UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



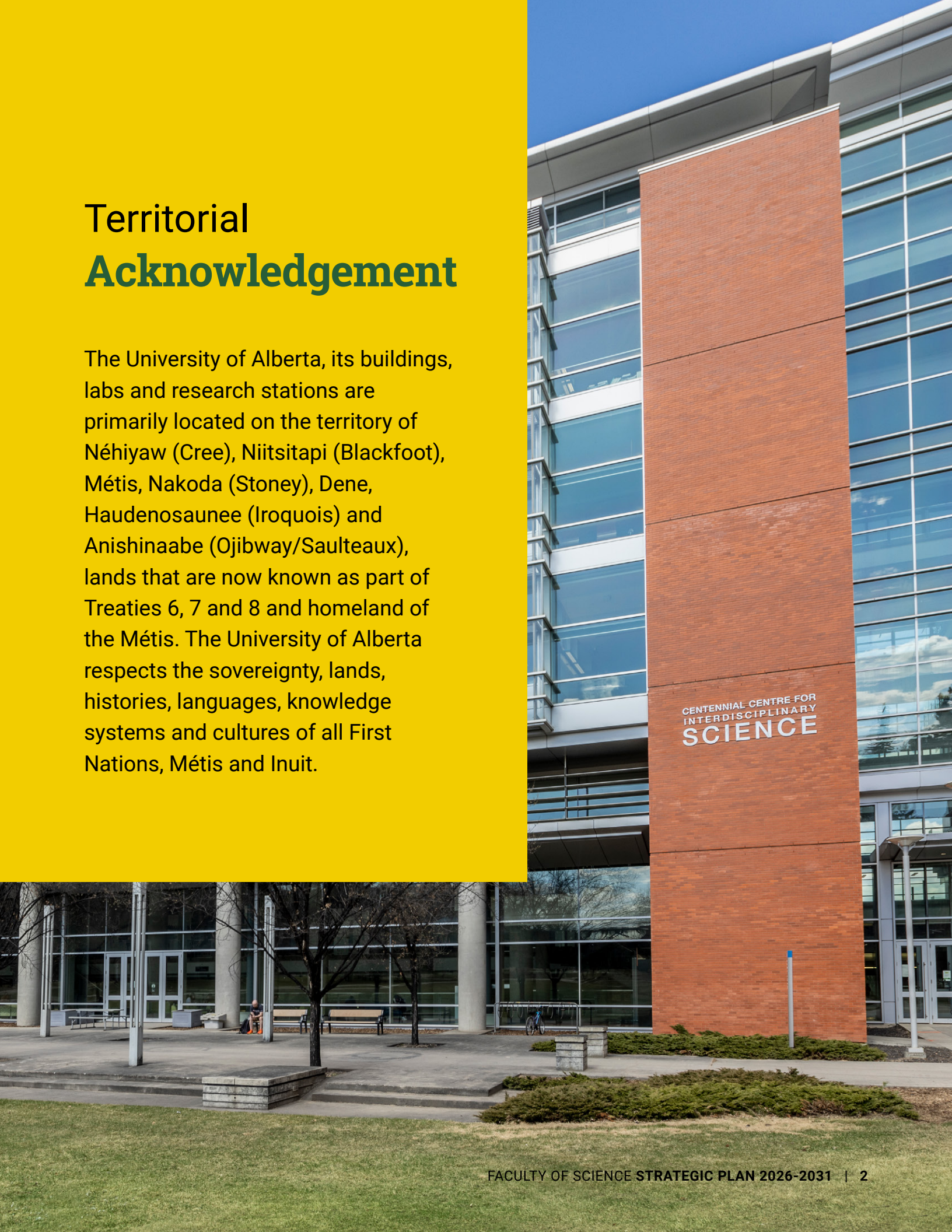
STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2031

Faculty of Science

Territorial **Acknowledgement**

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs and research stations are primarily located on the territory of Néhiyaw (Cree), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Nakoda (Stoney), Dene, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit.



A message from the Dean

Every day in our faculty, someone discovers something. It is a humbling experience to serve as the dean of a place like that. And yet our ambition is always to do more.

This year we set out to write a strategic plan worthy of that work, and I was struck by how readily our community answered the call. Students, faculty members, staff, alumni, donors and partners gave time and wisdom to chart our course for the next five years.

