

Living Campus



Reconnecting
people,
community
and Nature



© Samuel Trudelle-Gendron

COVER PHOTO:
As a student at Dawson, Emilie Usher was a caretaker of the Ecological Peace Garden, member of the student-driven Green Earth Club and helped maintain the rooftop bee colonies. She is now employed maintaining urban honey bee colonies and enjoys educating society about these fascinating creatures.



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CASE FOR SUPPORT



© Rosalia Cerro

Reconnecting people,
community and Nature*

* The word Nature was introduced in the 12th century in reference to all of the living and non-living things in the universe. A capital "N" was used out of respect and admiration. During the industrial revolution, as humans began advancing the economy through the depletion of Nature's resources, the word came to be spelled with a lower case "n", suggesting a reduced status in the collective world view. Living Campus is restoring its status with a capital letter.

DAWSON COLLEGE

Dawson College is located in the heart of downtown Montreal in a historic building on 12 acres of green space occupying an entire city block. The College's student population numbers approximately 10,000, with day and evening students enrolled in more than 50 fields of study. It is the largest college (CEGEP) in the province and one of the most attractive, modern and well-equipped colleges in the country.



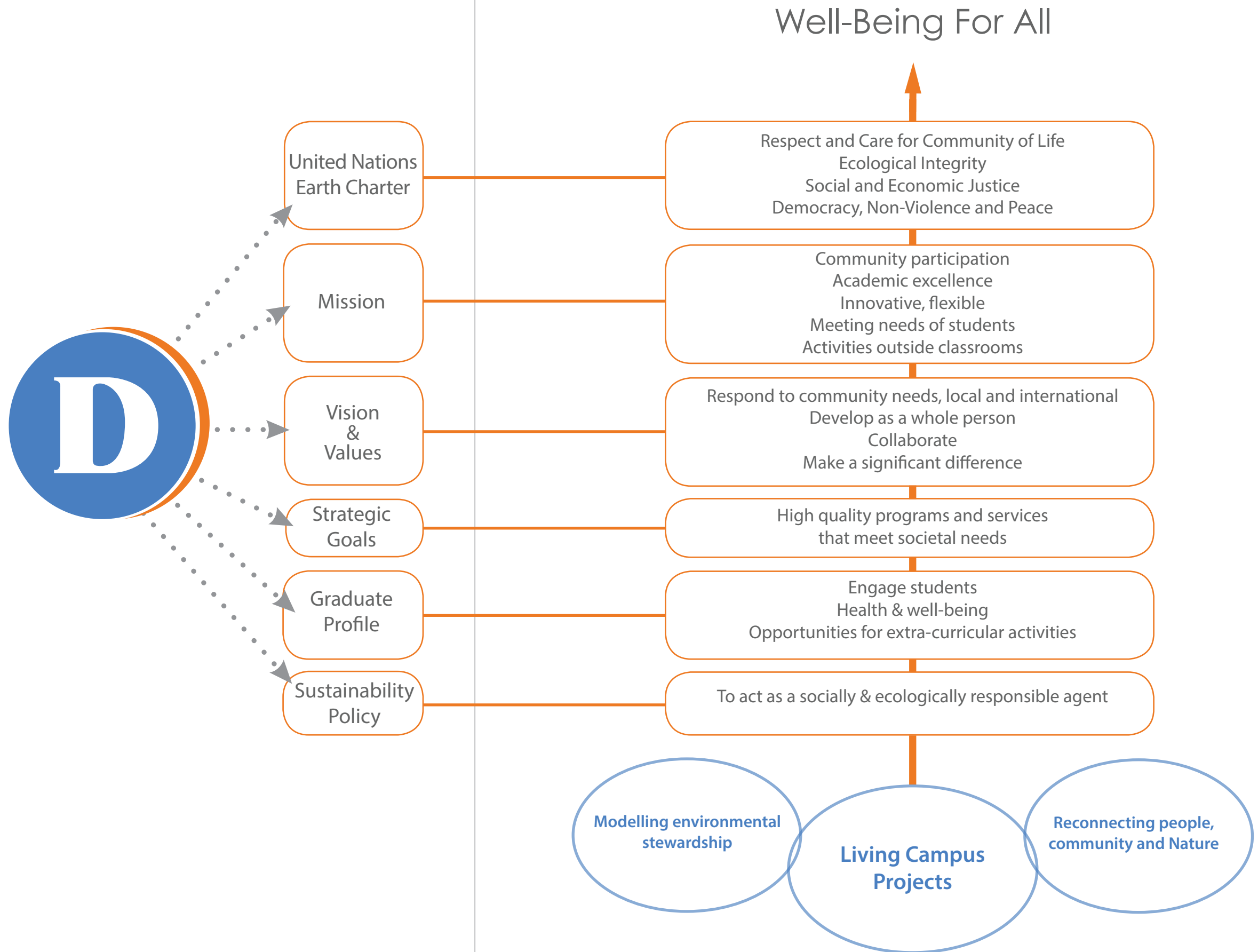
Dawson College moved to the former Mother House of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame in 1988, consolidating all its facilities under one roof.



