Investing in Excellence
The case for giving to McGill
McGill is...

A $1.04-billion a year enterprise. A training ground for 35,000 students a year. One of Canada’s Top 100 Employers, with 1,600 tenured and tenure-track faculty. The only Canadian university to place in the top 25 of the QS World University Rankings eight years running. Maclean’s magazine’s top medical-doctoral university in Canada. The hub of a network of more than 200,000 alumni from 180 countries around the world. A research innovator attracting more than $470 million in annual research funding, holding more than 170 active licenses and securing an average 38 international patents a year.

McGill accomplishes all of these remarkable things in spite of an operating budget that is dwarfed by nearly every top-ranked research university in North America. How is this possible? In addition to the outstanding quality of our faculty and students, it’s thanks to the visionary philanthropists whose support allows McGill to transcend its resources and achieve excellence across its faculties and schools.

McGill is hundreds of things to the thousands of people around the world who are touched by its extraordinary teaching, world-class research and scholarship, and wide-ranging social contributions. The following pages will give you a snapshot of some of McGill’s many faces, and will demonstrate why McGill is the place where more than 83,000 donors have chosen to make their philanthropic investment.
Since the gift from fur trader James McGill that established McGill University 190 years ago, McGill has relied on the generosity of its supporters to maintain a standard of excellence beyond what public funding can provide. In return, McGill has rewarded the trust of its donors by stewarding their gifts prudently and responsibly. By directing philanthropic funds to areas where they will have the greatest impact and leveraging gifts to secure additional public and private funding, McGill uses every dollar it receives to stay competitive with the finest institutions in the world.

This compact between McGill and its supporters has paid off in abundance. Despite a comparatively low operating budget, and an endowment that is many times smaller than those of its peers, McGill is consistently ranked neck-and-neck with some of the wealthiest and best-performing institutions around the globe.

The following chart compares endowment value in 2011 with placement in the QS World University Rankings: the respected annual evaluation of universities around the globe. To provide some perspective, Northwestern, ranked 24th in the QS Rankings, has an endowment more than six times the size of McGill’s (Harvard’s is more than 29 times the size of McGill’s).

The chart lists the ten universities with the largest endowments in the world, along with our two closest Canadian peers*. It’s easy to see that, with a QS ranking of 17 and an endowment of less than a billion dollars, McGill is at the top of the pack for performance with limited means.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank by endowment value</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Endowment market value (in billions)</th>
<th>QS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
<td>$25.7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yale</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>$12.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>U of Texas system</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Michigan</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>$5.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>$5.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>U of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>$5.2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>UBC</td>
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<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>McGill</td>
<td>$849</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Note that these figures do not take into account size of student bodies

How is McGill able to so consistently exceed its financial limitations? The answer is simple: in large part, it’s thanks to philanthropy.
Every year, McGill welcomes approximately 35,000 students to its two campuses. These represent some of the finest young minds in the world, with average entrance grades amongst undergraduates that push beyond 90 per cent. McGill also has the highest percentage of doctoral students in the country, contributing immeasurably to McGill’s research success.

Recruiting top undergraduates and investing in graduate students are challenges which McGill is working to meet, despite serious financial constraints. To enhance the undergraduate student experience, McGill has increased the number of student advisors by 20 per cent in the last five years, awarded scholarships totalling almost 6 million in 2008-2009 (up 43 per cent since 2002-2003), and created a new one-stop student services centre to streamline and enhance student service—one of many recommendations implemented from the Principal’s Task Force on Student Life and Learning. McGill has also increased its funding for bursaries by over 200 percent between 2002-2003 and 2009-2010. Of the $5.6 million in bursaries given out in 2009-2010, fully 50 percent came from endowment income, demonstrating the direct impact philanthropy has on making McGill accessible to all students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

On the graduate student side, where competition is fierce for top applicants, McGill has increased average funding per PhD student by 29 per cent since 2006, and overall support for graduate students has increased from $3 million to $14 million per year. The following chart demonstrates how McGill is closing the gap between its funding for doctoral students and the average of Canada’s 13 research-intensive universities:

What has allowed McGill to continue to attract the finest students in the country and from around the world? Once again, philanthropy has made the critical difference.

Campaign McGill has contributed more than $200 million towards student support, creating more than 400 new scholarships, fellowships, bursaries and awards.
McGill employs more than 1,600 tenured and tenure-track faculty, more than 1,000 of whom were recruited under an ambitious academic renewal plan initiated in 2000. Of these, 185 are outstanding Canadians repatriated from other countries, who, along with the distinguished scholars and researchers from outside the country, demonstrate McGill’s continued capacity to attract scholars who have the potential to work anywhere in the world. Retention of these world-class scholars has been excellent, with almost all remaining at McGill to pursue their long-term careers.

McGill’s ability to draw and retain the very best minds in the world is a testament to the outstanding academic environment we offer, but this depends upon the expansion of endowed chairs as a critical contribution to McGill’s future. Thanks to the generosity of McGill’s alumni and supporters, 147 of our finest faculty members currently hold named or endowed Chairs, and we are aiming to create another 53 in the period ahead.

