



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



2022-23

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.



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

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 finding ways to remove those barriers. The U of A drives innovation and collaboration. Our students, researchers, grads and staff 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 with communities in Alberta and around the world. Guided by our five-year community engagement priorities — people and culture, sustainability, research and innovation, students, and community engagement — 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 and the work we accomplish together. We are all stronger and more effective when we lead with purpose and partner with the community for a better tomorrow.

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 stories. These stories are rooted in research and innovation, in economic development and diversification, in student achievements and in advancing equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigeneity. Most importantly, we tell the stories of how the community and the university work together to make amazing things happen. Our partners support the U of A community in leading with purpose every day. In these pages you will learn about global efforts that have significant meaning close to home, international students whose research at the U of A is making a big difference and Edmontonians—long-time locals and newcomers alike—who are playing key roles in supporting U of A initiatives. One of the highlights for the U of A in 2022 was launching *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan*. This plan informed many of the partnerships you'll read about in these pages, and will inform our work together for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to share just a few of our stories with you.

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**



500+
graduate
programs

220+
undergraduate
programs



44,000+
students
from **156**
countries

**Fast
Facts**



Research and Innovation

Top five research
university in Canada

94 research chairs

\$621M+ in sponsored
research revenue

135 active
spinoff companies



42
National 3M
Teaching Fellows



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

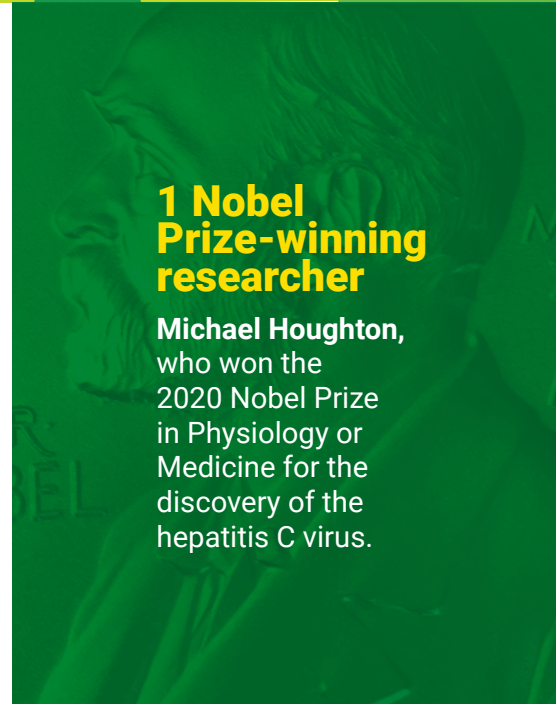
Attracting talented students from
156 countries to the Edmonton
region, thanks to our global status
as a top 100 university.

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

**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.



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



77
Rhodes
Scholars



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



81
U SPORTS
National
Athletic
Titles



People and Culture

Asking questions to make lives better

Why do military veterans avoid universities? What's taking a toll on teen mental health? Who were Canada's Métis writers? And where are their stories? At the U of A, curious minds aren't just asking questions. They're finding answers.

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 often 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 wraps 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."

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. Research by PhD candidate Claire Benny found evidence of inferiority and self-esteem issues in schools with wide income disparity. As income inequality grows, teen depression follows, she says. "We have a wicked problem here." The study was supported by the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation through the Women and Children's 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 earned his doctorate. Tétreault's dissertation, a literary history of the Red River Métis, explored 200 years of Métis writing — and gave him the push he needed to finally publish his novel.



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)

"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, including 94 Canada Research Chairs and one Nobel Prize laureate. It adds up to a university that's ready to take on the challenges of today and the future.



Great researchers feel at home here

The best and brightest are drawn by the U of A's research reputation

All eyes were on the U of A in 2020 when Michael Houghton became co-recipient of a Nobel Prize for his work on the discovery of the hepatitis C virus. Houghton's achievement is also a win for the university, acting like a magnet to attract top-notch researchers as prospective students and faculty. It's not a new phenomenon: when a U of A professor receives a major grant or is named a Canada Research Chair, there's a boost in reputation, resources and new talent to Alberta. In fact, Houghton came to Alberta based on a successful virology research program led by Lorne Tyrrell, a virologist in his own right. The ripple effect stretches beyond campus, with Edmonton's highly skilled workforce getting the attention of startups seeking a home. "If we're going to remain competitive internationally, which we all want to be," Tyrrell says, "you need great people."

