



UNIVERSITÉ  
SAINT·PAUL  
UNIVERSITY

# SCHOOL OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY



# SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY

At Saint Paul University (SPU) our vision is to guide transformation and build a stronger, inclusive, more humane global society.

Making our vision a reality starts with unique programs, distinctive research, and our commitment to serve as a community hub built on our core values of social justice, inclusiveness, and innovation.

We strive to live up to these core values by integrating them into our programming, our partnerships, and in our mission to prepare the next generation of engaged citizens. We see an important role for our graduates in the work of social transformation, and a key role for the University in our community.

At SPU, we commit ourselves to seek the truth, to promote human dignity, and justice, peace and the integrity of creation, as well as to put education at the service of the poor, while respecting Oblate values.





## AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

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## WE ARE COMMITTED TO

- The well-being of the planet
- Healing of broken human relationships
- Respectful dialogue with the First Peoples of Canada
- Promote the values of Christian humanism
- Contribute to the movement of transformation in the world, in a context of social justice and ecological sustainability
- Participate in a public debate on these topics
- Build institutional and community leadership, and support students to be engaged citizens



## THE TIME IS NOW

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. Major changes in how we think and live are urgently needed. Examining our values and choosing a better way is critical. It calls on everyone of us to search for common grounds in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a new ethical vision shared by growing numbers of people in many nations and cultures throughout the world.

## A GLOBAL CRISIS

This global ecological crisis is made up of a wide assortment of interconnected problems ranging from climate change to biodiversity loss, from resource depletion, to air pollution, from soil degradation , and many more.

*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them. "*

*-Albert Einstein*

A new approach is required to treat the roots of the crisis. Given the complexity and interconnectedness of life on earth, only a new way of seeing, thinking and acting will enable the world to permanently overcome the global ecological crisis.

# INTEGRAL ECOLOGY



**Integral ecology** comes from the awareness that everything is connected. Although simple to say, it is a new insight that involves multi-disciplinary research. From the sciences it is evident that interrelationships occur connecting atomic and molecular dynamics with plants and animals in active ecological processes, networks and systems. From the humanities and social sciences it is observable that social and ecological stress and decline are interconnected, as are options for sustainability.

**Integral ecology** means that social values, worldviews, ethics and spiritual insights are implicated in the developing ecological crisis as well as in future directions.

**Integral ecology** points to the reality that the Earth is best understood as an integrated living community - global and differentiated - and that neighbourhoods, societies and nation states must collaborate on social and ecological visions, values and actions.

*"Everything is closely related. Today's problems calls for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis"*

*-Pope Francis*



## ONE ECOSYSTEM

The relationship between people, planet and values has never been more interdependent. We know that actions that have been taken, have to-date, resulted in ecological stress and decline which is unsustainable.

Ecological degradation is increasing everywhere: climate change; food insecurity; water shortages; pollution; animal extinctions; and biodiversity loss are only some of the ecological tragedies inherited by current and future generations. Action is urgently needed to address the impacts which this degradation is having on poverty, inequality and social conflict. We can clearly see the results of inaction on a daily basis through local and international news reports. Without ecological integrity, these social stresses will only intensify.

## STEPPING FORWARD

**Integral ecology** offers a way forward. Ecological and social issues should be researched and analyzed together. Therefore, responses to poverty and social injustices need to be combined with efforts for ecological stability.

The transformative changes required to enable our planet, therefore, our collective resilience, strongly rely on our capacity to educate the next generation of leaders and change makers, to engage and commit to ethical and informed citizenship.

**Integral Ecology education** empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity.

# A SUSTAINABLE AND TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

Responding to the global crisis call to action, SPU has been investing in the vision of Integral Ecology, as elaborated in *Laudato Si*. The University is committed to multi- and interdisciplinary study and research. Moreover, with its experiential and transformative educational approach that connects theory with practice, the University is perfectly positioned to have a major impact on students intellectual and human development.

## RESPONDING TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Over the past two years, SPU has developed a Masters in Social Justice and Ecology (MA) enthusiastically received by education authorities. The interdisciplinary master's program, taught in French and English, will welcome its first cohort in September 2022.

This one-year program's focus is grounded in the concepts of integral ecology developed within Pope Francis' second encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, the *United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and the mission, vision, and values of SPU. It seeks to further student skills, knowledge, and comprehension in areas related to relationships between environmental degradation, social injustices and inequities. Students will develop interdisciplinary competences in understanding the connections between social justice and ecological issues, and translating such knowledge into transformative and innovative action.

The program fosters ecological literacy and exposes students to various theoretical approaches to ethics and justice. The interdisciplinary coursework builds on the research and teaching expertise of the schools and faculties at SPU, while providing opportunities for students to deepen their own interests and professional trajectories.

