

SPROUT



STUDENTS PLANTING SEEDS OF TOMORROW.

INFORMATION DROP #1: LOGISTICS

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Land Acknowledgment

The SASSH and SPROUT acknowledge that "Toronto is in the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory'. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect."



The "Dish", or sometimes it is called the "Bowl", represents what is now southern Ontario, from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the United States. *We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty, which includes taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured above.

This was a treaty made between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee after the French and Indian War. Newcomers were then incorporated into it over the years, notably in 1764 with The Royal Proclamation/The Treaty of Niagara.

The land acknowledgment started in British Columbia, where there were no treaties at all. Its popularity has spread as an acknowledgment of Indigenous presence and assertion of sovereignty. It is used in a variety of ways, such as at opening events and meetings.

The Eagle Staff gifted TMU as the highest flying flag, acknowledging this university's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and its continued efforts towards indigenizing space and learning. As we participate in the SPROUT case competition, dedicated to fostering social entrepreneurship and sustainable development, let us honor and respect the land, its original caretakers, and their ongoing contributions to our shared community.



Inclusivity Statement

Toronto Metropolitan University as well as The Society of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (SASSH) is committed to maintaining and upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in all areas of life, including study, work and living environments, for both the campus and the wider community. We firmly believe that fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment will allow us to effectively meet the needs of the students, staff, faculty, and community partners.

As part of SPROUT, all committee members, experts, speakers and participants are held to the expectation of inclusivity. There will be no tolerance for discrimination, harassment or exclusion of any kind during the competition. If you experience any of this or witness someone else experiencing it, please report it to the organizing committee immediately.

What is SPROUT?

Welcome to the fifth annual SPROUT Case Competition! We are excited to have you join in on the four-day professional and collaborative competition hosted by The Society of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (SASSH). This year, SASSH has collaborated with the *Wealthsimple Foundation* to provide you with an exciting competition experience. We are proud to announce that this year's topic is "*Innovation in Financial Literacy*." This event also offers networking opportunities to gain valuable experience that will aid your future endeavors! SPROUT is an interdisciplinary case competition that allows participants from various academic backgrounds to collaborate to create solutions for real-world issues. The knowledge of your peers will be necessary for a successful solution, so be sure to learn about your team members' expertise and experience.



The competition is a four-day-long event beginning on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, and ending on Sunday, February 25th, 2024. This provides the opportunity to build collaborative skills, create and form new relationships, and have your ideas seen by professionals in the field. For a more in-depth breakdown, visit the section entitled Schedule. Any further communication will be emailed to you from sprout@sassh.ca and available on tmusprout.ca.

What are Info Drops?

In the 2 weeks prior to the competition, you will receive three information packages that contain information about the SPROUT Case Competition and tips to better support you and your group.

Each info drop will have its specific purpose. This is Info Drop #1, which will include general information regarding the logistics, programming, and the job of the participants.

Info Drop #2 will contain information regarding this year's theme of "Innovation in Financial Literacy" that will provide some insight into areas and topics that will be useful for your team to explore during your case competition experience.

Info Drop #3, the final one, is where you will meet your competition experts and professionals that you will be consulting with over the course of the competition.

Tips for Info Drop #1

Familiarize yourself with the contents of this drop and make note of any and all important information that may be useful when creating your case solution. Info Drops are to be used as clues to success. They provide you with some information, but may not give away everything. Each drop gives you more and more info until you reach the competition itself where the case question is discussed at length and you can ask more direct questions.

This info drop can be used as a check-in to make sure that you are on schedule. General time commitments are in the "Schedule" section and further information will be communicated by February 16, 2024.

Based on the theme "Innovation in Financial Literacy" provided, you may begin to conduct some preliminary research before the release of the second and third info drops.

Be curious. Use this as a starting point to start exploring ideas, themes, and possibilities. If there are any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact one of the SPROUT team members. Their contact information is listed in the section entitled contact information.

Expectations

At the beginning of your SPROUT experience, we will pose a question related to this year's theme: "Innovation in Financial Literacy", which has been posed by our partner, The Wealthsimple Foundation.

Your task is to formulate an innovative solution for the presented problem. Participants are allowed to explore the question, the theme, and how both relate to the priorities of our competition partner, The Wealthsimple Foundation.

Participants will work in teams with members from various academic disciplines to accomplish their tasks. Participants are expected to work, communicate, and meet with their team members throughout SPROUT. When meeting with your team members, you must create a respectful, inclusive, collaborative, and open-minded environment to encourage collaboration and idea-sharing within the team. With everyone collaborating, it will yield the best outcome regarding formulating a solution and the solution itself.

Participants are also expected to attend various activities curated by the SPROUT team. This includes the designated work times, workshops, the expert roundtable session, your group consultation, and all other activities within the competition that will aid in your team's success. On February 25th, participants will present their final solutions to two panels of judges. During the first round of presentations, the groups will be divided into three presentation rooms and first submit to a small panel of judges. The top 3 presentations will then move on to the second and final round of presentations, in which they will meet with a larger panel of judges and our partner to present their solutions once more. The team selected in this round will win the entire competition. All participants and some special guests will also be invited to attend the final round of presentations. This is your time to shine! Throughout the competition, participants must be respectful, encouraging, and professional towards each other, guest speakers, and competition organizers.

The winning team selected in the final round will be rewarded with a cash prize and further networking opportunities. The winning team will attend a meeting with the Wealthsimple Foundation and SASSH officials to celebrate their victory and continue discussions about their solution. Overall, expect to experience four days worth of fun activities, networking opportunities, and the chance to create meaningful change within the community.

