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# 2018 FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

We make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

AUGUST, 2017





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“How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don’t know each other?”

**LESTER B. PEARSON, NOBEL LECTURE, 11 DEC. 1957**

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## Executive Summary

As the world becomes more interconnected than ever before, global peace and security translates directly into economic prosperity and competitiveness. Former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Lester B. Pearson understood this notion well: we are stronger when we stand together and strive to foster peace for all. Central to the idea of international peace is that of education: to ensure young people not only have the skills to lead productive lives, but also to cultivate within themselves understanding and empathy for others. Indeed, Canadians and Canadian firms are more productive at home and in the expanding and evolving global marketplace when they understand the people they work with and the audiences they seek to reach.

The Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and United World Colleges (Canada) – or Pearson College UWC – provides students from all over Canada and the world, and from all walks of life, with an educational experience that prepares them for enlightened leadership in a global context. Founded in collaboration with the federal government, Pearson College began as, and remains, Canada’s most deliberately diverse school. By reigniting this partnership with Pearson College UWC, the Government of Canada can support cutting-edge programming in Global Affairs, Peace Building, Indigenous Reconciliation, Sustainability, assist establishing a Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, and enhance the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve.

## PEARSON COLLEGE UWC - OUR STORY

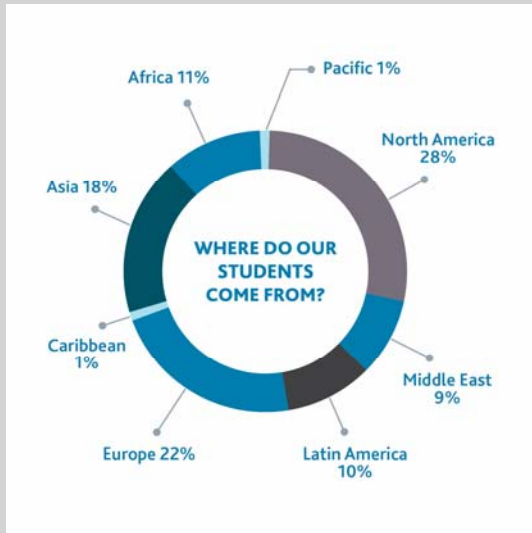
Established in 1974, Pearson College UWC is Lester B. Pearson's living legacy project to Canada and the world. To date, more than 4,000 young people – drawn from every Canadian province and territory and more than 150 countries around the world – have directly benefited from and contributed to the unique educational experience offered at Pearson College, including countless students who are refugees or displaced due to conflict, poverty or other causes. Up to 200 students at a time, ages 16-19, live and learn together on the forested campus that hugs Pedder Bay on southern Vancouver Island, on the traditional territories of the Beecher Bay (Scia'new) First Nation.

Our alumni network includes educators, human rights advocates, bishops, physicians, artists, writers, business leaders, scientists, public servants and politicians – all making a peaceful and sustainable difference in the world. Our cutting-edge extra-curricular program includes education in reconciliation, respect for the environment, consensus-building and conflict resolution. Students are selected on merit alone – more than 80% of our students are supported by full or partial scholarships.

Pearson College is one of 17 UWC schools and colleges on four continents, the majority of which focus exclusively on the 16-19 year-old age group – a period in which the energy and idealism of youth can be guided towards empathy, responsibility and lifelong action. At the core of the academic curriculum of all UWCs is the internationally-acclaimed International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma – which Pearson College and the UWC movement played a major part in developing – while also offering exceptional opportunities for experiential learning, community service and outdoor education.

In this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Lester B. Pearson, Pearson College will honour its namesake through various celebrations and events. His vision of an international school on Canadian soil, together with his resolute commitment to peace and global understanding, helped inspire the creation of this school which proudly bears his name.

## PEARSON COLLEGE UWC's IMPACT IN CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

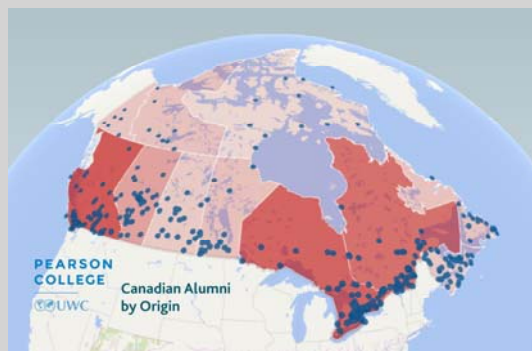


Pearson College UWC is Canada's School for the World. Annually, we host up to 200 students selected from over 150 countries around the globe. A quarter of our students are Canadian. Top students of promise and potential from every province and territory have the chance to become part of a worldwide movement. Our students undertake a two-year academic and experiential curriculum equivalent to Canadian Grade 12 and gap year. Since 1974, 1074 Canadians have studied at Pearson College UWC (or 25 per year) – of those, 917 (85%) still live in Canada.

### HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



Many Pearson College UWC students have benefited from financial support provided by generous donors and funders including the Government of Canada. The federal government was one of Pearson's original founders and has contributed more than \$20 million to establish and construct the College, and to support students through endowed scholarships over the school's history.



Since 1974, governments at various levels in Canada have supported 1782 students or 45% of Pearson alumni. The Government of Canada alone has supported 1305 students from 145 countries – or nearly 33% of Pearson's alumni community – a powerful legacy for alumni who have gone on to become global change-makers. All 10 provinces and two territories have supplied some funds to support (fully or partially) 477 Canadian students.

## The Faces of Pearson



### **JULIE PAYETTE** O.C., Q.C.

Incoming Governor General of Canada; Retired Astronaut; UWC Atlantic Alumna (1980-82); Pearson College Board Member (2010-13)

“UWC happens at the right time in your life. We are exposed to things when we are young and gain a lot. It creates good habits. UWC doesn’t change people – it betters them. It takes what is already there and makes it more rounded and open.”



