

PURPOSE

The School of Environment and Sustainability is a national leader in solutions-focused research and teaching across environmental sciences, sustainability, and community-engaged scholarship. We focus on water security, energy and mineral resources, and community sustainability, with a special commitment to serving rural, remote, Indigenous, and Northern communities, ecosystems, and economies. By convening and working with a broad range of partners, including federal and provincial governments, industry, and local and community-based organizations, our work supports nation-building in Canada - now and for future generations.

MISSION

To inspire and train change-makers for a sustainable world: Through research, teaching, and community engagement working across engineering, natural sciences and social sciences, the School of Environment and Sustainability leads transformative change on complex environmental, and sustainability challenges by collaborating with global and local partners, and mobilizing knowledge, with a special commitment to benefitting rural, remote, Indigenous, and Northern communities, in our province, country, and around the world.

VISION

To be a leading light in a world where communities, ecosystems, and economies thrive together: To be the leading global academic hub for research, teaching, and engagement in *water security, energy and mineral sustainability, and community resilience* with a special commitment to rural, remote, Indigenous and Northern communities in a world where communities, ecosystems, and economies thrive together, guided by environmental stewardship and a commitment to social well-being.

VALUES

Aligning with the University values statement, SENS considers the following Values to guide the School's activities:

PURPOSEFUL IMPACT— “Discovery the World Needs”: The knowledge that our work creates (and in many cases co-creates with external partners) is germane to the challenges of our era and will contribute to the social, cultural, ecological, and economic goals of a range of partners and communities we serve. We aim for local impact and global relevance.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION: We thrive through our relationships and connections—a strength rooted in the pragmatism and ambition of a community that recognizes that we can simply do more by working together.

COMMUNITY & SENSE OF PLACE: We are inspired by and deeply rooted in local priorities, yet strongly connected to global knowledge and opportunities.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP: We understand that tackling the world's greatest challenges requires the intersection of diverse minds, traditions, experiences, and ways of knowing.

RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION: We embrace complexity and change, helping governments, industry, and communities adapt and encouraging stewardship that benefits ecosystems, economies, and societies.

Aligning with key University signature areas, SENS prioritizes the following signature areas to guide the School's research, teaching, and engagement priorities:

WATER

- Improving water quality and accessibility through foundational research at the water, food, and energy nexus
- Seeking solutions to land-water management challenges
- Building climate and water resilient communities and sectors
- Addressing, water-based health inequities

ENERGY AND MINERALS RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- Identifying accessible and sustainable energy solutions that engage and benefit rural, Northern, and Indigenous communities
- Generating critical mineral innovations to help meet international demands for low-carbon and renewable energy technologies and food production

COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Promoting social innovation, biocultural diversity, community connections, and local capacity-building
- Enhancing rural, remote, Northern, and Indigenous communities' efforts and capacity for environmental stewardship and self-determination
- Supporting empowered and inclusive evidence-based decision-making by those we work with, better enabling them to identify and establish the policies, practices, and resources needed to address the realities of both a changing climate and rapid geopolitical realignment
- Focusing on effective and equitable governance arrangements that provide self-sufficiency, resilience, and long-term sustainability

SENS Faculty Council Approved

March 12, 2026

Amended