# SCHOOL OF INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

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Building on its initial MA program, SPU is seeking support in its mission to advocate and promote values, visions and ethics for a just and sustainable future, to educate for eco-social transformation, and to commit to hope.

Currently part of the School of Ethics, Social Justice and Public Service, within the Faculties of Philosophy and Human Sciences, SPU is eager to deepen its expertise in Integral Ecology. To deepen this transformative discipline, SPU is proposing the creation of the first **School of Integral Ecology** in Canada.

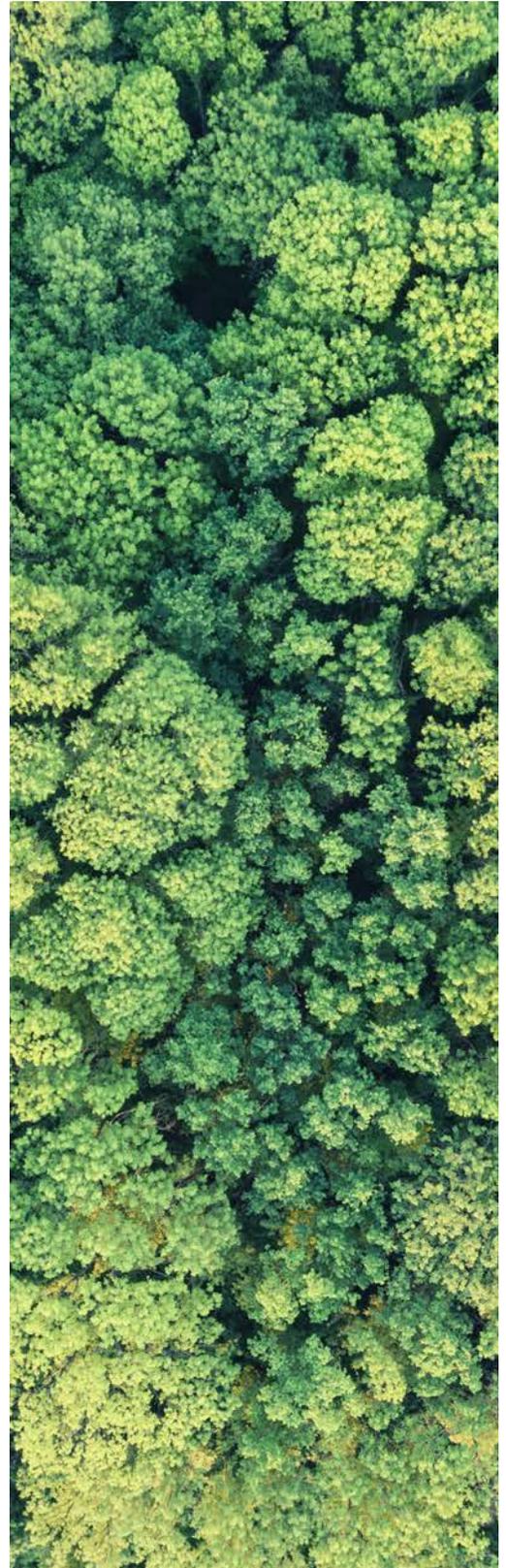
The School will express SPU's mission to contribute to the movement of transformation in the world, in the context of social justice. Addressing both conceptual knowledge and practical connections between social injustices, ecological and social stability, the **School of Integral Ecology** programs will equip students with the necessary skills, knowledge, and comprehension to be the change makers of tomorrow.

# NEXT STEPS

The next steps of our transformative initiative is to develop a four-year Bachelor (BA) in Integral Ecology. The BA will involve new hires with expertise in the various components of integral ecology. It will include existing and relevant courses and professors from several Schools at SPU. The tone of the program is that constructive change is possible, providing steps from learning to social and ecological transformation. Our approach focuses on learning as a mean to become an ethical participating citizen, prepared and confident to address the issues and insights within the scope of integral ecology.

## OUR BACHELOR'S PROGRAM WILL DEVELOP AND FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES

- Integral Ecology
- Earth as Home
- Contemporary Contributions: Earth Charter, Ecological Democracy, Ecological Civilizations, Climate Justice, Ecojustice
- Ecological Ethics
- Approaches to Social and Ecological Issues
- Social Movements and Leadership
- Processes of social innovation
- Social and Political Ethics
- Ecological Dimensions of Conflict
- Just Peace and Nonviolence
- Special Topics: climate change, water, food security, gender, poverty
- Spiritual, Ecology and Ethics
- Internships

