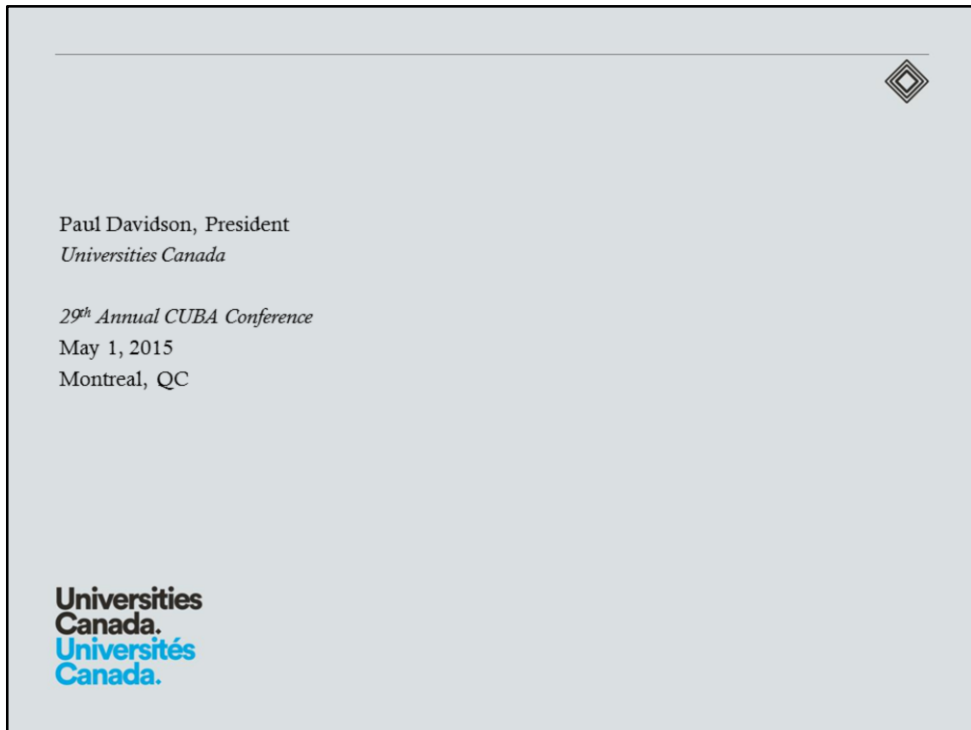




**Universities
Canada.**
**Universités
Canada.**

Bonjour. Il me fait plaisir d'être parmi vous à Montréal dans le cadre de la présente conférence. À titre de président-directeur général d'Universités Canada, je tiens à dire que l'occasion est idéale pour échanger entre dirigeants bénévoles du milieu universitaire canadien.

C'est précisément ce genre de leadership bénévole qui caractérise la société civile, particulièrement en raison de ses répercussions sur l'efficacité de la gouvernance des établissements publics.



So, my thanks to all of the organizers of this conference, and to Stephen Strople, for inviting me to deliver greetings this morning. The Canadian University Boards Association plays an integral role in Canada's higher education landscape by helping to ensure sound and responsible university governance. It has never been more important to have strong and effective university Boards.

CUBA is an important associate member of Universities Canada and I am always pleased to have the opportunity connect with all of you.

I understand that it has been an excellent start to this conference and I look forward to today's program.

To start, I would like to share a little news with you about my Association.

After 50 years, I am pleased to announce that just last week at our spring membership meeting in Halifax, with the Governor General on hand to share in the announcement, we became Universities Canada / Universités Canada.



We've been the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada since April, 1965 – a half century.

Under the AUCC banner, we brought higher education leaders together to strengthen the university mission and provide a forum for collective action.

The shift to Universities Canada builds on this distinguished record, and highlights our focus on supporting universities' significant contribution to Canada.

Here's how we visually tell the story of our new name and new look... [CLICK NEXT SLIDE TO PLAY VIDEO]



Universities
Canada.

The Voice of Canada's Universities



Our new diamond logo represents the multifaceted nature of Universities Canada as an organization that interacts with a wide range of partners, from all sectors. This includes our important and ongoing work with CUBA.

In support of our members, we foster and promote the interests of higher education and university research. We participate in the development of public policy to find solutions to the economic and social challenges facing the country, and work closely with governments, private sector and the public to raise the profile of higher education in Canada.

Professional Program for Presidents, January 2015



The Voice of Canada's Universities

In addition to our ongoing role in advocating for higher education, we are also engaged in community building. Through collaboration, between university leaders and community leaders, between faculty, students and community-based researchers, our institutions and their surrounding communities make each other stronger.

Community-engaged research tackles social challenges, improves healthcare and solves environmental problems. University outreach activities address local needs. And business partnerships fuel prosperity.

At the same time, a community's unique culture, economy and assets help shape the research, curriculum and service commitment of a university.

I am proud of the contribution of Canada's universities to our collective future prosperity, well-being and the economic growth of the country.

Universities Canada is the premiere forum for Canada's university presidents to come together to discuss the top issues facing our institutions and our country, and set an agenda for action to benefit all Canadians.

The opportunity for peer exchange between the presidents of Canada's universities has become of increasing importance as we welcome a new cohort of university leadership in Canada.

