

Pre-Budget Submission

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of
the 2020 Budget
Submitted by Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and United
World Colleges (Canada)**

**Désirée McGraw
President and Head of College
dmcgraw@pearsoncollege.ca**

July 26, 2019

[A Request for Funding for The New Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation at Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and the United World Colleges \(Canada\)](#)

Summary of Recommendations

- Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada continues its investment in reconciliation and internationalism by investing **\$17.5 million in Pearson College UWC’s Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation.**
- Recommendation 2: That the Government of Canada provides Pearson College UWC **\$2.4 million/year to support scholarships for Indigenous students and students coming from crisis and conflict zones all over the world.**
- Recommendation 3: That the Government of Canada use the new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, as well as Pearson College UWC’s existing infrastructure, as a hub for national and international conferences and events, such as the 2025 G7 Conference, the next Canadian Youth Summit, and meetings between the government and Indigenous leaders.

About Pearson College UWC

Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and United World Colleges (Canada), more commonly known as Pearson College UWC, was established with an endowment from the Government of Canada in 1974 as **Canada’s only member of the United World Colleges (UWC) network.** The UWC is a global education movement with 18 campuses on 4 continents that makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. To date, **more than 60,000 people from every Canadian province and territory as well as 160 countries have been transformed by the unique educational experience offered at a United World College.**

As a post-secondary institution, **Pearson College UWC** serves as a bridge for students between high-school and university. Up to 200 students per year aged 16-19 are drawn from across Canada and around the world to live and learn together at Pearson College’s iconic campus on southern Vancouver Island. Nearly 90% of Pearson’s students require financial assistance to attend the College and 50% receive full financial support. Students are selected only on the basis of merit – not by means. Pearson College UWC is rooted in the belief that cooperation and friendship are the foundations of global peace, and a foundation for reconciliation amongst peoples. For this reason, the College is seeking to renew support from the federal government – as a founding partner – specifically for its **new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation as a centrepiece of its renewal efforts.**

Recommendation 1: Investing \$17.5 million in a new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation at Pearson College UWC

Pearson College UWC is seeking to build a Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (the Centre). **The Centre will offer a platform for hosting national and international summits, dialogue, negotiations and conferences, as well as programs taught by Canadian and global leaders in fields essential to global citizenship and innovation in international education.** The Centre would boost existing programming, curriculum and experiential learning to help our students and the community gain the knowledge, skills and experience to engage in the world as responsible global citizens. The Centre will be a world-class

facility that capitalizes on the legacy of Canada's Nobel Laureate for Peace, the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson, and the College's unique standing in Canada's educational ecosystem and extraordinary geographic location in a British Columbia rainforest.

Pearson's programs at the new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation will help define and teach global citizenship in the spirit of renewing what it means to be Canada's School for the World in 2020 and beyond. They will inspire youth to value lifelong service and engagement and to be a centre for peaceful dialogue and respond to the questions, needs and values of students today by:

- **Offering short courses and certificate programs**
- **Hosting summits, dialogue, negotiations, and conferences**
- **Developing cutting edge curriculum for international educators**

Indigenous Reconciliation

As **reconciliation** is at the heart of our work, our summits, dialogue, negotiations, and conferences will include the theme of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada and from around the world. Pearson College UWC and our neighbours, Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, and the District of Metchosin would benefit from the Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation as it will drive social and economic opportunities for the entire region.

Design and planning for the Centre will reflect the College's continued commitment to partnership and reconciliation with Scia'new First Nation and other BC First Nations

Pearson College UWC is requesting \$17.5 million in federal funding to construct the Centre

The new Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation will cost approximately \$17.5 million to build. This funding will go to program design, business planning, engineering, architectural, and construction costs. Pearson College has also embarked on a private sector fundraising campaign to help fund the Centre and other efforts to renew the campus.

The Centre's design, construction, and maintenance will utilize the most modern and environmentally friendly techniques.

