

2018-2019

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

## FOREWORD

The level of engagement Dawson students and employees have shown with sustainability-related projects, courses and activities in 2018-19 is impressive. Dawson's core value of well-being for all and the innovative actions within our campus that work towards this value has helped propel the College into a leadership role in sustainability.

Faculty members are implementing sustainable campus research in Mexico, pioneering food justice work in Montreal and reviewing the influence of carefully structured activities that teach non-violence. Students are developing sustainability-related projects that benefit the College and their community in a wide range of disciplines including Social Sciences, Science, Photography, English, Physical Education as well as end-of-year events and clubs. Staff within Health Services, Campus Life & Leadership, Human Resources and Facilities Management also continue to provide a more comfortable learning environment where social justice & wellness thrive.

Our group effort to implement projects that connect people, benefit the planet and build vibrant communities of learning has been noticeable. With the CEGEP Vert's level of excellence award in 2018-19 and special mention for Dawson's carbon neutral forever announcement, Dawson has established a solid reputation in the sustainability field within Quebec and Canada.

In joining the United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, the Sustainability Office is now reviewing both how we are meeting the UN sustainable development goals and most importantly, how Dawson can further meet these goals to create a healthier and more equitable world by 2030.

We are looking forward to creating an even larger contribution to positive change in 2019-2020.

Sincerely,

Dawson College Sustainability Office

*Chris Adam*  
*Jenn de Vera*  
*Cindy Elliott*



52 species of birds have been identified on campus  
with three species nesting.

