



**AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AU CANADA**

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2020-0302030

Ottawa, July 21, 2020

Dear Professor Flanagan/Mr. President and Vice-Chancellor,

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Alberta.

I am very glad that the French Embassy has been cultivating close ties with the University of Alberta for many years, particularly through the France-Canada Research Fund, which the University has been a member of since its inception. Our relationship is also strengthened by the presence of Campus Saint-Jean, the only francophone campus in Western Canada, where I had the honour of participating in a conference in 2018.

The University of Alberta's partnerships with numerous French universities and faculties facilitate joint publications and give students and researchers the opportunity to participate in exchange programs.

These last few years, my team has had the pleasure of supporting various events in which your university was involved, such as the France-Alberta Agriculture & Food Research Symposium in September 2018. This builds on the declaration of intent signed between France and Canada on agricultural and forestry collaboration, as well as the FACT-O conferences held in collaboration with UAlberta North, which hosted France's Ambassador for the Oceans Serge Segura.

The proposed panel on gender and artificial intelligence organized in partnership with the University of Alberta and the Embassies of France and Germany has been postponed until 2021 due to the current health crisis. It will no doubt be another wonderful opportunity to strengthen our ties.

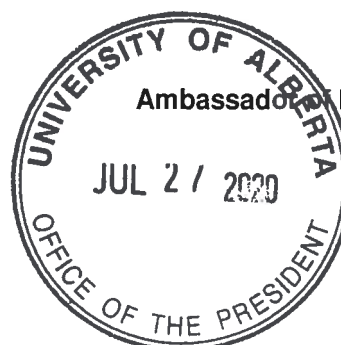
Lastly, I am delighted at the enthusiasm University of Alberta researchers have shown in collaborating with France on scientific issues, either through the France-Canada Research Fund (2 recipients in the last 2 years) or through the Mourou-Strickland mobility program created recently by the French Embassy, which funded three exchanges with the University of Alberta in 2019 and 2020.

Under the leadership of Brigitte Proucelle, Cultural and Scientific Counsellor, the French Consulate in Vancouver and the Embassy in Ottawa's science departments are closely watching how current projects are unfolding and are keeping an eye out for any future partnership opportunities.

We would be more than happy to help facilitate your exchanges with universities, major research institutions and other relevant organizations in France that may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bill FLANAGAN  
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**Kareen RISPAL**  
Ambassador of France to Canada