We are a microcosm of the world with many languages, ethnic backgrounds, cultures and religions.

WHAT IS *Living Campus?*

- A concept that integrates educational approaches under the vision of well-being for all
- A recognition that our entire campus (buildings, grounds) is a learning lab
- Dawson College's mission and values, graduate profile and strategic plan are mobilized through a sustainability filter
- The embodiment of Dawson College's commitment to the improvement of society
- Explicitly demonstrating that Nature matters



Living Campus

OVERVIEW

WELL-BEING FOR ALL

Our hope for the future lies with people, especially youth, who will focus their energy and work together to seek solutions to environmental and social challenges.

- **The spread of urban environments diminishes opportunities to interact directly with Nature.** This comes at a time when increasingly, research illustrates the physical and mental health benefits that come with exposure to Nature.
- **Living Campus addresses this phenomenon head-on with innovative solutions,** by designing relevant programs and projects that use Nature as a mentor to increase literacy at every level about the positive impact of the natural environment on people and other living things.

An open dialogue with students, faculty and staff of Dawson College has unearthed the following themes around the vision of Living Campus as a sustainable model for the well-being of everyone.¹

- Incubating hope
- Forging new relationships
- Modelling and fostering systems of thinking
- Supporting sustainable, healthy living
- Bringing life into education & learning
- Encouraging choice-makers and change-makers
- Creating effective models for adaption in other contexts
- Cultivating a connection to Nature to create positive emotion

¹ ref: O'Brien, C., & Adam, C. (2016) *Sustainable Happiness, Living Campus, and Wellbeing for All*, *Journal of Innovation, Creativity & Change*



Monarch caterpillar rearing, butterfly tagging and release have been part of the college community event calendar since 2012.

©Julianna Joos



“It was the three nicest weeks I have ever had as a Dawson employee. I am incredibly grateful for the experience, and I hope I get the opportunity to do it again next year, and every year after that. Thank you for the opportunity!” (Ref: Monarch Nursery Project).

– Kelly Ann Morel, M. Ed. OP Psychologist,
Counseling & Career Development, Dawson College

Living Campus PROJECTS

Biodiversity Zones

Carbon Neutral Commitment

Collaboration Room (CoLab)

Dawson Monarch Nursery Project

Ecological Peace Garden

Honey Bees

Living Schools Symposium

Sustainability Certificate

Sustainable Campuses:
A North/South Partnership

Sustainable Happiness

Urban Agriculture

Urban Nature Interpretation

Biodiversity Zones

Nine micro-habitats are planned, with seven currently established, where students can study natural areas and urban wildlife on campus.

Carbon Neutral Commitment

The college continues to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and will offset the remainder of its carbon footprint by planting over 5000 trees on marginal land in Nicaragua. With the help of a partner organization, Dawson's students will increase biodiversity and create long-term employment for Nicaraguan families – a beautiful example of social and ecological responsibility.

