
Meet. the. Moment.

Presidential Commitments

“This is a consequential moment for Canada. U of T has a responsibility to help shape what comes next, at home and around the world.”

Melanie A. Woodin
President, University of Toronto



Meeting the moment

Throughout the greatest challenges in our history, Canada has relied on its institutions, ideas and people to help define the future. Once again, the moment calls.



As technological innovation, economic instability and shifting global relationships test Canada in new ways, the University of Toronto has a responsibility to leverage its scale, expertise and public mission to serve Canada and the world.

As Canada's flagship university, U of T is embracing its leadership through three Presidential Commitments: preparing future-ready graduates; advancing responsible AI adoption at scale; and mobilizing knowledge for social and economic impact.

Approaching our third century, we have a chance to do what this university has done at its best: think freely and creatively, collaborate across boundaries and disseminate knowledge in service of society.

I invite you to learn about these commitments and, in the months to come, join in the conversation about how our community can continue to serve Canada and the world.

—Melanie A. Woodin | President, University of Toronto



What are the Presidential Commitments?

Three concrete commitments to guide the University of Toronto community in the near term.

In 2027, the University of Toronto will mark its bicentennial and launch *Blueprint for the Future*—a comprehensive, consultative long-range planning process shaped by faculty, librarians, undergraduate and graduate students, staff, alumni and partners across our three campuses. This process will help define U of T's priorities for the years ahead.

However, some of Canada's most urgent challenges call for action now. That is why U of T President Melanie A. Woodin has identified three commitments to ensure U of T makes a meaningful difference in the near term. Together, they give the university a clear framework for action while the broader strategic plan takes shape.

The Presidential Commitments are grounded in the university's enduring values: academic freedom, inclusive excellence, truth and reconciliation, civil discourse, sustainability and the open exchange of ideas.

They also reflect U of T's responsibility to strengthen Canada now while engaging with the wider world, addressing urgent global challenges and advancing our community's ideas, talent and leadership on the global stage.

These commitments focus on where U of T can act now to strengthen Canada, prepare our students for the future and accelerate knowledge mobilization.

The three commitments are:

Commitment one

Preparing future-ready graduates



Commitment two

Advancing responsible AI adoption at scale



Commitment three

Mobilizing knowledge for social and economic impact



Explore the commitments

Learn how U of T is acting now to prepare students for the future, adopt AI responsibly and move more Canadian ideas into the world.

<https://president.utoronto.ca/meet-the-moment/>

Commitment one

Preparing future-ready graduates

U of T is developing new degree pathways to prepare students for the realities of modern work and for a lifetime of learning, adaptation and contribution.



The University of Toronto educates more than 100,000 students each year across three campuses and a vast array of disciplines. Many of these students will go on to lead governments, companies, communities, research labs, arts organizations, public institutions and more.

For almost 200 years, we have helped graduates build the foundational ability to think, adapt, create and lead through periods of turbulent change. On the eve of our third century, students are entering a rapidly shifting labour market with new demands for talent. While our enduring dedication to foundational learning will continue to serve our students well, we can do more to prepare them for what comes next.

We have heard the criticism before: universities are too slow, siloed and bound by inherited ways of doing things. They cannot keep pace with today’s challenges or prepare students to navigate a fast-changing world. But a great university always has its sights on the future.



What this commitment includes:

Advancing new degree pathways.

Expanding partnerships with other institutions of higher education.

Working with employers and government to align selected programs with emerging skills needs.

U of T will partner with government and industry to identify where talent needs are growing fastest and design offerings that maximize the employability of our graduates. Through degree innovation, we will create new and more flexible pathways that reflect the nature of modern work. We will expand partnerships with other institutions in higher education to create new entry points for a broader range of students. And we will strengthen experiential learning and entrepreneurship so that more students can learn by doing, whether in research labs, community organizations, startups or government offices.

This mission is more urgent than ever. Canada’s economy is shifting rapidly. Employers need graduates who can adapt quickly, reason across disciplines, communicate clearly and persuasively, work with people from different backgrounds, make decisions in the face of uncertainty and bring ethical judgment to complex problems. These are not “soft skills.” They are the core competencies that Canadians must possess to meet the challenges of the 21st century head-on—and they are precisely what a U of T education delivers.

This commitment prepares students for a changing world without compromising what makes a U of T education distinctive.



➤ Canada needs people who can think critically and connect ideas across fields. That is what a University of Toronto education provides.

Growing experiential learning across all three campuses and globally.

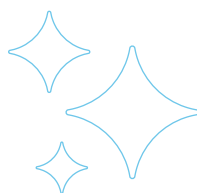
Creating modular and stackable credentials that support learning across a lifetime, not only during the traditional degree window.



Commitment two

Advancing responsible AI adoption at scale

Adopting AI in ways that are responsible, useful and trustworthy is one of the major institutional challenges of our time. As Canada's AI leader, U of T is ready to define what responsible adoption looks like at scale.



