



**Ideas
can...**

Ideas can... build Canada

Budget 2015 Consultations

Submission to the House of Commons Standing
Committee on Finance

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FEDERATION FOR THE
HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

FÉDÉRATION
DES SCIENCES
HUMAINES



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Ideas can... build Canada

The world of ideas moves quickly. Canada needs ambitious and forward-looking policies to avoid losing our hard-won advantages. More than ever, Canada needs agile and well-rounded thinkers who can synthesize, analyze, and make sense of increasing amounts of information, communicate effectively, and consider the past and clarify the complex problems of the present to better prepare for the future. The [Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) welcomes the opportunity to provide the following recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for Budget 2015:

1. **Invest in research:** Invest an additional \$250 million over 3 years in the granting councils (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research). Distribute the funds equitably among the 3 granting councils for research across all disciplines. In addition, ensure Canadian research infrastructure supporting all disciplines remains state-of-the-art by committing \$450 million per year for 5 years (beginning in 2016/17) to the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
2. **Create opportunities for Canadian post-secondary students:** In celebration of Canada's upcoming 150th anniversary, create a visionary fund to encourage students to experience the wider world during their studies. The awards, valued at \$10,000 each for one year of study, would provide an opportunity for international study or internships for 15,000 students. The cost of funding these high-profile awards would be \$150 million over the lifetime of the programme. The resources could be raised in collaboration with the private and philanthropic sectors.
3. **Expand social innovation:** The Federation applauds the investment in social innovation in colleges seen in Budget 2014. The Federation recommends extending social innovation funding to the university sector by providing \$20 million over 3 years. This funding could be administered in the same way as the colleges fund and would enhance the powerful social and economic impact of social innovation partnerships between universities and communities.
4. **Improve access to post-secondary education for First Nations, Métis and Inuit:** With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission releasing its report next year, 2015 will present an opportunity to renew and deepen a national commitment to achieve real and just reconciliation. The post-secondary sector can and must be a fully engaged actor in this national reconciliation. In the short term, this requires improving real access for indigenous students to post-secondary education, including expanding Indspire's scholarships and bursaries. The Federation also recommends increasing support to the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program.

Ideas can... position Canada at the leading edge

Recommendation 1

Invest an additional \$250 million over 3 years in the granting councils (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research). Distribute the funds equitably among the 3 granting councils for research across all disciplines. In addition, ensure Canadian research infrastructure supporting all disciplines remains state-of-the-art by committing \$450 million per year for 5 years (beginning in 2016/17) to the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

This recommendation fits into the following theme set out by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the pre-budget consultations:

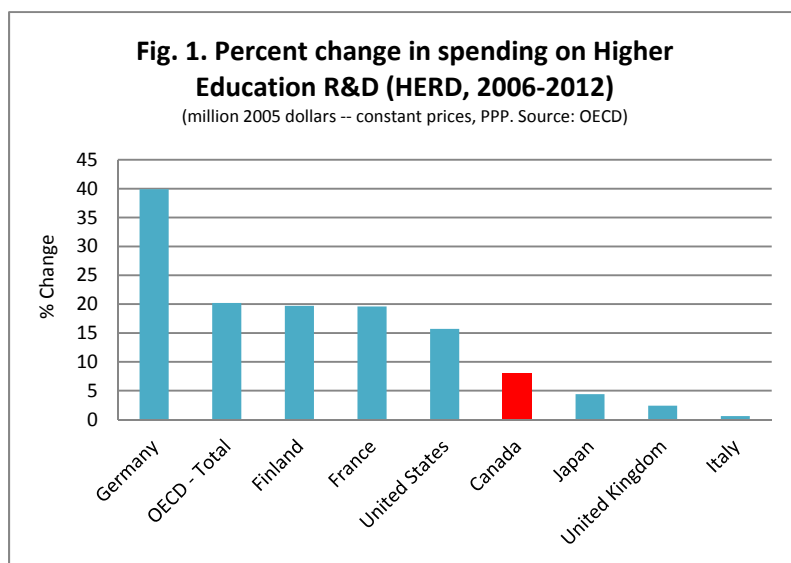
- *Increasing the competitiveness of Canadian businesses through research, development, innovation and commercialization.*

Rationale

Canada’s knowledge economy is growing. We are a country known equally for our natural resources and for our **leading research across disciplines**. And yet, Canada’s levels of spending in Higher Education R&D (HERD) have grown only 8% since 2006, significantly less than our global counterparts including Germany, France and the USA (see Fig. 1).

Research funding is essential to maintaining and building our strong knowledge economy. Over 14,000 researchers access this funding each year, pushing the envelope on new innovations and discoveries. With as much as 70% of research funding going towards training graduate students, this funding also ensures that highly qualified Canadians entering the workforce are at the leading edge of new research.

World-leading research relies on world-class infrastructure. To date, the Canada Foundation for Innovation has funded more than 800 projects in the arts, literature, human and social sciences – investing more than \$230 million into leading-edge infrastructure for these disciplines. A commitment of \$450 million per year for 5 years to the CFI starting in 2016/2017 will ensure that Canada’s research community remains at the fore of infrastructure needs and resources.



Ideas can... create opportunities

Recommendation 2

In celebration of Canada’s upcoming 150th anniversary, create a visionary fund to encourage students to experience the wider world during their studies. The awards, valued at \$10,000 each for one year of study, would provide an opportunity for international study or internships for 15,000 students. The cost of funding these high-profile awards would be \$150 million over the lifetime of this programme. The resources could be raised in collaboration with the private and philanthropic sectors.

