



UNIVERSITÉ  
SAINT·PAUL  
UNIVERSITY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

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## A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

As I reflect on my first full year as Rector of Saint Paul University, I am filled with gratitude for what we have accomplished together. This has been a year of transformation—honouring our rich heritage while boldly stepping into a future defined by innovation, collaboration, and global engagement.

Our mission remains clear and urgent: to support transformative leadership that serves the well-being of our planet, heals broken relationships, and advances respectful dialogue with First Peoples. This year, we have made significant strides in bringing this vision to life.

Our institutional vitality was demonstrated in remarkable ways. Our research enterprise grew by 118%, securing over \$1.52 million in external funding—a testament to the excellence of our faculty’s scholarship. We joined Research Impact Canada and the Global Academy of Liberal Arts (GALA), positioning us within vibrant international communities committed to innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.

We launched SPU Talks, a new podcast series in partnership with Le Droit, creating vital francophone spaces for public dialogue where academic knowledge meets contemporary issues. We introduced experiential learning opportunities like our Camino de Santiago walking seminar, reimagining what university education can be—where the world truly becomes our classroom.

We strengthened our global presence through strategic partnerships with Antonine University in Lebanon, the University of Alcalá in Spain, and Bethlehem University in Palestine. We also hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> Latin American Film Festival, bringing cultural richness to our campus and supporting future student scholarships.

Closer to home, we deepened our commitment to inclusion and well-being. From signing the Okanagan Charter to celebrating our Indigenous Centre’s remarkable year—welcoming over 1,250 participants and honouring graduates like David Elliot Claveau and Indigenous Valedictorian Gail Joly—we are building a university where every person can flourish. Our first Ecological Fair brought together university and community partners to imagine a more sustainable future.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre reminded us of our long-standing commitment to mental health and personal transformation. For half a century, this centre has been a cornerstone in training future psychotherapists, advancing research, and improving access to mental health services with compassion and scientific rigour.





As we develop our Strategic Plan 2025–2030, informed by consultation with 117 community members and partners, we are charting a course that honours both continuity and change. We remain a university that values the head, the heart, and the hands—where intellect, compassion, and practical engagement converge.

To our 306 graduates: you carry forward the distinctive Saint Paul University experience into the world. To our faculty, staff, and partners: your dedication makes everything possible. To our students: your commitment inspires us daily.

Together, we are building a university deeply rooted in rich intellectual tradition and radically open to dialogue across traditions, disciplines, and cultures.

**Louis Patrick Leroux**  
Rector



# SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY

Located in the heart of the nation's capital, Saint Paul University (established in 1848) is the founding college of the University of Ottawa, with which it has been federated since 1965. A bilingual institution, it offers undergraduate and graduate study programs.

Proud of its rich heritage, over the years Saint Paul University (SPU) has evolved into an institution whose primary focus is on the multiple facets of the human experience. Not surprisingly, that priority is reflected in our current programs of study: in addition to our founding disciplines – canon law, philosophy and theology – we offer courses in social communication, social innovation, transformative leadership, counselling and psychotherapy, public ethics, conflict studies, and human relations.

Besides its academic programs, Saint Paul University offers a number of complementary services, including support and guidance to help students succeed academically and personally, conferences, lectures and workshops with distinguished specialists on issues facing today's society; a student residence; and a library with an outstanding collection of documents and books on a range of specialized subjects.

SPU is known for its small class sizes, personalized service, diverse student population and international vision, solid reputation, rich history and Catholic intellectual tradition.



# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors (BG) is responsible for the University's overall governance and management. In practical terms, the Board makes the financial decisions and implements the policies and procedures that the University needs to operate efficiently, in accordance with the educational policies established by the Senate. The Board can strike committees to help it exercise its powers. The Board of Governors appoints its members in accordance with a delegation of authority by the Superior of the Notre-Dame-du-Cap province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in consultation with that organization's council.

## Members in 2024-2025

- **Louis Patrick Leroux**,  
Rector, Acting President (BG)
- **Soukayna Boutiyeb**,  
BG Vice-President - Executive Director,  
Alliance des femmes de la francophonie  
canadienne (AFFC)
- **Carole Audet**,  
Acting Vice Rector Administration /  
Associate vice rector, Talent, Diversity, Culture
- **M. McLellan**,  
Interim Vice-rector governance and  
Secretary general
- **Jean-Marc Barrette**,  
Vice-Rector, Academic and Research
- **M. Chatel**,  
President, Balestra Productions Inc.
- **Elia Eliev**,  
Executive Director, Fondation Baxter & Alma  
Ricard
- **S. Gallagher**,  
Student representative (SPU)
- **A. Jastrzebski**,  
OMI
- **J. LeBlanc**,  
Chief Librarian
- **J.-F. Rioux**,  
Professor

