

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Calgary Recognized with 2022 ISSA Canada Environmental Stewardship Award

[Whitby, ON – March 17, 2022] – ISSA Canada, a Division of ISSA – the worldwide cleaning industry association, is proud to announce that the University of Calgary is the 2022 recipient of the ISSA Canada Environmental Stewardship Award.

“ISSA Canada has long been recognizing the outstanding initiatives that Canadian facilities have implemented to help the environment and reduce their carbon footprint,” said ISSA Canada Executive Director, Mike Nosko. “The University of Calgary is so involved with ISSA, and they have the most knowledgeable staff when it comes to cleaning procedures and environmental practices that I have ever seen. The ability of the university to meet the criteria for our prestigious award was simply off the charts.”

The University of Calgary is a leader in sustainability and safe, environmentally-conscious practices. With an Institutional Sustainability Strategy (ISS) in place, the university has a clear vision to become a zero waste leader amongst post secondary institutions across Canada. In fact, the university’s goal is to divert 70 per cent of waste by 2025 and 90 per cent by 2030.

“We’ve worked really hard to not only implement systems but to change a culture, and that’s something that hasn’t been easy,” said University of Calgary Caretaking Director, Michael Love. “It has been an interesting journey that has taken a lot of effort from a lot of people. We are all really proud of where we are today within our department and with what the University is doing as a whole.”

“Sustainability is a collective value and a community effort on our campuses, and the Caretaking team proudly incorporates this into every facet of their operations,” added University of Calgary President Ed McCauley.

In addition to continuous training and engagement with caretaking staff, university faculty and students, the University of Calgary has implemented multiple programs and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that not only illustrate its goal of sustainability, but also a commitment to health and safety.

“Education and collaboration have always been paramount in our department,” said Ana Pazmino,

B.A., MSc., Manager, Caretaking Programs at the University of Calgary. “We work very closely with the office of sustainability and other departments as well. We even collaborate with students by holding “learning labs” where we present an issue that we’re facing and have the students provide input on how to resolve it.”

In addition to implementing waste reduction programs such as Standardized Four Stream Waste Stations (to separate trash, refundable beverage containers, mixed recycling, and compostables); Blue Bucket Program (for safe lab waste collection and disposal); Washroom Paper Towel Program (to ensure paper products are diverted from waste collection to the composting stream); and Green Cleaning Program (the use of green certified, low VOC products), the University of Calgary has also embraced technology with the use of both robots and efficient machines that require one-third less water and 70 per cent less chemical.

“It’s that commitment to healthy and safe facilities, environmental awareness along with the implementation of operational cleaning strategies to reduce carbon footprint that the University of Calgary has demonstrated which clearly outlines ISSA’s goal of ‘changing the way the world views cleaning’,” Nosko said. “It is such a great pleasure to present the University of Calgary and, perhaps more importantly, its staff with this year’s Environmental Stewardship Award.”

“We are very proud of this achievement by our tremendous Caretaking team, particularly as it relates to sustainability, which is among our most fundamental priorities as an institution,” said Interim Vice President of Finance & Services Mike Van Hee.

“I am honored to be accepting the Environmental Stewardship Award on behalf of the Caretaking team at the University of Calgary,” Love said. “This award highlights our commitment to sustainability, one of our eight core values. The Caretaking Department is proud to be recognized for our excellence in operational practices and our collaborations to create a world-class campus. In our work to care for physical spaces, we are always mindful of the impact on the planet and the contribution to the health and safety of the larger campus community, as well as the student learning experience.”

ISSA Canada’s Environmental Stewardship Award recognizes and honors organizations committed to environmental management and a dedication to the value of clean. Each year ISSA Canada presents up to six awards (one for each region of Canada), where nominations have been submitted by a current ISSA Canada member company. Winners are selected by the association’s executive staff based on their ability to meet four of the six award criterion.

For more information on the ISSA Canada Environmental Stewardship Award and its past recipients, please visit <https://www.issa-canada.com/environmentalstewardshipaward>.

ABOUT ISSA CANADA

ISSA Canada is the body resulting from the merger of ISSA with the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) in May 2017. With more than 10,500 members – including distributors, manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, wholesalers, building service contractors, in-house service providers, residential cleaners, and associated service members – ISSA is the world’s leading trade association for the cleaning industry. The association is committed to changing the way the world views cleaning by providing its members with the business tools they need to promote cleaning as an investment in human health, the environment, and an improved bottom line. Headquartered in Northbrook, Ill., USA, the association has regional offices in Mainz, Germany; Whitby, ON, Canada; Parramatta, Australia; Seoul, South Korea; and Shanghai, China. For more information about ISSA, visit www.issa-canada.com or call (866) 684-8273 or (905) 665-8001.