



News Release

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Victoria & Global Connections Highlight Experience of New Pearson College UWC Board Members

VICTORIA, B.C. -- Two innovators with strong Victoria connections – one with a lengthy and varied educational experience both locally and internationally and another who is a Royal Roads University Associate Faculty Member and a social entrepreneur working at what he has articulated as the intersection of people, policy, pedagogy and parity – this week joined the [Board of Directors](#) of Canada’s most international school, [Pearson College UWC](#).

“My fellow Directors and I are delighted and honoured to welcome [Heather Lapper](#) and [Olaolu Adeleye](#) to the Board of Canada’s only United World College,” said Chair Lori Sterling. “Like all our Board Directors and independent committee members, Heather and Olaolu are generously volunteering their time and expertise.”

Located on the traditional territory of the Sc’ianew First Nation, southwest of Victoria, Lester B. Pearson United World College (UWC) of the Pacific was founded in 1974. This year, more than 200 students aged 16 to 19, are attending from across Canada and from 94 nations and territories across the globe. Students are chosen based on their promise, potential and demonstrated commitment to actively engage in creating a better world. This year, 8 in 10 students are receiving scholarships.

Heather Lapper taught at schools in Victoria for two decades and later embarked on an extensive career with the [International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Organization](#) while based, at various times, in Europe and North America. Currently Development Manager, Canada and USA for IB North America, she has been responsible for IB program support for schools in Africa, Europe and the Middle East and has supported Indigenous Education in conjunction with [First Nations School in Toronto](#). A resident of Tsawwassen, B.C., she has an MA, Educational Psychology.

“Pearson was the first school in Canada to introduce the IB curriculum and has consistently been an innovator within the International Baccalaureate environment, most recently introducing the [Climate Action Leadership Diploma](#) pathway as a new IB option,” she said. “Together with my colleagues, I’m looking forward to contributing to the collective expertise and experiences that this Board brings to its deliberations.”

[Olaolu Adeleye](#)’s extensive experience in the public, private and education sectors is complemented by his global perspective through past work with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development – Permanent Mission of Canada to the Organization of American States in Washington

D.C.; Right to Play’s Canadian office in Toronto; the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in Geneva and UNICEF in Lima.

Based in Victoria, he is both a Senior Consultant with Deloitte’s Government and Public Sector Services and an Associate Faculty member with the School of Communication & Culture and School of Humanitarian Studies at Royal Roads University. A strong believer in co-creating equitable solutions that reflect lived experiences and multiple perspectives, he has been a guest presenter at Pearson and various community events.

“My time at Pearson is always refreshing, each time I come to campus I leave feeling energized. I’ve had the pleasure of engaging with Pearson students, faculty members and leaders and I always come away from those opportunities with a sense of optimism about the young people from many lands who seek out an inspiring and fulfilling educational experience at Pearson and other United World Colleges,” said Olaolu Adeleye, who has an MSc in Poverty Reduction Policy and Practice from SOAS University of London.

As well as confirming new Board members, Pearson’s November 18th annual general meeting also saw the selection of a Pearson alumna as new Board Chair. Sterling takes over from former chair Anne McLellan who is leaving the Board but continues to support the College as co-chair of Pearson’s [Renew and Re-found Campaign](#) to raise \$40 million for the school.

Both Sterling and McLellan warmly acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Anne Pearson, granddaughter of the College’s namesake and inspiration, Lester B. Pearson, and alumnus Francois Lecavalier who each stepped away from the Board after [serving two three-year terms](#).

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