What does an endowed chair do?

Helps McGill remain a competitive destination for world-class scholars

McGill’s continued excellence relies on our ability to attract the world’s best in an increasingly competitive academic marketplace. With prestigious endowed Chairs, our Faculties have a powerful tool to bring renowned researchers and teachers to McGill and keep them here in the long term.

Ensures the best faculty stay within our campuses

Recruiting the very best scholars is not the only challenge: McGill must be able to keep them as their careers and reputations flourish. Endowed Chairs provide guaranteed, long-term funding for our top-notch professoriat, and provide opportunities to reward faculty whose contributions make them especially competitive on the world stage.

Builds McGill’s long-term future

Contributions to McGill’s endowment do more than improve our short-term activities: they build a philanthropic legacy that will ensure McGill remains one of the world’s finest public universities for generations to come. Our endowment is a source of stability in uncertain economic times, a bulwark against the vicissitudes of politics and budgets, and a guarantee that future generations of students will experience the same outstanding education on which McGill has built its reputation.

EXCEPTIONAL HONOURS FOR EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLARS

McGill’s outstanding faculty have received countless honours and awards for their contributions to scholarship around the world. These include:

- 159 Canada Research Chairs (the third largest number in Canada)
- 135 members of the Royal Society of Canada
- 26 Prix du Québec winners
- 21 Killam Prize winners

Campaign McGill has funded more than 39 new endowed Chairs and contributed almost $90 million to new teaching and research infrastructure.
Research is key to McGill’s mandate. Every year, our world-class investigators enhance their teaching, make headlines and change lives with discoveries in disciplines from medicine to political science, physics to semiotics, music to management.

Innovation requires not just talent, but investment. A significant portion of McGill’s funding required for research is now from competitive grants at the federal, provincial and international levels, and McGill is a national leader at securing these valuable awards. The following table demonstrates McGill’s impressive five-year performance in the so-called “Tri-Council” grants: the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), The National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC):

McGill Total Tri-Council Research Funding: 2006 - 2010
in millions of $

McGill is also enriching its relationships with industry, building partnerships that meet the private sector’s increasing need for products and technologies, but also for expertise and support throughout the innovation cycle. This approach is paying off: the number of research contracts awarded to McGill has increased by 73 per cent from 2003.

Around the world, powerful investments in research and innovation are transforming and redefining the academic landscape. As McGill pursues public and private sector support for research, philanthropy is an essential element of our long-term success. Increasingly, both private and public funders require matching funds from universities as a condition of support. Private giving both encourages and supplements funding from industry and public agencies, generating new government-donor-industry partnerships that are increasingly driving some of the world’s great discoveries. Gifts in support of programs, faculty members and graduate students enhance McGill’s research capacity, which in turn increases our competitiveness and impact.
From continuing to expand its faculty base, to enriching teaching and learning, to bringing graduate student support up to internationally-competitive levels, increasing undergraduate student aid, and enhancing research capacity, McGill has ambitious plans for the future.

Year after year, McGill has demonstrated that it can maintain its place at the forefront of international academia despite its limited public resources. This success is a tribute to the talent of our students, the skill of our researchers and professors and the generosity of our supporters, on whom we rely to help us achieve our success.

Since it was launched with an initial objective of $750 million, Campaign McGill has raised more than $640 million to help McGill reach its goals. Year after year, our supporters have demonstrated their commitment and generosity, with philanthropic dollars to McGill nearly doubling since 2002, and thousands of new donors advancing our cause.

**Average annual fundraising achievements, 2002 - 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average annual achievement</th>
<th>Number of donors</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002 - 2004</td>
<td>$40.8 million</td>
<td>29,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 - 2007</td>
<td>$71.1 million</td>
<td>31,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 - 2011</td>
<td>$78.5 million</td>
<td>32,051</td>
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</table>

Philanthropy has supported McGill as we achieve great things, but we must set our sights even higher. We’ve made it our business to exceed expectations, turning public and private investments into extraordinary results. But keeping pace with our peers and maintaining the standard of excellence for which we are renowned requires your support more than ever before. As we aspire to even greater achievements, we look to you, in partnership, to help us contribute at the highest level.

ENSURING EXCELLENCE

In order to consolidate its strengths and build for the future, McGill has developed an ambitious strategic plan. Goals for the next five years include:

- Providing competitive levels of undergraduate and graduate funding, enhancing our ability to attract top students while ensuring that no qualified student is denied access to McGill for financial reasons

- Continuing to enhance and enrich the student experience, giving students the support and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential

- Ensuring we maintain and strategically increase our complement of internationally renowned tenure-track professors

- Undertaking millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades designed to improve and green our campuses

- Enhancing the diversity and excellence of our student and faculty cohorts while strengthening our ties and contributions to the community

McGill is ambition.
McGill is vision.
McGill is an investment in our future.