

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget
Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming
Federal Budget**

**A pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization
program to maximize social and economic
impacts of research**

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Research Impact Canada¹**

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Example List of Recommendations (REQUIRED)

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government implement a pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization program to maximize the social and economic impacts of academic research to benefit Canadians and Canadian communities.
- **Recommendation 2:** That the government provide funding in the amount of \$15M/year x 5 years (total \$75M) for the pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization program.

What is knowledge mobilization?

Knowledge mobilization is about turning research into societal impact and creating benefits for Canadians. Knowledge mobilization connects academic research to Canadian organizations working on issues related to public policy, professional practice, and social services. It helps to provide solutions to socioeconomic challenges where commercialization and technology transfer cannot. Issues such as Truth and Reconciliation, Immigration and Refugee settlement, public health, emergency management and disaster relief, affordable housing are just a few policy areas relevant to Canadians that can be serviced by knowledge mobilization but not commercialization.

Commercialization efforts are now a standard feature of the research enterprise, creating economic impact through patents and industry engagement. However, these functions do not capture the potential impact of university research findings on professional practices, social services, and public policies. Knowledge mobilization is an emerging university mission to create social, health, environmental and cultural impacts that benefit Canadians. Research Impact Canada (RIC) is a pan-Canadian network of 23 universities developing institutional capacity to support knowledge mobilization.

Knowledge mobilization encompasses a variety of processes that connect researchers and students to partners from the public, private and non-profit sectors to maximize the social, health, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of research. For example:

- Research co-led by RIC member and lead institution, York University, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and Scouts Canada created the Healthy Relationships Training Module (HRTM). The HRTM is now used to train more than 3,500 adults each year who work with +300,000 children and youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada assessed their training programs, including HRTM, and calculated an 18:1 social return on investment. This means that for every dollar invested in training their stakeholders realized an 18-fold benefit such as higher educational attainment and lower involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Research from RIC member Université de Montréal resulted in the development of practical tools for controlling mastitis, an udder disease in cows. This research was conducted in partnership with provincial associations of dairy veterinarians and the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. There are 977,800 cows in Canada and mastitis costs \$750/cow/year. Keeping Canadian cattle free of mastitis has a potential economic impact of \$733 million.

A Pan-Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Program

While the Government of Canada currently invests \$3.5 billion through the granting agencies to support university research, what is missing is dedicated funding to help ensure that research we are funding is put into practice and creates impact for Canadians.

To achieve this, Research Impact Canada recommends an investment of \$15 million/year for five

years (total investment \$75M) to develop knowledge mobilization capacity at universities across Canada. This investment is modeled on the Intellectual Property Mobilization program (1995-2009), which helped to build commercialization and technology transfer capacity at Canadian universities.

Why Now?

Knowledge mobilization is key to accelerating progress on federal priorities like healthcare outcomes, mental health, Truth and Reconciliation with First Nations, and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion across Canadian society. University research in every discipline is delivering new ideas, frameworks, and knowledge that will be invaluable to these pursuits.

The emerging institutional support for knowledge mobilization is reminiscent of the state of commercialization support three decades ago, underdeveloped but increasingly important. Canada will benefit from federal investment to build a dedicated knowledge mobilization program, which will create impacts for communities across Canada and ultimately support the priorities of this Government related to public policy, professional practice and social services and generate greater returns on existing investments in research. A pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization program will also help Canadian universities diversify their partnerships, increasingly linkages to the service sector (67 per cent of Canadian GDP) and the non-profit sector (8.5 per cent of GDP).

About Research Impact Canada

Research Impact Canada (RIC) is Canada's knowledge mobilization network. We work to maximize the impact of research on public policy, professional practice, and social services to the benefit of all Canadians.

While networks focused on delivering impact for a specific topic are ubiquitous, RIC is the only network in Canada, and one of very few in the world, focused on building institutional capacity for knowledge mobilization across all disciplines working with all sectors. For these reasons, we believe that RIC is well positioned within the Canadian research ecosystem to deliver a pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization program. RIC is eager to partner with the government to deliver these investments, including by distributing funding to universities, colleges and other research organizations.

Research Impact Canada (RIC) was founded in 2006 by York University and the University of Victoria, and now has 23 members. Our members include universities that are primarily undergraduate and comprehensive, as well as those with medical schools, including three of Canada's top five research intensive universities. With members from Newfoundland and Labrador to Victoria, RIC has evolved to become a national leader in the practice of creating social value and impact from research and knowledge. RIC builds institutional capacity for knowledge mobilization to support the various impacts of researchers. RIC is bilingual and pan-Canadian in scope. See www.researchimpact.ca for more information.