

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary

Post-secondary institutions across the country are coming together to help make campuses more inclusive with the new Reducing Barriers to Education digital platform—and Selkirk College has been instrumental in facilitating this collaboration.

The platform provides a place where institutions can post information about homegrown initiatives to increase access to education. Details might include how a project was designed and funded, and how to get more information. As a repository of initiatives that are having an impact, the platform can eliminate some of the legwork associated with conceiving of and launching a new project.

“The platform gives us a place to demonstrate the projects we’re taking on as institutions and share ideas,” says Kate Nott, chair of the School of Academic Upgrading & Development at Selkirk College, who has been involved in the pan-Canadian project since its inception in 2019. “The goal is to help us avoid reinventing the wheel on common issues.”

The platform grew out of Colleges & Institutes Canada’s (CICan) commitment to support productive collaboration among institutes through the ImpAct initiative, which is making practical progress on the SDGs.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Making campuses more inclusive by increasing access to education
2. Collaborating with other institutions to share ideas
3. Addresses systemic barriers to quality education

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** At the start of this project, we worked together to try to narrow our focus on the theme of reducing barriers to education. Collectively identifying the barriers at each institution was eye opening and challenging as it was hard to narrow it down. We overcame this by recognizing we have a lot of overlapping barriers and that we don’t always have access to resources to address them all. The development of the website as a resource allowed us to overcome this by providing access to what other places are doing and what we could possibly adopt or build from at our own institutions.
- 2.** Another challenge was that we didn’t want to create a resource that would be unsustainable after the project’s completion. We overcame this by building the website with this in mind. We worked with the Algonquin college students’ who created it to allow for it to live and grow beyond the project end date.
- 3.** A third challenge was our ability to include other institutions. We created a submissions page so that other institutions could share their stories/projects and we could strengthen the opportunity for everyone to see what institutions are doing. We leaned on the other PWG groups to solicit participation and are sending it out to contacts across Canada to gather more. We have been successful in getting other institutions to participate and are aiming to continue this growth.

SDG Accord Reporting 2022 CASE STUDY

Conclusions and recommendations

“Being involved in this project since the beginning has helped strengthen our focus on accessible education here at Selkirk College,” says Nott. “It has also created a national network of care and collaboration that will help advance the SDGs in institutions across the country.”

Remaining committed and focused on reducing barriers to education for all.

Providing more opportunities for post-secondary institutions to collaborate across the country will continue to allow positive networking that leads to raised awareness and increased action on the SDGs.

Ongoing support by Selkirk College for projects that address the SDGs through education and action.

Merging the work of this PWG with the CICan’s EDI projects would be a good next step for moving forward.

Actively maintaining connections with what other institutions are doing to address the SDGs and building from them.



Kate Nott, Selkirk College's chair of the School of Academic Upgrading & Development, is helping to reduce barriers to education on campuses across the country