



# IMPACT

JUNE 2023

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION



Royal Roads  
UNIVERSITY



ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CAMPUS IS ON THE LANDS OF THE XWSEPSUM (ESQUIMALT) AND LEKWUNGEN (SONGHEES) ANCESTORS AND FAMILIES.

## Thanks to you, we are inspiring people with the courage to transform the world

Welcome to Royal Roads University's Impact newsletter, a place where we share powerful stories from individuals and communities who are transforming the world – on a local level to a global scale.

There's no doubt our world faces complex, connected and often overwhelming challenges that impact our families, our communities and our planet. What is certain, though, is that we are facing them together. While the solutions aren't readily available, they are being worked out and discovered thanks to support from donors like you.

In these pages, join us as we celebrate the big things that are blooming at the Farm at RRU, showcase change-making alumni removing barriers for students, and recognize critical research mobilizing international knowledge for good. These are your stories. We are honoured you are here with us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Philip Steenkamp, PhD  
*President and Vice-Chancellor*  
*Royal Roads University*

## Removing barriers, opening doors

Helping others get an education and become better leaders was always a dream for Siobhan Calderbank. While speaking with her 10-year-old daughter, Eva Brown, about why education for women, **“particularly women who look like us”** is important, she emphasized how supporting a scholarship for women could help.

That led the 2016 Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) graduate who is the managing director of talent with the Alberta Investment Management Corporation, to contribute to a MAL bursary at Royal Roads University (RRU).

Calderbank worked with RRU to renew the terms of reference for the 10-year-old MAL bursary so that it helps students from under-represented groups, such as women, racialized people or members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

“I know that we can't change the entire trajectory of an individual's livelihood with a couple of thousand dollars,” she says, “but we have to start somewhere.”

She also encourages others to give what they can to pave a path for students. “If you feel any inclination in your heart at all to give back, do it... There's somebody out there who needs a little bit extra to make it past that finish line.”

**“Education for women, particularly women who look like us, is important.”**



Siobhan Calderbank,  
MAL alum





## Honouring past experiences with two awards

Through the twists and turns of Eve Martin's life, one thing stuck out: her time in the inaugural class of Royal Roads University's Master of Arts in Leadership Training (MALT).

Her memories of learning from her cohort classmates as well as professors led her to establish both a peer-recognition award and an award to honour the instructors who facilitate the course.

Twenty-five years after she graduated in 1998, she has made a generous donation to RRU to create an endowed fund for two awards that are being handed out for the first time this year:

- **Eve's Global Leadership Learner Award recognizes** Master of Arts in Global Leadership (MAGL) students who have made outstanding contributions to the learning journey of fellow classmates.
- **Eve's Global Leadership Teaching Award** is a recognition by students of an individual on the MAGL instructing team who has made an outstanding contribution to their education.

"I read about the importance of becoming not a wise elder, but a good ancestor," Martin says. "I thought, **what does a good ancestor look like?** It was to reflect and remember what was the good in this program."

Martin encourages other RRU alumni to reflect on what was meaningful to them about their time at the university and look for ways to help the students who are following in their footsteps.

## Mobilizing knowledge to address global crises

The Cascade Institute at Royal Roads University was launched to address the complex, interconnected problems humanity is facing: climate change, economic and political upheaval, technological challenges, health crises, and more.

The institute's focus, says its founder and director, Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon, are "high-leverage intervention points," or ways to institute major changes with small actions by using sophisticated systems mapping to learn how bits of complex problems connect and relate to one another.

"It's fundamentally about trying to mobilize all this knowledge... and applying it to find opportunities to move the world faster in a better direction," he says. Dr. Homer-Dixon notes Royal Roads is the perfect host for the institute given RRU's focus on practical, real-world impacts in the education it provides its students.

He says the Cascade Institute, which launched at RRU in January 2020 and will be fully established this year, has so far raised \$12 million of a target of \$40 million over 10 years, with money coming from individual donors, institutions and different levels of government.

Says Homer-Dixon: "**I couldn't have done this with any other university in the country.**"

Contact us to learn how you can contribute to Cascade Institute's problem-solving efforts.



**"I couldn't have done this with any other university in the country."**

Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon,  
Cascade Institute Founder & Director

**TOTALLING \$196,000 OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE FUNDING WILL SUPPORT THE CONTINUED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FARM AT RRU.**



*RRU's Food Systems Manager Solara Goldwynn describing the impacts of the Giving Garden to representatives from TD Bank Group.*

## Big things in bloom at The Farm at RRU

Food insecurity and climate change are stark realities in Greater Victoria and The Farm at RRU is expanding its ability to address these issues thanks to a generous gift from TD Bank Group.

Since established, The Farm's Giving Garden donated more than a thousand pounds of produce to food insecure communities – a milestone RRU hopes to double this coming year. Looking forward, the Farm will also expand to include an Indigenous Medicine Garden, Market Garden and polyculture orchard.

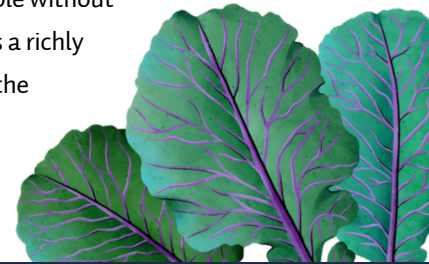
“With support from TD, our efforts to address food security, climate adaptation and reconciliation on the Farm will help us transform the space and become home to an expanded, diverse, community-based resource in the years to come,” says Royal Roads University President Philip Steenkamp.

**“This space is wonderful for growing food and the expansion of The Farm at RRU will help us help our community and increase community resilience,”** says Solara Goldwynn, RRU's food systems manager.

Goldwynn notes that RRU is partnering with the Heron Peoples Circle, an Indigenous advisory group, and Iyé Creative, a food justice and grassroots collective that supports dozens of families; Cowichan Elder and ethnobotanist Ken Elliott is helping to guide key aspects of the garden design process.

Goldwynn says the planned expansion of The Farm at RRU over the next two years would not be possible without support from TD. The grant from TD will drastically increase food production and establish the Farm as a richly biodiverse community hub, enabling free community events and workshops. Totalling \$196,000 over the next two years, the funding will support the continued establishment of The Farm at RRU.

Learn more at [rruinbloom.ca](http://rruinbloom.ca)



## Update your contact information

Stay in touch with the Royal Roads University Advancement team.

Please provide us with your up-to-date contact information by calling the number below or by scanning the QR code to go directly to our online form.