



Submission to the House of Commons
Standing Committee on Finance

By: The University of Ontario Institute of
Technology

Recommendations:

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology supports many of the recommendations for ensuring Canada's competitiveness put forward by Universities Canada:

Recommendation 1

Invest in hands-on learning by:

- expanding federal work-integrated learning programs across sectors and disciplines with particular attention to underrepresented groups;
- increasing work-integrated learning funding to support employers offering meaningful work-integrated learning placements, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises and companies new to work-integrated learning;
- leveraging existing federal programs and initiatives to reward companies participating in work-integrated learning;
- increasing public sector work-integrated learning placements; and
- renewing and enhancing the Canada Incubator and Accelerator Program to support applied student learning and entrepreneurship.

Recommendation 2

Invest in Indigenous post-secondary education access and success by:

- increasing direct financial support for First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners;
- supporting universities to enhance institutional programs and enable partnerships that promote Indigenous student success throughout the post-secondary continuum; and
- expanding funding to Indspire to scale support for Indigenous learners across Canada through scholarships, bursaries and education programs.

Recommendation 3

Building on the Fundamental Science Review, invest in highly skilled research talent by:

- providing more individual scholarships and fellowships to at least match the rise in graduate student enrolment over the last decade;
- adjusting the value of all awards and harmonizing award value across the granting councils;
- eliminating restrictions on international portability of awards to Canadians; and
- growing the pipeline of graduate students by expanding the Undergraduate Student Research Awards to other councils.

Recommendation 4

Invest in a new national initiative, *Go Global Canada*, to support 15,000 Canadian post-secondary students per year going abroad within five years, rising to 30,000 per year within 10 years.

Recommendation 5

Support state-of-the-art research and training by providing significant, multi-year increases to the Research Support Fund, building on the Fundamental Science Review recommendations.

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) would like to thank the government for the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). These investments in post-secondary institutions allow us to help deliver on the government's mandate of economic growth and international competitiveness.

Thanks to the support from the Strategic Investment Fund, our [Software and Informatics Research Centre \(SIRC\)](#) is fully operational and deepening the university's capacity in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial business incubation. We are also working to support Canada's economic competitiveness through the completion of our [Centre for Advanced Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(CARIE\)](#). Further to the \$26.9 million federal funding announcement supporting this building, we are working with our provincial, municipal, corporate and philanthropic partners to fully leverage this commitment and begin construction.

UOIT is also helping to ensure Canada's competitiveness by providing national and regional test facilities to validate the development and implementation of emerging technologies and to perform the testing here in Canada. Through our ACE Enhancement Project, which has strong industry support, we are working to integrate a Moving Ground Plane (MGP) into our ACE Facility (North America's most advanced climatic wind tunnel). Once this is completed, it will be the most comprehensive aerodynamic and thermal test centre in the world.

The ACE Enhancement Project will allow Canadian automotive manufacturers and suppliers to bring testing back to Canada, which they currently have to deploy to other countries, which will decrease their time to market and costs. It will also attract industry from other countries to come here to do advanced R&D, which will create economic benefits and generate international profile.

This project will provide Canada's automotive industry and research community with the unrivalled capability to develop new innovations that reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Along with our many partners, we are working to bring this project to fruition. Federal support of this project would hasten the development of this unique asset driving Canada's international competitiveness.

UOIT is also proud of our role as a founding member of the [Incubate-Innovate Network of Canada \(I-INC\)](#). This initiative is a pan-Canada business incubator and accelerator network to connect partner universities' strengths in digital technologies and to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem that will drive technology-enabled innovation, productivity, and job creation. I-INC has been extremely successful and further investment would allow for an increase in scope, reach and impact of the network and its ability to build a new generation of globally competitive businesses in Canada.

Universities play a fundamental role in the Canadian economy due to their teaching and research mandates, as well as the significant economic impacts from their operations. Universities impart upon their students the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to directly contribute to Canada's economic growth and competitiveness. They are at the heart of the discovery and innovation agenda. Through partnerships with industrial and community partners, universities leverage their assets and resources to improve the quality of life for all Canadians. We help advance Canada's long-term economic growth and prosperity and can help achieve many of the objectives outlined in the mandate letters to Cabinet Ministers.

Since inception, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology has embedded research, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship into everything we do. We are a STEM-intensive institution that integrates extensive work experiences into the curriculum of our programs with a majority of our upper-year students participating in work-integrated learning. We have had success as evidenced by our job-ready graduates of which a significant majority are employed shortly after graduation in a field related to their area of study.

Research is a key mechanism by which UOIT imparts the knowledge and skills our students need to become innovative citizen leaders. New investments into research ultimately lead to the creation of new jobs and economic stability.

Conclusion

Universities play an important role in supporting Canada's competitiveness by ensuring our workforce is continually learning, training and upgrading to stay ahead of the curve to exceed constantly evolving international demands.

The investments suggested here to support hands-on learning and science will go a long way to growing Canada's international competitiveness in the years ahead.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments for your consideration in developing the 2019 Budget.

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