
2021 Federal Pre-Budget Submission from Ryerson University



Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the government invest in green, digital and accessible university infrastructure as part of the Federal Government's COVID-19 recovery plan.

Recommendation 2: That the government invest in research and innovation to solve social and economic problems critical to rebuilding our communities by:

- providing funding to support the national Lab2Market program to accelerate paths to market;
- continuing to support a pipeline of research that solves real problems and impacts society;
- developing a new fund to support innovation hubs in creating new businesses to build economic growth;
- opening up eligibility to leadership by universities in flagship innovation programs such as the Strategic Innovation Fund, Stream 4 and 5; R & D collaborations and networks, as well as future R & D initiatives with industry and government;
- investing in a new knowledge mobilization fund that supports leveraging the ideas and intellectual property generated by universities for economic recovery and community growth.

Recommendation 3: That the government invest in access to upskilling, reskilling and training by:

- leveraging the Future Skills Centre knowledge base to inform economic recovery decisions;
- implementing enhanced flexibility and funding for the Canada Training Benefit;
- providing funding for the creation of short courses in key demand areas;
- extending changes made to the Canada Student Loan Program through 2021.

Recommendation 4: That the government ensure international students can continue to study in Canada, building the university brand abroad by:

- increasing visa-processing capacity to address the volume of applications;
- investing in branding and recruitment to support recovery and diversification.



