



Executive Brief:

President and Vice Chancellor St. Mary's University



Land Acknowledgment

Since time immemorial, the Children of the Plains, the Siksikaitsitapi – The Blackfoot, have lived in a territory that stretches from the North Saskatchewan River in present day Alberta and Saskatchewan, to the Yellowstone River in the state of Montana, from the Continental Divide in the west, to the Great Sand Hills in the province now known as Saskatchewan. St. Mary's University is located on these traditional territories and in the spirit of Respect, Reciprocity and Truth, we honour and acknowledge Moh'kinsstis, where the Bow River meets the Elbow River; the traditional Blackfoot name of this place which we now call the City of Calgary. St. Mary's University is situated on traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot Confederacy: Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Aamskapi-Piikani along with the other signatories of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, the Tsuut'ina Nation and Iyârhe Nakoda Nations: Chiniki, Bears paw, Goodstoney. We also acknowledge that this territory is home to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6. Finally, we acknowledge ALL Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

St. Mary's University

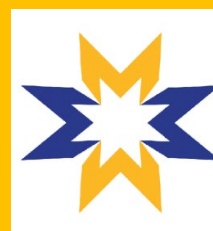
St. Mary's University (St. Mary's) is a dynamic and innovative teaching and research university located on a beautiful historic site that provides affordable, accredited, and highly valued degrees in Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Education. Founded on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, and as the only independent Catholic university in Western Canada, St. Mary's prepares its students to live with integrity, compassion, and confidence while embodying a compassionate commitment to ethics, social justice, and respect for diversity of opinion and belief. St. Mary's became a proud member of Universities Canada in 2022, and has over 1000 full- and part-time students, approximately 200 full- and part-time faculty and staff, and an average class size of 25.

Located in Mohkínstsis (Calgary) on the ancestral territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and, Piikani First Nations), the Tsuut'ina and Îyârhe Nakoda Nations, as well as the Otipemisiwak Métis government, District 6, Calgary Elbow. St. Mary's is focused on developing the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

St. Mary's University is committed to fostering an institutional culture that values, supports, and promotes equity, human rights, respect, and accountability within their community. St. Mary's is a university where all are welcome and each unique person is honoured for their inherent dignity. The University is committed to removing barriers for those who have been historically underrepresented or discouraged in society.

Their Vision: To be the preeminent Catholic University in Canada, known as a centre of academic excellence providing a vibrant and engaged student experience that prepares authentic leaders committed to the service of others.

Their Mission: Open to all and grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, St. Mary's University educates the whole person to inspire and empower tomorrow's engaged, global citizens for the future.



The icon complementing the name St. Mary's is based on the letter "M" for Mary. Four qualities of Mary (simplicity, clarity, purity and confidence) are each represented by one of the four letter M's.

The circular arrangement forms a star, a halo of light and strong visual presence well suited to a dynamic, forward-looking institution.

Yellow is the colour of the sun which brings life to all living things.

Blue is the colour of the Virgin Mary. It also represents intellect, peace, contemplation, faith and compassion.

St. Mary's University is proud to be represented by this illuminating icon.



Values

Regarding the role of the Catholic post-secondary educational institution in the modern world, Pope St. John Paul II in his 1990 Apostolic Constitution, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, stated:



Being both a University and Catholic, it must be both a community of scholars representing various branches of human knowledge, and an academic institution in which Catholicism is vitally present and operative. A Catholic University or College, therefore, is a place of research, where scholars scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each academic discipline, and so contribute to the treasury of human knowledge.



As a Catholic University, StMU is committed to:

WELCOMING & SERVING ALL

StMU is student centered and believes in and values first and foremost the students' authentic needs, enabling them to flourish in their life's vocation. The University celebrates and welcomes people where they are. They see each person in their community as a unique human being, respecting their inherent rights and honouring their dignity. StMU values all individuals regardless of their culture, gender, talents, religion, race, perspectives, and social conditions. They are committed to Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation, desiring to weave Reconciliation and Indigenous ways of knowing into the fabric of their community. They aim to serve others in ways that create community, connect people, and promote social justice.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

StMU believes in pursuing academic excellence in teaching, learning, research, and creative enquiry. Recognizing academic freedom as fundamental to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, they value the rich history and complexity of human thinking while engaging the intellectual potential of every student learner. Their students receive a holistic education, that respects reason and faith and which promotes democratic, global citizenship as well as ethical leadership, and — in discovering beauty, goodness, and truth — awakens in each a desire to transform the world.

FAITH

StMU cherishes faith, and upholds a Christian worldview as revealed and interpreted over time through Sacred Scripture and Catholic teaching. They uphold the complementary nature of faith and reason and aim to foster this relationship in all they do. Further, as part of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, StMU welcomes all knowing that you do not have to be Catholic to believe that every human life is sacred; in the dignity of the poor; the common good; social responsibility; and that the earth is a gift to be shared.



Strategic Priorities



Expanding Minds, Inspiring Hearts

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2029

OUR MISSION

Open to all and grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, St. Mary's University educates the whole person to inspire and empower tomorrow's engaged, global citizens for the future.