This recommendation fits into the following themes set out by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the pre-budget consultations:

- *Supporting families and helping vulnerable Canadians by focusing on health, education and training; and*
- *Maximizing the number and types of jobs for Canadians.*

Rationale

Although 44% of employers say they value the experience that students who have studied abroad bring to the workplace, only about 3% of Canadians spend time studying in other countries. This is much lower than the 33% of German, 15% of Australian and 9% of US students who have international study experience (CBIE).

This gap means that Canada risks being less “networked” in this increasingly globalized and connected world. Canada needs university graduates familiar with other cultures, with broad connections and experiences, including international study and internships, allowing them to adapt their skills to an ever-changing international knowledge economy and giving them the confidence to apply these skills on their return home. The [Advisory Panel on Canada’s International Education Strategy](#) called for such a

program in their 2012 report, recommending the development of an International Mobility Program for Canadian students to serve 50,000 students by the year 2022. Our most talented students should have the opportunity to develop this global perspective, regardless of their financial means.

Evidence of the value of student mobility abounds. A shining example is Dr. Erin Freeland Ballantyne, a fourth generation northerner who, after travelling to obtain a BA in International Development Studies from McGill University and an MSc and PhD in Environmental Policy from Oxford University, returned to the north to found Dechinta: Bush University Centre for Research and Learning, which offers land-based university semesters on critical northern issues, training the next generation of northern leaders.

Creating conditions for more Canadian leaders in the world requires an inspirational commitment. Canada’s 150th celebration provides an opportunity to invest in Canada’s future, creating global ambassadors and reaping the rewards of an international perspective. We recommend enabling 15,000 bright futures for Canada’s 150th birthday: creating a prestigious award, administered by universities and colleges, to allow students to study internationally, encouraging language acquisition, and promoting experiential learning through internships.



Ideas can... improve lives

Recommendation 3

The Federation applauds the investment in social innovation in colleges seen in Budget 2014. The Federation recommends extending social innovation funding to the university sector by providing \$20 million over 3 years. This funding could be administered in the same way as the colleges fund and would enhance the social and economic impact of social innovation partnerships between universities and communities.

This recommendation fits into the following theme set out by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the pre-budget consultations:

- *Supporting families and helping vulnerable Canadians by focusing on health, education and training; and*
- *Increasing the competitiveness of Canadian businesses through research, development, innovation and commercialization.*

Rationale

“Canadians benefit when community organizations are equipped with better tools and approaches for addressing society’s needs in areas such as education, integration of vulnerable populations and community development.” -Economic Action Plan 2014.

We couldn’t agree more!

Innovation takes many forms. In the same way that commercialization takes ideas from lab to market, investments in social innovation link organizations working on societal challenges in diverse areas such as immigration, mental health and veterans affairs with research capacity and research organizations.

The investment in social innovation made in 2014 to connect research and talent in colleges with community needs is an important initiative. Universities, as well as colleges, are involved in conducting research in partnership with communities on crucial issues. For example, [ResearchImpact](#), a pan-Canadian consortium of 10 universities, regularly demonstrates that applying world-leading research in the community leads to substantial societal and economic impact.

An expansion of the social innovation fund to cover the entire post-secondary sector would leverage existing social finance and granting council programs, along with investments from the private and not-for-profit sector, to address crucial issues facing Canada now and in the future. We recommend a fund of \$20 million over 3 years, administered in the same way as the college social innovation fund.

Ideas can... lead to real reconciliation

Recommendation 4

With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission releasing its report next year, 2015 will present an opportunity to renew and deepen a national commitment to achieve real and just reconciliation. The post-secondary sector can and must be a fully engaged actor in this national reconciliation by recognizing historical wrongs, and by strengthening and opening new spaces where all forms of knowledge are valued and aboriginal and non-aboriginal students, professors and communities learn from each other. In the short term, this requires improving real access for indigenous students to post-secondary education, including expanding Indspire's scholarships and bursaries. The Federation also recommends increasing support to the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program to strengthen connections between institutions, indigenous students and First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations.

This recommendation fits into the following themes set out by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the pre-budget consultations:

- *Supporting families and helping vulnerable Canadians by focusing on health, education and training; and*
- *Ensuring prosperous and secure communities, including through support for infrastructure.*

Rationale

Improving education quality and access is central to achieving reconciliation. This begins with sustained and significant investment in high quality K-12 aboriginal education, providing many of the foundations that make post-secondary education a real possibility. The K-12 situation remains a national crisis that needs urgent solutions based on respect of treaty and historical obligations, alongside a genuine attempt at reconciliation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Despite the ongoing crisis in K-12 education, Canada has a rapidly growing number of indigenous high school graduates keen to pursue post-secondary education. Financial barriers and lack of support networks make this an unattainable dream for too many indigenous students seeking to complete their degree on either a full- or part-time basis. This can and must change. With modest support, national and regional partnerships between post-secondary institutions and First-Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations can be enhanced to develop multi-year action plans. The Post-Secondary Partnerships Program can support these initiatives to provide strong community connections and support but faces very high demand: its funding (\$14M in 2013/14) must increase significantly. Finally, indigenous students should also receive direct support through expanding federal investments to **Indspire**.

The **Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences** works to promote the value of research and learning in the humanities and social sciences. Its membership comprises over 80 scholarly associations, 79 post-secondary institutions and six affiliate organizations, representing 85,000 researchers, educators and students across Canada.

In advancing equity, diversity, knowledge, excellence and innovation, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences contributes tangibly to a free and democratic society.

The Federation:

- Organizes Canada's largest annual gathering of academic researchers, the **Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**
- Brings leading scholars to Parliament Hill to discuss public policy and public relevance in our **Big Thinking** lecture series
- Supports the publication and sharing of new ideas through our **Awards to Scholarly Publications Program**

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