

January 31, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Western University, I am pleased to submit the third 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 towards becoming a leading university on the sustainability forefront. Our assessment has resulted in Western maintaining a Gold rating for this report.

Western is one of Canada's largest research-intensive universities, covering 6,177 hectares of land<sup>1</sup>, of which 193 hectares were analyzed within the scope of this report. The University is home to more than 38,000 full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate students (including 5,800 from affiliated University Colleges)<sup>2</sup>. During the busiest times of the academic year, Western employs up to 12,000 part-time and full-time staff and faculty members<sup>3</sup>. With almost 350 faculty members (20% of all researchers) engaged in sustainability research, Western has tremendous intellectual potential to help address many of the world's social, economic, and environmental issues. These researchers emphasize the value of interdisciplinary collaboration across campus and with external stakeholders in order to address multifaceted challenges.

At Western, we continue to maintain as a priority to provide the best student experience, while integrating sustainability into every aspect of our operations. Over the past few years, we have led the way in developing sustainable infrastructure at Western. Since our last Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) submission, we have added 7 LEED® certified buildings, with 3 more awaiting certification. We have also been recognized for our efforts to enhance our sustainability performance, as Western has been the recipient of the following awards and recognitions:

- **2017 Canada's Greenest Employer.** The annual award is organized by the Canada's Top 100 Employers project and acknowledges workplaces with noteworthy environmental programs and earth-friendly policies that actively involve their employees and create a culture of environmental awareness.
- **2016 Water Efficiency Award by the Ontario Water Works Association.** Western has decreased its water use intensity by 18% in three years, thanks to the installation of water meters, and low-flow faucets and fixtures.

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<sup>1</sup> Western University (2017). Facts & Figures 2016-2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwo.ca/about/whoweare/facts.html>

<sup>2</sup> Western University (2017). Five-Year Enrolment Comparison. Retrieved from: [http://www.ipb.uwo.ca/documents/2017\\_five\\_year\\_enrolment\\_comparison.pdf](http://www.ipb.uwo.ca/documents/2017_five_year_enrolment_comparison.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Western University (2017). Working at Western. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwo.ca/hr/working/index.html>

- **2015 Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence.** Western was among only nine recipients, which recognizes local environmental and sustainable achievement, leadership and innovation. We were honoured for our Energy Dashboard, accessible to anyone on or off campus, allowing users to view campus-wide electricity, steam and water demand in real-time, including a building-by-building breakdown.
- **2015 CAUBO Quality and Productivity Award.** Presented by the Canadian Association of University Business Officers, for our Rez Powers Down program. This program was developed to bring conservation awareness to students living in residence, as well as when they leave campus to become renters, paying for their own utility bills. Residences compete with each other to see which one conserves the most energy over a two-week period at the beginning of the academic year.

As a Charter participant in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) STARS program, Western is striving to continuously identify its strengths and opportunities in becoming a more sustainably-oriented institution. We are now halfway through our 10-year sustainability action plan "Creating a Sustainable Western Experience", which is a great time to take stock of our sustainability initiatives and achievements; ensuring we continue to be aligned with current and future legislations, environmental issues and other public planning policies. Since the last STARS® review, new programs and regulations have come into place that have required us to re-orient ourselves and speed up the pace towards a more sustainable Western. The Cap and Trade program from the province of Ontario, increasing electricity costs and the Global Adjustment, the Circular Economy Strategy as well as the Climate Change Action Plan, both from the province of Ontario, will help us guide our planning and ensure that we are working together towards a Low Carbon campus to help fight climate change.

We are very pleased to submit our third STARS report as it will ultimately encourage further discussion and action regarding policy and practice for improved sustainability efforts at Western.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Amit Chakma', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amit Chakma  
President & Vice-Chancellor