OUR VISION

To be the preeminent Catholic University in Canada, known as a centre of academic excellence providing a vibrant and engaged student experience that prepares authentic leaders committed to the service of others.

People First

Offer a stellar experience for all members of the University community.

- Create a people first strategy
- Cultivate a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment
- Provide a positive employee experience
- Enhance the student experience: mind, body, and spirit



Celebrating our Identity

Ensure that every aspect of the university is clearly and distinctively grounded in our mission and vision.

- Develop shared appreciation for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and how it shapes our work
- Build awareness of the University
- Enhance campus to become a gathering place for all
- Foster commitment to Truth & Reconciliation
- Build an alumni program



Academic Excellence

Aim for the highest standards of academic and professional excellence.

- Create an academic plan
- Enhance our emphasis on learning engagement
- Develop a greater emphasis on research



Building for Growth

Provide sufficient growth and capital infrastructure to ensure a vibrant, challenging, and uplifting student-centred university experience.

- Develop a master-facilities plan
- Build a plan for student enrolment growth
- Develop a revenue generation plan
- Ensure accountability and transparency

Position Profile

The Opportunity

As St. Mary's University (StMU) embarks on an ambitious new chapter of growth and transformation, the next President and Vice-Chancellor will be a visionary leader who inspires confidence and trust, and who fosters collaboration across a diverse academic community. StMU is grounded in the Catholic faith and is open to all. The successful candidate will steward the opportunity to take Western Canada's only independent Catholic University to the next level with the goal of becoming Canada's preeminent Catholic university.

Scope and Responsibilities

The President and Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's University, providing visionary, strategic leadership to advance the mission, values, and long-term priorities of the institution. This leader is accountable for driving the successful implementation of [*Expanding Minds, Inspiring Hearts*](#), the university's Strategic Plan, and for fostering an environment where students, faculty, and staff can thrive.

As the university's principal ambassador and public voice, the President represents StMU with integrity and inspiration while engaging stakeholders, strengthening community and government relationships, and championing the university's distinctive role in Catholic higher education.

With a strong foundation in place, St. Mary's is poised for its next phase of advancement. The next President will embrace this momentum, bringing skill, courage, and a proven record of guiding organizational growth to accelerate the university's progress and to confidently lead StMU into its aspirational future.

Specific Responsibilities

In addition to delivering on the four strategic priorities of ***People First, Celebrating StMU's Identity, Academic Excellence, and Building for Growth***, the President and Vice-Chancellor is responsible for:

Faith Leadership

- Promotes and models involvement in the Roman Catholic Faith Community.
- Ensures students, faculty and staff are provided opportunities for spiritual development within the University context.
- Fosters a lifestyle and deportment that is in harmony with the Roman Catholic Church and its teachings.

Academic Leadership

- Provides leadership in all matters relating to the academic success of the University as outlined in the Roman Catholic Intellectual Tradition.
- Provides services and resources which promote the improvement of educational opportunities for all students and conditions that promote improvement of professional development opportunities for staff and faculty.
- Ensures that the social, physical, intellectual, cultural, spiritual, and emotional needs of students, staff and faculty are met in the overall University environment.
- Leads strategic enrollment growth and program diversification by exploring new academic offerings tailored to emerging student needs.

Finances and Governance

- Ensures the University operates in a fiscally responsible manner, including adherence to the recognized accounting procedures and the sustainability of the University.
- Advances large scale fundraising campaigns and strengthening government relations to secure funding for infrastructure and program expansion.
- Ensures the University is compliant with all legal, Ministerial, Ecclesial and Board mandates and timelines.

Communications and Community Relations

- Takes appropriate action to ensure open, transparent, positive internal and external communications are developed and maintained.
- Maintains effective relationships within the University and to the broader community served.
- Keeps the Board and Chancellor informed through the provision of appropriate accountability reports.
- Enhances the campus to become a gathering place for all where community spirit flourishes, a serious commitment to Truth and Reconciliation is fostered, robust dialogue about pressing societal issues ensues, and faith is celebrated

Leadership Expertise

- Demonstrates exemplary leadership in a manner that is collaborative with those with whom the President works most directly in carrying out the directives of the Board and the Advanced Education Ministry.
- Builds and empowers a high performing team.

Desired Candidate Background and Experience

The President and Vice-Chancellor will be passionate about the value of a liberal arts education approach in the contemporary world in addition to:

Education

- A Doctorate Degree or equivalent terminal degree.

Experience

- Prior success having created welcoming, engaging, and safe environments across organizations and communities;
- Proven senior academic and people leadership experience (Provost, Vice President Academic, or equivalent) with a deep understanding of bicameral governance and evidence-based decision-making;
- Proven leadership in a Catholic institution, with a strong understanding of and commitment to Catholic higher education;
- Demonstrated success in fundraising and strategic planning, including leading major capital campaigns and cultivating donor and government relationships;
- Experience managing institutional change, capital projects, and enrollment growth initiatives;
- An ability to balance tradition with innovation, fostering transparency and adaptability in decision-making;
- Exemplary communication skills;

- Demonstrated success managing a complex, multiple stakeholder institution, and the ability to grow and transform, improve efficiency, manage risks, and create synergies;
- Business acumen; strong fiscal and analytical abilities;
- Strategic vision: an ability to identify opportunities and leverage strengths and to avoid pitfalls;
- Ability to advance diversity across all sectors; experience working with Indigenous people is an asset; and,
- Proven leadership experience in a complex academic or mission-driven organization.