Building an arsenal against the next pandemic

U of A lab joins worldwide effort to prepare for future pandemics

Since 2015, Götte and his lab colleagues have generated viral polymerase enzymes that are associated with more than 40 viruses with pandemic potential, along with biochemical tests to identify new drugs that can inhibit viral replication. The U of A lab is now working with three newly created Antiviral Drug Discovery (AViDD) Centers for Pathogens of Pandemic Concern announced by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, backed by nearly \$600 million in funding.

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. Thanks to \$80.5 in federal funding, the Canadian Critical Drug Initiative — a partnership between the Li Ka Shing Applied Virology Institute and Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation — will create an integrated research, development and manufacturing hub that will commercialize new discoveries and produce a reliable supply of pharmaceuticals.

Farmers cultivate better health

Study of farmers' mental health will identify points of stress and ways to cope

Greener pastures promise better things but that's not always the case for Canada's farmers. Stress about weather, disease and who will take over the family farm has produced high rates of depression and suicidal thoughts. But a two-year study, led by Augustana psychology professor Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, improves their mental outlook by identifying major stressors and helping farmers cope. "Mental health," she says, "is just as important as running the farm."

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

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)

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 8,000-square-foot hub, located at the newly revitalized Enterprise Square campus, provides co-working spaces, a shared wet lab space, and hands-on support and mentoring to 50 health innovators and entrepreneurs.

The COVID-19 emergency has abated but work is forging ahead on new drugs to prepare for the next pandemic at Entos Pharmaceuticals, headed by U of A cancer researcher John Lewis. Its Covigenix DNA vaccine — more stable than mRNA vaccines — is in the second phase of clinical trials. Entos is also working on a super vaccine that would protect against all coronavirus variants.

Pharmacists will 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 making sexual health testing more accessible. The confidential finger prick tests would mean infected people get treatment and information about precautions to avoid further spread.

Sustainability

Greener paths are found through collaboration and new perspectives

Researchers are exploring connections and reimagining relationships as they search for a sustainable future. On farms, artificial intelligence is getting the dirt on soil health. In cities, urban coyotes and people are learning to avoid each other. And a new breed of philosopher is getting us all to think about humanity's fraught relationship with nature — and a more ethical way forward.



Safely pushing urban coyotes out of residential neighbourhoods

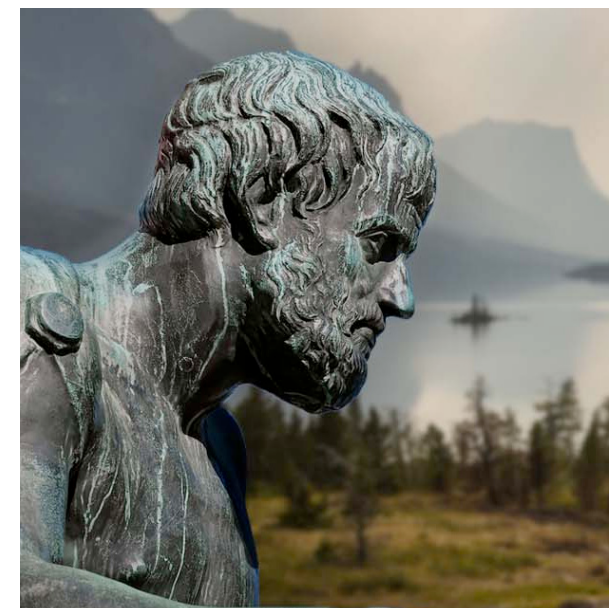
Edmonton studies on aversive conditioning prove hazing tactics are effective

Be big, be loud, and carry a tennis ball filled with sand. With urban coyotes becoming increasingly brazen, the U of A worked with Edmonton neighbourhoods on safe ways to keep coyotes from approaching people. About 120 residents volunteered for the community studies in aversive conditioning, led by biology master's student Gabrielle Lajeunesse. In analyzing the effectiveness of hazing by shouting and throwing weighted balls, Lajeunesse found that 95% of coyotes retreated. In fact, about two-thirds of coyotes retreated before the volunteer was within 40 metres when hazing was to begin. Volunteers also documented the frequent presence of coyote attractants like compost, garbage, fruit trees and bird feeders. Lajeunesse says coyotes are mainly interested in scavenging for food or building dens and they rarely attack pets or bite people. Volunteers were grateful for what they learned, she adds. "They liked being able to participate in wildlife management."