## Administration Committee

- **Louis Patrick Leroux**,  
Rector
- **Carole Audet**,  
Acting Vice Rector Administration /  
Associate vice rector, Talent, Diversity,  
Culture
- **M. McLellan**,  
Interim Vice-rector governance and  
Secretary general
- **Jean-Marc Barrette**,  
Vice-Rector, Academic and Research



# SENATE

The Senate sets Saint Paul University’s educational policies and is responsible for the sound management of academic issues on campus. For instance, subject to the approval of related expenses by the Board of Governors, the Senate has the power to create and abolish faculties, schools and institutes. In addition, the Senate creates or abolishes academic regulations and programs of study; sets admission, degree and diploma requirements; and confers certificates, degrees at all levels and, with the approval of the Board of Governors, honorary doctorates. Finally, the Senate can strike committees to help it exercise its powers.

## Members in 2024-2025

- **Chancellor**  
DAMPHOUSE, MGR Marcel
- **Rector**  
LEROUX, Patrick
- **Vice-Rector, Academic and Research**  
BARRETTE, Jean-Marc
- **Vice-Rector, Administration**  
AUDET, Carole (intérim)
- **Vice-Rector, Governance and Secretary General**  
McLELLAN, Michael (intérimaire)
- **Dean**  
GLENDINNING, Chad
- **Dean**  
DIONNE, Christian (intérim)
- **Doyen**  
ANDRAOS, Michel
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Canon Law**  
RENKEN, John
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Philosophy**  
FEIST, Richard
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Human Sciences**  
WILSON, Amanda
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Human Sciences**  
BELLEHUMEUR, Christian
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Human Sciences**  
SÉGUIN, Michaël
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Theology**  
SLATTER, Mark
- **Elected professor, Faculty of Theology**  
HEFTY, Karl
- **Secretary, Faculty of Canon Law**  
NOBEL, Michael
- **Secretary, Faculty of Philosophy**  
McLENNAN, Matthew
- **Secretary, Faculty of Human Sciences**  
BILODEAU, Cynthia
- **Secretary, Faculty of Theology**  
JOHNSON, Sarah





- **Chief Librarian**  
LEBLANC, Jérémie
- **Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs**  
ST-AMANT, Alain
- **Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**  
BEAUCHEMIN, André
- **Elected student**  
vacant
- **Elected student**  
KAID, Afnan
- **Elected student**  
LAVIGNE, Kim
- **Elected student**  
HESS, Sue-Anne



# REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN

SPU's strategic plan presents the institution's vision for remaining relevant in the years ahead. It does this by interpreting the needs, realities and expectations of the entire community as well as the context in which the institution is evolving.

The 2020-2025 strategic plan outlines a shared vision, which is to support transformative leadership on the part of individuals and communities for:

- The well-being of the planet;
- The healing of broken human relationships; and
- A respectful dialogue with First Peoples in Canada

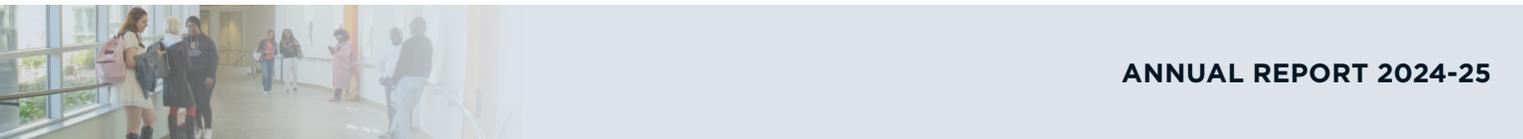
The 2020-2025 strategic plan is centred on the following four priorities:

- 1 A Unique Experience
- 2 Excellence
- 3 Engagement and Environmental Responsibility
- 4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

This strategic framework allows us to take action and to embrace opportunities to better meet the needs of our university community and the broader community. It also gives us the opportunity to strengthen the innovative nature of our institution.

## Consultation Tables for the New Strategic Plan 2025-2030

As part of the development of its new Strategic Plan 2025-2030, Saint Paul University organized a series of consultation tables that brought together 117 participants from across the university community and its partners. This representative group included administrative staff, students from all levels of study, full- and part-time faculty members, as well as external partners from the education sector and beyond, along with Indigenous representatives. Discussions were structured around six central themes:





- Mission and identity.
- Teaching and development.
- Community experience and well-being.
- Profile and reputation.
- Social engagement and community connections.
- Opportunities for improvement.

The results of these consultations are currently being reviewed by a working group, and the new strategic plan is expected to be approved in fall 2025.



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## A unique experience

Each person is welcomed into a strong and diverse learning and research community, develops a real sense of belonging and has a unique holistic experience.

