



July 18, 2023

Mr. Lloyd Longfield, MP
Chair, Standing Committee on Science and Research
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Longfield:

On behalf of the University of Toronto (U of T), I am writing regarding the review of the Government of Canada's graduate scholarship and post-doctoral fellowship programs and to endorse the call for the reinvestment in science and research.

The University of Toronto is Canada's largest and top ranked university and an important driver of innovation and talent development. It is host to over 20,000 graduate students and 990 post-doctoral fellows. Their work, as part of our research ecosystem, is integral to creating economic growth, improving health outcomes, and supporting Canada's social cohesion and development. Universities Canada and the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities have called for urgent reinvestments in research and science. This includes increasing the base budgets of the tri-council granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR) and CFI by 10% per year for five years to protect the gains achieved from the government's response to the Fundamental Science Review in 2017. As a leading member of the research community, U of T supports this call for further investment in this area.

Research grants are a major source of funding for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows across the research ecosystem. This funding is critical to ensuring that Canada remains competitive with American and European agencies. While the U.S. has moved recently to double their investment in the National Science Foundation, research agency funding in Canada remains stagnant. The value of graduate research scholarships has remained relatively unchanged for 20 years. This creates risk to Canada's continued favourability as a destination for highly qualified personnel and researchers.

At U of T, graduate students and post-doctoral scholars are essential to the success of our research mission. These highly qualified individuals help drive discovery, innovation, and commercialization by supporting faculty scholarship and conducting their own research and innovation. To ensure Canada's global competitiveness for talent, we urge the government to make the necessary reinvestments that support the talented individuals that drive discovery. As such, we encourage the government to review and address the concerns raised by graduate students and post-doctoral scholars through the Support our Science initiative, which calls for substantial increases in the number and value of scholarships.

By investing in research and science, Canada can remain at the forefront of innovation, and can secure its position in the global talent market, bolstering our ability to overcome future societal challenges while leading in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meric S. Gertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meric" being the most prominent.

Meric S. Gertler
President