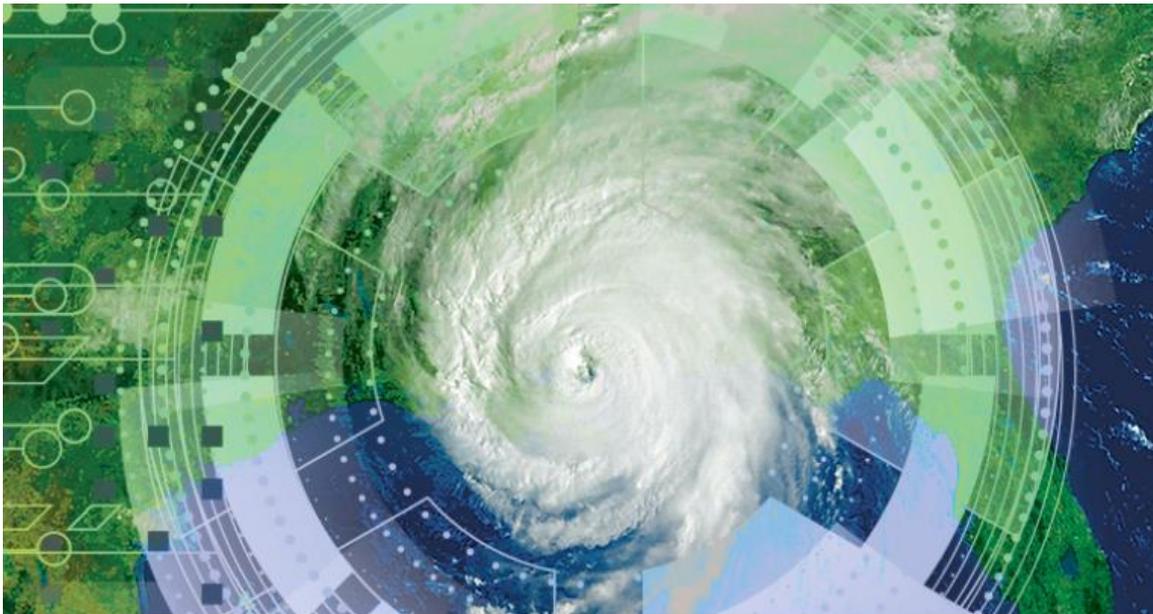


Schulich partnership seeks to address global infrastructure gap

Schulich Real Assets – an area within York University’s Schulich School of Business that focuses on tangible investments – is teaming up with the Global Infrastructure Investor Association (GIIA) to offer the next generation of leaders more tools and resources to help them tackle the climate crisis through sustainable infrastructure projects. [Learn more.](#)

York prof receives funding recognizing emerging research leadership

Hossein Kassiri, an associate professor in the Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Department at York University’s Lassonde School of Engineering, was recently honoured with a prestigious Early Researcher Award (ERA) from the government of Ontario. He is the only researcher at York University to receive the award this year. [Learn more.](#)



York announces new initiative to advance global research

York University has launched the Global Research Excellence Seed Fund (GRE Fund), a new initiative that will strengthen the University’s research partnerships worldwide and enable faculty members to forge deeper global connections across communities, academia and industry. [Learn 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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