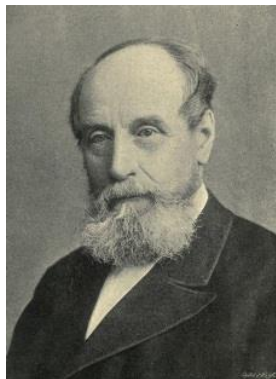


Summary of the Dawson College Strategic Research Plan 2015-18

A History of Research and Innovative Education



John William Dawson (1820-1899) was a passionate Canadian researcher and educator who excelled both at his disciplinary research (geology) and educational reform. Dawson published extensively on Palaeozoic fossils, in addition to transforming the architectural design of schools to enhance learning and reforming teacher education. Today, Dawson College carries on in these traditions of its namesake, producing high-impact research in the natural and social sciences, and compelling research on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Process for Developing the Strategic Research Plan 2015-18

The Director General of Dawson College, Richard Filion, mandated the creation of the Strategic Research Plan in August 2014 to develop a vision for the future of research at Dawson, and articulate ambitious and measurable performance indicators. The Strategic Research Plan was developed in consultation with the Dawson community, led by the Research Coordinator in the Office of Instructional Development and a focus group composed of faculty and professionals. The focus group deployed a survey to the community in October 2014 to assess the current state of research at the College, and learn about the needs and perceived challenges of current and future Dawson researchers. The focus group wrote the Plan, and circulated it to the Dawson community for feedback. The Plan reflects current research strengths as well as a commitment to measurably growing research capacity over the next three years.

Building Communities

Dawson College's research mission is to contribute positively to our communities through knowledge generation and mobilization, to generate opportunities for our students to excel, create and be entrepreneurs and to foster innovation in education, science, society, and technology across disciplines. The Strategic Research Plan provides direction to achieve these ambitious goals, and build stronger communities within the College, throughout the city of Montreal, across Canada and beyond.

Two Themes of Research Excellence

I. Social Innovation and Global Citizenship

Researchers in the social sciences enhance our understanding of modern social, cultural, technological, environmental, economic, and wellness issues. The *Teaching, Learning,*

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and Technology cluster encompasses research that develop and implement innovative teaching and learning practices, and evaluate their impact using data-based analytical tools. Researchers in the *Accessibility and Inclusion of Diverse Populations* cluster advance knowledge and promote inclusive social practices that support populations with diverse needs, including students with disabilities, ageing populations, language learners and Indigenous people. The *Society, Culture, Communication and History* cluster draws on theory and methodology from diverse fields within the social sciences and humanities to explore how humans create meaning, the articulation between culture and identity and the trajectory of history in shaping modern society.

II. Science, Technology, and the Environment

Promoting *Social and Environmental Sustainability* is critical to address the pressing issues affecting our planet. Researchers in this cluster use multidisciplinary, applied, innovative approaches to tackle social, environmental and technological challenges facing the world. Researchers working within the *Fundamental and Applied Sciences* cluster uncover new facts about the natural world, and generate new technologies and processes that contribute to economic growth and a better quality of life.

Strategic Objectives and New Investments

The Strategic Research Plan identifies three ambitious Strategic Objectives to develop research capacity and increase externally funded research at the College.

Objective I: Increase the number of researchers at the College

To achieve this goal, the College will invest internally in additional research release to support the development of strong grant proposals, and to support new and ongoing research projects in the areas of identified research excellence. This will attract and retain teachers with strong research portfolios.

Objective II: Increase external funding to researchers at the College by 20%

The College will initiate more institutional grants to support existing strengths and new research directions, and encourage researchers to apply to external funds. In three years, Dawson College will attain a higher rank among Canadian colleges with respect to research revenue.

Objective III: Develop and grow applied research

To grow into the new area of applied research, the College will support the Research office by investing in training, networking and information sessions to help researchers participate in applied projects through external partnerships and contracts.

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