### Convocation

In June 2024, Saint Paul University celebrated the achievements of its newest graduating class during its convocation ceremony, where 237 degrees were conferred — 107 at the graduate level and 130 at the undergraduate level. When combined with the 69 degrees awarded in December 2023, the total number of graduates for the academic year reached 306.

At the morning ceremony, Bianca Picciano, graduate of the M.A. in Theology, offered advice to her fellow graduates as they embark on a new path as graduates of SPU:



*Pace yourselves. Know when it's time to say something, and when it is not. Belong to yourself. Communicate in the way you have been taught here – empathetically. Know what's good enough for you. Allow change to be a constant. Know who you are – a graduate of this institution, a peer of those seated beside you, and as new alumni, an example of the possibilities for the next wave of students who follow.”*



**Bianca Picciano,  
M.A. in Theology**

During the afternoon ceremony, Robert Fabes, who now holds a doctorate in counseling and spirituality, addressed his peers.

In his speech, he encouraged them to live out the values they learned during their time at SPU:



*I wish each of you moments of authentic peace throughout your lives. And I urge each of you to lead by example by living the principles of acceptance and openness that we have been so fortunate to have experienced and learned during our time at Saint Paul University.*



**Robert Fabes,  
Ph.D. in Counselling and Spirituality**

As part of the tradition, SPU also awarded the prestigious Governor General's Academic Medals to recognize outstanding academic achievement. Sakka-Justin Morin-Chin, who completed the Honours B.A. in Human Relations and Spirituality, is the recipient of the Silver Medal. The recipient of the Gold Medal is Julie Courchesne, a graduate of the M.A. in Social Innovation.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



## Shining Bright: An Alumni Spotlight

### Vergia Davidson: Championing Mental Health and Empowerment Across Canada and Beyond

Since earning her M.A. in Counselling and Spirituality at SPU, alongside a Master's in Project Management and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from another university, Vergia Davidson has become a leading voice in workplace mental health. Her career reflects an unwavering commitment to protecting the most valuable asset in any workplace — its people.

As the Founder and Director of Strive Mental Health, Wellness & Empowerment, Vergia has developed and delivered mental health strategies for Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, not-for-profits, and community organizations.

Beyond organizational strategy, Vergia operates her own private counselling practice, supporting employees, leaders, and community members in breaking through mental barriers and achieving their full potential. As a registered psychotherapist, she blends compassion with evidence-based approaches to create safe, non-judgmental spaces for healing and growth.

Her connection to SPU remains deeply personal. “Saint Paul University gave me more than an education — it gave me perspective,” she shares. “It was a place where I was seen not just as a student, but as a whole person. That sense of belonging shaped how I now create safe, supportive spaces for others.”

Vergia also serves as the Omanyen Youth Empowerment Portfolio Lead within the Omanyen Royal Kingdom, guiding youth leadership training through project-based learning. She is the author of *Mindful Leadership: Building a Culture of Mental Wellness in the Workplace*, a resource for leaders looking to embed wellness into their organizations.

When asked what drives her, Vergia reflects: “I’ve seen what happens when people don’t feel supported — the cost to their health, their families, and their careers. My mission is to change that, one workplace, one conversation at a time.”

Saint Paul University is proud to count Vergia among its graduates — a true ambassador of resilience, compassion, and excellence.



*Saint Paul University taught me that leadership is about more than achievement — it’s about creating spaces where people feel valued, heard, and empowered to bring their best selves forward.*

**Vergia Davidson**





## Excellence

Saint Paul University fills a unique niche in the postsecondary environment and plays a leading role in the region, in Canada and abroad.

### Research grants

In 2024, Saint Paul University secured over **\$1.52 million** in external research funding, marking a **118%** increase over the previous fiscal year. This substantial growth reflects the university's expanding research enterprise and the increasing success of its faculty in securing funding through competitive peer-reviewed programs. The awarded grants, distributed across a range of federal, provincial, and other funding mechanisms, have contributed to strengthening institutional research capacity and fostering the development of strategic initiatives and interdisciplinary collaborations.

### Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grants

**Insight Development Grants** support research in its initial stages. The grants enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. Funding is provided for short-term research development projects of up to two years that are proposed by individuals or teams.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Enquête sur le rôle des intermédiaires privés dans le régime du travail migrant au Québec</b>	
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Bem, Caroline	Saint Paul University
<b>Duration</b>	June 1, 2024 - Mai 31, 2026	
<b>Funding</b>	\$64,436	



## Insight Grants

**Insight Grants** support research excellence in the social sciences and humanities. Funding is available to both emerging scholars and established scholars for research initiatives of two to five years.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Living the DREAM (Developing Resilience through Emotions, Attitudes and Meaning): An Online Education Approach to Enhancing Meaning Mindset &amp; Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Well-Being</b>
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Armstrong, Laura L.
<b>Duration</b>	April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029
<b>Funding</b>	\$298,034

