

August 9, 2022

The Association for the Advancement
of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit this letter affirming the accuracy of the information provided in Vanier College's first ever STARS assessment report. All departments collaborated in order to collect the required information for this assessment. The college is currently in the process of aligning our everyday operations with the sustainability development commitments we have pledged to, including carbon neutrality and the UN SDG Accord. We are convinced that our first STARS report submission will become an integral part in establishing a baseline upon which we will build on to achieve our future goals.

Our most recent strategic plan acknowledges the importance of addressing societal concerns including issues of climate change, inequity, discrimination, and racism, among others. The plan has 7 focus areas: Engaging Meaningfully in the World; Building a Respectful and Supportive Community; Honouring the Indigenous Education Protocol; Focusing on Sustainability and Innovation; Achieving Engaging and Inclusive Student Learning, Supporting the Holistic Well-Being of Students, and; Building Respect for Diversity and Removing Barriers to Racial and Social Equity. With these focus areas, we are committed to making our environment a more inclusive and sustainable one, aligning our efforts with the STARS certification.

Furthermore, we are determined to integrate sustainability in all our decision-making processes by establishing and encouraging a multi-disciplinary/multi stake-holder approach. These commitments will contribute positively to the well-being of our community, the success of our students and to our carbon neutrality objective. For instance, this year we are conducting a feasibility study on our ventilation systems for more energy efficient solutions, are looking at better landscape management practices, are implementing a composting initiative throughout school, are looking at ways to promote active and public transport and are integrating our green spaces into the academic context to name just a few actions.

We are proud to complete and submit our first STARS report after all the hard work that has been put into this endeavor. It will become the benchmark for our institution and provide the motivation for further improvements towards our goals. We look forward to pursuing our sustainability journey and improving on our next STARS assessment report submission.

Sincerely,


John McMahon
Director General