U of T has played a defining role in modern AI. We are home to Nobel laureate Geoffrey Hinton, who not only made his groundbreaking discoveries right here in Toronto but also warned the world about the existential threats of AI to humanity.

U of T now has the opportunity to show Canada and the world how artificial intelligence can be adopted responsibly, in ways that strengthen public trust and benefit people. As an in-person, human-centred organization, we can demonstrate how large, complex institutions can use AI in ways that align with human interests.

U of T will use its three campuses as a living lab for responsible AI adoption.

This is an approach we have used successfully in our sustainability efforts, where research, operations and partnerships have come together to drive institutional change. We will draw on leading interdisciplinary research from the University of Toronto and put it into practice across our three campuses. We will evaluate the impact and share what we learn with government, public-sector organizations, private industry and others.

With clear governance, transparency and ethical oversight, we will draw on the experience and expertise of the people who teach, learn, research and work across the university so that AI-enabled change is guided by the community it is meant to serve.



What this commitment includes:

Using U of T's three campuses as a living lab for responsible AI adoption, bringing the best of our interdisciplinary research into real institutional settings and rapidly evaluating the impact of this work.

Engaging faculty, librarians, students, staff and leadership in institution-wide change.

Focusing research and evaluation on workforce impacts, governance, equity, accountability and trust.

U of T will show how large, human-centred institutions can use AI responsibly in ways that are consistent with their values.

Translating findings into practical guidance to improve productivity, including playbooks, toolkits, policy advice and models that other Canadian institutions can adapt.

Working with government, research hospitals, public-sector organizations and industry partners to co-design, test and refine initiatives beyond our campus gates.



Commitment three

Mobilizing knowledge for social and economic impact

As Canada's leading university, U of T has a responsibility to ensure that great research and knowledge benefit communities and economies here and around the world.



The University of Toronto mobilizes knowledge in many ways.

Public intellectuals extend the impact of their research, scholarship and creative activity beyond the academy by engaging broad audiences through media commentary, policy briefs, creative works, community partnerships, educational outreach and many other forms of public engagement. In doing so, they foster public understanding, inform decision-making and contribute to dialogue and debate on issues of societal importance.

Philosophers, writers, artists and historians deepen public understanding of who we are and how we live together. Our legal and political science scholars help inform law and public policy. Social work researchers translate evidence into community programs and interventions. Planners and architects shape cities in Canada and around the world.

Scientists, clinicians and engineers are also deeply engaged in knowledge mobilization as they move discoveries from laboratories into new technologies, treatments and practices. From insulin, stem cells and regenerative medicine to deep learning, the University of Toronto has a long history of generating ideas and discoveries that have changed and improved lives.

But if Canada is to compete in a more volatile world, we need to accelerate the flow of ideas and discoveries in support of the public good and our economy.

By shortening the path from research discovery to real-world application, commercialization and venture creation, we can strengthen Canada's innovation ecosystem and build a more resilient economy.

Canada is rich in talent, creativity and world-class research. Yet ideas and discoveries alone are not enough. The University of Toronto is uniquely positioned to help drive this transformation by turning knowledge into impact that improves lives. In doing so, we will strengthen U of T's role as a trusted partner to governments, industry and Canadians more broadly in solving pressing challenges.



We will strengthen U of T's role as a trusted, accessible partner for organizations working to solve complex problems.

What this commitment includes:

Helping research move into the world by informing policy, strengthening professional practice, supporting communities and deepening public understanding of complex issues.

Accelerating the pathways that help U of T's intellectual property and innovation grow and commercialize in Canada.

Expanding U of T's role as a trusted partner in national and provincial efforts to address pressing public challenges.



Committing to the future

As we look to our third century, U of T will draw on the full breadth of its community to deepen its impact on Canada and the world.

The University of Toronto's ability to meet this moment depends on the people who make it exceptional: faculty and librarians who push the boundaries of knowledge, students who bring energy and curiosity, staff who make our mission possible and alumni who carry U of T into communities across Canada and around the world.

The Presidential Commitments provide a clear framework for action while opening a broader conversation about U of T's future. As we move through 2026 and toward our bicentennial in 2027, these commitments will guide our efforts in areas where the university can make an immediate contribution.

Beginning in October 2027, U of T will launch *Blueprint for the Future*, a comprehensive long-range strategic planning process developed with the full participation of the university community. That process will ask us to think boldly about what U of T can become and how we will build on our strengths to concentrate our energy where it matters most.

For nearly two centuries, U of T has educated leaders and global citizens who have changed the world, stared down intractable problems and helped society find balance in moments of disruption. Across generations, we have continued to share knowledge in service of Canada and the world. With these three commitments, we will continue to build on that history and rise to meet the moment.

This is one of those moments. We know what it asks of us, and we are ready to answer.



“There is no reason the University of Toronto should not aspire to be the world’s leading public university—building on our strengths, confronting what must improve and focusing where it matters most.”

—President Melanie A. Woodin, U of T Magazine, Spring 2026