"Through the efforts of our faculty members and staff, we carry out extraordinary science every day. Bringing it up close and personal — for our students, our researchers and our public — is at the heart of our strategy."

Your contributions have been generous and unsparing: telling us about the faculty you love, and the faculty that challenges you, on topics that ranged from grant administration to courses and programs. But in our many conversations, one theme emerged again and again: connection. You told us that science is at its best when we get close to it. Students told us they came here to do science, not just to study it. Researchers told us their discoveries take shape in the meaningful relationships between colleagues, mentors and students. Alumni and community members told us they want a clearer window into the remarkable work happening here every day. Together, we will take on that challenge.



Dr. Declan Ali
Dean, Faculty of Science

Starting from **Strength**

The Faculty of Science is a hub of scientific discovery, pushing the boundaries of knowledge across diverse disciplines and solving critical global challenges. We offer expertise in artificial intelligence, life sciences, energy, environmental research and more than 60 other subject areas. **Our programs and state-of-the-art facilities are ranked among the best in the world.**

Ranking highlights

Consistently ranked in the top five in Canada, North America and the world.

- Artificial Intelligence
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computing Science
- Earth Sciences
- Geology
- Geophysics
- Paleontology

Research excellence

Our commitment to research excellence is reflected in our internationally recognized faculty and vibrant research culture.

- Artificial intelligence
- Data science
- Ecology
- Energy
- Geology
- Geophysics
- Glycomics
- Machine learning
- Mathematics
- Neuroscience
- Northern strategy
- Paleontology
- Particle physics
- Quantum physics

Seven departments

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computing Science
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
- Physics
- Psychology

At a glance

$80M+ in annual research funding

300+ teaching staff and researching academics

8,100+ undergraduate students

1,300+ graduate students

55,000+ alumni

1,500+ papers published annually

100+ labs and facilities

20+ Canada Research Chairs

1 Canada Excellence Research Chair

Infrastructure and Institutes

The infrastructure for science, up close

- The **Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)** brings together students and faculty members in a central, collaborative space.
- **University Commons** is where Faculty of Science students, staff and faculty members learn, teach and innovate.
- The **Life Sciences Innovation and Future Technologies (LIFT) facility** will bring expanded lab spaces for research and instruction.
- There are an impressive number of **museums and collections** within the faculty available to students, staff and the general public, featuring specimens ranging from amphibians to zircon.



Centres and Institutes

Controlled by the U of A

- Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii)
- Applied Mathematics Institute (AMI)
- Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis (CCIM)
- Centre for Earth Observation Sciences (CEOS)
- Centre for Particle Physics (CPP)
- Glycomics Institute of Alberta (GIA)
- Institute for Geophysical Research (IGR)
- Interdisciplinary Data Science and Open Scholarship (IDSOS) Hub
- Quantum Horizons Alberta (QHA)
- The Metabolomics Innovation Centre (TMIC)
- Theoretical Physics Institute (TPI)

Mission

Our mission is to shape the world by bringing extraordinary science up close and personal.

Vision

Our vision is to be a Faculty of Science recognized for research and teaching that reshapes disciplines and addresses the defining challenges of our era. We will continue to bring together exceptional people and a culture of intellectual ambition to produce science that makes an impact.

Our impact outlives our work...

Because **meaningful connections** between faculty members, students and peers are essential to learning and discovery.

Because the best way to learn about science is to **do science**.

Because instructors **see what works** in the classroom.

Because researchers know their **discipline**.

Because we find our **passions** by living them.

Because our **discoveries** shape the world we live in.

Strategic Principles

Community and belonging

Work for a university community where all have access to success and enjoy a meaningful sense of belonging where everyone feels seen and appreciated.

Excellence and accountability

Share successes to amplify their impact.

Elevate accountability from a goal to a practice.