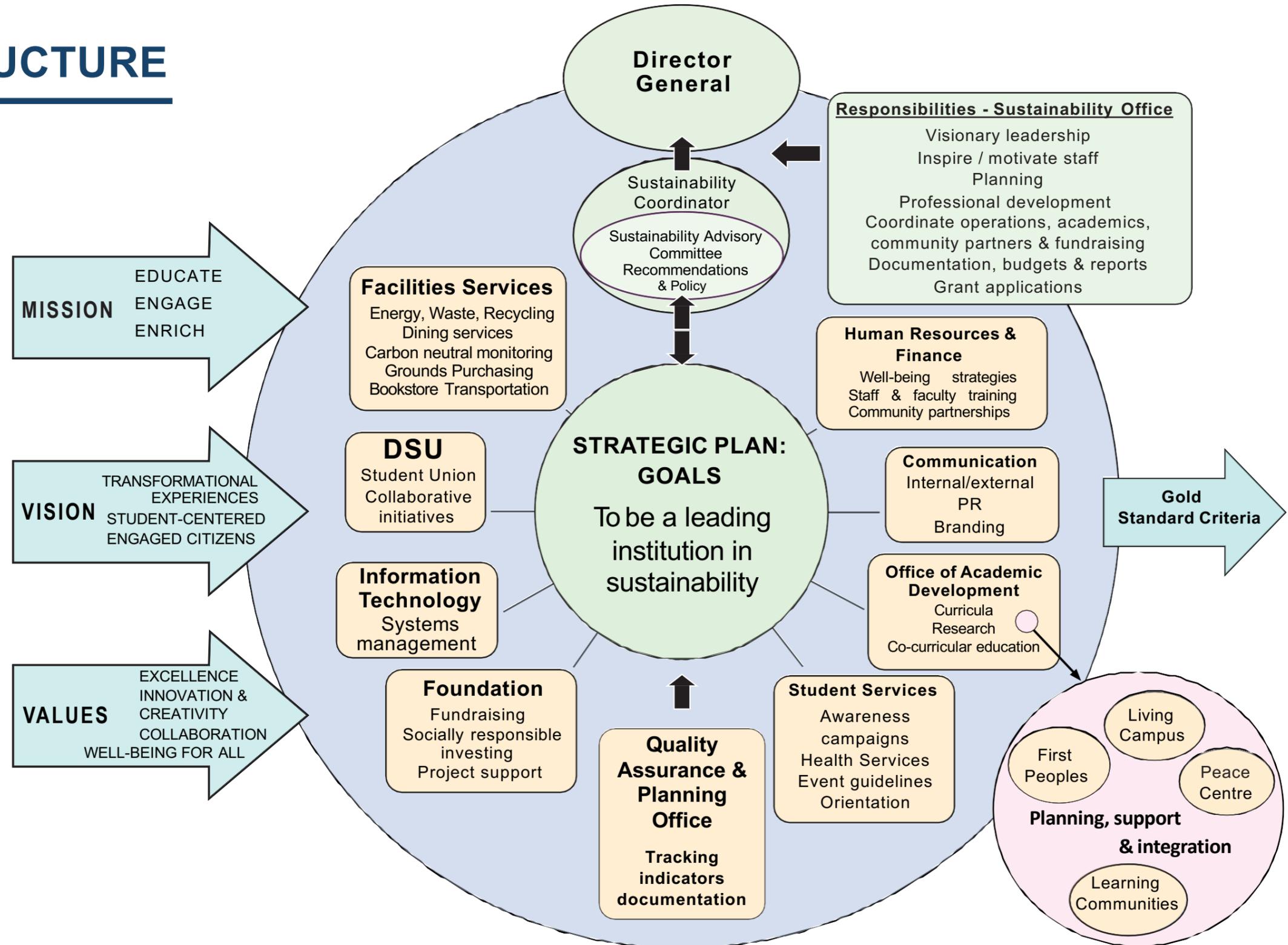
ILLUSTRATION STUDENT EMILY NICKERSON

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# Sustainable Dawson GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Under the leadership of the Sustainability Office, Sustainable Dawson is comprised of the Sustainability Office team, the Sustainable Dawson Advisory Committee, the Quality Assurance & Planning Office, Facilities Management sustainability representatives, and a support team of students and staff collecting data from all sectors of the College.





Living Campus has inspired a Living Schools movement and an annual symposium with an international gathering of educators, researchers and school administrators that further define Living School attributes. Participants share best practices in the application of action-based learning that can transform a school culture. Dawson is modeling opportunities for experiential, global and community-based learning, collaboration, research and connection with Nature.

“On a grander scale, the genius of Living Campus fired my imagination as I realized that it exemplified so many of the recommendations for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning: real-world, project-based learning, creativity and innovation, entrepreneurship, healthy schools, connecting with Nature, sustainability, and so on.”

Dr. Catherine O’Brien, from her book *Education for Sustainable Happiness and Well-Being*, 2016, Routledge, p. 187.



This mural, representing Living School Attributes, welcomes visitors at Cookshire Elementary School in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Cookshire is one of several schools partnering with Dawson.

“What is happening at Cookshire Elementary School is nothing short of inspirational and I wish all children, including mine, could experience it!”

Julia Lijerón  
Office of Academic Development  
Dawson College

# ACADEMICS

**Goal: Increase sustainability literacy by integrating sustainability themes into courses and research**

## Success Indicators

**10% of all research is sustainability-related.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 33% of College research is sustainability related as defined by AASHE (2017-18)

**A minimum of two sustainability-focused or related immersive experiences for students are delivered.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainable Campuses (Mexico); Biology class (Costa Rica)

**The disciplines of French, English, Humanities and Physical Education all offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course.**

✓ **Accomplished**

**Funding for development of sustainability-focused or related courses and/or projects has been secured.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainability Office allocates 20% of budget to project/course development; Human Resources funding Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training

**An increase in the use of the College campus for teaching and learning.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Use of grounds by teachers: 84% increase – 38 (2017); 60(2018); 65 (2019),  
Use of grounds by students: 55% increase – 1238 (2017); 1917 (2018) 1956; (2019)

**90% of all departments offer at least one sustainability-focused or related course.**

**In progress** Metric: 43% of departments

**20% of all courses at Dawson are sustainability-focused or related.**

**In progress** Metric: 15.3 % after reviewing 2 semesters of opened classes (2018-19)

**A Dawson College, open-access platform for information about sustainability-related research, has been established.**

**In review**

**An increase in student and staff sustainability literacy.**

**Not being followed**

**This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:**

1. Foster intentional and coordinated approaches to developing the Graduate Profile outcomes
4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours



*Students inventory the number of insect pollinators in the rooftop "Insect Resort."*

# ENGAGEMENT

**Goal: Engage our community of students, staff and partners in initiatives that promote well-being for all, sustainably**

## Success Indicators

**An increase in social media interaction to promote awareness of sustainability initiatives.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Weekly updates on Facebook, Instagram, with links to web content and Dawson screens posted since January 2018

**An increase in the number of visits to the Dawson sustainability website.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 35% increase from 2017-18 (benchmark Google analytics August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>)