Teams

Within Info Drop #2, you will be provided with a corresponding team number, team member names, and the name of your Team Liaison. For those who have picked partners during your sign-up, you will be placed on the same team. For those that did not, no worries! You will be placed in groups with other participants across various programs and faculties.

You can communicate and work with your teams in any way you wish. This can be in person and through Facebook, Whatsapp, phone calls, Google Meet, Zoom, etc, please note the competition is completely in person. Pick whatever makes your team feel comfortable. There are no rules or requirements for meetings. The meetings can be as long or as short as you would like. They might be as frequent or infrequent as you wish. You may even want to meet briefly, break off to do individual work and come back together to discuss. It is entirely up to you. However, whatever method you choose, make sure your team is on the same page.

***Please note that the SPROUT Committee needs to provide in-person space for group meetings during the late evenings of the competition.**



Team Liaisons

Each team will have a designated SPROUT committee member and liaison for the entire competition. Your Team Liaison will create a group chat on your desired platform accessible to all participants. Their job is to answer questions that you may have, address any comments or concerns, and keep you informed of the activities occurring on all four days of SPROUT. It is important to note that your Team Liaison is not permitted to assist or aid participants in formulating the solutions for the presented problem. They are only there to clarify SPROUT's process, activities, and other logistical parts. More information will be provided to your team once you have connected with your Team Liaison.

What Do You Receive From This Competition?

In addition to receiving a delegate bag with tons of SPROUT swag for participating in the competition, each participant will receive the following:

- A certificate of participation.
- Opportunity to network with others from different academic backgrounds.
- A positive, safe, and accepting environment to explore ideas, learn new information, and have fun!
- Free food and snacks for the duration of the competition!
- A trip to Wealthsimple.
- Access to professionals to build your professional network.
- The winning team will receive a cash prize of \$2,000, (\$500 for each member)
- The winning team's solution from the case competition will help the Wealthsimple Foundation find solutions to promote better student awareness and engagement in financial literacy!

Location

The SPROUT Case Competition will be held from February 22nd to February 25th and will be conducted in person. Most of the event will be held in the Student Learning Center, 341 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5B 1S1. However, a couple of competition components take place off campus.

Here are the locations that you need to know:

Student Learning Center (SLC) Here is where the majority of the competition will take place

Address: 341 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5B 1S1

Wealthsimple Office

The keynote and a few workshops on our topic will occur here on the event's first day. Transportation from the SLC to the Wealthsimple offices will be provided

Address: 80 Spadina Ave. 4th Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 2J4

Gala Venue

*We will host our final gala on the last day of SPROUT at **Second Floor Events***

Address: 461 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5V 1K4



Schedule

Throughout the duration of the competition, you will have several opportunities to engage in activities that are geared towards building up your big ideas. This year's competition will operate within an in-person format, Final schedules will be released with info drop #3

9:30 AM				
10:00 AM				
10:30 AM				
11:00 AM	11:00am – 7:30 pm	10:30am – 6:30 pm	9:30am – 5:30 pm	9:30am – 4:30 pm
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM				
1:00 PM				
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4:00 PM				
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM				
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM				
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM				
7:30 PM				Gala + Competition Results
8:00 PM				6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
8:30 PM				
9:00 PM				

How to Pay Registration Fees

If you have not already, please go to the [SASSH Arts Apparel](#) website to pay the \$20 non-refundable registration fee by Friday, February 16th at 11:59 PM.

This fee covers your registration and your competition supplies. If you are unable to pay this fee due to financial circumstances, please contact us at sprout@sassh.ca.

Accessibility

The SPROUT Case Competition aims to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible experience for all participants and guests. For those with accessibility needs, please contact us at sprout@sassh.ca so that we can ensure you have the support you need to be able to fully participate.

What Do I Bring?

SASSH and the SPROUT team will provide digital copies of all three information drops. Please bring any and all items that you feel will assist you in succeeding during the competition. The items listed below compile a small, non-exhaustive list of important items that you will need:

- Devices such as a laptop or tablet and a charger
- Writing utensils such as pen, pencil, erasers, and notebooks
 - Outdoor clothing for traveling days (day 1 and 4)
 - Professional attire
- Great attitude
- A collaborative spirit
- Eagerness to learn
- Your SPROUT swag and spirit



Tips to succeed

- Get involved! This is imperative to your success, as groups will produce the best and most dynamic solutions by working together. So, make sure you are open-minded and receptive to all ideas and incorporate multiple perspectives into your solution.
- Make some friends! For those working with participants they have never met, getting involved with new people might be scary. Doing a few icebreakers to get to know each other better might be beneficial. This competition is an opportunity to network with professionals in associated fields and bring the Toronto Metropolitan community together. Take advantage of that.
- Take Notes! You will be getting a lot of information over a short period. Keep a journal to remember your ideas and conversations so you can discuss them with your teams.
- Listen to experts! The professionals brought in to help you have valuable experience and/or knowledge you can benefit from. Consider what they say and think critically about how that applies to your solution. They are giving up their time to help you, so use that to your advantage.
- Listen to your team members! You will be put into a team with folks from different faculties and programs. You will meet people who think differently than you do. This is a strength! Listen to all ideas, and think together while considering all perspectives and strengths while you build your presentation. The judges look for collaboration in this way.
- And most importantly, have fun!

If you have any questions, please contact sprout@sassh.ca