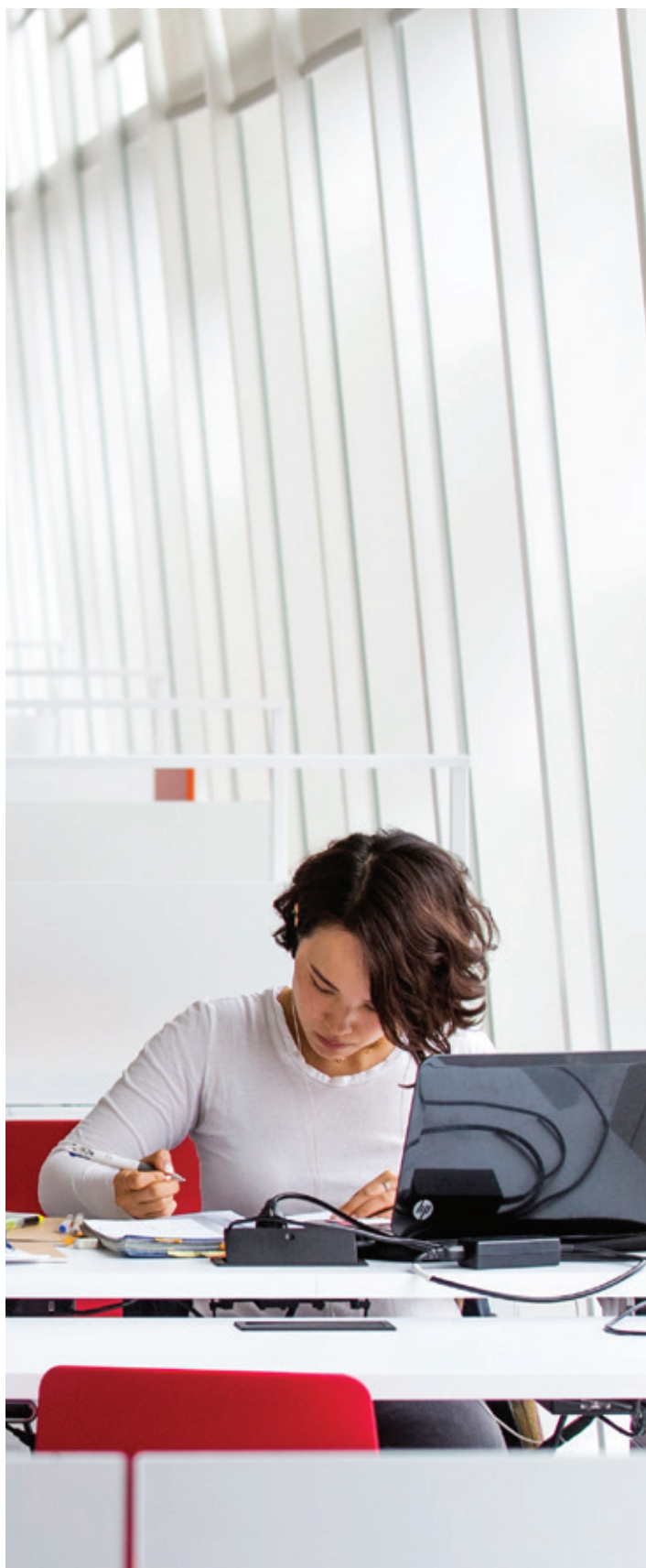
Introduction

For some years, Canada had been on a trajectory that focused on the innovation economy and addressing global challenges around climate change, emerging diseases, and issues of equity and diversity. Then COVID-19 struck. Ryerson is well placed to support the government in returning to that innovation trajectory while also addressing the issues that the pandemic has exposed thanks to the university's downtown location, diverse community of students, staff and faculty, commitment to making a societal impact, innovation capacity and strengths in multiple areas of collaborative research with communities.

Ryerson's COVID-19 Related Initiatives

For our students, Ryerson successfully ensured that all learners were able to complete their school year online, in some instances aided by university financial support and the provision of laptops. University faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that students this fall will receive a high quality education and all the learning support they need remotely. We are even developing interactive labs for science students and incorporating video and augmented reality to make our classes more engaging.

In the areas of pandemic mitigation, our researchers have been awarded peer-reviewed funding to support work related to COVID-19 issues. Research work includes surveillance of viruses in wastewater; the impact on the elderly; managing health in long-term care facilities; mapping social patterns of transmission; as well as



developing reusable N95 respirators and a new screening method linked to breathing analysis.

We are very proud of Ryerson's response to its various communities, including the development and manufacturing of face shields and masks for local hospitals and the delivery of surplus personal protective equipment (PPE) to those hospitals as well as to Indigenous communities in the North.

In the area of economic recovery, the university is actively engaged in reskilling for people who lost their jobs as well as providing policy analysis to support governments. Ryerson

is also convening policy makers nationally from all sectors and political stripes to work together on economic recovery solutions as part of the **First Policy Response** initiative established by several of the university's partners.

Each of Ryerson's 10 campus innovative zones launched online programming in support of its entrepreneurs during the pandemic. As well, the university's media, design and fashion zones collaborated on the launch of the **Creative Industries Recovery Cohort**, a program designed to reimagine the future of the creative industries and contribute to post-pandemic rebuilding.