Living Schools Symposium

Living Schools contribute to well-being for all. The Living Schools Symposium is an annual, international gathering of educators, researchers and school administrators who discuss how to implement learning activities that promote deep learning, engagement and positive school culture.

Sustainability Certificate

A new certificate program linking participation in Living Campus projects with interdisciplinary learning. Students and faculty collaborating in and outside the classroom will develop both sustainability know-how and the leadership & visioning skills needed to meet the social-ecological challenges of the 21st century.

Sustainable Happiness

Where positive psychology, health and sustainability meet. Dawson College hosted the world's first sustainable happiness certificate program with international participants and is developing training material to build capacity and share expertise.

Urban Nature Interpretation

Youth from local organizations and day camps are invited to Dawson to experience Nature Canada's Naturehood program. Youth and young adults discover the wonders of Nature in their own backyard and become citizen scientists. Dawson's biodiversity zones and gardens become the perfect outdoor classroom.

Collaboration Room (CoLab)

A workspace that encourages collaboration, imagination and creativity. It is a hub of special project development and houses a two-story living wall containing over 600 plants.



Living Campus PROJECTS

Dawson Monarch Nursery Project

Several hundred monarch butterfly caterpillars are adopted by teachers and departments and reared until they emerge from their chrysalises. The butterflies are tagged and released in the Ecological Peace Garden to begin their flight to Mexico.



© Julia Ljeron

Sustainable Campuses: A North/South Partnership

The goal of this participatory research project is to create a process of knowledge generation and sharing among one college and two universities in Mexico with Dawson College.



© UPEMOR



© Anna-Liisa Aunio

Urban Agriculture

Several rooftop gardens have been established that grow vegetables in self-watering containers or raised beds. Student volunteers maintain the gardens. Courses are linked to the rooftop gardens through various educational modules including organic gardening, food sovereignty and models of agricultural production in urban environments.



© Rosalia-Cerro

Honey Bees

Several bee colonies are kept on Dawson's rooftops and the honey extracted by students in the fall. Dawson's Campus Life & Leadership team organizes a yearly health challenge for teams of students and staff. Any team participating in physical activity equivalent to 1249 kilometres, the distance 12 female bees fly to make 1 teaspoon of honey, receive a special prize – 1 teaspoon of Peace Garden honey!



Canadian peacekeepers at a special event in Dawson's Ecological Peace Garden

© Dawson College

"At Dawson, we rise up to meet challenges head on and turn them into opportunities. Students are encouraged to engage in their community, to take on causes they care about so that when they graduate, they have not only benefitted from a sound education, they have become responsible citizens. Our Living Campus projects immerse students, faculty and staff in a wide variety of action-based peace and sustainability initiatives that inspire members of our community to act as leaders in our society today and for tomorrow."

– Richard Filion, Director General, Dawson College

Living Campus

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Dawson College sees Nature as a vehicle for learning, inspiring the artist, musician, scientist and writer in each of us.

- 1 Act as a socially and ecologically responsible agent**
Identify and manage sustainability performance indicators. Link peace, social justice and environmental stewardship education.
- 2 Reconnect people, community & Nature**
Develop Nature-based action projects that involve real-world ecological problem-solving, increase biodiversity in an urban setting, and cultivate collaboration.
- 3 Advance the understanding and teaching of sustainability**
Build local and international learning communities that foster collaboration and exchange of best practices.



Dawson's eco-landscaping efforts attract biodiversity to our urban campus, including wild ducklings that hatch each spring from a rooftop nest.

©John-Daniel Arouz



From parking lot to teaching area:
Dawson faculty member Myka Taylor fascinates children with a Naturehood day-camp program.

