



# Queen's University Pre-Budget Submission

to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

August 2018



**Summary of Recommendations:**

- Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada provide funding to scale-up supports for innovation and entrepreneurship in Kingston and eastern Ontario.
- Recommendation 2: That the Government of Canada provide ongoing support to the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research.
- Recommendation 3: That the Government of Canada address the full costs of research by closing the Research Support Fund funding gap.
- Recommendation 4: That the Government of Canada provide additional funding to support the training of highly-qualified personnel to advance Canada's position as a leading knowledge-based economy.
- Recommendation 5: That the Government of Canada explore opportunities to partner with Queen's as a resource and convene around important matters of public policy.

## Introduction

Queen's University is one of Canada's leading universities, combining an unparalleled excellence in education with an innovative, research-intensive environment. Queen's brings together exceptional students and leading researchers, creating an environment that supports, challenges, and encourages all to strive for excellence.

Queen's is committed to building a more prosperous Canada by ensuring that its students develop the skills that employers demand, and that they are prepared to tackle the challenges of an evolving, innovation-based economy. In addition, Queen's supports its students and researchers as they tackle some of Canada's most pressing challenges—from climate change to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples—and as they work to translate their discoveries and innovations to benefit Canadians.

In April 2017, the Queen's Truth and Reconciliation Task Force delivered its final report, offering recommendations on how the university could act on the recommendations of the national TRC report. This past year, Queen's was proud to announce the establishment of an Office of Indigenous Initiatives, as well as the appointment of Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) as the inaugural Director of Indigenous Initiatives. Through initiatives like Queen's Engineering Outreach – an award-winning program aimed at engaging Indigenous youth in science and technology – and dedicated admissions pathways for Indigenous students, Queen's is working to support the training and development of a highly-skilled and diverse workforce. Queen's would welcome the opportunity to work with the government further to support these efforts to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Queen's University thanks the government for its important investments in research, innovation and skills development at postsecondary institutions and is pleased to be a partner with the government as it delivers on its vision of building a more prosperous, competitive, and inclusive Canada. As the government sets its priorities for Budget 2019, Queen's would like to express its support for the pre-budget recommendations of Universities Canada and the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities, and submits these additional recommendations, which are aimed at enhancing Canada's competitiveness while also building inclusive prosperity.

### **Recommendation 1:**

**That the Government of Canada provide funding to scale-up supports for innovation and entrepreneurship in Kingston and eastern Ontario.**

Queen's has a long history of supporting and catalyzing innovation and entrepreneurship in Kingston and eastern Ontario. Since 1987, Queen's researchers have secured more than 500 patents, spun off scores of companies, and attracted more than \$1.4 billion in investments. In addition, Queen's is an active partner with stakeholders across the region. For example, the university has formalized a partnership with the City of Kingston to work collectively to advance innovation, economic development, and talent retention. Queen's is also partnering with the [Eastern Ontario Leadership Council](#) to refresh and implement a regional economic development plan for eastern Ontario.

Since its founding in 2008, Queen's Innovation Park has been a hub where academia, industry, government, and not-for-profits work together to cultivate ideas, identify and

transform technological discoveries, and propel innovations into the marketplace. Queen's, along with Invest Ottawa and L-SPARK, received \$10 million in support from the former Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP). Through these funds, Queen's and its local delivery partners have been able to provide more than 14,500 hours of mentoring, coaching, and services to over 500 entrepreneurs and startups in eastern Ontario. Companies supported by the Queen's CAIP program have attracted nearly \$200 million in investments and created more than 300 jobs in the region.

Queen's also provides a range of programs and services to enable innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, including through the [Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre](#) (DDQIC). Created as a lean startup in 2012, the DDQIC supports the innovation activities of students, professors, entrepreneurs, and regional startups. Through incubators, accelerators, workshops, and annual pitch competitions, the DDQIC challenges students across all faculties to combine their knowledge and skills to bring innovative ideas, inventions, and products to market. The result to date is more than 61 active companies founded by DDQIC alumni.

The conclusion of CAIP raises concerns that the momentum in Kingston and eastern Ontario could be lost. Following the success of the Queen's-led CAIP partnership, now is an ideal time for the government to commit to additional support for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development in the region. A commitment to new support for innovation and incubation programming would allow Queen's and its regional partners to build on a track record of entrepreneurial success, while fostering job creation and economic growth in eastern Ontario.

### **Recommendation 2:**

**That the Government of Canada provide ongoing support to the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research**

With more than 100,000 military personnel, 54,000 military families, and 650,000 veterans, Canada has a significant population with unique risks, exposures and experiences that demands new standards of protection, prevention, and care for the ill and injured. Through its research and knowledge translation activities, the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) works to harness the country's national capacity for research in order to enhance the lives of Canadian military personnel, veterans, and their families.

CIMVHR is an innovative organization that engages existing academic research resources and facilitates the development of new research, research capacity, and effective knowledge translation. With Queen's University and the Royal Military College of Canada as founding institutions, CIMVHR brings together a network of over 1,600 academic researchers from 44 Canadian universities alongside industry, government, and philanthropic partners who are working together in addressing the health research requirements of the Canadian military, veterans, and their families.