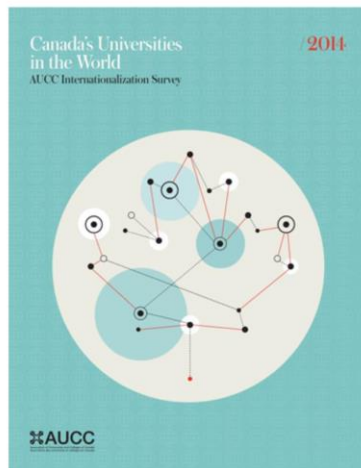
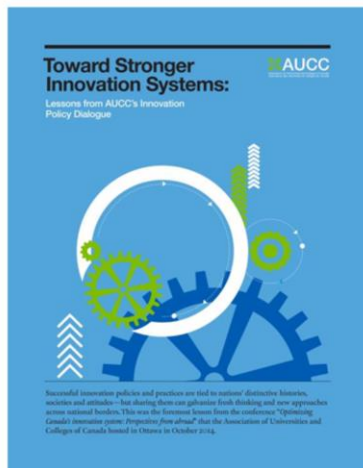
Since I've been at Universities Canada over the last five years, we have seen 87 new presidents take their position as higher education leaders in this country. Our Association provides a critical space for new members to network with their peers, exchange experiences and strategies to advance their institutional mission for broader benefit.

Through our workshops and our professional program for new presidents, Universities Canada has been fortunate to draw upon the wisdom and insights of many seasoned university presidents over the years.

Our workshops for members have also benefitted from drawing upon the reflections and expertise of seasoned university Board chairs and university secretaries on key issues in higher education, such as the strategic renewal of university senates to ensure effective governance functions, and how university presidents can work together in new and effective ways with their board chairs and boards to respond to external challenges to university governance.

Board members play an active role in institutional accountability across provinces, and the input and support of able and effective university Boards is critical to the leadership success of our members.

Resources



The Voice of Canada's Universities

In recent months, Universities Canada has published important resources, not only for our members, but for members of the university community and key sector stakeholders and policy makers. These include:

- A report on our October 2014 policy dialogue on innovation systems and the role universities play in driving innovation in Canada;
- Findings from our 2014 internationalization survey, which provide current, accurate information on global engagement by Canadian universities and will thus help inform priority country strategy development and possible revisions to targeted countries in the future; and,
- In the coming weeks, we also look forward to releasing the report from our December 2014 workshop held in Calgary on innovations in experiential learning and student mobility.

Federal Budget 2015

- Research infrastructure (CFI)
- Long-term basic research and international research collaboration
- Opportunities for the next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs (Mitacs)
- Higher education-business partnerships
- Support for Aboriginal student access and success (Indspire)



The Voice of Canada's Universities

As an organization, our commitment to a multi-year advocacy strategy for our members has brought success in recent federal budgets. We are pleased with the commitments made by the government in Budget 2015 with investments in higher education, research, innovation and students, including:

- A substantial investment in the Canada Foundation for Innovation (\$1.33 billion) – the largest single announcement of Canadian research infrastructure funding;
- Commitments to various projects and fields supporting long-term basic research and international research collaboration (TRIUMF, Thirty Metre Telescope, CANARIE);
- Opportunities for the next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs to prosper in their fields of study, through investments in Mitacs' *Accelerate* program;
- The development of a new labour market information portal and measures to strengthen partnerships between higher education, business and government; and,
- Support to provide Aboriginal students with the resources they need to complete education and training (Indspire, labour market programming).

Concurrent strategies



The Voice of Canada's Universities

As we look ahead, Universities Canada is committed to three concurrent strategies:

First, we have developed an election strategy in the lead up to the next federal election that will occur sometime between now and October 19. This strategy includes:

- A focus on transition thinking and the receptivity to new ideas;
- Increased outreach by Universities Canada to opposition parties and new policy development;
- Working with senior officials of the public service as they prepare policy priorities for whoever is elected; and,
- Engaging new Members of Parliament after the election, which we know already, will surpass 80 MPs made up of 30 new seats and over 50 MPs who will not run for re-election, making our fall advocacy effort even more important than usual.

We have started our engagement with the federal public service as medium- and long-term policy ideas begin to take shape.

Universities Canada has organized roundtables between university leaders and deputy ministers, including:

- A first roundtable on innovation and global value chains was held in December 2014;
- Two roundtables – one on “Canada’s long-term skills and talent agenda”, organized in collaboration with the Privy Council Office, and one on “Aboriginal student access and success, organized in collaboration with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, will be held in May;
- Two more roundtables on international and immigration issues, organized in collaboration with Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, will also be held in the future.

Our concurrent strategies will also see a continued commitment to a sequenced, multi-year agenda in order to maximize the impact of our advocacy.

Our third strategy aims at looking ahead to Canada’s sesquicentennial in 2017; to ensure universities are present throughout the celebration, and to ensure universities’ contributions to Canadians are celebrated.

Ongoing efforts to promote the place of higher education in Canada is the mission of Universities Canada, but the future success of these efforts will in part be based on a shared agenda with key stakeholders, like CUBA.

Canada’s prosperity and the well-being of all Canadians will be greatly enhanced by the research and innovation of our universities, and the guidance, governance and support for our institutions and their leadership will be critical to realising success.



Thank you! / Merci!

The Voice of Canada's Universities
Porte-parole des universités canadiennes

I look forward to being with all you today and engaging in discussions that will help us to chart a successful course ahead.