© Andesha Kukha-Bryson

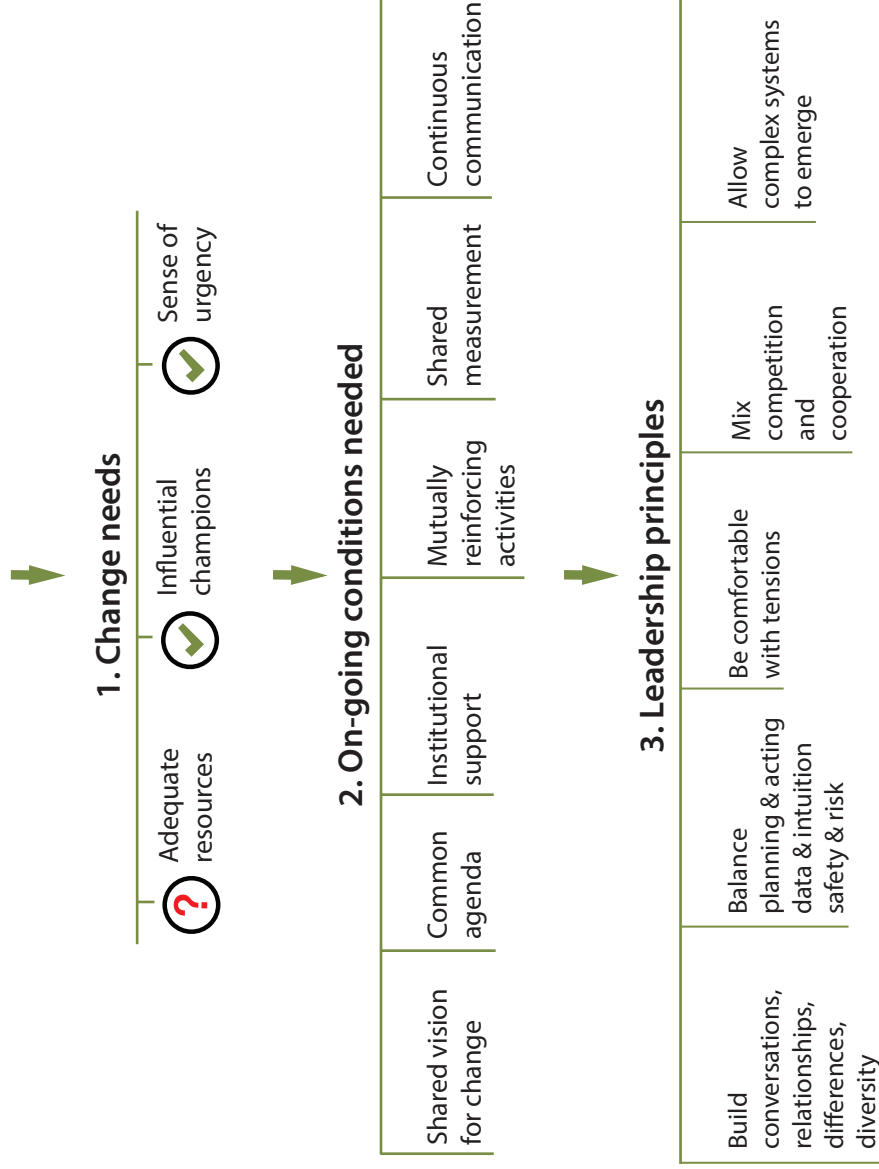


“Living Campus helps our students explore Aboriginal Peoples’ culture and connection to Nature. These shared experiences contribute to indigenization of the College and makes me feel hopeful about reconciliation.”

