



Statement on The Arts and Humanities in Canadian Post-Secondary Education March 2025

The Arts and Humanities play a leading role in fulfilling the mission of the university as an institution of learning. The role of the university is the creation and dissemination of learning and knowledge, and there must be no limits on that knowledge and its creation. The Arts and Humanities reflect on our past and present, and use those learnings to help imagine and create a better future. They focus on the achievements, the failures and above all the striving of human beings to understand and shape not only their own lives but also their relationship to one another. Advances in these areas enhance our knowledge of the human condition, ever changing and developing in different periods and cultures. Beyond the transmission of knowledge, the Arts and Humanities cultivate wisdom and understanding, making people more empathetic, more reflective, better critical thinkers, and effective communicators. The creativity of the Arts in particular allows us to capture, express and evoke our emotions, to inspire, to create beauty, to imagine, and create connection with our fellow humans contemporaneously and across the ages. The Arts and Humanities are under attack at many universities across the country and beyond. They are often a tempting target, with the rationale that they have few majors, but this neglects the contribution that they make to the educational development of the students who take them as minors, certificates, general education courses or electives, and the strengthening of society as a whole. Let us support the Arts and Humanities not just for their sake but for the sake of their essential role in the mission of the university: learning and the creation of knowledge.

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