



Queen's University Pre-Budget Submission

February 2016



The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON, M7A 1Z1

Dear Minister Sousa,

Queen's University is pleased to submit its 2016 provincial pre-budget submission to the Ministry of Finance. Queen's applauds the government on the work that has been done on a number of key files related to postsecondary institutions, particularly with regards to: the funding formula review, sexual violence and harassment, refresh of capital inventory, and funding for Aboriginal learners (such as the Postsecondary Funding for Aboriginal Learners program) to name a few.

In particular, the university would like to thank the government for its ongoing support for innovation and entrepreneurship programming on postsecondary campuses, including at Queen's. In 2014, Queen's received a \$900,000 grant from the Campus-Linked Accelerator program, which was used to support the Queen's Innovation Connector program that helps youth commercialize their ideas. For several years the Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative, Queen's Innovation Connector's flagship program, has enabled students from across faculties to create innovative solutions to pressing problems. Queen's also partners with St. Lawrence College to offer this program to their students. In 2015, four St. Lawrence students joined the program.

Since its inception, Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative students have founded ventures in a variety of sectors, including medical devices, advanced manufacturing, fashion and food and beverage. To date, 26 companies that were incubated in the Queen's Innovation Connector program are still in operation, many of which made use of the technology for prototyping that is available on campus. As such, Queen's would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of investments in campus infrastructure, both funding for immediate renewal and for the revitalization of existing structures to make campuses more innovative and useful in order to support programs like Queen's Innovation Connector.

Established in 1841 by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria, Queen's University is renowned for its student experience and outcomes, professional faculties in business, medicine, law, education and engineering, its top programs in arts and science, and one of the strongest research programs in Canada. Queen's delivers a transformative student experience that is not compromised by its standing as one of Canada's most research-intensive universities. In fact, 2015 marked an exciting year for research at the university, as Queen's Professor Emeritus Arthur McDonald won both the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics (shared with a Japanese physicist) and the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics awarded at the NASA Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California. This Nobel Prize is particularly important for Canada, Ontario and Queen's as it is the first Nobel in more than two decades awarded to a Canadian working in a STEM field for research largely funded and completed in Canada. The Nobel Prize has contributed to tremendous momentum at Queen's, along with Stephen J.R. Smith's transformative \$50-million donation to the business school at Queen's University, and Alfred and Isabel Bader's remarkable donation of a third painting by Rembrandt.

Queen's graduate outcomes are among the best in the country and its graduates are highly sought after by employers. According to the 2013 Ontario University Graduate Survey, 92 per cent of graduates from Queen's undergraduate programs are employed six months after graduation, compared to an average of 87 per cent for Ontario's universities. In addition, according to the National Baccalaureate Graduate Outcomes Survey, a sample of Queen's graduates from across all programs have a median annual income that is higher than the Canadian university average. From mining and natural resources, to banking and health care, Queen's alumni make significant contributions to Ontario's economy, society and global competitiveness.

Queen's wants to work with government. The university is integral to the economic and community development of Kingston and the eastern Ontario region. We work successfully with community business partners to provide students with an array of experiential learning opportunities. Queen's is also able and willing to contribute research and policy expertise to help the government address priority issues, and we are extremely interested in helping the provincial government answer complex policy questions and develop ideas to address issues. Fortunately, the university is equipped with a breadth of disciplines to do this.

Queen's works with the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) to advance postsecondary policy in Ontario and is supportive of COU's pre-budget submission. Queen's echoes COU's recommendations for: protecting the sustainability of universities to foster the talent and research needed for the economy by maintaining current funding as the government works closely with the sector on options for a new funding model; the development of an international strategy; matching of federal funding for research, infrastructure and student internship programs; and ensuring Ontario remains the destination of choice for students by increasing the number of Ontario Graduate Scholarships.

In addition to the advocacy priorities of the COU, Queen's would like to advocate for investment in infrastructure on postsecondary campuses. In what follows we provide the Ministry of Finance with examples of shovel-ready infrastructure priorities that are both important to Queen's and are in line with many of the government's objectives and priorities on innovation and the student experience. We will also take this opportunity to advocate for matching government money in recognition of Stephen J.R., Smith for his extraordinary \$50 million donation to the business school at Queen's University.

The Queen's Wellness and Innovation Centre

Queen's University is in the advanced planning stage of a major construction project that will revitalize its Physical Education Centre (PEC) building and transform it into a Wellness and Innovation Centre. The 1930s building is in excellent condition and our plan is to develop 72,500 net assignable square feet, with an additional 30,000 square feet of space available for future expansion. The building is ideally located at the centre of Queen's campus to serve our undergraduate and graduate students by meeting their needs with respect to both academic and non-academic programming. In the short term, the repurposing of this building will create an economic stimulus through job creation and, in the long term, will greatly contribute to economic development through innovation. It will also support improved learning and health outcomes for Queen's students.