<b>Title</b>	<b>Comment adapter son engagement aux temps présents ? Pier Paolo Pasolini et l'éthique de l'abjuration comme technique de soi</b>
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Paquette, Julie
<b>Duration</b>	April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029
<b>Funding</b>	\$64,787

<b>Title</b>	<b>Économie politique postcapitaliste: des modèles aux modules</b>
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Tremblay-Pepin, Simon
<b>Duration</b>	April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2028
<b>Funding</b>	\$318,238

## Connection Grants

**Connection Grants** support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and engage with participants on research issues they value. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Politique des communs: avenues de recherche et projets de société</b>
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Durand Folco, Jonathan
<b>Duration</b>	March 22, 2024 - March 21, 2025
<b>Funding</b>	\$24,292



## Tri-Agency Funding Programs New Frontiers in Research Fund

### Exploration Stream

The objective of the Exploration stream is to support high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research. It seeks to inspire projects that bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches by research teams with the capacity to explore something new that might fail, but that has the potential for significant impact.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Education for Human Flourishing: Building Communities of Resilience, Well-Being and Connection for a Regenerative University</b>
<b>Duration</b>	March 31, 2024 - March 30, 2026
<b>Funding</b>	\$102,587

<b>Title</b>	<b>A Kenyan Pilot Project to Develop an Interdisciplinary Ecosystem Approach to the “Sex for Fish” and Gender-Based Violence Among African Fishing Communities</b>
<b>Principal researcher</b>	Onguny, Philip
<b>Duration</b>	March 31, 2024 - March 30, 2026
<b>Funding</b>	\$225,660

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) SSHRC Institutional Grants

The **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)** Institutional Grants (SIG) are funds awarded to Saint Paul University by SSHRC to support small-scale research projects and related scholarly activities led by faculty and students in the humanities. These grants are allocated through a merit-based peer review process, in alignment with SSHRC’s funding principles.

As a small-sized institution, SPU benefits significantly from SIG funding, which enhances the quality and impact of faculty research. Based on the annual allocation provided under the SIG program, the university offers internal grants to support exploratory research and knowledge mobilization initiatives, with SSHRC endorsement.

The SIG program is administered by the Vice-Rector, Academic and Research, which serves as SPU’s designated institutional representative and ensures compliance with all applicable policies and regulations.





All SIG funding applications are reviewed by the **Saint Paul University Research Committee**, which oversees the adjudication process and ensures alignment with institutional research priorities.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Total
<b>SSHRC Institutional Grants (SIG)</b>	\$25,183	\$25,183	\$25,183	\$75,549

## Tri-Agency Funding Programs Research Support Fund

The **Research Support Fund (RSF)** assists Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing their research enterprise, helping them to maintain a world-class research environment.

At **Saint Paul University**, the Research Support Fund is used to support activities such as the purchase of library holdings, assistance in preparing and managing grant proposals.

Category of Expense	2020-2021	%	2021-2022	%	2022-2023	%	2023-2024	%	2024-2025	%	2025-2026	%
<b>Research Facilities</b>			\$41,481	58%								
<b>Research Resources</b>	\$9,318	32%	\$10,000	14%	\$10,000	9%	\$60,000	40%	\$60,000	33%	\$60,000	29%
<b>Management and Administration of Research Enterprise (Salaries for Research and Library employees)</b>	\$20,000	68%	\$20,000	28%	\$106,146	91%	\$89,422	60%	\$121,128	67%	\$144,449	71%
<b>Total</b>	\$29,318	100%	\$71,481	100%	\$116,146	100%	\$149,422	100%	\$181,128	100%	\$204,449	100%

## Mitacs Accelerate

**Mitacs** is a not-for-profit organization that funds collaborative research projects between universities, industry, and government. Its programs—such as Accelerate, Elevate, and Globalink—provide researchers and students with opportunities for research training, knowledge transfer, and strategic partnership development.



At Saint Paul University, Mitacs awards have supported several faculty-led research projects and offered students valuable experiential learning opportunities, thereby strengthening the institution's applied research capacity.

Title		Socially Innovative Entrepreneurship Across Cultures
Academic supervisor	Wilson, Amanda	Saint Paul University
Student intern	Brkic, Tatjana	Doctoral student Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Partner organization	10086145 MANITOBA LTD.	
Duration	January 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024	
Funding	\$90,000	

Title		Understanding Barriers & Interventions for the Development of Muslim Youth Leadership
Academic supervisor	Wilson, Amanda	Saint Paul University
Student intern	Zahran, Ghassan	Doctoral student Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Partner organization	5010573 Ontario Inc	
Duration	January 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025	
Funding	\$45,000	

