The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit and many others whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

From climate change to the social and physical health of humanity, this world is challenged like never before. But the University of Alberta is meeting those challenges head-on. Our students, faculty and researchers are asking heady questions, working with each other and with our many community partners, and finding innovative solutions that are changing the future.

And you don’t have to look far to see the changes they’re bringing about. They’re reopening the magic of books to youngsters whose reading skills were disrupted by the pandemic. They’re teaching people how to safely share cities with coyotes. They’re filling holes — literally — for people who can’t afford dentists. They’re researching problems faced by society’s diverse populations — newcomers, Indigenous people, farmers, teens and more — and removing those kinds of transformative opportunities that are continually creating those kinds of transformative opportunities that help shape a strong and vibrant future.

Everything we do is shaped by what the community needs. And with every new initiative, we are grateful for the community partners who help us make it happen.

Every time the status quo isn’t working, the University of Alberta works to fix it. In this 2022-23 Report to the Community, we are delighted to share our stories about what that looks like, and give our thanks to you, our partners and our community, for supporting us in our mission to lead with purpose.
Welcome to the University of Alberta’s 2022-23 Report to the Community, which highlights some of the many strong partnerships and community connections that have flourished over the last 12 months.

We’re a world-class research and teaching institution known for our innovative ideas and our drive to create change; to do this, we rely on a vast network of partnerships and connections — the stories included in this year’s report demonstrate how much is possible when communities come together, focus our collective energies and share expertise and resources for the greater good.

At the U of A, our partners are as diverse as our student population, and they enrich our campus through their lived experiences and expertise. They include a wide range of community partners who identify needs requiring research assistance, corporate and industry partners who want to create change, and everyday citizens who simply want to help find solutions to local and global issues.

We are immensely proud of our collaborations and partnerships more effective when we lead with purpose and partner with the [GSOQYRMX][SVEFIXIVXSOQSVSV][

Bill Flanagan
President and Vice-Chancellor

I am pleased to share the 2022-23 Community Engagement Report with you. This report is a way for the university, and our readers, to reflect on just some of the many remarkable partnerships that occurred over the past year. The University of Alberta community is part of many communities locally and globally, and the partnerships between our people are so valuable. It is always gratifying to read about the opportunities that these partnerships provide our researchers and students, and the positive effects their work has on the communities we are part of.

At the University of Alberta, we engage with people and share their [WXSVMWJW][WSVMWJIV][SSXHMRV][WJVEVGLER][HMRRS][ZXM][SVMRIGS][WPMG]

HiZIPSTQRERHIRMZIVWM [G] XEMSRWXY [HIRXE][EM] [T] [I] [T] [I] [T] [E] [V] [C] [E] [P] [P] [E] [S] [P] [E] [M] [W] [Y] [I] [W]

We are immensely proud of our collaborations and partnerships ERHXL[SVQ][EGSQT][WLX]XIXLIV][EVEPWWXSVRIVERH

more effective when we lead with purpose and partner with the [GSOQYRMX][SVEFIXIVXSOQSVSV][

Elan MacDonald
Vice-President, External Relations
Three colleges with 13 faculties:
- Health Sciences
- Natural and Applied Sciences
- Social Sciences and Humanities

3 stand-alone faculties

220+ undergraduate programs

44,000+ students from 156 countries

42 National 3M Teaching Fellows

Research and Innovation
- Top five research university in Canada
- 94 research chairs
- $621M+ in sponsored research revenue
- 135 active spinoff companies

The U of A is a globally recognized university known for:
- Transforming ideas and discoveries into innovations for society, bringing jobs, opportunity and quality of life to the local region and beyond
- Attracting talented students from 156 countries to the Edmonton region, thanks to our global status as a top 100 university.

Graduating approximately 9,200 students a year, with nearly 160,000 alumni living in Edmonton region today.

