

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OCTOBER 20, 2016**

Over the last several years the University has made a concerted effort to focus on building relationships and partnerships with municipal, provincial and federal governments, and develop capacity in the area of government relations and public affairs. As Board members know, changes in government policy and approach at all levels can have a significant impact upon post secondary education institutions, in terms of direct funding, reporting requirements, capital planning, and the availability of support and resources. At a time when there are many competing priorities for public resources, and when the role and societal value of universities is not always well understood, it is more important than ever to ensure that we are able to build and maintain government interest in the higher education sector, and raise awareness of the particular strengths and priorities of McMaster.

The University has a dedicated public affairs team, which focuses on effectively and proactively positioning McMaster as a partner and trusted advisor with government; building relationships and promoting understanding of McMaster's priorities with elected officials, civil servants and others; and advocating on issues of importance to McMaster and to the post secondary sector in general. By developing positive relationships and providing consistent messages, the goal is to raise awareness of McMaster's research and pedagogical expertise, the outcomes and impact of the research undertaken on our campus, both local and global in scope, and the role that universities can play in the betterment of our society.

To achieve these goals, and ensure consistent messaging across the institution, the public affairs team facilitates McMaster's Integrated Government Relations Group (IGRG), the membership of which is drawn from across the University. In addition, the President and Vice-Presidents group has a dedicated government relations discussion each month, and more frequently if needed, to consider emerging issues, strategic opportunities and ensure coordination of government relations activities. The Advancement Committee of the Board also receives an update on government relations activities at each meeting, and members of the Committee have been helpful in providing advice and assistance, as well as supporting the University in establishing contacts and initiating discussions with key individuals.

In addition to providing regular McMaster newsletters and updates to municipal, provincial and federal contacts, the team also provides a "*Did you Know*" monthly information piece, intended to highlight successes, areas of focus and interesting facts about the University. In consultation with the President and Vice-Presidents, the public affairs team prepares pre-budget submissions each year for the provincial and federal governments, coordinates responses to requests for input from government, supports the preparation of institutional submissions to initiatives such as the ongoing Federal Science Review, and provides briefing notes and advice to the senior administration on emerging issues, challenges and opportunities.

The current focus of our public affairs work is on building the case for ongoing and stable government support for the post secondary education sector. At the provincial level, this means participating in the ongoing discussions regarding the funding formula review, and the tuition framework, as well as advocating for a long-term capital plan. At the federal level, we are

actively engaged in the consultations around the government's science and innovation agendas, and are also promoting enhanced support for the granting councils, as well as funding support for key McMaster research initiatives. We are also continuing to highlight the importance of infrastructure funding, such as the recent Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). At the municipal level, we remain focused on building on our partnerships in Hamilton and Burlington, raising the profile of our community engaged research and scholarship, and highlighting the University's role in the economic renewal of Hamilton and the surrounding region.

Included with your Board packages members will find an updated booklet produced by our public affairs team. This includes pocket-sized key messages for each level of government and highlights the current areas of focus in each case. I would welcome your support in championing and promoting McMaster's successes, as well as in raising awareness of the crucial role that our universities, and McMaster in particular, have to play in our society.

## **CAMPUS UPDATE**

### **Royal Society News**

Two McMaster faculty are among the newest Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. Barry Allen, Professor of Philosophy, has been elected to the Academy of Arts & Humanities, and Jeffrey Weitz, Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry, has been elected to the Academy of Science.

Three McMaster researchers have also been elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, intended to recognize researchers who, at an early stage in their careers, have demonstrated a high level of achievement. Bonny Ibhawoh (Humanities), Wael El-Dakhkhni (Engineering) and Paul Ayers (Science), have all been named new members of the College.

### **McMaster hosts global Economic and Business Leaders**

McMaster brought together more than fifty economic, educational and political leaders from all over the world to showcase examples of innovation, strategic partnerships and entrepreneurship. More than 25 countries were represented at the Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which took place recently in Hamilton. The week long Exchange featured stops throughout Ontario's innovation cluster of Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton. Delegates toured several facilities including McMaster's Automotive Resource Centre, the Biointerfaces Institute, and the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research.

### **McMaster's DeGroot School of Business MBA ranked among Canada's top 10**

The DeGroot School of Business has once again been named to *Canadian Business* magazine's prestigious Canada's Best MBAs list, joining the likes of the Rotman School of Management, Queen's School of Business and Ivey Business School in the top 10.

McMaster landed in the ninth spot on the national reputation ranking, which is determined by assessing a school's name recognition and perception of quality, among other factors. More than 40 Canadian universities currently offer MBA programs.