CIMVHR serves all Canadian stakeholders interested in military, veteran, and family health (MVFH) research and acts as a conduit between the academic community, government organizations (such as National Defence and Veterans Affairs Canada and Health Canada), industry, and philanthropic organizations.

CIMVHR's primary source of funding is through Health Canada. This non-renewable grant is set to end on December 31, 2019. Without continued funding, CIMVHR's capacity for research and knowledge translation will be, at very least, greatly reduced or cease to exist. Queen's fully supports and echoes the recommendations offered by CIMVHR in their respective pre-budget submission. A commitment to sustained operational funding, as well as continued investment in MVFH research, will allow CIMVHR to continue bringing about positive change in policy, programs and services through research and knowledge translation activities. This investment will enhance the lives of Canada's military personnel, veterans, and their families, while contributing greatly to Canada's competitiveness.

**Recommendation 3:**

**That the Government of Canada address the full costs of research by closing the Research Support Fund funding gap.**

The positive effects of university research stretch far beyond the academy. From the development of new technologies, to new medical treatments that enhance quality of life, research conducted at universities pays dividends to Canadians. Queen's thanks the Government of Canada for its important investments in fundamental research in Budget 2018. We recognize the numerous other priorities for investment and appreciate both the government's recognition of the long-term value of postsecondary research, as well as the decision to invest.

It is important to note, however, that the funding researchers receive through the tri-council agencies does not cover the full costs of research. Universities like Queen's bear necessary costs such as maintenance of laboratory and office space, financial management of grants, health and safety equipment and training, hazardous waste management, libraries, and IT services. Indirect costs of research can amount to more than 50 per cent of the value of a research grant.

On average, members of the U15 group of Canadian research universities receive only 20.5 per cent of the value of tri-council grants from the Research Support Fund. As a result, universities are left with a significant gap that can only be filled by diverting funding from other sources. The gap in support for indirect research costs erodes institutions' ability to invest in other critical aspects of their missions, such as the student learning experience.

Queen's University supports the recommendation of the U15 Group of Research Intensive-Universities to ensure that Canada's leading research universities can build and sustain world-class research by addressing the full costs of research and closing the research support gap.

**Recommendation 4:**

**That the Government of Canada provide additional funding to support the training of highly-qualified personnel to advance Canada's position as a leading knowledge-based economy.**

Competing in a knowledge economy requires Canada to be a leader in talent, adaptability, and innovation. When students pursue undergraduate research opportunities and professional graduate studies, they gain both the field-specific and transferrable skills –

such as critical thinking and problem solving – needed for success in industry, the workplace and academia.

Queen's believes that improving access to these important skills-development opportunities will strengthen Canada's ability to compete in the modern knowledge economy. Therefore, Queen's recommends new investment in programs that expand access to graduate education. These investments could include expanding the NSERC Undergraduate Research Awards program to support opportunities in fields funded through the other tri-council agencies, as well as new and expanded graduate and postdoctoral scholarships.

While Queen's is proud to note that 67 per cent of its graduates move on to further studies, Canada continues to lag behind the OECD average in terms of percentage of the population with a graduate degree. At 10 per cent, Canada lags well behind the United States, United Kingdom and Germany, and is outside the top 20 OECD countries in graduate attainment. Further, Indigenous students continue to lack opportunity for postsecondary and graduate training – contributing to inequality, high unemployment, and economic marginalization.

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Estimates consistently show that people with graduate degrees have a higher employment rate than those without graduate education. Queen's recommends the government act on the recommendations of the Naylor Report to "reinvigorate and harmonize scholarship and postdoctoral fellowship programs." Queen's further recommends that the government commit to dedicated funding to support access to graduate education by women, Indigenous peoples, and other equity-seeking groups.

By investing in these proposals, the government can strengthen Canada's standing and global competitiveness, while improving access to graduate education. This is particularly true for students from equity-seeking groups, as Canada cannot reach its potential unless all students have equal opportunity to succeed. Investments in graduate programming support the training of a highly-qualified and diverse workforce, which is key to securing Canada's position as a leading knowledge-based economy.

### **Recommendation 5:**

**That the Government of Canada explore opportunities to partner with Queen's as a resource and convene around important matters of public policy.**

Queen's is home to internationally-renowned researchers with the resources, networks and capacity to bring together leading experts from industry, government and Indigenous communities to examine some of the most pressing challenges for Canadians. In recent years, Queen's has partnered with the Government of Canada to convene experts and stakeholders and advise the government on public policy issues such as Canada's energy landscape and cybersecurity. Queen's faculty have also provided policy advice to the government, including gender-based analysis for Budget 2018. Queen's recommends that the Government of Canada further leverage Queen's expertise and its role as a convener of experts and stakeholders to inform its evidence-based policy-making processes.

### **Conclusion**

Queen's University thanks the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the opportunity to participate in this pre-budget consultation process. We strongly believe that

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the investments proposed above will strengthen Canada's economic competitiveness by ensuring all Canadians have the opportunity to develop the skills, competencies and knowledge to succeed in the economy of the future.