



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability Recognizes Importance of Social Impact in Era of COVID-19

TORONTO, Canada May 4 /CSRwire/ - A name change, a new award and an enhanced academic designation mark a season of transformation for the Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability program at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto.

Graduates of the highly regarded program, now called the "Graduate Diploma in Social Responsibility and Sustainability" receive a Diploma and a designation marked by the post-nominal letters G.Dipl. SR&S (Social Responsibility & Sustainability).

"These changes reflect how the program has evolved since its beginnings almost 20 years ago," says Program Manager Kathryn Cooper. "Meaningful, long-term social impact of business and not-for-profit partners has never been as important as it is in this time of COVID-19."

"This program has evolved in response to the global trend toward embedding environmental, social and governance issues in business," Cooper says. "To survive and thrive, organizations must focus beyond their bottom line, and create positive, long-term social impact."

Graduates at the November, 2019 convocation were the first awarded the new diplomas. This convocation also marked the introduction of the new **President's Capstone Project Award**, recognizing exceptional work in summative assignments. The inaugural winners were:

- "[Indigenous Impact Report](#)" by Alexandra Biron, recently promoted to Manager, Indigenous, Deloitte Canada.
- "A CSR Strategy for the Canadian Real Estate Association" by Sarah Thirnbeck, recently promoted to Associate Director, Strategic Impact, and The Canadian Real Estate Association.

"The calibre of work produced by our CSR students is truly outstanding," says University President Dr. David Sylvester. "The ethical concerns being discussed in this program reflect the long-standing values of St. Michael's. CSR and Sustainability is a great example of how universities can have a transformational impact on society."

Learning to Make a Difference in a Rapidly Changing World

Participants in the Graduate Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability work full time while earning this university credential through a blended learning approach. Participants:

- tackle and resolve a CSR and Sustainability challenge in their company in a major Action Project under the mentorship of faculty and co-learners;
- learn Next Generation Practices from global thought leaders on the forefront of Sustainability and CSR (aligned with [International Society of Sustainability Professionals Certification Body of Knowledge](#), the [Embedding Project](#) and the [Transformational Company](#))
- use practical tools to assess, measure and integrate CSR and Sustainability into their organization;
- experience the practical real world application of CSR and Sustainability and change management through [ExperienceChange™](#) Simulations; and
- join a prestigious community of [St. Michael's Alumni](#) in continuing education, sharing and networking.

The Diploma is now taking applications for 2020/2021. Only 35 applicants are accepted. Join participants from Deloitte, Secure Energy, Tata Group Retail, SMART CENTRES, Dundurn Press, Chevron, Genuine Health, Civic Works Consulting, Candela Strategies, Children's Hospital Foundations and more in the upcoming 2020/2021 Cohort. To apply, go to the [Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Website](#). Second Intake Deadline is June 30th.

Participants start their learning in July, 2020 through an online Learning Management System and monthly live learning seminars. Module 1 in class will be held in Toronto, Canada, October 14 -16, 2020. Module 2 and 3 in class will be held May, 2021 and November, 2021 respectively. To apply, go to the [Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Website](#). See the program schedule, testimonials, past graduates and news about the program.

About the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto

The University of St. Michael's College (USMC), federated with the University of Toronto, is a Catholic institution of higher learning founded by the Congregation of St. Basil, whose motto, "Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge," sets the tone for campus life.

A Business Advisory Committee ensures the CSR & Sustainability program is relevant and experiential. CSR and Sustainability Leaders from a broad range of industries from insurance to mining, including: The Co-operators, BMO Financial, Scotia Bank (ret.), Vermillion Energy, Centerra Gold, Aurora Cannabis, Kin&Co and Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto) provide advice and input.

For More Information Contact

Kathryn A. Cooper, Program Manager, Diploma in Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability
 Phone: (519) 855-9491
 Website: <https://www.csr-stmikes.ca/>