

## A PLEDGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADS

NOVEMBER 2009

The Ontario university community is deeply aware of the challenges that face the world arising from climate change and the degradation of natural environments. Our universities accept this special responsibility on three scores: to assist in finding solutions to the challenges of environmental sustainability; to share knowledge about sustainability and climate change; and to incorporate, wherever possible, principles of sustainability into our own operations.

Ontario universities, ranging in size from small and rural institutions to large and urban ones, began work on the creation of sustainable campuses many years ago, and we continue to demonstrate leadership in advancing a greener world. In particular, Ontario universities will work together to do the following:

- Develop and implement multi-pronged strategies to reduce energy consumption.
- Promote reuse and recycling in all aspects of our operations.
- Transition purchasing decisions toward producers and suppliers who have adopted environmentally responsible practices.
- Ensure the availability of locally grown and fair-trade foods and beverages on our campuses.
- Build new facilities in accordance with principles of sustainability and energy efficiency.
- Renovate existing facilities to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste.
- Seek to preserve green space on our campuses wherever possible.
- Share information across campuses regarding best practices from the standpoint of sustainability and environmental impact.
- Develop institutional environmental sustainability plans with measurable objectives.
- Publish an annual report documenting the efforts of all Ontario universities to modify their operations in ways that are responsive to the threats of global climate change and environmental degradation.

We further accept our responsibility to do the following:

- Provide forums for the discussion and development of solutions regarding sustainability issues.
- Share research insights and best practices regarding climate change and sustainable development.
- Work in partnership with governments, the public, businesses and others in the academic world so that we may together create an environmentally sustainable Ontario.

**Mr. Sheldon Levy**  
Chair of Council and  
President & Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University

**Prof. Bonnie M. Patterson**  
Interim President  
Council of Ontario Universities

# ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES COMMITTED TO A GREENER WORLD

Dr. Celia Ross  
President  
**Algoma University**

Dr. Jack Lightstone  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Brock University**

Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Carleton University**

Dr. Alastair Summerlee  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Guelph**

Dr. Frederick Gilbert  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Lakehead University**

Mr. Dominic Giroux  
President  
**Laurentian University**

Dr. Peter George  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**McMaster University**

Dr. Lesley Lovett-Doust  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Nipissing University**

Dr. Ronald Bordessa  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Ontario  
Institute of Technology**

Mr. Allan Rock  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Ottawa**

Dr. Daniel Woolf  
Principal & Vice-Chancellor  
**Queen's University**

Mr. Sheldon Levy  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Ryerson University**

Dr. David Naylor  
President  
**University of Toronto**

Dr. Steven Franklin  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Trent University**

Prof. David Johnston  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Waterloo**

Dr. Amit Chakma  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Western Ontario**

Dr. Max Blouw  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**Wilfrid Laurier University**

Dr. Alan Wildeman  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**University of Windsor**

Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri  
President & Vice-Chancellor  
**York University**

Ms. Sara Diamond  
President  
**Ontario College of Art & Design**

Dr. Joel Sokolsky  
Principal  
**Royal Military College  
of Canada**