House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** McMaster University

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Investing in high-quality research is vital to making Canada's economy globally competitive. Ranked as one of the world's top 100 institutions, McMaster drives innovation, a key factor in economic development and job creation. Government investment in the Research Excellence Fund will enable research intensive universities to attract, retain and develop the world's best talent and make new discoveries. This will bring a high return on investment, will build Canada's reputation as the place for innovators and entrepreneurs and have a positive impact on the health and prosperity of Canadians.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$100 million -$499.9 million

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The Excellence Fund would consist of a $400 million investment over four to five years, starting with $100 million in the first year. The federal government could fund this through the efficiencies, reallocation of funds and savings found in the streamlining of government programs, services and operations. The return on investment in economic benefits to Canadians is expected to be significant as this will increase our global competitiveness, enhance our ability to conduct globally competitive transformative research, attract top talent and foster innovation that will benefit Canadians.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The Fund will help McMaster and other research intensive institutions attract talent and build Canada's reputation as a world leader in innovative discovery of commercial value that drives economic development. McMaster researchers would have an expanded opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of Canadians. Canadian businesses and government agencies that work closely with research intensive universities would benefit from the generation of new ideas, technologies, processes, and the development of a skilled and adaptable workforce.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Advances made at McMaster and other universities are addressing urgent needs in society, improving quality of life, productivity, and developing opportunities for communities across Canada. This Fund will help in the production of new ideas, products and processes that will lead to job growth, entrepreneurism and business development. Researchers at McMaster will be able to further develop their skills, giving businesses access to a highly educated workforce. It will also enable research in key areas affecting Canadians such as health, natural resources and advanced manufacturing.

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Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

In order to promote job creation and innovation, funding bodies such as CFI and the Granting Councils (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) must continue to make sustainable and strategic investments in research and infrastructure at universities. This funding supports critical thinking, spurs discovery and economic development, and ultimately improves the lives of Canadians. Universities play a key role in establishing Canada's reputation as an intellectual powerhouse. To continue competing in the global landscape, predictable funding to these bodies is crucial.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

unknown

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The federal government could fund this recommendation through the efficiencies, reallocation of funds and savings found in the streamlining of government programs, services and operations.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Investment in the granting councils/CFI benefits research institutions by enabling them to recruit and retain top talent and generate world class research. It would benefit researchers by providing the opportunity to develop the skills necessary for today's economy and make innovative discoveries that improve the lives of Canadians. With the help of granting councils/CFI, McMaster has developed strong partnerships with industry providing our partners with access to our intellectual resources and state-of-the-art facilities, and allowing them to develop new products, at a fraction of the cost.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Granting council support enables university researchers to make advances that improve the health and standard of living of Canadians. CFI supported infrastructure helps facilitate valuable public-private partnerships, attract and develop top talent and enables innovative discoveries vital to the creation of new markets, jobs and industries. Continued funding will enable graduates to develop the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to Canada's economy. It will also allow McMaster to continue to develop partnerships with industry and produce innovative solutions.

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Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

We are dedicated to serving our community, region and country. We support strategic spending that promotes innovation and builds Canada's competitiveness and ability to retain and recruit top talent, thus improving the quality of life of Canadians. Targeted investment in Canadian priorities such as the health of Canadians, protecting our water sources and strengthening the advanced manufacturing sector will help address key challenges and make Canada a global leader in research. This funding will help Canadians live active/healthy lives as well as create opportunities for commercialization.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

unknown

Immediately

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The federal government could fund this recommendation through the efficiencies, reallocation of funds and savings found in the streamlining of government programs, services and operations. Investment in these research areas will have significant economic benefits such as job growth, expanded public-private partnerships and the creation of new markets and industries.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Canadians will benefit from targeted research in priority areas that support transformative research that can be immediately translated into commercial benefit. Investment in key areas would allow researchers to gain experience developing creative solutions to challenges facing Canadians and make the country a world leader in these areas.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Innovation in the following areas will improve the quality of life of Canadians. Ensuring our aging population has the support they need to age optimally benefits everyone. Antibiotic resistance, as noted at the G8 conference of Science Ministers is the major health security challenge of the 21st century. Research will mitigate the impacts of potential outbreaks. To protect our waterways, we must make the most of existing government assets like the Water Technology Centre in Burlington. Advanced manufacturing research will help Hamilton, Southern Ontario and, indeed, all of Canada prosper.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

Investment in human potential and innovation benefits our local communities, our region, our country and our world in countless ways. University research expands the possibilities for our society and helps address the key challenges facing Canadians today. Sustained and predictable funding of university research will help to build Canada's reputation as a world leader in cutting-edge research.

Investing in universities, like McMaster, is of critical importance to attracting the best and brightest talent from around the world, and results in new ideas, innovative products, and processes that will lead to increased levels of job growth, entrepreneurism and business development. At McMaster, students and researchers develop the important knowledge, critical thinking skills and creativity needed to adapt in today's economy. This is an asset to Canadian employers who seek fresh ideas, an educated workforce and improved productivity.

The recommendations we have identified will create increased opportunities for commercialization, entrepreneurism and job growth. McMaster continues to work with both public and private partners on our research endeavours to ensure that Canada capitalizes on the creativity and talent of our students and future leaders. McMaster's Automotive Resource Centre is a prime example of how universities can work together with the federal government (FedDev Ontario) and industry partners to enable the region to prosper. Our research in the areas of advanced manufacturing and water technology present exciting opportunities to enhance existing industries for the benefit of the Canadian economy.

At McMaster, we are committed to research that will directly improve the standard of living and well-being of Canadians. With our optimal aging initiative, we are taking a multidisciplinary approach to address the shifting demographics in today's society. This research ranges from finding ways for seniors to remain licenced drivers, to developing ways to improve their overall quality of life. Our Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research is taking the lead in finding solutions to the current antibiotic crisis in Canada.

McMaster is also seeking to capitalize on federal government resources, such as the Water Technology Centre in Burlington to examine the feasibility of water technologies and related health and information technologies in the provision and management of safe, sustainable water.

McMaster University is dedicated to expanding the boundaries of knowledge and pursuing research that reflects current and emerging social and economic issues. Sustainable and increased funding through the Excellence Fund, CFI and granting councils, and a targeted investment in important Canadian priorities will allow Canada to best position itself for a healthy and prosperous future.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided