

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Willowbank Signs Agreement with The Prince's Foundation for Building Community

Queenston, Ontario, Canada – May 6, 2016

Willowbank is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, a non-profit organization in the United Kingdom which has been teaching and demonstrating sustainable development through community engagement, as well as providing training in traditional building skills for over 20 years. The charity was founded by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Patron of Willowbank.

The agreement with The Prince's Foundation outlines the common goals of both institutions through education and training programmes which transform lives by building resilient communities. Both organizations promote ecological and integrated approaches to design and development that are based on traditional knowledge, innovative sustainable building techniques and best practices in urban design, architecture, planning and construction. The Prince's Foundation for Building Community runs several courses that aim to address the growing lack of craftspeople skilled in traditional building crafts. Their education work focuses as well on sustainable planning skills, offering both an MA and an MSc in these areas. Both institutions have agreed to collaborate on research and projects and exchange students, faculty and alumni when possible.

“This collaboration with the Prince's Foundation is the perfect opportunity to strengthen our approaches to fostering resilient communities,” said Vikki Broer, Chair of Willowbank's Board of Directors, “It enriches Willowbank's role on the world stage as our school programme is about to mark its first decade.”

“We are delighted to announce our collaboration with Willowbank,” said Simon Sadinsky, Head of Education at The Prince's Foundation for Building Community. “We share the same vision of transforming lives by building resilient places – and we hope this relationship will help inspire and develop the next generation of craftspeople, architects and others working in the built environment who will help preserve and shape the beautiful, resilient places of tomorrow.”

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2016, the Willowbank School offers an integrative and innovative three-year Diploma in Heritage Conservation that combines the theory and practice of conservation. Its Centre for Cultural Landscape, which builds on the experience of Canada's First Nations and rich multi-cultural reality of contemporary Canada, also offers field schools, short courses and public lectures. The Prince of Wales became Willowbank's Patron in 2014.

The Prince of Wales meets a Willowbank graduate for the first time, at Canada House

The announcement of the MOU between PFBC and Willowbank was made on the same week that The Prince of Wales visited Canada House in London, home of the Canadian High Commission in the UK. During the visit, which was organized by The Prince's Charities Canada to highlight His Royal Highness's charitable interests in Canada, The Prince of Wales met Sahra Campbell, a graduate of Willowbank's class of 2015 who is working in the conservation field in London.

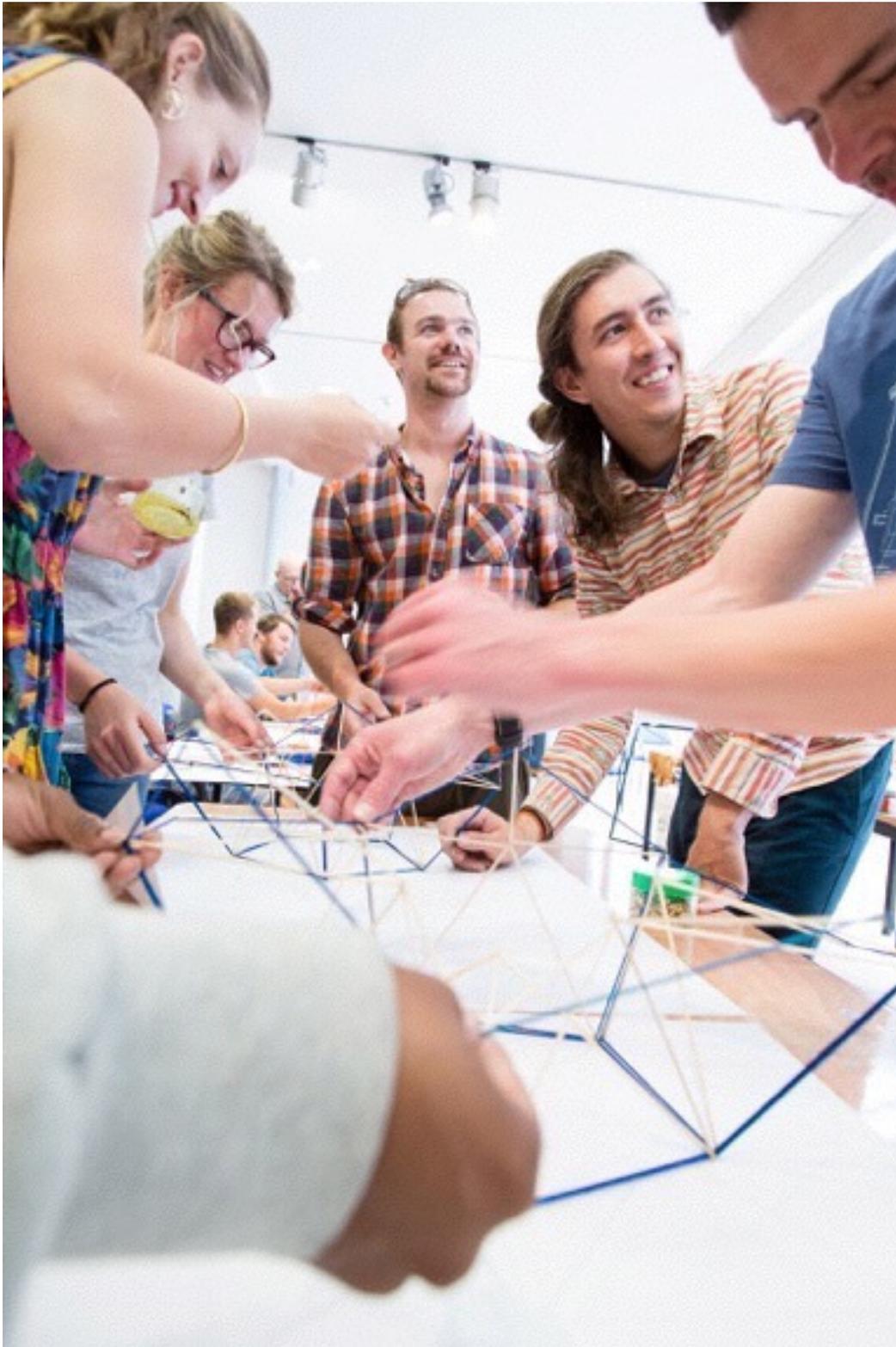
Like other Willowbank graduates finding immediate successes across a range of careers, from skilled trades to design firms to community development, Sahra Campbell has made a successful transition to the conservation of historic materials. As part of her Willowbank internship in the United Kingdom, she headed the documentation team for the restoration of the Temperate House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the world's largest surviving glasshouse of its time, and she is currently conserving the Victorian interiors of Delapré Abbey in Northampton.

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More information about Willowbank is available at willowbank.ca, and its latest annual report includes a message from His Royal Highness: <http://willowbank.ca/wpdir/about/annual-report>. More information about The Prince's Foundation is available at www.princes-foundation.org



The Prince's Foundation Summer School is held in London, UK and Scotland every summer. Last year Willowbank sent graduate, David Deo, pictured here, second from right. Photo: Richard Ivey, 2015



Willowbank alumna Sahra Campbell is the first of Willowbank's graduates to meet His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, at The Canadian High Commission in London on Wednesday May 4th, 2016. Photo: Prince's Charities Canada, Jim Ross, 2016.



Willowbank Estate House and meadow with solitary bee stations, Photo: Zara Wexler, 2015.