Title		The impact of federal funding policies & practices on the communities served by federally funded nonprofits and charities
Academic supervisor	Maki, Krys	Saint Paul University
Student intern	Osman, Muna	Post-doctoral researcher Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Partner organization	Imagine Canada	
Duration	September 1, 2024 - April 28, 2026	
Funding	\$105,000	

## Internally Funded Research Projects

Mettre à l'échelle des communs pour construire une société au-delà de la croissance : outils, design institutionnel et stratégies de transition	
Grantee	Durand Folco, Jonathan
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Funding	\$5,000
Canadian Minorities: Equitable Access to cultural representation in Canada?	
Grantee	Gunter, Christopher
Faculty	Human Sciences





School	Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Funding	\$5,000
<b>How Younger People Experience Christian Worship: Listening Deeply Through Qualitative Analysis</b>	
Grantee	Johnson, Sarah Kathleen
Faculty	Theology
School	Theology
Funding	\$5,000
<b>Les plateformes numériques et l'économie néropolitique du care : étude des mécanismes de coercition aux services et aux soins à domicile au Canada</b>	
Grantee	Lavoie-Moore, Myriam
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	School of Social Communication
Funding	\$3,965
<b>Rôle de l'ethnicité et de la culture dans la prise en charge de la démence : une revue de la portée de l'expérience des aidants issus de la diversité ethnique et culturelle au Canada</b>	
Grantee	Mavounza, Céline
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	School of Counselling, Psychotherapy and Spirituality
Funding	\$4,500
<b>Ce qui brûle : la circulation du désir entre la race et l'environnement</b>	
Grantee	Néméh-Nombré, Philippe
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Funding	\$4,500
<b>Comment adapter son engagement aux temps présents ? Pier Paolo Pasolini et l'éthique de l'abjuration comme technique de soi</b>	
Grantee	Paquette Julie
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Funding	\$3,400
<b>Grasping the Canadian culture of academic integrity: a training initiative for SPU international students</b>	
Grantee	Séguin, Michaël
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	School of leadership, Ecology and Equity
Funding	\$5,000
<b>Cultivating Epistemic Justice and Intersectionality within Social Innovation</b>	
Grantee	Wilson, Amanda
Faculty	Human Sciences
School	Élisabeth-Bruyère School of Social Innovation
Funding	\$4,984



## Engagement and philanthropy: the pillars of a sustainable future

### A new chapter for the Alumni and Development Office

In 2024, the Alumni and Development Office (ADO) is pleased to welcome Christine Cléroux as Director, Development and Outreach. Driven by a sincere commitment to the university community and an informed strategic vision, Ms. Cléroux joins the team with the ambition of fulfilling two key mandates: reconnecting with the alumni community and mobilizing more philanthropic resources for the SPU.

Two complementary priorities shape the ADO:

- First, reconnecting with the alumni community: this is not only about reestablishing ties, but about reviving a sense of collective, lasting, and fruitful belonging. The ADO encourages authentic exchanges, promoting initiatives that invite active participation, co-construction, and the creation of vibrant and supportive networks. Whether through hybrid gatherings, mentoring, interactive platforms, or inspiring testimonials, we leverage the power of personal stories to cultivate this university community beyond the years of study.
- Second, increasing donations to SPU, both by renewing the support of the current donor community and by engaging new philanthropic prospects. The ADO is convinced that every contribution can have a tangible impact and is working to develop personalized and creative fundraising strategies that highlight the concrete benefits of the actions funded. Transparency, storytelling, sincere recognition, and targeted communication will be the pillars of its approach to building trust and sustainable philanthropy.

We are confident that the ADO will set new standards for engagement, stewardship, and impact. We now envision a more united community of alumni and donors, as well as a future in which all alumni and donors feel fully connected and invested in the mission of SPU.





*Saint Paul University is full of treasures waiting to be discovered! Every day, inspiring projects come to life here. My role is to highlight these initiatives to our alumni and donor community, strengthening our bonds and encouraging their engagement. I look forward to working with the team to build a vibrant, committed alumni and donor community that is proud to contribute to SPU's future. Together, we will accomplish great things and bring meaningful projects to life.*

**Christine Cléroux**  
**Director, Development and Outreach**

## Internal Bursaries

The Alumni and Development Office plays a vital role in supporting students at Saint Paul University, notably through its competitive internal scholarship program. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our donors, the University was able to award over **\$66,250** in scholarships this year to students across all levels of study, recognizing their exceptional engagement and outstanding academic achievements. This scholarship program, aligned with SPU's strategic priorities, clearly demonstrates the tangible impact of philanthropy on student success. At the same time, the ADO works to strengthen connections between alumni and the University while mobilizing crucial philanthropic support to advance its initiatives and offer alumni exclusive engagement programs and benefits.