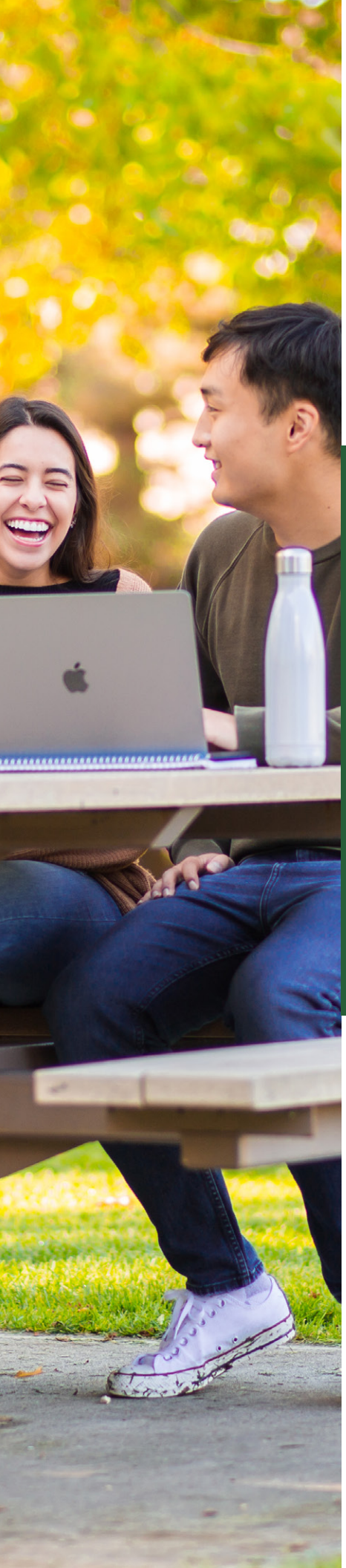
Balanced decision making

Embrace faculty autonomy in research and teaching.

Support opportunities for large-scale collaboration.

Transparency

Share decision making processes, including key inputs and the reasoning behind our choices.



Pillar

Learning from passion, toward purpose

Strategies

- Develop versatile, career-ready graduates.
- Expand experiential learning programs.
- Bolster support for quality instruction.
- Grow student enrollment in programs, including course-based master's and certificate programs.
- Maintain consistency, opportunity and equity in graduate student supports.

We are preparing students for a world that demands both expertise and adaptability. That preparation depends on teaching that challenges and inspires, and on vibrant communities beyond the classroom. We will make it easier to share and implement teaching innovations, including the skillful and responsible use of AI. We will foster the value of community, including Indigenous perspectives and the importance of access and belonging. We will build core competencies such as critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving. We will craft course-based programs with purpose, readying students to shape the world.



Pillar

Research that shapes the world

Strategies

- Attract and retain exceptional academic staff, administrative staff and students.
- Increase successful research grants and support researchers in preparing and managing large grants.
- Invest in sustained infrastructure and IT support.

Every day, our research pushes the boundaries of human knowledge. We will gather talented people to continue this extraordinary work and give them the support they need to excel. We will support both collective and individual efforts to expand equities and accessibility, enriching our teams and the research they produce. And we will shape the world by bringing it closer to our work: building partnerships with industry, government and NGOs in ways that strengthen research.



Pillar

Sharing our passion with the public

Strategies

- Grow public outreach and education.
- Empower engagement with industry partners.
- Foster engagement with government, NGOs.
- Strengthen relationships with alumni.
- Advance donor relationships and development.

Great science matters.

Let's show it off.

We already have an irrepressible enthusiasm for science and a desire to share it with the world. We will champion students and faculty members to connect with the public and make it easier for people in Edmonton and beyond to engage with our work. We will reconnect with our alumni to celebrate ambitious successes and failures. Support from donors will magnify the impact of our research and teaching.

Our place in SHAPE

This strategy is the Faculty of Science's contribution to SHAPE: The University of Alberta's Strategic Plan 2023-2033. The university has named impact as its north star, and our mission, to shape the world by bringing extraordinary science up close and personal, commits us to the same destination.

We share SHAPE's core commitments. Equity, diversity and inclusion are integrated across all three of our pillars rather than standing apart from them, and our strategic principles reflect the university's commitment to putting people at the heart of what we do.

Our pillars advance SHAPE's three fronts:

Learning from passion, toward purpose

Education with purpose

Research that shapes the world

Research with purpose

Sharing our passion with the public

Engagement with purpose

The Strategic Plan may be periodically updated during its five-year lifetime to reflect evolving priorities and emerging strategic opportunities.