

Canadian Society for the Study
of Higher Education



Société canadienne pour
l'étude de l'enseignement supérieur

A large, vibrant autumn leaf in shades of red, orange, and brown, with its reflection in water below.

2020-2025
STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

Through the collective and collaborative work of its members, CSSHE is the leading scholarly society for Canadian higher education¹ as a field of study and practice.

Mission

CSSHE is a bilingual network of members who advance the research, scholarship, and practice of higher education in Canada. In order to accomplish this, we:

1. Disseminate, recognize, and reward the research and scholarly work of our members through various platforms, including annual conferences and a scholarly journal;
2. Build a connected and engaged higher education community within the CSSHE membership;
3. Enhance member capacity through resources, professional development, and collaboration within and beyond CSSHE.

¹ "Higher education" is used throughout this document to refer to the spectrum of post-secondary education in Canada, including universities, colleges, community colleges and CEGEPs

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since 1970, the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE) has served to connect and amplify the work of individuals who are interested in Canadian higher education, whether through policy, research, study or practice. As we face the next 50 years, we anticipate a growing role for CSSHE in promoting equity, diversity, collaboration, and understanding in an environment of rapid change. This five-year strategic plan builds on five decades of collegial cooperation and calls on its members to be a reliable source of information and knowledge in shaping Canadian higher education for decades to come.

Thank you for your contributions! This strategic plan is the culmination of a year-long open consultation process with CSSHE members who offered many thoughtful suggestions to refine and strengthen our common purpose. We also took time to survey the landscape of Canadian higher education to clarify CSSHE's role and position within it. While the goals and objectives stated in this plan have come together prior to the pandemic response that is significantly impacting higher education globally, we offer this as a living document, anticipating that it will evolve as we jointly pursue our common values and priorities within these challenging times.

CSSHE Board of Directors

Land Acknowledgment

CSSHE acknowledges that, while our members are located throughout Canada and across the world, our office is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin nation, in Ottawa, Ontario.

Values

Quality research and scholarly work

- Original research of issues and trends relevant to Canadian higher education
- Dissemination of new knowledge through journal publication, academic conferences, consultations, workshops and more

Inclusive, Accessible, Equitable, and Diverse

- Conscientious attention to accessibility, diversity and anti-discriminatory practices
- Breadth of higher education sectors, including college and university, public and private, in every province and territory
- Diversity of perspectives and lived experiences of students, scholars, educators, practitioners, and policy makers
- Range of scholarly fields of research and practice related to Canadian higher education

Community of higher education scholars and practitioners

- Supportive spaces for emerging professionals and graduate students within the field of higher education
- Fostering trust and collegial good will
- Learning from each other, respecting different experiences, and perspectives

Accountable, Ethical, and Responsible in managing Society resources and relationships

- Responsible, ethical, and transparent financial management
- Transparency of board policies, priorities and decisions
- Effective planning and evaluation

Engaged in the broader higher education landscape in Canada and internationally

- Collaborative and responsive to the needs of other organizations interested in Canadian higher education
- Connected and engaged within the field of higher education globally

Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1: Promote, disseminate, recognize, and reward research and scholarly work on Canadian higher education

Higher education in Canada is a growing and evolving field of study and practice. Canada needs timely and relevant research and scholarship that responds to local, regional, and global trends. As a Society, CSSHE will promote, support, recognize, and disseminate the critical work of its members, thereby advancing the quality of Canadian higher education.

Objective 1.1 - Deliver a high caliber annual conference in which research and scholarly work can be presented

Objective 1.2 - Maintain an internationally recognized peer reviewed and open access journal of research in Canadian higher education that disseminates scholarship through publication

Objective 1.3 - Build awareness of CSSHE membership expertise among external stakeholders, partners, and observers of Canadian higher education

GOAL #2: Build a connected and engaged community of higher education scholars in Canada

The strength of the Society is in its members, their expertise and insights. CSSHE will provide various opportunities for members to connect and build a vibrant Canadian higher education scholarly community.

Objective 2.1 - Support networking and relationship building among CSSHE members at annual conferences

Objective 2.2 - Promote and encourage members to host regional gatherings of CSSHE members in addition to the annual national conference

Objective 2.3 - Foster partnerships and collaboration within CSSHE by:

- i. publishing a list of members' expertise and research areas
- ii. sharing specific requests or opportunities for cooperation
- iii. promoting and supporting Affinity Groups on topics of common special interest in the field of higher education

Objective 2.4 - Invite members to contribute to the function and purpose of CSSHE through committee work, projects, and other volunteer opportunities

- i. creating and promoting opportunities for graduate students
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GOAL #3: Provide resources, professional development, and collaboration

Beyond the benefits obtained through scholarly connections and knowledge sharing within the Society, CSSHE members will gain access to resources that are relevant to their areas of work in Canadian higher education. Partnerships with other organizations in the Canadian higher education landscape can provide valuable opportunities to grow and enhance the personal and collective interests of CSSHE members.

Objective 3.1 - Create a repository for collecting and distributing resources to enhance teaching, research and professional practice in Canadian higher education, for example:

- i. Curated curriculum materials (course syllabi, annotated bibliographies, reflections, case studies, examples)
- ii. Conference proceedings, textbooks, handbooks, manuals
- iii. Open educational resources and open textbooks

Objective 3.2 - Develop workshops and professional development opportunities to increase knowledge in specific topics relevant to Canadian higher education

Objective 3.3 - Promote partnerships and collaboration between CSSHE and other societies and organizations both within Canada and internationally