Rethinking our relationship with nature

Environmental philosopher frames ecological crises through an ethical lens

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."



U of A ranks high in sustainability

With creative minds and ambitious ideas, the U of A is a world leader in sustainable development practices, placing 11th out of 1,400 post-secondary institutions in the 2022 Times Higher Education ranking.

"The U of A is one of few universities with the excellence and range to lead in solving the full range of global challenges."

— U of A president Bill Flanagan

Bright ideas emerge when experts collaborate

Agriculture meets artificial intelligence in a groundbreaking database that's analysing more than 25 years of Alberta soil samples. Beyond traditional soil analysis of fertilizers and herbicides, this project digs into carbon levels, microbial communities, climate patterns and more, helping farmers plan for future growing seasons in the face of a changing climate.

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 oilsands 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.

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. The research is taking place at Alberta No. 1, the province's first geothermal heat and power facility being designed near Grande Prairie, Alta., by Terrapin Geothermics

"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

Student community and outreach

The power of community connections

Whether it's part of their training, part of their research or just part of what brings them joy, University of Alberta's students and outreach programs are finding ways to make a difference in their communities.



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 dental care. Each year, over 750 patients — many of whom suffer anxiety during dental treatment — get their teeth cleaned, checked and fixed under the School of Dentistry's program.

"Indigenous people are disadvantaged at every stage of the criminal justice system in Canada. The ongoing displacement and marginalization of Indigenous people are particularly apparent."

— Sandra Bucerius, director, Centre for Criminological Research, on why Indigenous students are working to change the system from within

Students make mark on community health

"Eat your vegetables" is a common refrain in many homes but those types of well-intended words can hurt teens with larger bodies. In her PhD research, public health student Alexa Ferdinands learned that "blame and shame" conversations made young people feel that their self-worth depended on their body size. "We should just keep weight out of everyday conversation with our kids."

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.

For nursing students in their final year, rural hospitals round out their education with a wide range of hands-on experience. Camille Gaida did her rural preceptorship in Hinton, Alta., where she spent time in the hospital's emergency, surgery and maternity units, in addition to helping out at the community health centre. "The rural nurse really does it all," says Gaida.



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)

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.

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 possibilities.



Edmonton is Canada's first UNESCO 'Learning City'

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

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 university is ready for them. "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.

Newcomers know what's not working

One of the U of A's newest researchers has launched a community-based study to understand how newcomers fare when they move to Edmonton. 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 problems as well as solutions. "The community knows the issues that they are experiencing," she says, "and they have ideas for how these issues should be addressed."



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

Building fulfils 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, fulfils 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."

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.

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 first year allowed the U of A to put some foundational elements in place as initiatives are created and implemented. The following initiatives are in active implementation and will continue to evolve as the university begins the planning and implementation of activities.

