

*For Immediate Release*PRESS RELEASE**Increase in Student Enrolment, but Dated Academic Infrastructure**

Edmonton, Alberta, September 2, 2016—At Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ), the new academic year was marked by innovation and novelty. Each student received a copy of the linguistic vision *Le français, langue de vie au Campus Saint-Jean* (French: The Language of Life at CSJ). “Developed during the summer in collaboration with students, this vision promotes a positive approach. We aim to create bilingual citizens who will contribute in their own ways to the vitality of the French language. We want to encourage students to speak French throughout the campus,” says Dean Pierre-Yves Mocquais.

With a recently adopted 2016–2021 Strategic Academic Plan, the CSJ will focus on three main orientations: 1) *offering programs that will help students position themselves for the future*; 2) *further enhancing a culture of research and creativity*; and 3) *strengthening CSJ’s recruitment and retention strategy*.

This year, 246 new first-year students are attending Campus Saint-Jean, the largest cohort ever welcomed by the francophone educational institution. “We are pleased about this increase. However, renovating our existing facilities is more crucial than ever. We have no difficulty attracting students: our biggest challenge is retaining them for the duration of their degree program. Indeed, after one or two years at CSJ, several students transfer to another Faculty at the University of Alberta, and the causes are attributed to our difficulties in offering competitive programs, the condition of our laboratories, and a lack of adequate funding,” says Dean Mocquais.

The Campus will also be working to increase the number of student spaces in some programs. For example, for the Bilingual Bachelor of Science in Nursing, space is limited to 16 first-year students while the number of registrations are over 100. “That’s one thing we’ll be working on over the next few months. Our partners (Faculty of Nursing, Alberta Health Services, etc.) must realize there is an actual need and high demand for this program,” explains Pierre-Yves Mocquais.

Starting this year, the *Centre collégial de l’Alberta* (CCA) is offering a college program in Tourism Management. “We’re really pinning our hopes on this program that can be offered through distance education. We’ve had some very positive exchanges with the *Centre de la francophonie des Amériques*, sparking hope for receiving registrations from outside Alberta and Western Canada,” mentions Dean Mocquais.

The CCA’s instructional staff were also pleasantly surprised as more than 20 students are entering the Bilingual Business Administration (*Technique en administration des affaires*) Diploma program. These are in addition to the 10 or so students who will be completing their second year of the program.

Campus Saint-Jean, the University of Alberta’s French language multidisciplinary faculty, is defined by a commitment to integrating learning, discovery and citizenship. Today, 800 students driven by the desire to complete their university studies in French attend Campus Saint-Jean within one of its 2 college programs (Business and Tourism), 9 bachelor’s programs (including Arts, Sciences, Business, Nursing, Education) and 2 master’s programs (Arts and Education).

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