Generating economic activity, with faculty and students founding 135 spinoffs and alumni founding companies that employ 1 in every 5 Albertans

Fast Facts
- University researchers set out to understand the tremendous impact the alumni have on their communities and the world.
- They found:
  - Nearly 85% of grads stay in the province and find employment in every sector
  - 1 in 5 Albertans employed by businesses and organizations founded by U of A alumni
  - 96% of U of A students are employed 2 years post-graduation
  - 95.2% of U of A graduates are working in a field related to general skills and abilities acquired through their education
  - 80% of PhD students find employment before graduation
  - U of A is 5th among Canadian universities for employability

Key areas of Global Excellence
- Energy Solutions
- Health and Well-being
- Artificial Intelligence
- Also of great importance to the U of A:
  - Indigenous research
  - Agriculture and food
  - Reducing social disparities

77 Rhodes Scholars

81 U SPORTS National Athletic Titles

1 Nobel Prize-winning researcher
- Michael Houghton, who won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

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Lighting the way to help 2SLGBTQ+ youth become resilient adults

For two decades, Fyrefly has leveraged research into community programs.

Street life can feel dangerous for youth who are homeless and 2SLGBTQ+, but there’s a safe haven for them — with counselling, Indigenous peer support, clothing, food and legal guidance — at an Edmonton drop-in centre operated by the U of A’s Fyrefly Institute for Gender and Sexual Diversity.

About 10,000 Albertans have been helped by the non-profit’s programs over the past two decades.

Fyrefly turns research into community services thanks to a variety of community partners, says project co-ordinator Corey Wyness. Fyrefly’s achievements include health-related initiatives, such as an Edmonton LGBTQ+ Wellness Centre (a “one-stop shop” for services), and a study with the School of Public Health about how trans women experience discrimination in the health system. “It’s trying to get a dentist who will treat you with respect, or just getting medication for an ear infection,” says Wyness. “Those things are insurmountable.”

Partners: Edmonton Police Service, the Calgary Centre for Sexuality, Boyle Street Community Services, Nékem: To Change Something, and the Pride Centre of Edmonton.

Helping soldiers succeed as students

U of A creating toolkit to create veteran-friendly campuses

With their work ethic, technical prowess and volunteer spirit, soldiers and military veterans are among the best students on campus. They just don’t feel welcome.

Changing that is the goal of the U of A’s Military & Veteran Friendly Campus project, an Alberta government-funded pilot that will end in 2023. A toolkit of tips on being a veteran-friendly campus will be developed, adopted and shared with other post-secondary institutions.

Partners: Government of Alberta, supported by the Office of the Dean of Students, and the Heroes in Mind Advocacy and Research Consortium.

Keeping cultural memories alive

Rhodes Scholar parallels memory gaps with refugees’ cultural losses

Abigail Isaac’s memory wasn’t great so she created a cheat sheet, now 323 pages long, for when she forgot things. Now, the U of A’s latest Rhodes Scholar will use that experience to study how refugee populations lose their cultural memory when they’re displaced. “If you do not know your story,” Isaac says, “someone will tell it for you.”

PhD grad Matthew Tétreault stands on the banks of the Red River in Winnipeg. His groundbreaking thesis is the first literary history of the Red River Métis, and he is also about to release his first novel, which began as his master’s thesis in creative writing. (Photo: Supplied)

Income disparity takes mental health toll on teen students

Students report feelings of inferiority, lack of self-esteem

Teens attending schools with families from a range of income disparity are likelier to have poorer mental health and lower self-esteem. Research by PhD candidate Claire Benny found evidence of inferiority and self-esteem depression follows, income inequality grows, teen depression follows, and income inequality grows. "We have a wicked problem here." The study was supported by the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation through the Women and Health Research Institute.

Telling the story of Métis storytelling

Dissertation lauded as first literary history of the Red River Métis

Matthew Tétreault was barely out of high school when he first tried writing a novel, and while the book didn’t go anywhere, it got Tétreault on a path that led to the U of A where the francophone Métis book didn’t go anywhere, it got Tétreault on a path that led to the U of A where the francophone Métis

[...]

"I invite each of you to find yourself in Braiding, Past Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan. Advancing conciliation — that is establishing respectful nation-to-nation relationships — is a difficult journey. It requires generosity, kindness and patience and, above all, it takes unlearning. We are only at the beginning of this journey. The university has heard from the community that there is a deep desire to engage with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities as a starting point for this important work."

— Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research)
Research and innovation

A reputation for research that matters

The U of A is rightfully proud of its research reputation — world-class facilities, real-world community partnerships, and a top-notch team, earning it a reputation for research that matters.

Great researchers feel at home here

Great researchers feel at home here. They are drawn by the U of A’s reputation for excellence and innovation.

Building an arsenal against the next pandemic

U of A lab joins worldwide effort to prepare for future pandemics. The lab has made significant contributions to vaccine research and development, with a focus on preparing for potential pandemics.