## GALA Membership

In 2025, SPU became a proud member of the [GALA network](#). **GALA** stands for Global Academy of Liberal Arts, with its headquarters in Bath Spa, UK. It is an international community of diverse, innovative, and socially responsible universities and colleges whose aim is to transform lives and to enhance global understanding through interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching and research. The GALA network boasts 15 partners in 13 countries across 5 continents. Thus far, GALA has promoted SPU's *Introduction to Leadership, Ecology, and Equity* summer course through its network, and has cordially opened the doors for contributions from SPU researchers to GALA's upcoming symposium.



## Researchers of the month

Launched in January 2025, this initiative aims at promoting and increasing the visibility of SPU research in all its forms, from academic publications, to op-eds, to external research grants, to knowledge mobilization projects, from the past academic year. Anyone who has produced research in the preceding academic year qualifies to be a researcher of the month.

The rubric has a permanent place on [SPU's website](#). The formula that has been working well thus far is two researchers featured each month, with a photo and links to their respective research projects. An effort is made to diversify and feature bilingual research, as well as research produced by both faculty and non-faculty members, early, mid-, as well as later career researchers.

## RIC Membership

SPU became a joint member (with uOttawa) of RIC. Research Impact Canada, headquartered at York University in Toronto, is a national leader in helping universities and other organizations create value and impact from knowledge. RIC boasts 20+ members across Canada, US, and UK. Since SPU became a member, our graduate students and professors have taken advantage of the 8-week webinar focusing on knowledge mobilization MobilizeU (free of charge for members), participated in the Annual RIC Meeting held in Ottawa, as well as other monthly meetings, webinars, and training sessions. This year, Katrina Leclerc, a doctoral student became the Doctoral recipient of the Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award for Graduate Students (RIC Award) and was featured in the 2025 RIC Engaged Scholarship Award Webinar.



## Engagement and eco-responsibility

A commitment to society and the planet inspires the entire University.

### Pastoral Services

The Pastoral Services of Saint Paul University remain committed to fostering an inclusive, welcoming, and spiritually enriching environment for the entire university community. During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Service collaborated closely with various faculties to support and coordinate liturgical, social, and spiritual events in line with the University’s mission.

The mission of Pastoral Services is rooted in the core values of Saint Paul University: the pursuit of knowledge within the Catholic intellectual tradition; the promotion of human dignity through truth, justice, peace, and care for creation; service to marginalized people; and openness to all religious traditions.

#### Highlights of the year:

##### 1. “Coexistence” Dialogue Circle

In collaboration with the School of Leadership, Ecology and Equity, Pastoral Services continued to support the *Coexistence* Dialogue Circle, an interreligious and intercultural space for reflection on peaceful coexistence and global issues.

##### 2. Diversity of Celebrations and Spiritual Care

In a spirit of inclusion and ecumenical collaboration, Pastoral Services coordinated a wide range of spiritual celebrations and activities throughout the year, including:

- Catholic Masses and Anglican liturgies
- Monthly ecumenical vespers
- Thematic prayers, Bible sharing, and interfaith celebrations
- Opening Mass, patronal feast, and Convocation ceremonies
- Celebrations in collaboration with the Faculties of Canon Law and Theology (including Anglican Studies)
- Key liturgical moments: Ash Wednesday, Advent, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed



### 3. Mass in Honor of Saint Kateri

In collaboration with the Indigenous Centre, a special Mass was celebrated on October 21 to mark the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, with active participation from Indigenous communities.

### 4. Mass for the Repose of the Soul Pope Francis

Following the passing of Pope Francis, a special Mass was celebrated to honor his ministry and spiritual legacy.

## Indigenous Centre Initiatives

This year, the Indigenous Centre continued to welcome and support students, offering a safe and vibrant space for community, learning, and cultural exchange. We were honoured to host inspiring guests, including Senator Michèle Audette, Ontario Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont, and an Indigenous scholar from the University of Manitoba, who shared insights on the challenges and opportunities facing Indigenous students and communities.

Our ongoing Kokom and Choom Tea and Bannock gatherings remained central to student life, creating opportunities to connect with Knowledge Keepers, share traditions and stories, and promote Indigenous scholarships.

We proudly celebrated student achievements, including David Elliot Claveau, recipient of multiple bursaries upon graduating in June 2025, and Gail Joly, Indigenous Valedictorian and future master's student.

Throughout the year, the Centre organized and participated in meaningful events:

- **September:** Orange Shirt Day activities, including a visit to Beechwood Cemetery to honour Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce and participation in the unveiling of the Indian Residential School Memorial monument.
- **October:** Fall Harvest Potluck and a Mass honouring Saint Kateri Tekakwitha with the Anishnabe-Algonquin Women's Choir.
- **November:** Ceremony for Indigenous Veterans and a Moose Hide Campaign workshop.
- **January:** Visit by Ontario Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont and Wigwas (Birch Bark) arts and crafts workshop.
- **March:** Storytelling by Elder Gracy Ratt and the annual Pancake Feast with maple syrup.
- **June:** Graduation smudge ceremony, eagle feather gifts to graduates, and the Strawberry Pancake Feast.



