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:** University of Manitoba

or

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

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

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

The U of M recommends the federal government make a sustained, long-term commitment to research funding, to flow through the granting agencies. This investment is key to remain competitive with other countries and is the foundation needed to generate innovative new discoveries that will fuel the economy. These discoveries create new opportunities that allow universities to attract and retain top global talent, providing industry with the opportunities to partner with the best and the brightest to solve problems and access to the pool of highly qualified professionals needed to compete globally

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.

Increased funding could be found from the government's current debt reduction plan that has identified a number of efficiencies. As well, we believe this investment will create new jobs and new opportunities for commercialization and business development that will grow the economy. Over the past two decades alone, the U of M has launched 40 new start-up ventures, creating over 1,200 jobs in the local economy.

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

Every Canadian stands to benefit from an increased investment in research, since the discoveries made possible from this investment can change the world. U of M and Canadian researchers are among the best in the world, and with adequate support we have the potential to make the next great discovery right here. More directly this investment will give our students hands-on experience and opportunities to work with researchers on new projects, gaining the skills employers expect of graduates. This will result in industry having the skilled labour force needed to compete globally.

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.

Advancements in research and innovation will improve the lives of all Canadians. Everything from new vaccines to prevent disease to smarter infrastructure that will reduce the morning commute improves the lives of Canadians. Investing in research provides opportunities for students to enhance their skills, which directly translates to a more skilled labour force that helps drive the economy. This was exemplified in the recent economic downturn where more than 800,000 jobs were created for university graduates, compared to a loss of 600,000 jobs for those without a post-secondary education.

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

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

The indirect costs of research are a significant concern for research-intensive universities like the U of M. We recommend the federal government enhance the current indirect cost program to ensure Canada remains competitive with other jurisdictions that are making significant increases in research funding, increasing the competition for the best and the brightest researchers and students.

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For Canadian universities to remain competitive we need to have the spaces, technology, and facilities that can support innovation. Enhancing the indirect costs program will support research projects to spur innovation, as well as allow universities to better meet the rising costs related to comprehensive research integrity and ethics, regulations and digital infrastructure.

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.

Because increased funding for the indirect costs program would free up funding for the university to invest in improving learning experience of the student , the impact would be significant. This investment would allow Canadian researchers and universities to be competitive globally and would provide increased opportunities for students to master the skills employers expect of highly qualified professionals entering the labour market.

Topic: Infrastructure

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

Universities are experiencing significant infrastructure challenges as they adapt to rising expectations. Infrastructure investment is needed to enhance research capacity, attract students and provide the highly skilled workers of tomorrow. Increased support can be provided through the CFI or a next generation of the successful KIP program. Universities should also be made a priority in the new Building Canada Fund, since in many cases university infrastructure projects have a greater impact than municipal projects as facilities are often used by both the institution and the broader community.

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

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University research capacity will be enhanced through long-term, sustainable research infrastructure funding since it allows universities to build and sustain high performing labs and facilities with state-of-the-art equipment. From enhancing the cyber-infrastructure needed for researchers and students to collaborate across the country and around the world, to the creative learning spaces where new ideas are explored by first-year students, our infrastructure is critical. KIP has had a significant impact on the U of M. Additional investments will allow U of M to further transform our campuses.

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.

State-of-the-art infrastructure gives our researchers the tools and spaces needed to challenge the boundaries of knowledge, explore the unknown and generate exciting outcomes. U of M researchers and students deserve world-class infrastructure that will allow them to fulfill their near limitless potential. This state-of-the-art research infrastructure also serves to support business innovation and private-sector research and development through our many research partnerships with industry, enhanced by our new transformational partnership model.

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

The University of Manitoba has a proud research tradition and a bright future. Research allows us to shape and change the world for the better. Our own researchers helped change the world forever in the 1960s with their research into the Rh (Rhesus factor) disease, a condition that occurs during pregnancy that can be fatal for babies. This discovery earned a spot on Time magazine's top 10 medical inventions of the 1960s list. In the 1970s our research into canola helped produce the first variety with oil suitable for human consumption, changing agriculture forever. The ground breaking work of U of M researchers in wireless technology has changed how we communicate, allowing us to get live news feeds from around the world. Our research into HIV/ AIDS is putting Canada, and Manitoba, front and centre in the fight against one of the world's most dangerous diseases and our research has changed how the Centre for Infectious Disease in Atlanta deals with this disease.

We are primed and ready to make new, life-changing discoveries. We are on the cutting edge of regenerative medicine and stem cell replacement, we are leaders in human rights research, grain storage and climate change, fuelled in part by the Canada Excellence Research Chair program.

Great discoveries will continue to be made since opportunities exist around the world for the best and the brightest researchers and students. The U of M has a proud history of innovation and a bright future. With your support, the U of M will be home to more great discoveries.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided