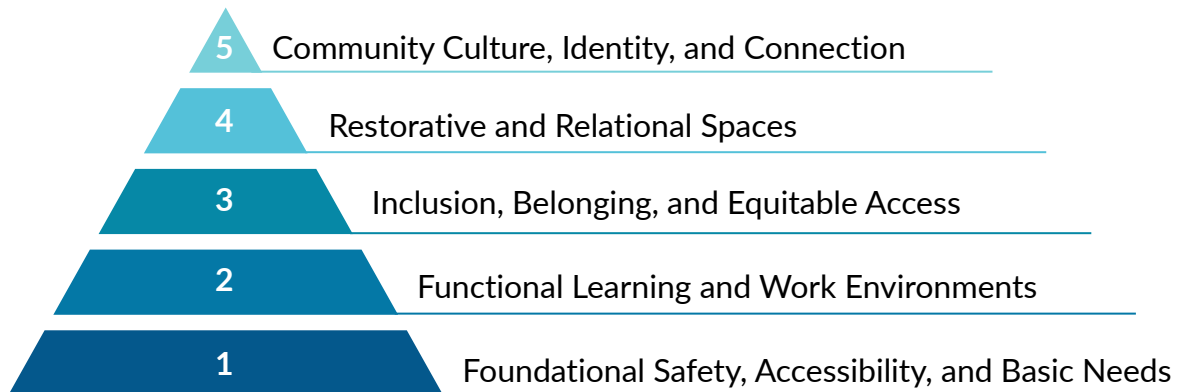


Prioritizing Health-Promoting Space Needs

This tool can help institutions prioritize supportive space improvements by recognizing that some foundational needs must be addressed before higher-level goals related to connection, belonging, and wellbeing can be fully realized.

While these areas are interconnected and may overlap, this framework can support phased planning and decision-making when resources, time, or infrastructure are limited.



**Pyramid borrows from the concept of Maslow's Hierarchy*

1

These are the essential conditions required for people to work, learn, and participate safely and effectively, such as clean and functional washrooms, accessible environments, safe lighting, ventilation, ergonomic design, and spaces that appropriately support occupancy and workflow.

2

Once foundational needs are addressed, spaces should effectively support teaching, learning, research, clinical work, and collaboration through functional study areas, meeting spaces, technology, and workflows.

3

Health-promoting spaces should reflect the diverse needs of the community through inclusive, accessible, and culturally supportive environments such as lactation spaces, all-gender washrooms, spiritual spaces, and universally designed environments.

4

Supportive spaces should foster rest, recovery, connection, and psychological wellbeing through opportunities for decompression, privacy, social connection, natural light, and restorative environments.

5

At the highest level, spaces can reinforce institutional values, creativity, mentorship, collaboration, and shared purpose through environments that foster community connection, innovation, reflection, and belonging.

This framework is not intended to suggest that higher-level wellbeing initiatives should wait until every foundational issue is resolved. Rather, it recognizes that health-promoting spaces are most effective when institutions address both immediate needs and long-term cultural and environmental goals together.