Bringing the World to Western Libraries

**Something Special about a Western Education**

Western delivers an academic experience second to none. The Western Experience develops leaders, creates a global context for learning and living, and values research and the creation of new knowledge that has a real impact on society.

At the heart of this experience are our libraries and archives, which have consistently earned an A rating or better for 11 years in the annual *Globe and Mail Canadian University Report*. The staff and resources at Western Libraries are dedicated to promoting social and intellectual growth, the stimulation and satisfaction of curiosity, and the expansion of personal limitations.

**The Challenge: Anticipating the Future**

Rapid cultural, technological, and societal shifts are changing how students consume information and use libraries. Serving the Faculties of Engineering, Science, Health Sciences and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library is in need of renewal to better serve our students, faculty and staff. Student forums and surveys were conducted to understand how we can meet present needs and anticipate the future. Results included:

- **Library space** for studying, learning and community is highly valued by our growing student population
- **Various flexible spaces** are required to support student needs that change throughout the academic year, including drop-in tutorials and resources for creating multi-media presentations
- **Private study space** is sought by graduate students
- **Quiet zones** for individual study are needed
- **Communication-friendly zones** for group projects are popular
- **Common areas and technology** that support collaborative learning and a sense of community are key to academic success

The library of the past was about building the collection, cataloguing it, and making it accessible. The library of the future will be about collaborative learning, community and technology. With your help, we can begin the process of renewing the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library.

**Timeline**

- **Phase 1**: develop interest in the project and secure a minimum of $100,000 in pledges
- **Phase 2**: create design plans, identify other donors and secure $150,000 in matching gifts
- **Phase 3**: inaugural celebration and beginning of construction, as well as continuing to secure support for the renovation plan from other cultural groups within our community

“It is critical to remember the important role our libraries play in delivering The Western Experience. We need to ensure that our infrastructure offers the services and spaces needed for our students to achieve.”

- Dr. Amit Chakma, President and Vice-Chancellor
Our Plan: Global Learning Space

Our goal is ambitious, to create a space that is learning-centred and provides a global experience for our students. Although the holdings of the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library might start with books and journals, the present and future library experience is really about content and context, and the sharing of information and perspectives.

By providing a canvas for our diverse student population to celebrate their heritage in common areas of the library, all students will have a unique opportunity for conversations and learning about the world beyond our borders, on their journey to become future global leaders.

The renovation of the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library will focus on:

- **Strong Infrastructure**—the electrical system will be upgraded to support additional media centres and may provide users with charging/power stations for their electronic devices. Lighting, heating and ventilation will be upgraded to provide an inviting environment for learning.

- **Quiet Study Spaces**—students will have the option of “quiet zones” to think, which will be apart from the activity of other parts of the library.

- **Group Spaces**—“conversation friendly” spaces will be provided for group work, discussion and debate.

- **Graduate Study Spaces**—as a response to the serious lack of spaces for graduate students, dedicated private study spaces will be constructed to support graduate students engaged in studying for comprehensive examinations or thesis writing.

- **Creating Content**—students need to learn how to formulate meaningful questions, appreciate multiple viewpoints, and use a wide variety of resources in their research. Flexible learning spaces, complete with smart boards and multimedia resources, allow students to create content through presentations and group work.

- **Globally Themed Common Areas**—as more students from all over the world call Western home, we are creating an opportunity for them, as well as Canadian students of many diverse cultures, to share their heritage and culture within the library. The first area of the series will be the “Asian-Themed Area,” showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region through artwork, stories, artifacts and multimedia displays.

Scalable Design: Setting the Foundation

The renovation of the library will be designed in stages, to make responsible use of resources as they are secured:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gift Amount</th>
<th>Action/Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Secure seed funding (minimum of $1,000 gift from 100 individuals). These gifts and others of greater value will kickstart the campaign and leverage matching funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $150,000</td>
<td>Leverage matching funds from other individuals and funding agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500,000+</td>
<td>Identify other potential donors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1 to 1.5 million</td>
<td>Set the foundation for the library of the future.</td>
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