Life-saving drugs on Canadian shelves

$80.5M to develop and manufacture pharmaceuticals. The U of A will help Canada overcome its vulnerability in accessing life-saving drugs and vaccines.

Farmers cultivate better health

Stress of farmers’ mental health will identify points of stress and ways to cope. The research is part of a broader effort to improve the mental health of farmers and their families.

Better pictures of health

New ideas to improve human health are making their way out of the lab and into the world thanks to the U of A’s Health Innovation Hub. The hub provides co-working spaces, a shared wet lab space, and hands-on support and mentoring to 50 health innovators and entrepreneurs.

Spark an interest

“I discovered what engineering entailed and the potential path my career could take. It took a lot of the uncertainty and the scare factor away.” — Nancy Manchak, engineer and advisory board member for Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science & Technology (WISEST)

Life-saving drugs on Canadian shelves

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The U of A will help Canada overcome its vulnerability in accessing life-saving drugs and vaccines. The research is part of a broader effort to improve the mental health of farmers and their families.

Research partners: Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Pharmacists conduct free, simple blood tests for HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis, as part of a U of A-led study examining whether offering the tests outside traditional settings makes sexual health testing more accessible.

The COVID-19 emergency has abated but work is forging ahead on new drugs to prepare for the next pandemic. Entos Pharmaceuticals is developing a super vaccine that would protect against all coronavirus variants.

Pharmacists conduct free, simple blood tests for HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis, as part of a U of A-led study examining whether offering the tests outside traditional settings makes sexual health testing more accessible.
Safely pushing urban coyotes out of residential neighbourhoods

Edmonton studies on aversive conditioning prove hazing tactics are effective

Researchers are exploring connections and reimagining relationships

As an environmental philosopher, Nathan Kowalsky thinks about the environment in terms of ethics, conquest narratives and the strained relationship between humans and the wild. As a professor at St. Joseph’s College, Kowalsky helps others use philosophy to think differently about the natural world and their place in it. “There’s not enough consciousness about these bigger ethical questions about ecological crises,” he says. “We think we have answers — but don’t know why.”

Geothermal energy doesn’t produce many greenhouse gases — but could it be carbon negative? U of A geotechnical engineers are researching how geothermal could deal with waste carbon dioxide, either by using it or storing it in the ground. "We must expand our thinking beyond solely the physical aspects of climate change, and design for the social effects of climate change as well — particularly the impact on our most vulnerable populations. Failure to do so will leave us unprepared for the monumental risks ahead." — Sarah Kehler, PhD student, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Clean-burning hydrogen is touted as the fuel of the future, and Alberta and the U of A are poised to lead. Amit Kumar, deputy director of the university’s Future Energy Systems, says oil and gas industry players are experts in producing hydrogen for its upgrading processes, while university researchers are exploring greener ways to make it, move it and use it.

"We have the world-leading expertise — but without a critical mass of fluorescence and motivation, we will not be able to move forward." — Sarah Kehler, PhD student, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Sustainability

Greener paths are found through collaboration and new perspectives

Researchers are exploring connections and reimagining relationships

Environmental philosopher frames ecological crises through an ethical lens

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A literacy Rx for youngsters with reading difficulties

Literacy program gives ‘every child their own reading doctor’

A U of A-designed literacy program is putting Alberta’s youngest students back on track after their reading skills suffered during the pandemic. Professor George Georgiou and doctoral student Kristy Dunn created a targeted, back-to-basics program and field-tested it with 362 elementary students in four Edmonton-area school divisions. The intensive program, funded by an Alberta Education research partnership grant, consisted of 30-minute, small-group sessions scheduled four times a week. The lessons focused on phonics, irregular words and reading books to reinforce the Grade 2 and 3 students’ recognition of letter combinations. When the program started, their reading skills were almost a year below their grade level; within five months, 80 per cent saw a dramatic improvement. “It’s like every child has their own reading doctor,” says Georgiou. Even better, participating schools can continue delivering the program even though the research work is complete, Georgiou says. “The school divisions that have the interventions have them forever.”

