



Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor

July 20, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

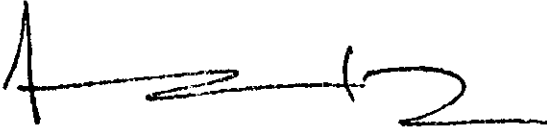
On behalf of *The University of Western Ontario* ('Western'), I am pleased to submit the first campus-wide sustainability assessment of Western's programs and operations. I affirm that all information contained within this report is an accurate appraisal of Western's activities following months of gathering data and years of working toward becoming a university leader in building a sustainable future. Our assessment has resulted in Western earning a Silver rating in this report.

As one of Canada's largest research-intensive universities, Western's campus covers 487 hectares and is home to more than 33,000 part- and full-time undergraduate and graduate students (including affiliated University Colleges) and approximately 3,800 part- and full-time staff and faculty. 'Environmental Sustainability and Green Energy' is a 'signature' research area at Western with emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration across campus between students, faculty and staff who bring a variety of expertise to the table. With the ongoing expansion of buildings on-campus—including our new Richard Ivey Business School building and a new student residence scheduled to open in 2013—we embrace our responsibility to grow in a sustainable manner. Hence, we are committed as an institution of higher education to construct all new buildings and renovation projects according to minimum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standards. Notably, the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion in the Faculty of Engineering is designated LEED Gold and is one example of our commitment to environmental sustainability.

As a Charter participant in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System®, Western is working to identify its strengths and opportunities in becoming a more sustainability-oriented institution. To guide and support our commitment, a 10-year sustainability vision (through 2022) and a 5-year action plan for Western (2012 through 2017) have been proposed by the President's Advisory Council on Environment Sustainability. The action plan will cover all operations at Western (except curriculum), articulate our roles in improving operations and resource allocation to save time and money, and reinforce our commitment to providing the best student experience while transforming our facilities into sustainable high-performance buildings.

Ultimately, this report will encourage further dialogue and action regarding policy and practice at our institution that can be improved from a sustainability perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amit Chakma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor

References:

1.48 Environment and Sustainability Policies and Procedures:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/mapp/section1/mapp148.pdf>

Consulting Services for the Sustainability Vision and Action Plan Development (2011):

<http://www.westernbuys.uwo.ca/bus/EAK05-11%20Sustainability%20Plan%20Development.pdf>

Building Operations and Maintenance:

<http://uwo.ca/ppd/documentation/WesternSusPracticesPolicies.pdf>