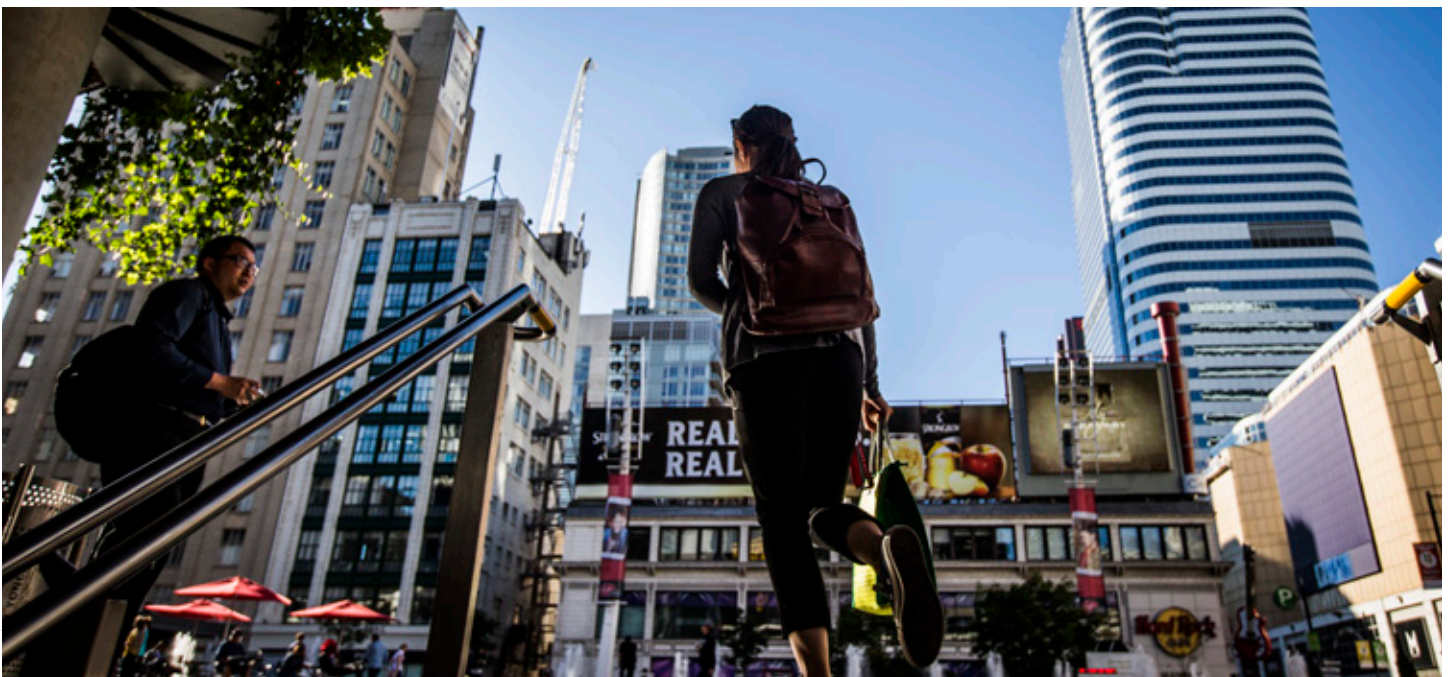
Infrastructure to Support Canada's Future

Ryerson is very supportive of the government's interest in infrastructure as a vehicle to drive economic activity by providing jobs for the construction industry and a platform for universities to foster entrepreneurship, conduct research and continue to educate talent for the workforce.

The university has long demonstrated out-of-the-box thinking in the management of its limited footprint by, for example, the use of movie theatres for lectures, but Ryerson's growth has led to the need for new infrastructure that positions it to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