– Tiawenti:non Canadian, Coordinator,
First Peoples’ Centre, Dawson College

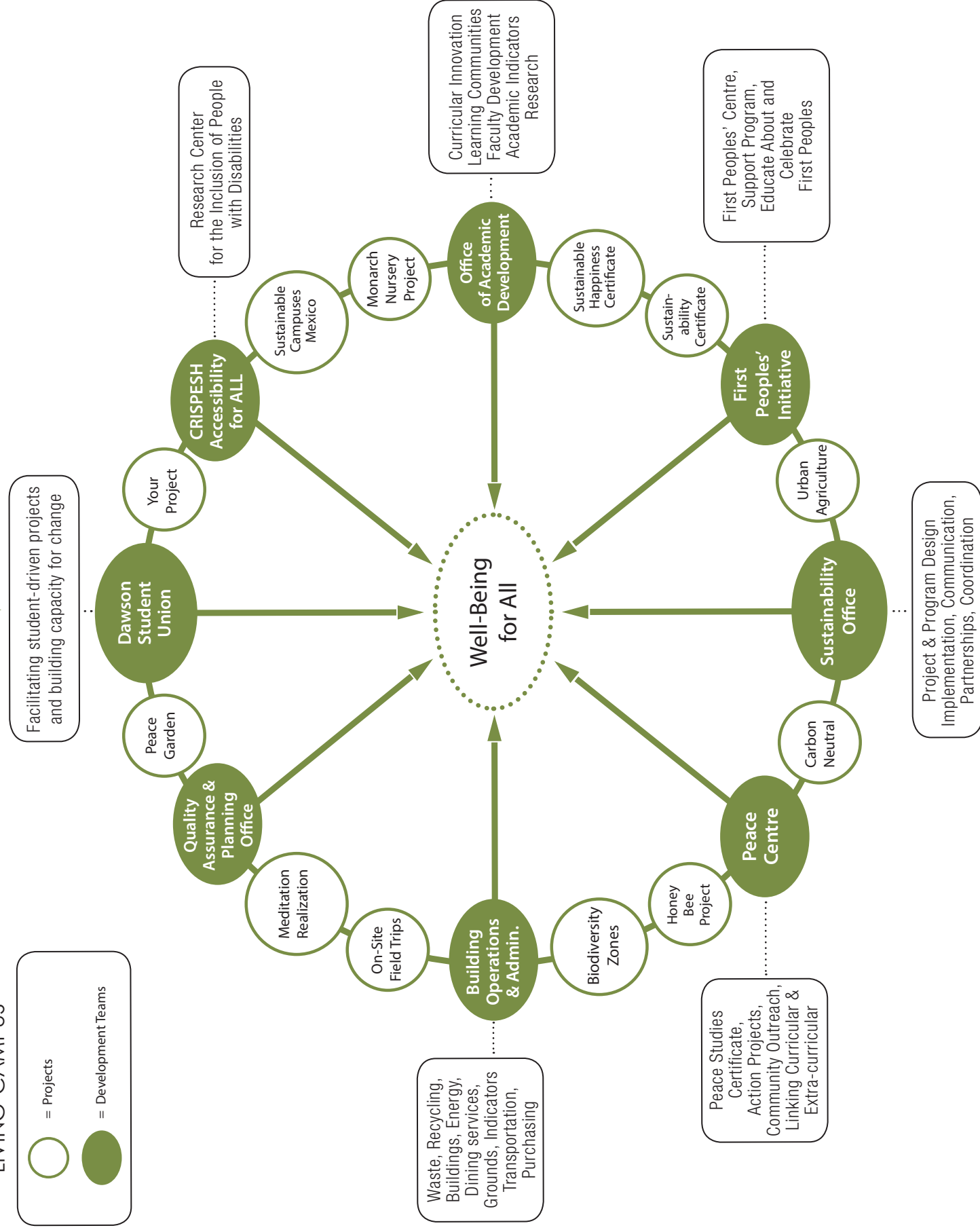


Resources + Living Campus = Collective Impact



ref: Tamarak Institute

LIVING CAMPUS





© Cindy Elliott

Ecological Peace Garden

Established as a living memorial to the strength and courage of the Dawson community, this centrepiece of life and harmony within an urban setting contains thousands of plants attracting insects, butterflies, birds and people.



©College Dawson

Cindy Elliott of Dawson's Sustainability Office joins staff for a butterfly release on College grounds.

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Reconnecting people, community and Nature

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DAWSON
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