

# Economic Impact of York University on the GTA

York University is a significant contributor to economic activity in the Greater Toronto Area. As Canada's third-largest university and second largest in Ontario, York is currently home to more than 47,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff.

- York's Keele Campus is the largest single campus in Canada and still growing. A vast majority of York students (88%) and faculty and staff (90%) live in the GTA. In 2003-2004, 22,311 York students came from the City of Toronto and 18,835 from the surrounding regions of Durham, Halton, Peel and York.
- Overall, York provides a \$3.4 billion stimulus to the region that promises to increase as enrolment grows in the coming year (The above figure is derived using a multiplier to reflect how expenditures in one area result in expenditures in another area.)
- York University's economic impact on the GTA in 2002-2003 included \$815 million in direct contributions to the economy in the form of:
  - Payroll and pensions (\$309.3 million)
  - University purchasing of goods and services (\$97 million)
  - Student spending (\$268.5 million)
  - Capital construction (\$140.2 million)
- York embarked on an ambitious \$493.5 million capital building campaign in 1999 to accommodate projected increases in enrolment related to the "double cohort". This campaign has increased York's physical facilities by 43 per cent in six years and includes the new Accolade projects for the Faculty of Fine Arts currently under construction. In recent years, York has greatly expanded its classroom and teaching facilities with several new state-of-the art buildings including:
  - Seymour Schulich School of Business – \$102 million purpose-designed facility for Canada's leading business school.
  - Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Building - \$88 million, state-of-the-art centre for learning technology
  - Computer Science Engineering Building – York's \$23.6 million award-winning, energy-efficient "green" facility for the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences.
  - Student Services Centre – \$30 million one-stop location for student services

- York has conferred 175,000 degrees on students since its founding in 1959. More than 120,000 of those graduates live in the GTA and earn higher wages than the general population. This wage premium represents the University's single largest contribution to the regional economy and in 2002-2003 amounted to \$2.2 billion.
- One-third of all university students in the GTA study at York and 12 per cent of all university students studying in Ontario are at York.
- More than 1,000 buses a day serve York's Keele Campus, making it the largest transit hub in the GTA without a subway. York commuters have demonstrated a commitment to public transit relying on more than 700 TTC buses, 200 GO Transit coaches and 80 York Region Transit buses a day. A campaign by the University to encourage York commuters to use public transit resulted in a significant reduction in single-occupant vehicle traffic in one of the most congested quadrants of the city.
- York's campaign for improved transit to the Keele Campus was recently rewarded when the federal, provincial and municipal governments committed to funding for an environmental assessment of an extension of the subway to Steeles Avenue and interim bus rapid transit lanes from Downsview Station to the Keele Campus.
- Gifts to York through the York University Foundation have increased over the last two years by 65 per cent while the number of individual donors has increased by 20 per cent. Donations to the institution are made primarily by residents of the GTA.
- In the most recent ranking of Canada's top research universities York saw a dramatic 51.5-per cent increase in its total dollar amount of sponsored research income to lead all medical/doctoral and comprehensive institutions in funding growth.
- York has its own "Las Nubes" brand of sustainable coffee, now available at Timothy's World Coffee stores across Canada!