**Increase in the number of employees who have obtained a Sustainable Happiness Certificate.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 2017 - 5 employees ; 2018 – 16 employees ; 2019 - 5 employees with Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training

**Orientation activities for new students and new staff include a sustainability component.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Video and web material ready for April 2019

**Increase in the number of sustainability-related outreach initiatives and campaigns for students**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainability Office and Facilities Management activates - (2017-18 benchmark, 108 activates); 2018-19 - 118 activates

**An increase in student and staff participation in sustainability-related events.**

✓ **Accomplished:** Metric: 20% increase from pervious year for activities offered by Sustainability Office. 2017-18, 3780 participants; 2018-19, 4850 participants

**Awareness of sustainability initiatives has increased among staff and students.**

**To Be Reviewed**

**This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:**

2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
5. Be a leading employer dedicated to employee development and engagement
7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all it endeavours
8. Establish active working relationships with Dawson's external partners and alumni and engage them in helping the College to reach its strategic vision



# OPERATIONS

Goal: Implement practices that contribute to well-being for all, sustainably

This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:

2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
4. Ensure that programs and educational offerings are relevant to the needs of society
6. Promote a culture and practice of continuous improvement in all areas of the College
7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours

## Success Indicators

**60% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Scope 1: Natural Gas = 68% reduction (benchmark 1995)
- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Scope 2: Electricity = 64% reduction through provider; 6% reduction by College (benchmark 2009-10)
- ✓ **In Progress** Metric: Scope 3: Waste = 47% reduction (benchmark 2009-10, excluding transport)

**Reduction in pollutants originating from outdoor equipment.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Upgraded chillers, protocol followed for refrigerants (recapture)

**Landscaping and pest management plan developed for College grounds and biodiversity zones.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Pending final approval from management

**Reduction in amount of paper used at the College.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Admissions reduced 3.4 million pages 2017, Communications 150,000 fewer brochures 2018, 11,002,232 sheets (benchmark 2007-08); 25% reduction in 2017-18. 1.49 million sheets reduced by communications 2018-19

**Increase in student and staff involvement in operations that improve the campus' sustainability efforts**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Facilities Management sustainability tours (infrastructure); 19 presentations and 1762 students participating

**50% of all electronics purchases are energy efficient, end-of-life management (EPEAT) certified.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 88% of computers, printers, tablets are energy conservation GOLD level (photocopiers pending...)

**70% of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste is diverted from landfills.**

- ✓ **Accomplished** Metric: As per contractor policy

**85% of paper used at the College is recycled.**

- ✓ **In review** Metric: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified (paper from responsible sources)



*Jorge Sanchez of Facilities Management reviews sustainability indicators with Yuri Chassin - Député de Saint-Jérôme, representing the "Ministre de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec", honorable Marc Garneau, Transport Minister and Michael Goldwax, Dawson Board of Governors Chair.*

# OPERATIONS

Goal: Implement practices that contribute to well-being for all, sustainably

**Composting and recycling stations are installed.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: 99 three-stream sorting stations installed and 115 compost pick-up points

**40% reduction in waste delivered to landfills.**

**In progress** Metric: Diversion rate: 35% (2018-19). Reduction in waste: 9% (2018-19)

**A procurement screening process that identifies environmentally and socially preferable products and services is established**

**In progress** Metric: Procurement Policy (by-law 10): sustainability statement exists; sustainability procurement guidelines draft document completed

**Decreased water consumption per user and/or per square metre.**

**In progress** Metric: October 2018 - October 2019, 98,608 m<sup>3</sup>; average per month 8217 m<sup>3</sup>

**All paper used by the College is Sustainable Forest Certified, equivalent or post-consumer.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Sustainable Forest Certified equivalent paper purchased



Facilities Management coordinates Dawson's first Repair Café, where computers, cell phones and bicycles were repaired free of charge.

# PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

**Goal: Facilitate the convergence of efforts from across the College, towards the practice and promotion of well-being for all, sustainably**

## Success Indicators

**The Sustainability Office, partners and collaborators coordinate college-wide efforts that advance well-being for all, sustainably**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Facilities Management waste management campaign; Sustainable Happiness training with Human Resources; habitat restoration project with Peace Centre; sustainability awareness with Student Services-orientation of students

**The measurement of sustainability performance has been implemented using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: STARS Matrix for all College sectors created

**Programs that recognize student and staff sustainability accomplishments are established.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Staff sustainability leadership award created; student award on-going

**Student and staff wellness initiatives are implemented.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Weekly Yoga and meditation available for staff; monthly health tips for students; health services department maintained with full-time nurse; reduced rates for staff fitness classes maintained; Bixi bike reductions available to all; sexual awareness training for staff; sustainable happiness training; stress & anxiety reduction awareness campaigns; psychologists available for students on-site

**External contractors hired by the College pay a living wage to their employees.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Cleaning contract employees receive living wage

**An increase in the number of initiatives that contribute to staff and student wellness.**

✓ **Accomplished** Metric: Nursing position increased (additional 3 days); First year student office fully operational; full time social work technician hired in First Year Office. Number of sustainability activities by Sustainability Office increased by 8% from 108 to 118 activities

**60% of the funds invested by the Dawson College Foundation are placed in sustainable investments.**

**In progress** Metric: Committee formed; Foundation board commitment passed; positive and negative investment screening considered

**This Sustainability Plan goal supports the following Dawson College Strategic Plan goals:**

2. Support new students in their transition to Dawson
3. Provide coordinated and accessible services to students
5. Be a leading employer dedicated to employee development and engagement
7. Be a leading Canadian post-secondary institution promoting and practising sustainability in all its endeavours

## CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

**Dawson's Quality Assurance and Planning Office receives first group Sustainable Happiness Certificate!**



## 2018–19 HIGHLIGHTS

# We Are ... *on a Journey of Hope, Resilience, Happiness & Change*

The following accomplishments are specific examples of some of the many sustainability initiatives within Dawson College.



### Academics:

- e-book published showcasing over 20 research papers generated during the Sustainable Campus project, a partnership between Dawson and 3 Mexican universities
- Food Justice & security project receives funding from SSHRC
- Thesis finished by engineering student on Dawson's rainwater management options

### Engagement:

- Sustainability awards developed for college employees
- Zero waste student events now the norm
- Volunteers help rejuvenate the Ecological Peace Garden and remove invasive species
- "Foodie Fest" during Earth Week showcased sustainable food choices
- Living Schools Symposium co-hosted by Concordia and Dawson

### Operations:

- 1 ton of compost collected per month in sorting stations
- Green roof constructed on 4H rooftop
- Garden and biodiversity zone maintenance manuals drafted
- Scope 1-3 level greenhouse gas emissions to be offset (2687 metric tons of CO<sub>2(e)</sub>)

### Planning & Administration:

- Dawson registered with the United Nations Higher Education Sustainability Initiative
- Awarded CEPEP Vert level of Excellence in implementing sustainability
- Sustainability office begins preliminary work on integration of UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Communication strategy established for sustainability-related college initiatives.
- 5 Dawson staff complete Sustainable Happiness Facilitator Training program

### **Dawson Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Chris Adam - Coordinator, Sustainability Office

Anna-Liisa Aunio - Profile Coordinator, Environmental Studies

Heather Bradley - Department Chair, Physical Education

Tiawenti:non Canadian - Coordinator, First Peoples' Centre

Jennifer de Vera - Program Development, Sustainability Office

Richard Dugas - Information Technician, Sustainability, Facilities Management

Cindy Elliott - Program Development, Sustainability Office

Gisela Frias - Geography Department, & Coordinator, Sustainable Campuses (Dawson/Mexico Partnership)

Azra Khan - Professional Development, Human Resources

Geoffrey Kloos - Coordinator, First Year Students' Office

Julia Lijerón - Program Development, Office of Academic Development

Ian MacKenzie - English Department, Project Lead - Writing in the Disciplines (WID) & Learning Communities

Katherine McWhaw - Coordinator, Quality Assurance and Planning Office

Aya Chkarate - Sustainability, Dawson Student Union

Véronique Paris - Coordinator of Building Services & Sustainability, Facilities Management

Diana Rice - Coordinator, Dawson Peace Centre



Standing nurse log (100 yr-old ash tree that died on campus last year) left on property to give life to woodpeckers, mushrooms and a host of insects.

ILLUSTRATION STUDENT SO OYOUNG BYUN

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Report 2018 – 2019

3040 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal,  
Quebec, H3Z 1A4 Canada

[dawsoncollege.qc.ca/sustainable/](http://dawsoncollege.qc.ca/sustainable/)