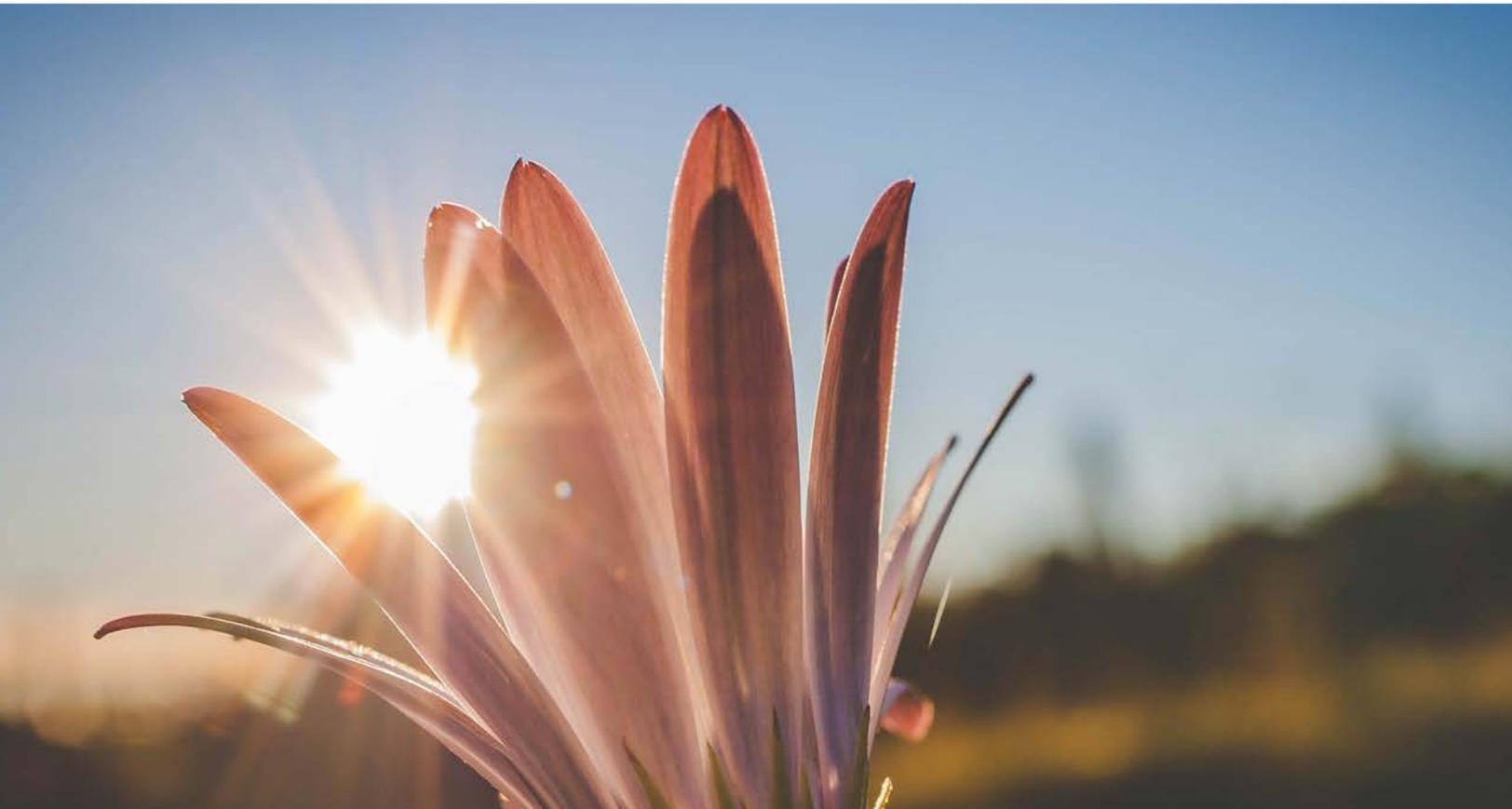


# BE PART OF CHANGE

If the School of Integral Ecology is to be a sustainable and successful initiative that will have a substantial impact on society, it requires the support of those who consider the achievement of their missions to be an extension of their own.

To advance this important mandate, we need your help to realign ecological and social justice education as both a science and a solution focused on the potential of every person and one planet.

If you share our belief that social change and the relationship between people, planet and values is interdependent and directly linked to a sustainable society, we invite you to **become the cornerstone of this new collective vision.**



# TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITY

SPU is in search of a transformative gift(s) totaling 3 000 000\$ to help build a stronger, more humane and sustainable global society. These funds will serve to fully offset all costs for the initial five years of operation and include a mandate to advance a long-term financial model for ongoing self-sustainability.

# MEASUREMENT & REPORTING PLAN

The University will publish annual impact reports detailing all outcomes achieved through the School of Integral Ecology and will meet with the donor(s) each fiscal year to review the reports and discuss objectives for the coming year (in person or by telephone/videoconference, based on donor availability).

# RECOGNITION & GRATITUDE

To recognize the impact of this transformative gift(s) and appropriately honor the memory of its benefactor(s), the University will develop a customized recognition program with the donor(s), including all appropriate naming rights. SPU is committed to working creatively with its major benefactors to ensure legacy protection.



## For more information

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**