Recommendation 2: Investing \$2.4million/year renewable in scholarships for Indigenous students and students coming from crisis and conflict zones

Each Pearson student is selected on the basis of merit, promise and a commitment to the ideals of the United World Colleges. A clear reflection of the College's deliberate socio-economic diversity can be seen in the make up of its student body:

- In 2019-2020 Pearson College will welcome **16 Indigenous students from across Canada and around the world**, working towards our goal to have 10% of the student body to be indigenous students from across Canada.
- In 2019-2020, **16 students are coming from crisis and conflict zones**, including Syria, Palestine, Israel, Rwanda, Somalia, Ukraine, Egypt, South Sudan, Venezuela, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Pearson is seeking to increase the number of students from both these key demographics.

The College's commitment to meet "all demonstrated need" combined with its ability to select and support its students through the UWC's 160 national committees means Pearson can recruit some of the world's very best and brightest young people. Through its decades-long partnership with World University Service of Canada, the College has offered full scholarships to countless students who are

refugees and/or displaced due to conflict, poverty or other causes. The UWC network remains the only pre-university avenue for refugees of promise and potential to receive an international education.

The federal government can support Canadian and international students of promise, potential and limited financial means to benefit from a UWC educational experience by **investing \$2.4 million annually into scholarships for Indigenous students and students from conflict and crisis zones to study** at Pearson College. In 2020-2021, these funds would fully support the learning and living costs of 40 students at the College (based on \$60,000 per student for tuition, room, board, travel and expeditionary learning costs).

Recommendation 3: That the Global Centre for Peace and Reconciliation be a hub for conferences and events

Globally: Pearson College UWC envisages that the Centre would host major summits, such as the 2025 G7 Summit, as well as be a trusted venue for trade, peace, and security negotiations. Pearson's record of training people from conflict and crisis zones has fostered a sense of trust in the lives of people from these regions, something which could be leveraged in peace talks.

Nationally: The Centre would be pleased to host the Canadian Youth Summit, meetings between the government and Indigenous leaders, and future First Ministers and Council of the Federation meetings.

Locally: The Centre could be a venue for meetings of Indigenous leaders and peoples. It will also be a teaching site for Pearson students and for students coming from every region of Canada.

Who will benefit from the Centre

Pearson will build the Centre in partnership with local Indigenous communities who will have access to the facility and programming.

Residents of Vancouver Island will also benefit as they would have access to the Centre's facilities and local jobs would be created in the construction and operations of the Centre. New, innovative, and environmentally friendly construction and maintenance techniques will be undertaken by the Centre. This building can be showcased as part of Canada's efforts to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions in modern buildings.

About Pearson College UWC's student body

As Canada's only United World College, Pearson's diverse student body is unique in its composition:

- **25% of students are Canadian** – selected from every province and territory and the remaining **75% are selected from 160 countries**, including those in conflict and in crisis.
- Every student is chosen on merit, not means: **90% of students receive a scholarship or financial assistance.**
- **More than 60% of students are girls.** Many of the women graduates have gone on to leadership roles in areas such as humanitarian and community service, business, finance, government, education, social and environmental advocacy.
- Through the United World Colleges' Refugee Initiative in partnership with UNHCR, Pearson is Canada's only pre-university opportunity for displaced youth seeking an international education.

- Through a long-standing partnership with **World University Services of Canada (WUSC)**, Pearson College UWC has recruited and supported more than 50 refugee students over the past 30 years. Many have gone on to achieve great things in Canada, their countries of origin and/or the world.
- Next year, Pearson College UWC will welcome **16 Indigenous students** from across Canada and around the world, the largest cohort of its kind in its history. This reflects focused efforts to recruit more Indigenous students to the UWC Movement, offer culturally-appropriate programming to all students, and nurture and grow the relationship with Indigenous communities, in particular with Pearson's friends and neighbours in Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, in a spirit of reconciliation and mutual understanding.

Contact information

We would be pleased to present our submission to the Finance Committee. Pearson College UWC would also be happy to host consultations during the Finance Committee's upcoming consultation tour. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Désirée McGraw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Désirée McGraw
President and Head of College
Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and the United World Colleges (Canada)
Email: dmcgraw@pearsoncollege.ca