Training program fills a hole in community dental care

In a one-of-a-kind training program, dentists from across Canada and the United States come to the U of A to learn about conscious intravenous sedation while working with patients who get free treatment. Many of whom suffer anxiety during dental treatment — get their teeth cleaned,格里菲斯博士说。更好的是，参与学校的干预项目可以永远继续，格里菲斯博士说。“拥有干预措施的学区将永远拥有它们。”

On a northern Alberta First Nation, a simple shed has been transformed into a SHED — that is, a Spiritual Holistic Exercise Den filled with sports equipment and materials for traditional Indigenous crafts. The SHED grew out of a case competition for kinesiology, sport and recreation students, in partnership with the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta. The competition led students to use out-of-the-box thinking to help Indigenous people access fitness and recreation.

First-year criminology student Shaylee Lyne Desjarlais-Whitford is learning Cree with a goal to eventually study law and become a prosecutor specializing in Indigenous cases. (Photo: Ryan Whitefield)

Students make mark on community health

“Eat your vegetables” is a common refrain in many homes but those types of well-intended words can lay the foundation for lifelong habits. By exploring how well-intended messages can be harmful, a team of students are working to change the system from within.

Ferdinands’ research was supported by the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Dorothy J. Killam Memorial Graduate Prize, Edmonton Community Foundation, and Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation through the Women and Children’s Health Research Institute.

On a northern Alberta First Nation, a single shed has been transformed into a SHED — that is, a Spiritual Holistic Exercise Den filled with sports equipment and materials for traditional Indigenous crafts. The SHED grew out of a case competition for kinesiology, sport and recreation students, in partnership with the Indigenous Sport Council. The competition led students to use out-of-the-box thinking to help Indigenous people access fitness and recreation.

Funding for the inaugural KSR Case Competition came from the CEWIL iHUB initiative and the Government of Canada.
Community Engagement

Opening minds and opening doors

The goal of a university is to open minds, but the U of A is also opening doors. A majestic new pavilion at the university's Aga Khan Garden will keep its doors open year-round. The university's Ukrainian community opened its doors and hearts to a Ukraine teen scientist. And when it comes to lifelong learning opportunities, the U of A is open to all.

Edmonton is Canada's first UNESCO 'Learning City'

Bolstered by U of A initiatives, Edmonton has been named a “learning city” by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) — the first such designation for a Canadian city. As a member of UNESCO’s Global Network of Learning Cities, Edmonton can share inspiration, know-how and best practices with the network’s 293 other members. Edmonton’s application included numerous U of A endeavours, including U School, the Indigenous Canada massive open online course, and world-leading research in biotechnology and artificial intelligence. With more than half of humanity living in urban areas, UNESCO says local commitments to education are vital. Edmonton hopes the designation will attract inhabitants keen on new ideas and emerging technologies; U of A president Bill Flanagan says the world’s most innovative, entrepreneurial centres all have one thing in common — at their heart is a world-leading, research-intensive university. And that’s what we have in Edmonton.

Diwan Pavilion brings nature’s beauty into a year-round facility

Building fulfills Aga Khan Garden’s vision to be a place for all seasons

With its wall of windows, open-concept interior and rooftop terrace, the new Diwan Pavilion at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden blurs the lines between structure and nature. The pavilion, part of the Aga Khan Garden, fulfills a vision that the garden be usable all year. The 8,000-square-foot, two-storey facility reflects Islamic design and architecture, and can be booked for concerts, lectures, retreats, exhibits and other community events.

Caribbean-Can Lit

"What my early research exposed to me was the substantial number of Caribbean Canadian writers expanding the field of Canadian literature, even as Canada has had a kind of unheralded role in the development of Caribbean literature."

— Michael Bucknor, Canada Research Chair in Black Studies

Ukrainian student using U of A education to support ground-breaking drone project

A Ukrainian teen who designed a drone that provides coordinates of unexploded landmines hopes what he learns at the U of A will give him the expertise needed to finish the project. Computing science student Igor Kylmenko realized the significance of his high school project when bombs forced his family into Ukraine’s countryside. The U of A, he says, attracted him with its research facilities and Ukrainian connections. "The U of A has some of the largest laboratories in Canada, especially the physics labs, and I found out that it can be really useful working with professors in U of A labs to develop my device."

Newcomers know what’s not working

One of the U of A’s newest researchers has launched a community-based study to understand the causes of unexploded landmines. Newcomers know what’s not working, Elizabeth Onyango, a Kenyan-born public health professor, uses both statistical data and qualitative methods — like interviews, focus groups, and Afrocentric sharing circles — to understand what is currently happening. She says, “and they have ideas for how these issues can be solved.”

