



June 3, 2022

Dear AASHE STARS Steering Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter for Douglas College's inaugural STARS submission. Achieving STARS certification builds on and aligns with the College's Strategic Plan, specifically to a key strategic theme focusing on social and environmental responsibility. The information in this report provides an accurate and comprehensive summary of our current efforts and commitment to sustainability and climate action.

As shown in this report, Douglas College has a demonstrated commitment to sustainability in operations, administration, academics and engagement. Our unique, innovative and effective peer to peer student educator programs such as the Student Wellness Awareness Network (SWAN), Student Services Advisory Committee, and Douglas College Learning Centre offer terrific peer-based services focused on strengthening and nourishing the health and wellness of our students. The Practical Energy and Advanced Knowledge (PEAK) program offers a fully online, interactive and flexible collection of continuing education courses relevant to high performance buildings and sustainable design, a critical area of knowledge in the pursuit of sustainability and addressing climate change. Our recently updated Procurement Policy incorporates vital sustainability considerations, and we look forward to continuing to develop policies to best align with our goals related to climate action.

I am proud of our sustainability accomplishments to date, and I look forward to building upon the excellent work identified in this submission and to continuing to commit to sustainability as a priority throughout the institution.

Undertaking the STARS process has offered the opportunity to both catalogue the various outstanding sustainability efforts currently underway at Douglas, as well as to identify some important next steps to take in our sustainability journey. As part of these next steps, we will work to increase student engagement in sustainability issues, build upon our relationships with other higher education institutions in the realm of sustainability, and work to formalize a climate action plan for the campus.

I look forward to the College continuing along the path to sustainability. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DTaylor". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Dave Taylor,
Vice President, Public Affairs
Douglas College