## **Research**

### **Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)**

The government of Canada and province of Ontario have announced a \$43 million investment in science and engineering teaching and research labs at McMaster, the single largest government investment in laboratories and research capacity in the University's history. The investment is being made under the auspices of the Strategic Innovation Fund and includes lab upgrades, and retrofitted and improved infrastructure in the Arthur Bourns Building to provide improved research facilities for researchers in the Faculties of Science and Engineering, as well as an energy Co-Generation project.

### **Supporting one of the University's priority Research Areas: Healthy Aging**

In anticipation of National Seniors Day and the International Day of Older Persons, McMaster produced a series of stories, videos and other content highlighting our interdisciplinary research in aging. As part of this work, Chancellor Suzanne Labarge wrote an opinion column on aging that appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

### **Federal Research Grants**

Five research programs led by members of the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research (IIDR) will receive more than \$14M from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The grants were awarded to Gerry Wright, Mark Loeb, Zhou Xing, Karen Mossman and Mike Surette and will support cutting-edge research, ranging from the discovery of novel antibiotics to the development of a global vaccination strategy to control Tuberculosis (TB). The awards are part of a larger \$667M investment from two of the federal agency's funding competitions.

### **McMaster awarded \$5.8M in SSHRC Funding**

Dozens of McMaster researchers have been awarded a total of nearly six million dollars in funding through the federal government's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, announced more than \$163M for more than 1,000 social sciences and humanities projects across the country on September 9.

### **Early Researcher Awards**

Four McMaster researchers have received Early Researcher Awards from the provincial government. Each award garners \$100,000 from the provincial government, with an additional \$50,000 contributed by the University. The government also provides up to \$40,000 for indirect costs. The awards were made to David Harris Smith (Communications Studies and Multimedia), Leyla Soleymani (Engineering Physics), Eva Szabo (Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences) and Ayse Turak (Engineering Physics).

### **McMaster joins International Research Drive on Lung Diseases**

McMaster researchers have been chosen for one of two Canadian studies that are part of a global thrust by an international research consortium into the prevention and management of chronic lung diseases. Emmanuel Guindon is leading research on the impact of tobacco pricing and packaging on the use of tobacco in countries such as South Africa, Vietnam, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador.

## **Student Success**

### **Nine researchers named Vanier Scholars and Banting Fellows**

Six McMaster graduate students have been named Vanier Canada Graduate Scholars and three post-doctoral fellows have been named Banting Fellows by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships and Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships are Canada's most prestigious awards for doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, respectively. Vanier Scholars receive \$50,000 a year for up to three years of research, while Banting Fellows receive \$70,000 a year for up to two years of research.

### **Four Schulich Leaders begin their first year at McMaster**

Four students who have already distinguished themselves as academic and community leaders in high school are starting their first year at McMaster with special support and recognition, having been named Schulich Leaders. The Schulich Foundation has designated four 2016 Schulich Leader Scholarships for McMaster: two in Engineering and two in Science, providing each student with financial support to allow them to concentrate on their studies and develop their potential as future leaders. Behrad Dehnadi, Kaylie Lau, Emma Mogus, and Erin Puersten, are among 50 Schulich Leaders starting their studies at leading universities across Canada.

## **Community Engagement**

### **McMaster unveils new Indigenous Teaching and Gathering Space**

McMaster has opened a new outdoor space for classes, ceremonies, performances and other activities, designed to affirm the importance of Indigenous knowledge and culture to the university community. The Indigenous Circle, opened with a ceremony on September 23, is called *Karahakon Kateweenstha (Learning in the Forest)* in Mohawk, and *Nibwaaajkaawin Teg (Place of Wisdom)* in Ojibway. It was created under the guidance of McMaster's Indigenous Education Council, which provides advice and support to the University on all Indigenous matters.

### **Museum of Art appoints Aboriginal Curatorial Resident**

Rhéanne Chartrand has been named the McMaster Museum of Art's first Aboriginal Curatorial Resident. Her one-year residency runs until June, 2017. During the year, Chartrand will develop two exhibitions at McMaster centred on Indigenous art. More specifically, her focus will be contemporary Indigenous artists and the history of curatorial practice related to Indigenous art in Canada. Leading up to the exhibitions, her work at the Museum will include collections research, programming and partnerships with Indigenous communities.

### **Outstanding Alumni celebrated with Community Impact Awards**

The McMaster Alumni Association celebrated four special graduates at its annual Community Impact Awards on September 28. The award recipients come from a range of backgrounds and have pursued unique paths, but each graduate has demonstrated a commitment to improving their community – both local and global. This year's winners were Matt Alderson ('89), Karen Hill ('03), Bryce Kanbara ('70) and Ally Prebtani ('96).