McGill University – Principal & Vice-Chancellor

McGill invites applications for our next Principal and Vice Chancellor (Principal), who will have a unique opportunity to lead McGill into its third century and to further increase its impact in Québec, across Canada, and around the world. The next Principal will lead and inspire the McGill community to build on its many strengths in order to be a 21-century global university of choice for students, faculty and staff.

Founded in 1821, McGill University is one of Canada’s most prestigious public institutions of higher learning and one of the leading universities in the world. McGill’s mission is to advance learning and create and share knowledge by offering the best possible education, by carrying out research and scholarly activities judged to be excellent by the highest international standards, and by providing service to society. In fulfilling its mission, McGill embraces the principles of academic freedom, integrity, responsibility, equity and inclusiveness.

McGill has grown into a bustling institution with three campuses, 11 Faculties, some 300 programs of study and close to 40,000 students. McGill has ranked in the top two “Research University of the Year” in Canada for 17 consecutive years and is the country’s top medical-doctoral university (Maclean’s University Rankings 2022). Total sponsored research income at McGill is over $687 million annually.

McGill’s next Principal will be an accomplished academic leader who embraces our unique history while setting a bold vision for the future. The Principal will work in collaboration with the McGill community to develop and deliver a 21st century vision that elevates McGill’s prominence and capacity as a global leader in higher education. They will steer the sound operational and financial management of the University and champion a supportive and inclusive working and learning culture.

We welcome applications from candidates with a track record of strategic leadership. Candidates need to be bilingual in English and French, and ideally have experience in, or a substantive knowledge of, the unique French speaking and multicultural context of Québec.

How to Apply

McGill is partnering with the executive search firm Perrett Laver on this search. Applications should consist of a full CV detailing academic and professional qualifications and relevant achievements. It should be accompanied by a cover letter describing how candidates meet the selection criteria, why the appointment is of interest, and what they believe they can bring to the role. Further information, including details of how to apply, can be downloaded at perrettlaver.com/candidates, quoting reference 5809.

Commitment to Equity and Diversity

McGill University is committed to equity and diversity within its community and values academic rigour and excellence. We welcome and encourage applications from racialized persons/visible minorities, women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as from all qualified candidates with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities.

McGill further recognizes and fairly considers the impact of leaves (e.g., family care or health-related) that may contribute to career interruptions or slowdowns. Candidates are encouraged to signal any leave that affected productivity, or that may have had an effect on their career path. This information will be considered to ensure the equitable assessment of the candidate’s record.

McGill implements an employment equity program and encourages members of designated equity groups to self-identify. It further seeks to ensure the equitable treatment and full inclusion of persons with disabilities by striving for the implementation of universal design principles transversally, across all facets of the
University community, and through accommodation policies and procedures. Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations for any part of the application process may contact, in confidence, to Ms. Cora Hui, at cora.hui@perrettlaverg.com.

All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.