Wellness

Like many universities in Canada and around the world, Queen's is experiencing considerable growth in demand for health, counselling, sexual assault, and mental health related services on campus. The new centre will provide us with the increased capacity and flexibility to meet the rising demand across the spectrum of wellness services. Furthermore, we will be able to expand our services in response to the evolving needs of our student population. The co-location of the Wellness Centre with space for

engineering and innovation will blend academic, recreational and other student life activities, and will emphasize to our students the important relationships that connect mental health, physical wellbeing and academic success.

Innovation

The Wellness and Innovation Centre will also include an Innovation Hub. The revitalized facility will provide flexible teaching space and maker-space where students from across the university's faculties and schools will have access to the resources, networks and the mentors that will help transform their ideas into products and services. Students will work in diverse teams to address important problems and identify solutions that will yield benefits not only for our region, but nationally and globally. Queen's is committed to working with its community partners and private sector businesses to create new learning opportunities for our students.

Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (FEAS) will be a major occupant of the revitalized facility. Undergraduate learning in engineering will be supported by an interactive learning commons that will allow more than 500 mechanical and materials engineering students to work individually or collaboratively on projects and assignments in an environment that offers state-of-the-art information and computing technology. Additionally, a number of high-technology, leading-edge teaching and design studios will each support between 75 and 150 undergraduate students.

Additionally, interdisciplinary laboratory space will support more faculty researchers working on bioengineering, environment, and biomedical research. This laboratory space will allow considerable expansion of interdisciplinary research primarily, but not exclusively, in the areas of chemical and civil engineering. The facility will be a level two biohazard suite of laboratories and will allow consolidation of current facilities and optimization of health and safety protocols and equipment.

Furthering Learning Through Classroom Renewal

The university would also like to update many of our centrally controlled classrooms to ensure our academic spaces adequately support our continued efforts to enhance the student learning experience. In alignment with Queen's efforts to increase student engagement, and building on the success of our existing active learning classrooms (ALC), this project will enable the renewal of learning spaces so that they are designed to facilitate and promote accessible, active and collaborative learning. The refurbishment will vary from installing new furniture, flexible seating, white boards and other fixtures, to advanced educational technologies and HVAC replacement. This project is essential to facilitating our students' achievement of required learning outcomes through the promotion of increased student engagement, subject comprehension and retention.

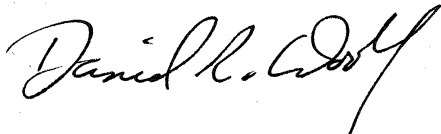
This project also aligns with the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) between Queen's and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In our SMA, a key differentiator is the quality of our undergraduate student learning experience. This area of strength is dependent upon program delivery methods that expand learning options for students, enhance student engagement and improve career readiness. This project directly supports improved teaching and learning methods by focusing on active and collaborative learning enhanced by the purposeful use of educational technologies, improving student achievement of learning outcomes.

Government Funding in Recognition of Smith Donation

On October 1, 2015, Queen's University announced an extraordinary \$50-million gift to the business school and a new name in recognition of the donation – the Stephen J.R. Smith School of Business at Queen's University. This is both a historic gift to Queen's, and the largest ever to a Canadian business school. It will help the school realize its vision to be among the most innovative and influential business schools in the world, help strengthen Queen's leadership position as a university, and support the long-term economic competitiveness of Ontario and Canada. The naming distinguishes the school through an association with a visionary alumnus and entrepreneurial Canadian.

We ask that the government show its support for this extraordinary investment. The university is open to exploring with government ways in which this can be done, whether through investment for campus infrastructure (such as the projects listed above), or through program funding. It is our goal to demonstrate to the donor that the university and government take his donation seriously and appreciate philanthropic investment in the postsecondary sector.

In closing, Queen's acknowledges that the postsecondary sector in Ontario has benefited greatly from investment in infrastructure on campuses over the past 10 years. Should the government have available infrastructure money, Queen's is well-positioned with shovel-ready projects that bolster short-term economic stimulus, through job creation, and have long-term economic benefits through student innovation. We would like to thank the government for the opportunity to provide input for Budget 2016. During the budget process we would be pleased to discuss this letter and other ways Queen's can contribute to the government's plan. For more information, or should you have any questions or comments, please contact Michael Fraser, Vice-Principal, University Relations, at 613-533-6000 ext. 33410 or michael.fraser@queensu.ca.



Principal and Vice-Chancellor