

2.9 The Big Picture

According to Macleans Magazine, Trent University has been ranked as the #1 undergraduate university in Ontario for a decade. Trent also ranks in the top spot in the province for many key student areas, including Student Services, Student Awards, Academic Advising, and Extracurricular Activities. Trent's Environmental Science and Biology programs have been included in "Canada's Best Programs", a list of the top 20 programs across all universities in all categories.

Ontario's universities are vital to the province's and nation's social and economic wellbeing. A healthy and secure university prepares students for life-long careers and contributes to technological advancements and innovations, and a globally competitive economy. Universities drive local, regional, provincial, and national economies, creating jobs, providing support to local businesses, spurring innovation, and driving competition. They are leaders in the fight against climate change, disseminating knowledge and research that contribute to a real and lasting change in how we manage the environment and reduce our ecological footprint. They are inclusive spaces that bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global crisis that has infected people in 188 countries. It has impacted businesses and people around the world, and left us wondering what's next? The vitality of our universities will be critical to Canada's economic recovery in a post-pandemic world.

While the TLNAP was initiated prior to the pandemic, the need for this comprehensive plan strikes evermore true in the wake of the challenges our communities face. The Plan aspires to maintain and exceed the University's accomplishments, and will assist the University administration in addressing campus and community needs, guiding the responsible evolution of the campus as it faces the challenges of a post-pandemic world.

The Board's responsibility to future generations includes:

- Our ability to meet future academic and student priorities by ensuring sufficient land for future growth or new spaces for teaching and learning;
- Respectful and informed care for and use of the land, guided by science-based study and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, and resulting in an enhanced natural environment;
- Financial sustainability through diversified and reliable revenue streams, rooted in the University's academic mission; and
- Being an engaged partner and anchor institution to our local communities, by driving economic growth, providing inclusive and affordable housing options, supporting employment and business opportunities, and providing shared campus and community infrastructure.