

PEARSON COLLEGE UWC

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Pearson College UWC Hosts Personal Representatives of G7 Leaders

Canada's School for the World welcomes G7 Leaders' Representatives

Victoria –Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific ([Pearson College UWC](#)) is this week hosted a gathering of international, high-level decision-makers – informally known as ‘Sherpas’ -- planning this summer’s G7 summit in [Charlevoix](#), Quebec.

“This is the first time ever that a G7 meeting has been held at a pre-university school, anywhere in the world,” said President and Head of College Désirée McGraw. “This affords Pearson’s students an unparalleled series of opportunities to meaningfully interact with these influential officials and their teams.

“As part of our commitment to [experiential education](#), I expect these young people from Canada and across the globe to learn from these officials and to ask challenging questions about the role of the G7 and international organizations in the world.”

As host, Canada assumed leadership of the G7 group (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, European Union) at the beginning of 2018.

With Canada hosting the G7 Summit this year comes the responsibility and privilege of advancing [key priorities](#) including: investing in growth that works for everyone; preparing for jobs of the future; advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment; working together on climate change, oceans and clean energy; and building a more peaceful and secure world.

“Our College’s foundation was based on the vision of Canada’s first Nobel Peace Prize laureate, [Lester B. Pearson](#),” added Anne McLellan, Chair of the Pearson College UWC Board of Directors, and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

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“Mr. Pearson and his colleagues’ commitment to thoughtful dialogue as the most effective way of dealing with the overarching global issues of their day is perfectly reflected in the ethos behind the G7 today – discussion leads to understanding which leads to peaceful solutions.”

McGraw added that all Pearson students participated in a stimulating question and answer session with Canadian Deputy-Minister for the G7 Summit Peter Boehm and his team. Students representing G7 member states and organizations also met with their respective national and European Union counterparts for a vigorous discussion of current issues.

“Our unique location on Pedder Bay and role as Ecoguardian for the Race Rocks Marine Protected Area encouraged us to also host a vigorous roundtable discussion between G7 team members and marine science students about climate change and preservation of the world’s oceans ecosystems,” noted McGraw.

“Pearson College UWC is honoured to host these key sessions setting the agenda for the national and European Union leaders later this year,” said McGraw. “The G7 themes this year perfectly reflect many of those captured in our curriculum and in our mission statement: *To make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.*”

“We welcome students from around the world – the vast majority are here through the generosity of donors who help fund their scholarships – and they represent a diversity of experiences, cultures, and income disparities, including young people with refugee backgrounds. I think sharing their experiences with the G7 officials is a unique opportunity to help shape the important discussions that will be taking place in Charlevoix.”

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About [Pearson College UWC](#)

Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific ([Pearson College UWC](#)) is Canada’s most globally-minded school and one of 17 United World Colleges around the globe. With an enrolment of up to 200 students, the College draws accomplished young leaders and change makers, ages 16-19, selected from nearly 160 countries and every province and territory of Canada. Pearson’s two-year, pre-university curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with a strong emphasis on experiential

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education at the residential campus on Pedder Bay near the southern tip of Vancouver Island. The College opened in 1974 and was created as a living legacy for former prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize recipient [Lester B. Pearson](#). The College, located on the unceded territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, purposely recruits a deliberately diverse student body, including young people from regions of conflict and challenging socioeconomic circumstances, to encourage young people to learn and live together and to bring about meaningful changes in their communities and across the globe.

About the G7

- Canada assumed the Presidency of the G7 on January 1, 2018, and will host the G7 Leaders' Summit in the Charlevoix region of Quebec from June 8-9, 2018.
- The country that holds the G7 Presidency sets the agenda for the year, and is responsible for hosting and organizing the Leaders' Summit, ministerial meetings, and other associated events.
- This will be the sixth Leaders' Summit hosted by Canada, and the first in Quebec since 1981.
- The G7 is an informal grouping of seven of the world's advanced economies consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union was first invited to attend the G7 in 1977, but is not part of the hosting rotation.

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