Future doctors educate themselves

A series of community-based electives created by U of A medical students for their first- and second-year counterparts demonstrates community outreach. The students spend time with community organizations learning about the specific health issues of different populations — such as Indigenous people or people living in the inner city — while learning how to incorporate social accountability and advocacy into their future medical practice.

U of A brings learning prowess to a prestigious list of cities that prioritize lifelong education

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**Community Engagement Consultation Plan**

The Community Engagement Consultation Plan outlines three years of initiatives and activities for the University of Alberta to address community engagement. The plan includes three themes: **Improve Accessibility**, **Support and Strengthen Outreach**, and **Year 1 Goals**. Each theme is further divided into year 1 goals, actions, and timelines.

### Year 1 Goals

- **Improve Accessibility:**
  - **Campus Wayfinding Improvements:** The university is addressing the issues to manage accessibility and wayfinding improvements in Year 1. These improvements include plans to install an electronic map navigator to be piloted in the new University Commons (renovated Dentistry Pharmacy building), the gathering hub of North Campus. Plans for this exciting wayfinding initiative are underway to assist all members of the community as they plan their routes while on campus.
  - **Further work will continue to address information about the university, its history, key contacts and the sense of belonging to the institution.**

- **Support and Strengthen Outreach:**
  - **University of Alberta External Community Engagement Advisory Committee:** A diverse and dynamic Community Engagement Advisory Committee was launched in the fall of 2021 to provide external community members with opportunities to contribute to the University of Alberta's community engagement initiatives. The committee is already actively providing community-centric advice on how to best implement key aspects of the Community Engagement Consultation Plan.

### Actions

- **Preparations for a series of community roundtables that will bring together community leaders, experts, policy-makers and practitioners.**
- **Community Roundtables:** Report to the Community: Back by popular demand, the University of Alberta Report to the Community document returns with plans to annually share stories and successes relating to community engagement. The 2021-22 Report to the Community is slated for launch in spring 2022.
- **Redesign of the Community Relations Website:** The Office of Government and Community Relations redesigned its website to more effectively share community engagement links, stories and updates. The website will also reflect recent changes to the University of Alberta brand story: Leading With Purpose. The initial community engagement website was launched in winter 2021.
- **Story Portal:** A story portal was launched in winter 2021 with the new Community Relations website. The portal consists of community engagement stories sourced from Folio and faculties. The portal has become a valuable resource to find community-engaged research, experiential learning and outreach stories.

### Timeline

- **Implementation in 2023**
- **Released annually in September with University of Alberta Days**
- **Launched in February 2021**
- **Launched in January 2022**
- **Launched in January 2023**
- **Ongoing**

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**THEMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Year 1 Goals</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Launched and meetings are ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Community Engagement Network</td>
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### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEMES</th>
<th>YEAR 2 GOALS</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Accessibility</td>
<td>Community Partner-in-Residence</td>
<td>The Community Partner-in-Residence (CPR) welcome a community organization to campus annually to take up residence and act as a living link between the U of A and the community. They would share their expertise through guest lectures, workshops and mentorship. Research and planning are underway to recruit the first CPR for the fall of 2023. A recruitment plan will start implementation in the spring/summer of 2023 along with a campus wide communications plan to introduce the CPR to the university community.</td>
<td>Completed early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Access Hotline</td>
<td>Annual Community Engagement Theme</td>
<td>An internal engagement process for choosing a community engagement theme began in (XQ) biennial (VTT) (MY) (EV) (EV) (EV) process which provided valuable insight and informed the community engagement theme &quot;Issues related to the un-housed and under-resourced vulnerable population.&quot;</td>
<td>Completed early</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>University in the Community Initiative</td>
<td>The University in the Community initiative goal is to enhance and grow the presence of university representation on community boards and initiatives as recommended by the Advisory Committee. Future Consultation Process for Next Community Engagement Plan.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate Successes</td>
<td>Staff Day of Service</td>
<td>The Staff Day of Service is meant to encourage university staff members to go out and serve the community either through a university organized opportunity or by volunteering with a community organization. The Staff Day of Service project to begin in 2023.</td>
<td>Implemented Fall of 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Future Community Engagement Tracking</td>
<td>Future Community Engagement Tracking and projects as recommended by the Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Future Consultation Process for Next Community Engagement Plan</td>
<td>Future Consultation Process for Next Community Engagement Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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