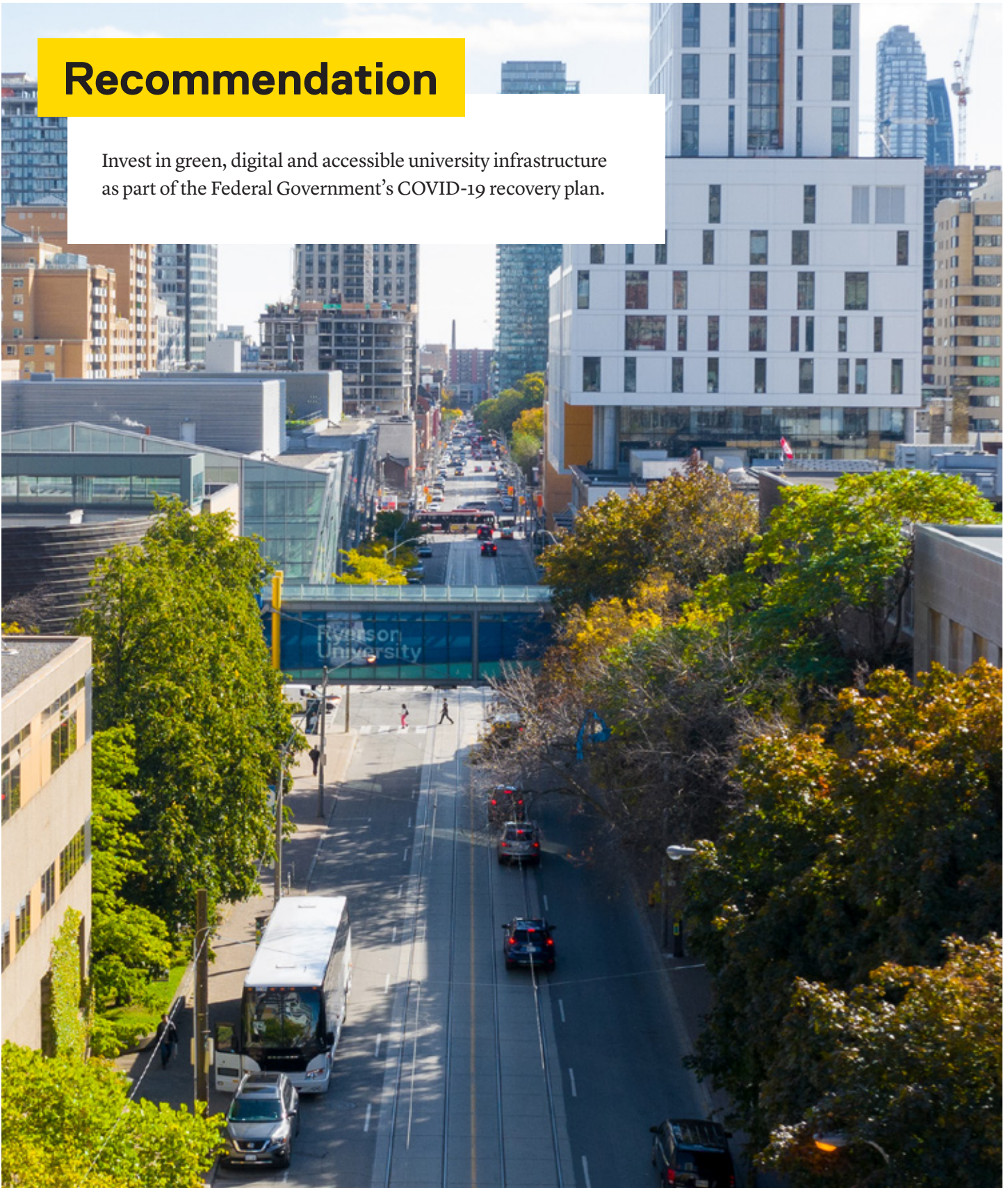
Ryerson has a bold vision to expand its work in health and science innovation with a state-of-the-art "green" science building at the southwest corner of campus, which will provide a hub to support its neighbour and ongoing partner St. Michael's Hospital in a new health corridor downtown. Included in this project is residential accommodation on top of the new complex that features an Indigenous entrepreneurial centre and the MLSE **"LaunchPad"** youth centre. Also envisioned in the adjacent area is a health and wellness living lab whose focal point is the creation of a central space for the Indigenous community to gather, obtain learning and other services, as well as participate in culturally significant events.

Two important components of infrastructure programming are digital enhancement that connects universities with the world and environmental features to address the domestic need for enhanced energy efficiency. Ryerson uses its environmental lens in construction planning and its **Centre for Urban Energy** works with a national network that spans sectors to develop innovative market-driven solutions designed to prepare the transition to a thriving low carbon economy.



Recommendation

Invest in green, digital and accessible university infrastructure as part of the Federal Government's COVID-19 recovery plan.



Accelerating Recovery Through Research and Innovation

Research and innovation matter now more than ever to address healthcare and social issues exposed by the pandemic. They are also important in helping advanced manufacturing to be more competitive, and stimulating talent development and research in areas with cross-sector applications such as data science, analytics and visualization. Moreover, they're particularly important in helping to build up cities, to which economic recovery is tied given that roughly 80% of Canadians live in cities.

Ryerson's location gives it a unique lens with which to test solutions to make cities more resilient. It also contributes to its work on sustainable housing, renewable energy, future land uses, water policy, food security, smart infrastructure, responsible and accessible social development and urban design.

The lens of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) also plays an important role in economic recovery as well as in how Ryerson looks at the world. The university is about to implement a series of recommendations resulting from a recent review of Anti-Black Racism and our researchers apply the EDI lens to many issues including how anti-Asian racism has played out during SARS to COVID-19 and the social dynamics of disease transmission in different communities.

Inclusion is also critical to how Canada meets the needs of those who migrate to our country. Ryerson's research shows that newcomers do better and contribute to society more quickly with adequate funding and services. Anna Triandafyllidou, Ryerson's **Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Settlement**, is leading knowledge mobilization efforts around the links between migration and post-migration processes, as well as in other areas.