Competencies and Personal / Professional Attributes

Demonstrated in character and conduct the President and Vice-Chancellor will be a:

Skilled Administrative Leader

The President is an experienced administrative leader who understands the full spectrum of organizational, financial, and academic issues inherent in running a university and can make sound and sometimes difficult decisions with integrity. They demonstrate courage and transparency in decision-making and excel as both an active listener and compelling communicator.

Faith-based Community Builder

Fostering a collegial, faith-inspired environment, encouraging open dialogue, collaboration, and consensus-building. They cultivate a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all members of the StMU community. They bring experience leading within a faith-based context and are prepared to guide both student and infrastructure growth.

Champion of Academic Excellence

The President deeply understands the value of a liberal arts education that educates the whole person. They advocate for academic excellence, support faculty as teachers and researchers, and actively engage in the intellectual life of the university.

Relationship Cultivator

A diplomatic and patient communicator, the President builds strong, strategic partnerships across government and the community to advance the university's goals. They are culturally aware, politically astute, and adept at advocating for StMU's mission and priorities. They have developed strengths in strategic thinking and the ability to communicate effectively and to build consensus in a collegial environment.

Strategic Visionary

The ideal candidate brings the ability to craft and articulate a vibrant and compelling future for StMU and translate it into actionable strategies that enhance student experience, strengthen programs, and ensure long-term institutional viability. They collaborate effectively with the Board and broader community to pursue excellence.

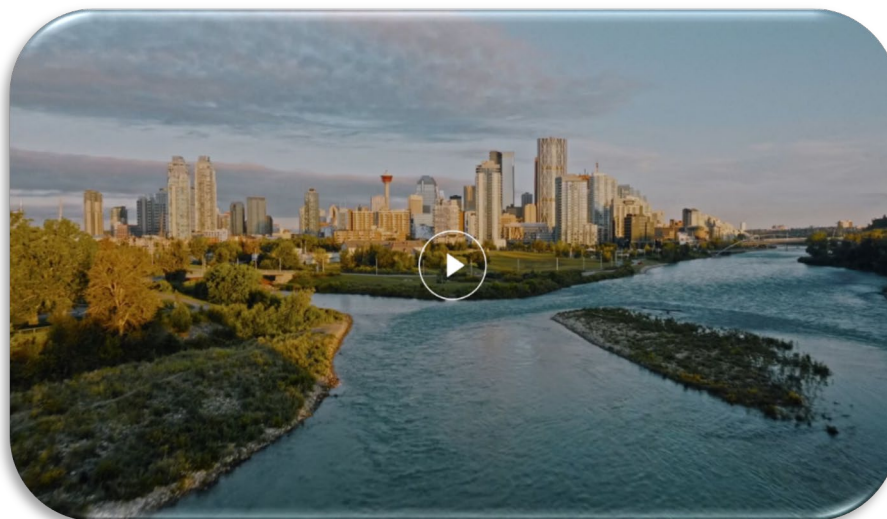
Attractions to St. Mary's

The President and Vice-Chancellor will have the opportunity to:

- Lead the only independent Catholic University in Western Canada to national pre-eminence as an organization that is growing and transforming Catholic Education in Canada;
- Lead an expanding Catholic institution with a strong community reputation towards excellence;
- Lead an organization that puts people first and emphasizes human dignity and personalized education;
- Lead in an environment that offers small class sizes and close faculty-student relationships, creating a uniquely engaging learning environment;
- Lead at an institution that is expanding by growing academic programs, building new facilities, and increasing enrollment;
- Live in Calgary, where the university benefits from a vibrant city and a dynamic professional environment supported by financial stability and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Location – Calgary, AB

Calgary, located in the province of Alberta, is one of Canada's most dynamic and rapidly growing cities. Nestled at the foothills of the majestic Rocky Mountains, it offers a unique blend of urban sophistication and natural beauty. Known for its strong energy sector, Calgary is also a hub for innovation, finance, and technology. The city boasts a vibrant cultural scene, with festivals like the Calgary Stampede, a world-famous rodeo and exhibition, drawing visitors from around the globe. With over 1.6 million residents, Calgary is celebrated for its high quality of life, diverse communities, and access to outdoor adventures like hiking, skiing, and mountain biking. Its sunny climate—boasting more days of sunshine than any other major Canadian city—adds to its appeal as a place to live, work, and explore.



To learn more about Calgary and St. Mary's University, please visit: www.visitcalgary.ca and <https://stmu.ca/>.

To Apply

For more information or to apply, please contact: StMUPresident@dhrglobal.com by January 31, 2026.

Applications should include a letter addressing how the applicant's experience matches the position requirements, and a current C.V.

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