



A Brief History of Ryerson

Ryerson University is named after Egerton Ryerson¹, the founder of Ontario's public education system, and is located on the site of the first Normal School for teacher training.

Over the past decade, the university has worked to address Egerton Ryerson's legacy, leading to a 2010 statement about his role and, in 2018, the [installation of a plaque](#) next to the Egerton Ryerson statue on campus. The statement and plaque contextualize his role in the creation of Canada's residential school system, which was devastating to Indigenous peoples in Canada.

In November 2020, following global conversations on the challenging legacies of many historical figures, [President Lachemi struck a taskforce](#) to examine the history and legacy of Egerton Ryerson, and to make recommendations for reconciliation and commemoration on our campus. [The Standing Strong Taskforce](#) will deliver their final report to the university in August 2021.

The Ryerson Institute of Technology, with some 250 students, was established in 1948 by the Government of Ontario as an experiment in post-secondary technical education. In 1963, the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Act changed the school's name and established it as an independent institution with its own Board of Governors.

In 1968, Ryerson became the first post-secondary institution in Canada to invite students and faculty to serve on its Board. They continue to participate on both the Board and Academic Council, along with alumni and staff.

A 1971 amendment to the Act empowered the Institute to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Applied Arts and Bachelor of Technology, in addition to its traditional diplomas and certificates. In 1977, a new Act extended degree designations to include Bachelor of Business Administration. It also formally established a bicameral system of governance under which the Board remained responsible for the financial management and conduct of the Institute, while Academic Council established educational policy, subject to spending restraints set by the Board.

In the spring of 1993, the Ryerson Polytechnic University Statute Law Amendment Act granted Ryerson full university status and established it as Canada's only polytechnic university. In the summer of 2002, an Act of the provincial legislature officially renamed Ryerson Polytechnic University to Ryerson University.

In the spring of 2007, an Act of the provincial legislature officially amended the Act in the following ways:

- Changed the name of Academic Council to "Senate."
- The Senate's membership has increased from 50 to 51 by adding the Chief Librarian as a member.

¹ [1] In October 2010, Ryerson issued a statement acknowledging that while Egerton Ryerson did not implement or oversee aboriginal residential schools, his beliefs "influenced, in part, the establishment of what became the Indian Residential School system." (<http://www.ryerson.ca/alumni/60/history/egerton/index.html>)

- Extended Board members terms to three consecutive terms.
- Removed the requirement for citizenship and residency for Board Members

Ryerson University is currently recognized as a leading institution for research and innovation and is home to the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration, as well as two Tier I and 17 Tier II Canada Research Chairs (CRC). In 2020, Ryerson University was ranked first for research income growth among comprehensive universities in Research Infosource's Top 50.

Within the past decade, the university has launched various research centres and institutes, as well as the [Zone Learning](#) option for students and business professionals interested in entrepreneurship.

Ryerson's location at the heart of downtown Toronto has motivated numerous strategic partnerships with surrounding businesses and spaces. The most significant recent development is the construction of four newest Ryerson buildings: the [Mattamy Athletic Centre](#) at Toronto's historic Maple Leaf Gardens, the award-winning [Student Learning Centre](#) on Yonge Street, the [Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex](#) and the [Centre for Urban Innovation](#).