

**LESTER B.
PEARSON**

60th

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
ANNIVERSARY

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PEARSON COLLEGE UWC

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Pearson College UWC Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Lester B. Pearson's Nobel Peace Prize

Canada's United World College Students & Alumni a Living Legacy of Pearson

Ottawa –Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific ([Pearson College UWC](#)) is today hosting a gathering of federal Cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, international diplomats, alumni, donors and supporters – including members of the Pearson family – to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Lester B. Pearson's 1957 Nobel Peace Prize.

“Our college was founded based on the vision of Canada's only Nobel Peace Prize laureate,” said Anne McLellan, Chair of the Pearson College UWC Board of Directors, and former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

“We are honoured to be taking a leading role in marking this historic moment in Canadian history. Mr. Pearson and his colleagues' commitment to global education helped bring about the founding of a school that has instilled his values in more than 4,000 students from around the world since opening in 1974.”

The College's Parliament Hill gathering, co-hosted by the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and [UWC Adriatic](#) graduate, follows recent 60th anniversary events spearheaded by Pearson in Toronto and Victoria.

The [Toronto event](#), held at the University of Toronto on November 2 in partnership with Massey College, drew hundreds to a historic gathering of five Canadian foreign ministers: Chrystia Freeland, Joe Clark, Lloyd Axworthy, Bill Graham and Barbara MacDougall. Later in the month, the College hosted the opening reception of the [Victoria Forum](#), a three-day conference organized by the University of Victoria and Global Affairs Canada focused on diversity and inclusion.

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“In recognition of our namesake and inspiration, we wanted to make this a national celebration of a towering achievement by a characteristically modest Canadian,” said President and Head of College Désirée McGraw from Ottawa.

The College’s wider community is also learning more about Mr. Pearson’s achievements and legacy through guest speakers, discussion groups and workshops on campus throughout the current academic year.

“We are honoured that, throughout our 43-year history, many members of the Pearson family have supported the College – Mr. Pearson’s grandchildren, Anne, Hilary and Michael Pearson, respectively -- have served as dedicated members of our Board of Directors.”

Michael Pearson, a diplomat in his own right, shared his personal observations with the Ottawa gathering.

“When my grandfather first heard the news from a journalist seeking comment, the best he could come up with was, ‘Gosh, I am thunderstruck!’

“In his [Four Faces of Peace Nobel lecture](#) – given 60 years ago today – he asked, ‘How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don’t know each other?’”

The fourth of the “faces” referred to my Mr. Pearson – People – speaks directly to the mandate of Pearson College UWC, noted McGraw.

“Lester B. Pearson’s commitment to global education – bringing young people from all corners of the Earth in their formative years – and inspired the creation of Pearson College UWC.

“That is exactly what we do – we bring together the best and brightest from 160 countries and every province and territory of Canada to learn with, and from, each other.”

The College’s **deliberate diversity** policy echoes Mr. Pearson’s philosophy. Students are chosen on merit, not on ability to pay, with more than 90 per cent receiving financial assistance. Most receive full scholarships thanks to generous donors committed to global education.

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“This is critical,” added McGraw. “It opens the door for young people whose families are refugees, live in conflict zones or who do not have the means to otherwise access this unique two-year, pre-university education.”

McLellan added, “it is our hope that all Canadians will consider Mr. Pearson’s living legacy in the form of his dream – realized on the West Coast of this country – of educating young people from around the world to tackle the huge issues of our world and the critical issues in their countries and communities.”

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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, 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 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.

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