

Highlights in Toronto Metropolitan University History

2026 TMU announces the appointment of Roberta Iannacito-Provenzano as 10th President and first female to serve in the role, to take office on January 4, 2027. Iannacito-Provenzano will succeed current TMU President Mohamed Lachemi, who has served in the role since 2016. Serving 10 years as president, President Lachemi's legacy is built on opportunity and access, which includes having led the opening of the Lincoln Alexander Law School, the School of Medicine (SoM), and the historic renaming of the university. TMU also opened two SoM integrated health clinics. The flagship location is at the Brampton campus and a satellite location is in downtown Brampton—it will connect more than 14,000 residents to a family doctor and community-centred, team-based care over the next two years.

2025 The TMU School of Medicine opens its doors to its inaugural cohort of 94 undergraduate medical learners. After opening, the SoM saw major gifts from the [Ontario](#) and [Federal](#) governments, [the 407 ETR](#) and the [Orlando Corporation](#). Fundraising efforts for the SoM are continuing. TMU breaks ground to build the Student Wellbeing Centre on Bond Street, named after Canadian entrepreneur and city-builder, Nadir Mohamed. Also on Bond Street, a new student residence is in construction and is slated to open in 2030. TMU launched DMZ in Japan and Dundas TTC station was officially renamed to TMU station.

2024 Toronto Metropolitan University unveils new signage at its School of Medicine Building in Brampton, marking significant progress towards opening in 2025. The Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst celebrates its fifth anniversary and secures \$16 million in renewed funding from Rogers Communications and RBC. TMU's DMZ Ventures launches a new fund for early-stage startups, committing up to \$5 million to boost Canadian innovation. Additionally, TMU expanded its research capacity by welcoming Karen Soldatić as its second Canada Excellence Research Chair in health equity, supported by an \$8 million, eight-year program.

2023 Toronto Metropolitan University celebrates three significant milestone anniversaries - 75 years as a school, 30 years as a university and 1 year under our new name. This milestone year marked the inaugural convocation of our first cohort of graduates from the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto's first new law school in over 100 years. TMU also took big steps forward in our efforts to deliver a new kind of medical school in Brampton, announcing the Bramalea Civic Centre as the future site of the school.

2022 In April, the university announces our new name. Toronto Metropolitan University is a reflection of who we have always been: an urban institution dedicated to excellence, innovation, inclusion and creativity. Our new name also reflects who we aim to be: a place where all feel welcome, seen, represented and celebrated.

2021 Toronto Metropolitan University receives a planning grant from the government of Ontario that will support the university in developing a proposal for a School of Medicine in Brampton. The proposal will detail Toronto Metropolitan University's approach to health education, with a focus on primary care, expanded use of technology to better meet patient needs, inter-professional practice and the provision of culturally competent care. Toronto Metropolitan University welcomes new Provost and Vice-President Academic, Jennifer S. Simpson and Janice Fukakusa begins her second term as Chancellor. In April, the faculty of Law was renamed the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University University.

2020 The university opens the Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex (DCC), bringing together four schools in the Faculty of Community Services (FCS) and providing innovative labs and classroom space, research space, and a student residence. The year marked the creation of six strategic plans that will guide the university for years to come including the 2030 Strategic Vision, the Campus Master Plan, Fundraising, Internationalization, Scholarly Research, and the Academic Plan 2020-25. The university released the Anti-Black Racism Climate Review Report, which examines systemic racism and barriers on campus and made recommendations on how to move forward with the entire community. In September 2020, the Faculty of Law welcomed its inaugural class after 10 years of planning, legal consultations and approvals.

2019 Spring convocation, now in its new home at the Mattamy Athletic Centre, sees the highest number of graduates to cross the stage (5,816) with more family and friends than ever to watch their achievement (18,500). The university opens the Centre for Urban Innovation (CUI), a research, incubation and commercialization hub focused on finding solutions to urban challenges. The state of the art collaborative space supports researchers and innovators with strong industry links to alternative energy, water management, food, human health, data analytics, and urban infrastructure.

2018 Marks a very special double anniversary for the university: seventy years ago the Ryerson Institute of Technology was founded and twenty-five years ago Ryerson University was granted full university status by the Ontario government. The report *Truth and Reconciliation at Ryerson: Building a Foundation for Generations to Come* was presented to the president and provost in a community celebration. Janice Fukakusa is named the university's 5th Chancellor The women's volleyball team wins their first national championship.

2017 The university hosted the 86th annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the largest congress ever with a record attendance of more than 10,000 delegates. Extensive Congress programming showcased the diversity of the university and City of Toronto. The university launched the Science Discovery Zone (SDZ), the 10th learning innovation zone. The university hosts the Women's Volleyball National Championship and is also a proud supporter and venue for Invictus Games Toronto 2017.

2016 Mohamed Lachemi is appointed the university's ninth President and Vice-Chancellor. The DMZ is ranked #1 in North America and third in the world by UBI Global, a research organization specializing in benchmarking startup incubators. The Rams women's and men's

basketball teams triumphed at the CIS National Championship, taking home silver and bronze medals respectively.