We also strengthened partnerships with local and national institutions, participated in an Anishnabemowin language camp, engaged with students through classroom teachings and Tibadjimon (knowledge exchange sessions), and joined recruitment initiatives like the Government of Canada’s FSWEF program.

Open year-round, **the Centre welcomed more than 1,250 participants** at events, classes, and visits — each encounter fostering cultural understanding, connection, and belonging.

## Franco-Ontarian Day celebration

On September 25, in celebration of Franco-Ontarian Day, Marie-Michèle Laferrière, President of the Board of Governors, and Rector Louis Patrick Leroux proudly hoisted the Franco-Ontarian flag in front of Saint Paul University. This symbolic act highlights the importance of the French language and Franco-Ontarian culture for all those who choose to live, learn, and work in French in Ontario.



## Ecological Fair at Saint Paul University

On March 26, 2025, Saint Paul University hosted its first Ecological Fair, organized in collaboration with the Student Association, the Oblate Centre, the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, the School of Leadership, Ecology and Equity, the School of Social Innovation, the School of Social Communication, and the Faculty of Theology. Ten community organizations from the National Capital Region also participated.



The event aimed to raise awareness of ecological issues, share experiences, and promote collective reflection through interactive exhibits, a film screening, and panel discussions. This inaugural edition marks the beginning of a lasting university–community partnership in the pursuit of ecological justice.

## 50 years of commitment to mental health: half a century of expertise and compassion

In October 2024, Saint Paul University celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre. Since its establishment in 1974, the Centre has been a cornerstone in the training of future psychotherapists, advancing research, and improving access to mental health services.

The event brought together members of the university community, partners, and alumni to celebrate this collective legacy. It was also an opportunity to pay tribute to all those who, over the decades, have contributed to the Centre’s academic and social impact.

The Centre embodies SPU’s mission to help build a more humane and just world. It continues to address growing mental health needs with an inclusive approach rooted in compassion and scientific rigour.

## Celebrating Inclusion. Embracing Diversity. Building Authentic Connections.

The Student Success Office at Saint Paul University, in collaboration with Collège Boréal and Lambton College, organized a joint event aimed at fostering inclusion, dialogue, and a sense of belonging within our student communities.

International students and alumni shared powerful stories about adapting to new cultural and academic environments. Their testimonies highlighted resilience in the face of language barriers, experiences of inequality, and the vital role of social connections in their integration journey.

This event marks only the beginning. More initiatives will be planned to continue this collective and inclusive effort across our three institutions.

## The Okanagan Charter

The university community came together to mark an important milestone: the signing of the Okanagan Charter. This landmark document serves as a guide for post-secondary institutions



that share the mission of promoting health and well-being on campus among students, faculty, and staff.

The signing also provided the occasion to introduce the Saint Paul University Well-Being Committee and its mandate to the community.

## The World is our Classroom

Saint Paul University continues to identify and evaluate initiatives that open us to the world and make the world our classroom.

## Latin-American Film Festival

In partnership with the Group of Embassies of Latin American Countries (GRULA) in Canada, Saint Paul University proudly hosted the 28th edition of the Latin American Film Festival (LAFF). This year's program featured an exceptional line-up of films from 15 countries — Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay — representing a rich variety of genres including drama, fiction, thriller, animation, and documentary. All films were screened with English subtitles, and many had already earned national and international acclaim through nominations and awards at prestigious film festivals.

Multiple screenings took place on campus, attracting strong attendance from both the University community and the broader public. The success of this edition reaffirmed the vitality of the partnership, which is set to continue in the coming years. Proceeds from ticket sales will be directed towards the creation of new scholarships for Saint Paul University students, further reinforcing the festival's impact beyond the screen.

## Launch of “SPU Talks” — podcasts to think differently

Saint Paul University has launched a new podcast series in collaboration with Le Droit: *SPU Talks*. This initiative creates a space for dialogue where major societal questions are explored through a diversity of voices and expertise.

Each episode invites listeners to discover fresh perspectives through insightful conversations with professors, researchers, and engaged guests.





Beyond academic reflection, this initiative reflects SPU's commitment to supporting the vitality of the Francophonie in minority settings. By creating a francophone media space, the University offers the community an accessible platform where academic knowledge meets contemporary issues affecting francophones in Canada and beyond.

The French-language podcast series will continue its mission with a second season, once again in partnership with *Le Droit*. In parallel, four short volumes written by our researchers and inspired by the episodes will be published by the University of Ottawa Press by May 2026. Finally, an English-language podcast series, produced by Saint Paul University, will also be launched.