In the innovation space, Ryerson's **Zone Learning network** continues to expand and play an important role in fostering entrepreneurship in multiple sectors through design of new products and services to address market needs. This will be even more important as the country navigates back to its previous innovation trajectory.

Moreover, the university has been partnering for some years to accelerate research commercialization, which is essential to enhancing Canada's lagging performance. Through an expanded national network of 13 universities, the I-INC university partnership has developed the **Lab2Market** program to build faster paths from the lab to the market and ultimately build the next generation of deep IP-based global Canadian companies. Lab2Market applies international best practices and leverages university innovation capacity across the country to quickly find and evaluate market opportunities, support startup teams to adapt their technology to industry demand and build the start-up capabilities of research commercialization teams.



Recommendations

Invest in research and innovation to solve social and economic problems critical to rebuilding our communities by funding the Lab2Market program; supporting the pipeline of research solving real problems; sustaining innovation hubs in fostering new business development; opening up eligibility to leadership by universities in a variety of government funding streams; and investing in a new knowledge mobilization fund to leverage ideas and university generated IP.



Supporting and Rebuilding Our Workforce with Upskilling or Reskilling

The pandemic has significantly accelerated labour market dislocations, which has made the work of the **Future Skills Centre (FSC)** even more relevant than when it was launched with federal support in February 2019 to help Canadians make informed training decisions and gain the skills they need to adapt to a changing workforce.

Led by Ryerson in partnership with the Conference Board of Canada and Blueprint, the centre has curated discussions on needs and approaches across the country and launched 45 innovation projects, of which more than 50% are focused on Canadians who have been historically under-represented and marginalized in education and training. This summer, FSC launched a new call for proposals that seeks to support innovative approaches in sectors deeply affected by COVID-19. It also launched a major initiative for Ontario tourism that connected workers with short term resources and assistance in mapping their skills and assets to training and in-demand work opportunities.

Also playing a role in reskilling is the **Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst**, whose training programs are designed to address the talent shortage in this area. Two cohorts of students have been trained so far. Over 70% are racialized and over 54% of them are women since one of the Catalyst's



goals is to bring these skills to under-represented groups. In addition, the corporate training arm of the Catalyst provides support to organizations who want to engage existing employees in securing a better understanding of this issue. This fall, the Catalyst's training activities will get a boost with the launch of the Cyber Range, which will deliver interactive training in which people can strategize, develop and test real-world cybersecurity scenarios in a simulated environment.

Ryerson's **G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education** has a long-standing commitment to training by providing both certificates and degree programs to ensure a continuum of opportunities for upgrading skills. Courses, certificates and programs cover cutting-edge topics to address labour market needs, such as Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, Privacy, Health Informatics, Inclusive Media, Cannabis, Food Security and Crime Analytics, among others.

Recommendations

Invest in access to upskilling, reskilling and training by leveraging the Future Skills knowledge base to inform economic recovery decisions; implementing enhanced flexibility and funding for the Canada Training Benefit; providing funding for creation of short courses in key demand areas; and extending changes made to the Canada Student Loan program through 2021.



Create Conditions to Support the International Student Pipeline

International students add much to our educational institutions and our country, but the pandemic has taken its toll on international student mobility.

In order to stabilize university recruitment and encourage a strong pipeline of international students and potential immigrants, Ryerson and its university partners would benefit from a strong signal from the government that Canada is open for education through the investment in “surge capacity” for visa processing and a quarantine fund to help welcome students safely and further support diversification efforts.

Indeed, Ryerson is already embarking on diversification both in terms of student recruitment efforts and in terms of exporting cutting-edge educational services to a diversity of international markets. Discussions are underway to develop new partnerships to strengthen the pipeline of international students coming here and to enable Ryerson to offer education to students abroad from various faculties. Greater support from Global Affairs Canada to sell exports of made-in-Canada education initiatives abroad would help to enhance the Canadian brand for education around the world.



Recommendations

Ensure international students can continue to study in Canada by increasing government visa-processing capacity; investing in the Canadian education brand to support recruitment and diversification.