2015 The award winning Student Learning Centre opens on Yonge Street. The university hosts its first national university sports championship – the men’s Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Final 8, where the Rams basketball team wins bronze – the team’s first CIS medal. Jack Cockwell and Brookfield Partner Foundation gifts \$16 million to the university and the Make Your Mark Campaign closes, surpassing its \$200 million goal.

2014 Provost Mohamed Lachemi unveils a new, five-year academic plan: *Our Time to Lead*. Governor General David Johnston officially opens BIL-Ryerson DMZ India accelerator in Mumbai. Ryerson was announced as host venue for Pan Am and Parapan Am Games basketball. Janice Fukakusa elected chair of the Board of Governors. Former Chancellor G. Raymond Chang passes away.

2013 Senate approves Optional Specialization in Zone Education as Zone Learning initiative takes shape. Mohamed Lachemi appointed provost and vice-president, academic. Ryerson acquires two properties, 202 Jarvis Street and 136 Dundas Street East, for future development.

2012 Prime Minister Stephen Harper makes a ceremonial puck drop at the new Mattamy Athletics Centre at the Gardens (named for \$15 million gift from Peter Gilgan and Mattamy Homes). His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visits Ryerson during a royal tour of Canada. The Ryerson Image Centre opens. Lawrence Bloomberg is appointed chancellor. The university announces plans for a new student residence on Jarvis Street. Gould Street is officially declared a pedestrian zone. Launch of a \$200-million Make Your Mark fundraising campaign. The Faculty of Science is launched.

2011 Planning starts for a new Health Sciences building with a \$56.4-million grant from the Government of Ontario.

2010 The Digital Media Zone (DMZ) becomes a showcase for student innovation and talent. A new athletics and recreation centre is being built at Maple Leaf Gardens. The Centre for Urban Energy is established.

2009 Ryerson remains the most applied-to university in Ontario relative to undergraduate available spaces. Ryerson is the third-fastest growing research university in Canada and the fastest-growing in Ontario with \$19.9 million in research funding, a remarkable 32.8% increase in research year over year. President Sheldon Levy announces his vision of Toronto as a digital media hub.

2008 Ryerson launches a bold new academic plan, *Shaping our Future: Academic Plan* for 2008-2013. Ryerson purchases the Sam the Record Man property on Yonge Street, the future home of the Student Learning Centre.

2007 Ryerson's Faculty of Business is renamed The Ted Rogers School of Management in recognition of a \$15-million transformational gift from Ted and Loretta Rogers. Ryerson's School of Graduate Studies continues its success and growth: nine new programs are added in fall, bringing total graduate programs to 27, including seven leading to a PhD. The university launches its first post-doctoral fellowship program.

2006 President Sheldon Levy announces his Master Plan for Ryerson, which calls for campus expansion and integration with the downtown Toronto community. The university campus undergoes its biggest growth in 30 years, including the opening of the Ryerson Business Building on Bay Street and Heaslip House, home of The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education. G. Raymond Chang is appointed Chancellor and John Craig Eaton is appointed Ryerson's first Chancellor Emeritus.

2005 Sheldon Levy is appointed Ryerson's eighth President and Vice-Chancellor. The university acquires one of the world's great photography collections, the Black Star Historical Black & White Photography Collection. The 225,000-square-foot George Vari Engineering and Computing Centre officially opens.

2004 The university publicly launches the \$100-million Invest in Futures fundraising campaign. Debut of Ryerson's first three stand-alone PhD programs.

2003 With the double cohort, first-year student enrolment grows by more than 1,000 to total 18,000 undergraduate students. The Bachelor of Arts and Contemporary Studies, Ryerson's first general undergraduate degree program, begins.

2002 The name Ryerson University is made official by an act of the provincial legislature. Two new buildings open: the Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre for Studies in Community Health and the Heidelberg Centre – School of Graphic Communications Management.

2001 Five graduate programs launch in Engineering. Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel are each awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

2000 Ryerson launches its first three graduate programs. Ted and Loretta Rogers donate \$10.5 million to establish the Edward S. Rogers Sr. Graduate School for Advanced Communications. Plans are in place for the largest expansion of the campus in 30 years.

1999 John Craig Eaton is named Ryerson's second chancellor.

1998 Ryerson celebrates its 50th anniversary. The university launches Canada's first degree program in Retail Management.

1996 First honorary doctorate is awarded to the Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada.

1995 Dr. Claude Lajeunesse is installed as Ryerson's seventh president.

1994 David Crombie, a teacher and administrator at Ryerson in the 1960s, is named the university's first chancellor, a post created with university status.

1993 Ryerson Polytechnic University is established by an Act of the provincial legislature, which grants Ryerson a fully funded research role and the power to develop graduate programs.

1992 Ryerson becomes Toronto's second engineering school to receive accreditation from the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. A flag bearing the Ryerson crest is carried aboard the space shuttle Columbia, signifying Ryerson's collaboration in research with Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar. Research funding tops \$9 million since 1986.

1987 The uniquely designed Recreation and Athletics Centre opens, with the historic Normal School façade providing a gateway to its main entrance.

1981 New Architectural Science Building on Church St. opens.

1978 Oakham House, a historic building on Gould St., is renovated and re-opened as a community centre for students, staff, and faculty.