### SPU takes the Camino de Santiago — a new way of teaching

A group of Saint Paul University students embarked on a unique walking seminar along the legendary Camino de Santiago, starting in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France. This exceptional course, designed and led by Professor Anna-Maria Moubayed, Ph.D., is grounded in experiential learning. It combines critical thinking, intercultural dialogue, and personal growth through an immersive educational journey.

The experience included physical challenges and cultural immersion in the heart of the Pyrenees, providing a truly holistic learning environment.



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## Effectiveness and efficiency

The University is broadening the scope of its action by focusing on a collaborative and innovative approach.

### Partnerships that open new international horizons

In 2024-2025, Saint Paul University strengthened its international presence by establishing several strategic partnerships with higher education institutions around the world. These collaborations aim to foster cultural, academic, and research exchanges while advancing the University's educational and social mission.

Saint Paul University first celebrated its new partnership agreement with Antonine University, a Catholic institution based in Lebanon. "We are very proud to officially be partnering with Antonine University," said Rector Louis Patrick Leroux. "By signing this memorandum of understanding, we are formalizing the open spirit of collaboration and cooperation that already exists between our two institutions. We look forward to the future opportunities that will grow from this partnership."

In the same spirit of collaboration, SPU signed an agreement with the University of Alcalá in Spain. This official partnership establishes a framework to facilitate future collaborations in cultural, academic, and research fields, paving the way for new international exchanges.

The University also had the honour of hosting the presidents of Catholic colleges and universities from across Canada. This gathering provided an opportunity for collective reflection on the future of Catholic education in the country, as participants shared common challenges and reaffirmed a shared commitment to education that inspires and transforms.

Finally, Saint Paul University and Bethlehem University in Palestine inaugurated an official partnership during a signing ceremony. This agreement lays the foundation for meaningful collaboration in cultural, academic, and research areas, strengthening the ties between the two institutions.

These partnerships reflect Saint Paul University's commitment to engaging globally by cultivating lasting connections with partners who share its values of openness, dialogue, and excellence.



## Official visits highlight SPU's ongoing commitments

This year, Saint Paul University had the honour of welcoming two prominent figures from Ontario's political landscape: Her Honour Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and Minister Caroline Mulroney, Ontario's Minister of Francophone Affairs. These separate visits provided valuable opportunities to highlight key issues related to education, social innovation, and French-language services. Both guests were introduced to several of SPU's flagship initiatives, including the Indigenous Centre, the Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Workshop, and the Jean-Léon Allie Library, and engaged in meaningful conversations with members of the university and Eastern Ontario's Francophone community. We also had the privilege of hosting several ambassadors, creating a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties with the diplomatic community of the National Capital Region. Together, these visits underscored SPU's active role in social dialogue and its commitment to inclusion, minority Francophonie, and intercultural engagement.

## Advancement and Outreach Team

Under the leadership of Rector Louis Patrick Leroux, Saint Paul University has established a **Development and Outreach Team** bringing together key strategic leaders: the Associate Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation, the Director of Development and Alumni Relations, the Director of Marketing, Communications and Web, and the Director of Partnerships and Internationalization. This multidisciplinary team works in close synergy to foster collaboration on key projects that will shape the University's future, while enhancing its profile and impact within the local, national, and international community.

## Staff Appreciation Day

On March 3, Saint Paul University took a moment to recognize and celebrate the remarkable contributions of colleagues who have dedicated significant time, energy, and talent to the university community. This recognition especially honored those who retired or reached milestone years of service—such as 25, 30, 35, or more than 40 years—over the past two years (before December 31, 2022). Faculty and staff were invited to join the celebration with a dinner provided for all, followed by a ceremony presenting awards that acknowledged their exceptional commitment. The community was also encouraged to share testimonials highlighting the qualities, gifts, and exemplary dedication these individuals demonstrated throughout their careers at SPU, reflecting the rich human spirit that drives the University.



## SPU Top Chef: a flavourful and unifying competition

Among the many activities organized this year to support staff well-being and strengthen team spirit, Top Chef SPU stood out for its originality and success. In a spirit of camaraderie and shared enjoyment, Saint Paul University held its very first edition of this friendly culinary competition, open to all staff members. The challenge: prepare the best pasta sauce. All creations were put to the test during a community meal, where colleagues voted for their favourite sauce.

This fun and warmhearted event highlighted the hidden culinary talents within the university community, while strengthening connections among colleagues over a shared meal. A great success that reflects the team spirit and creativity that define SPU.

Congratulations to **Alexandra Mongrain**, winner of this first edition, and thanks to all participants for their remarkable (and delicious) contribution to the event.

## Financial statements

The audited financial statements of SPU comprise the statement of financial position, the operations, changes in net assets and cash flow statements and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial statements are available on [our website](#).