### **SEN. YUEN PAU WOO**

Senate of Canada Member; Former Head of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada; Consultant and Academic; Pearson College UWC Alumnus (1979-81)

“Pearson helped me achieve a greater sensitivity towards people of other cultures and backgrounds. I appreciated the high level of trust assigned to students and the opportunity to take responsibility in academic and non-academic areas, as well as for making the connection that individuals, through personal or collective action, can make a difference.”



### **NMESOMA NWEZE**

First-year student at the University of Toronto; Pearson College UWC Alumna (2015-2017) from Iqaluit, Nunavut

“Pearson life is amazing. I’m nurturing the activist, artist and scientist in me while being challenged academically and personally to open my mind. It feels like I’m swimming in a pool of boundless potential!”



### **WAHID BITAR**

First-year student at the University of British Columbia; Pearson College UWC Alumnus (2015-2017) from Aleppo, Syria

“It’s my responsibility to carry all the knowledge I’ve gained at Pearson and transfer it to the people of my homeland. I’m grateful to all those who have allowed me to be here; to find my best self and take it back home.”



## The Challenge

Founded at the height of the Cold War, Pearson College UWC has evolved to keep pace with the ever-changing international sphere. Today, this sphere is defined by intensified economic integration and the breakdown of established international order, extremism and mass migration, climate change and income inequality. What Mr. Pearson may have taken for granted or held as fact is now open to question, as competing world views confront us everywhere – from the voting booth to our social media feeds.

Now more than ever, the global citizens of today and tomorrow need a place to gather and galvanize, to deepen their value, hone their skills and solve problems. By investing in Pearson College UWC, the Government of Canada can ensure a legacy of leadership and peacebuilding at home and abroad.

Partnering with Pearson College UWC supports not only the individuals who attend the College over the years, but also the communities to which they return. To educate, and to support education, is to inspire the next generation of leaders and problem solvers, and to promote productivity both during a student's time at school and in the decades to follow.



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## The Opportunity

Pearson College UWC is seeking a significant investment to support cutting-edge programming in Global Affairs, Peace Building, Indigenous Reconciliation, and Sustainability for up to 40 students (Canadian and international) annually. Students in financial need or from countries in conflict and those from communities – such as First Peoples communities – which have traditionally faced greater challenges in accessing unique educational opportunities would receive priority. The funding would provide support for Canadian students to attend Pearson College or other UWCs around the world, improving competitiveness in our truly integrated global society.

The funding would also support two key College initiatives. The first is the establishment of a new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation designed to bring peoples together to discuss, learn about and ultimately, help solve challenging global issues. The second is to enhance the protection and sustainability of the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve. In 1997, Pearson, working with partners including the Canadian Coast Guard and B.C. Parks, became the volunteer eco-guardian for this small group of islands at the eastern entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the Salish Sea, about seven kilometres from the campus.

The Global Centre, a flagship project for Pearson College’s “next stage,” will equip UWC students with leadership tools for 21st century global challenges. It will include a digitally networked “peace and reconciliation innovation lab” linking all UWC campuses across the globe as well as with mission-aligned organizations and educational institutions. It will also serve as a destination conference centre for hosting student programs as well as foreign policy summits, nation-to-nation negotiations as well as visiting social entrepreneurs, thought leaders and decision-makers. The centre is envisioned as a place of



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## The Opportunity cont.

learning, training, mediating and leading in a natural setting: negotiations, meetings, and workshops interspersed with canoeing, kayaking and sailing on Pedder Bay; a hike in the surrounding rainforest; a meal shared with students and others with a stake in the major decisions of the day. When Canada hosts a global summit, it will no longer have to rely on high-end resorts; it can gather its guests in a place that embodies its values and aspirations as a global leader in peace and reconciliation.

The Global Centre will build on the legacy of Lester B. Pearson and other global citizens while helping to achieve Canada's stated goals to continue to act as a global peace leader and to foster a greater, more meaningful commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This project will be executed in full partnership with the Beecher Bay (Scia'new) First Nation.

Funding for the Race Rocks Ecological Reserve aligns with environmental protection measures including the fight against climate change and for the preservation of biodiversity in one of Canada's most unique marine environments. By enhancing Pearson's world-renowned expertise as a hands-on educator in marine sciences, funding will help protect this high ocean current environment that hosts an exceptional variety of marine life, including sea lions and elephant seals, sea birds, fish, marine invertebrates, marine algae and sea grass.



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## Conclusion

Pearson College UWC is rapidly evolving to prepare young leaders and agents of change to face today's global challenges of climate change, ideological extremism, mass migrations, and income inequality. The growing influence of emerging economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, the changing role of Europe and the United States, combined with increasing automation of work and breakthroughs in digital innovation mean the new generation of leadership in peace and reconciliation needs to be well prepared to meet these challenges. This represents a tremendous opportunity for Canada, and for Pearson College UWC.

UWC's global education programming, the creation of the Global Centre and sustainability-based enhancements at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve would enshrine Lester B. Pearson's living legacy as a Canadian leader of dialogue and peaceful solutions. These reflect Mr. Pearson's original vision in calling for a school as a place where students would be welcomed, "without regard to race, religion or politics and that scholarships be established so that students who attend the College will come from all levels of society and be genuine representatives of their own peoples."

The proposed partnership, coming during the celebration of 150 years since the Confederation of Canada, would not only honour the significant accomplishments of Lester B. Pearson; it would also enhance Canada's economic prosperity, global competitiveness, role as a peacemaker and peacekeeper through generations of young leaders from around the world.