



News Release

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New School Year, New Leadership

Canadian Takes the Leadership Reins at Canada's School for the World

METCHOSIN, B.C. – As young people everywhere begin to stream back to school, at Pearson College UWC, students from around the world will be looking back on nearly 50 years of history made on the campus along Pedder Bay and looking forward to the future under the leadership of a Canadian with decades of international school experience.

“This month, I look forward to welcoming a first-year cohort of amazing young people representing dozens of countries,” said [Jason McBride](#), who this month assumed the role of President and Head at Canada’s only United World College. “During their two-year residency on our campus they will be with us to celebrate the school’s 50th anniversary throughout 2024-25 and I’m looking forward to being part of that cohort!”

Previously based in Malaysia as leader of the prestigious [IGB International School](#), McBride brings more than 20 years of global educational leadership and intercultural understanding, including several years as Head of College at UWC Thailand, a sister school to Pearson, and as Head of School at Stratford Hall in Vancouver.

“It is an amazing and humbling experience to lead international and independent schools across the globe,” he added. “I’ve learned much from colleagues and from the awesome young people who I’ve had the privilege of teaching. Now, for me, the chance to return to Canada to support and grow Pearson’s [IB Diploma](#) and its ground-breaking [Climate Action Leadership Diploma](#) programs is an outstanding opportunity.”

Pearson College UWC, located on the unceded territory of the [Sc’ianew First Nation](#), opened in 1974 inspired by the vision of former prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lester B. Pearson who asked, “How can there be peace without people understanding each other, and how can this be if they don’t know each other?” Every year for nearly half-a-century the College southwest of Victoria has drawn high school-aged students from up to 160 nations who have gone on to [achievement and honours](#) locally and around the world.

“I look forward to getting to know and working with the students, faculty and staff as well as alumni and the generous supporters who help us offer scholarships for more than three-quarters of Pearson students every year,” said McBride. “Building upon well-established relationships with our neighbours in the Sc’ianew community, across Canada and with our alumni and friends around the world is a priority.”

McBride was born and raised in Toronto and received undergraduate degrees from McMaster University (B. Kin) and Queen's University (B. Ed), before pursuing a master's degree with Michigan State University and working to complete doctoral coursework at the University of Calgary. He will be accompanied at Pearson by his spouse Samantha and two daughters.

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