Year 1

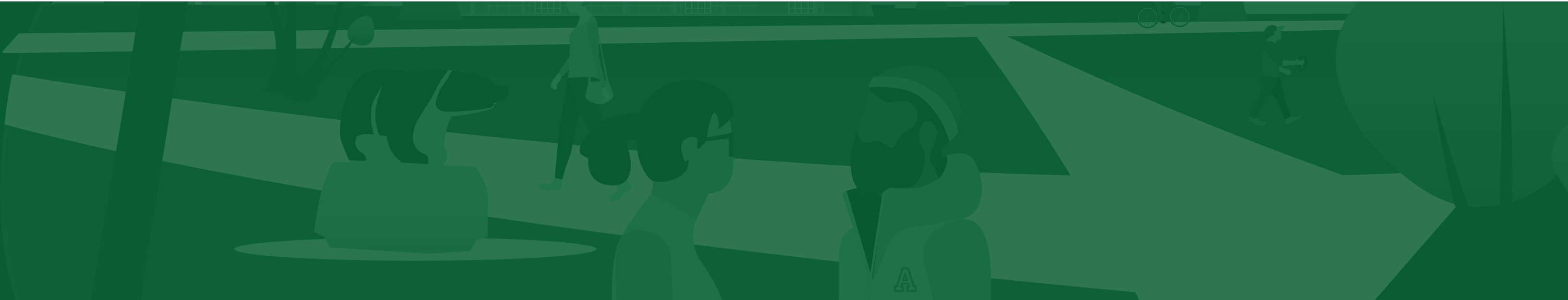
THEMES	YEAR 1 GOALS	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
Improve Accessibility	Campus Wayfinding Improvements	The university is addressing the issues to manage accessibility and wayfinding improvements in Year 1. These improvements include plans to install an electronic map navigator to be piloted in the new University 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.	Ongoing
Support and Strengthen Outreach	University of Alberta External Community Engagement Advisory Committee	A diverse and dynamic Community Engagement Advisory Committee composed of external community members was launched in the fall of 2021 and is slated to meet quarterly. This committee is already actively providing community-centric advice on how to best implement key aspects of the Community Engagement Consultation Plan (uab.ca/ce). The committee is providing perspectives and ideas on how to best foster, communicate and celebrate community engagement.	Launched October 2021 and meetings are ongoing
	Campus Community Engagement Network	The first internal Campus Community Engagement Network was successfully created in fall 2021 and intends to meet two to four times a year. The network gathers internal university colleagues to share best practices and undertake peer learning and support. It also bolsters ongoing community engagement efforts and excitement for new collaborations that will provide benefits to our community partners.	Launched in November 2021 and meetings are ongoing

THEMES	YEAR 1 GOALS	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
Respond to Community Needs	Community Roundtables	Preparations for a series of community roundtables that will bring together community leaders, experts, policy-makers and practitioners with U of A leadership are underway. The roundtables are designed to generate new ideas and open pathways for community-university collaboration. The first roundtable is planned for the Fall 2022.	Implementation in 2023
Improve Communication	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.	Released annually in September with University of Alberta Days
	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 (uab.ca/ce) to house the Community Engagement Consultation Plan was launched in winter 2021.	Launched in February 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. The story portal also acts as a means to communicate community-university engagement activities and impact.	Launched in February 2021

Year 2

THEMES	YEAR 2 GOALS	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
Improve Accessibility	Community Partner-in-Residence	The Community Partner-in-Residence (CPR) program pilot is proposed. The CPR would 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.	The first Community Partner-in-Residence pilot project to begin fall of 2023
	Community Access Hotline	An initiative to set-up a 211-style hotline for the community through a designated phone number for community inquiries is in discussion. Planning and implementation will take place alongside additional community outreach opportunities connected to the opening of University Commons which is slated for fall of 2024.	Ongoing
Respond to Community Needs	Annual Community Engagement Theme	An internal engagement process for choosing a community engagement theme began in December, 2022 and wrapped up in early January, 2023. Feedback gathered during the engagement process provided valuable insight and informed the community engagement theme “Issues related to the un-housed and under-resourced vulnerable population”.	Completed early winter 2023
	University in the Community Initiative	The University in the Community initiative goal is to enhance and grow the presence of university representation on community boards and committees. Through their involvement, university representatives are exchanging information, expertise and ideas, and helping to effectively identify and respond to community issues.	Ongoing

THEMES	YEAR 2 GOALS	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
Celebrate Successes	Staff Day of Service	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 of their choice. In the fall of 2022 the U of A's External Relations team provided almost 100 volunteers to serve at the Edmonton Food Bank to prepare food hampers and distribute much needed food resources to the community. The university also continues to grow its long productive partnership with the U of A's United Way fundraising campaign and special fundraising events such as Chillin' for Charity, Forest Society Christmas Tree Sale and the Plasma Car Derby. Senior members of the university serve on the United Way's board and cabinet committee.	Implemented Fall of 2022
Ongoing Initiatives	• Future Community Engagement Tracking • Projects as Recommended by Advisory Committee • Future Consultation Process for Next Community Engagement Plan		Ongoing







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OF ALBERTA**

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