UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Summary of key measures from Budget 2016

U15

Group of Canadian Research Universities

Regroupement des universités de recherche du Canada

This document contains a high level summary of key measures found in Budget 2016 which was tabled on March 22, 2016. Items contained in the summary were selected based on their relevance to research intensive universities and the innovation agenda. Accordingly this should not be viewed as an exhaustive list.

Most of the text in the document has been copied from the Budget documents.

U15 Budget 2016 Summary

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University Research Related Measures

Campus Infrastructure

Budget 2016 proposes to provide up to $2 billion over three years, starting in 2016–17, for a new Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, a time-limited initiative that will support up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs of infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions and affiliated research and commercialization organizations, in collaboration with provinces and territories.

The new Fund will support investments of the following types:

- A university could convert under-utilized space into new research labs that advance its excellence in a specialized field of strength;
- On-campus incubators and accelerators could be expanded to increase and improve support for entrepreneurs and start-ups as they develop strategies to grow their business;
- College and university facilities that support prototype development or proof-of-principle assessment could receive investments in order to better serve the needs of industry partners; and
- Post-secondary institutions could retrofit existing buildings for research and development or advanced training activities with more energy efficient heating systems and pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards.

Tri-Council

Budget 2016 proposes to provide an additional $95 million per year, starting in 2016–17, on an ongoing basis to the granting councils. These funds will be allocated as follows:

- $30 million for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research;
- $30 million for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council;
- $16 million for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; and
- $19 million for the Research Support Fund

Comprehensive review of federal support for fundamental science

To ensure that federal support for research, including through the granting councils, is strategic and effective, Budget 2016 also announces that the Minister of Science will undertake a comprehensive review of all elements of federal support for

fundamental science over the coming year. In order to strengthen the granting councils and Canada's research ecosystem, the review will:

- Assess opportunities to increase the impact of federal support on Canada's research excellence and the benefits that flow from it;
- Examine the rationale for current targeting of granting councils' funding and bring greater coherence to the diverse range of federal research and development priorities and funding instruments;
- Assess the support for promising emerging research leaders; and
- Ensure there is sufficient flexibility to respond to emerging research opportunities for Canada, including big science projects and other international collaborations.

CERCs

Budget 2016 proposes to provide $20 million over eight years, starting in 2018–19, to create two additional Canada Excellence Research Chairs in fields related to clean and sustainable technology. These Chairs will be selected, in addition to the anticipated 20 new Chairs, as part of the upcoming competition to be launched in the spring of 2016.

Other Investments

Budget 2016 also included:

- Mitacs Globalinks – $14M over two years starting in 2016-17
- Genome Canada - $ 237.2M starting in 2016-17 to fund through to 2019-20
- Center for Drug Research and Development – up to $32M over two years starting in 2017-18
- Stem Cell Network – up to $12M over two years starting in 2016-17
- Perimeter Institute - $50M over 5 years beginning in 2017-18
- Brain Canada – up to $20M over three years starting in 2016-17

Other Research Related Measures

Clean Tech and the Environment

- $345.3 million over five years, starting in 2016–17, to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Health Canada and the National Research Council to take action to address air pollution in Canada. The funding will allow these organizations to conduct research on and monitor air pollution sources as

well as health and environmental impacts; report to Canadians on air pollution sources and on local, regional and national air quality; continue to implement the Air Quality Management System jointly with provinces and territories; administer and enforce existing regulatory and non-regulatory instruments to reduce air pollution; and maintain the economic and policy capacity to develop new policy approaches and regulatory instruments to improve air quality.

- $129.5 million over five years, starting in 2016–17, to seven federal departments and agencies to implement programming focused on building the science base to inform decision-making, protecting the health and well-being of Canadians, building resilience in the North and Indigenous communities, and enhancing competitiveness in key economic sectors.

- The Regional Development Agencies will double their annual aggregate support for clean technology to $100 million per year, from existing resources, starting in 2016–17.

- Natural Resources Canada will administer a number of new research related funds:

    - $82.5M over two years, starting 2016-17 to support research development and demonstration of clean energy technologies;

    - $62.5 million over two years, starting in 2016–17 to support the deployment of infrastructure for alternative transportation fuels; and

    - $50 million over two years, starting in 2016–17, to invest in technologies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas sector.

- Sustainable Technology Development Canada - $50M over four years starting in 2017-18

Space

- Up to $379 million over eight years, starting in 2017–18, for the Canadian Space Agency to formalize negotiations with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and undertake the necessary activities to extend Canada's participation to in the International Space Station 2024.

- Continue to take part in other important international collaborations including continued participation in the European Space Agency's Advanced Research

in Telecommunications Systems program, for which $30 million over four years, starting in 2016–17, was provided in Budget 2015.

Agricultural Science

- To support modern agricultural science in Canada, Budget 2016 proposes to provide $30 million over six years, starting in 2016–17, to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support advanced research in agricultural genomics. This will allow the department to accelerate the DNA analysis and digital recording of the department's collection of over 17 million physical specimens of insects, plants, fungi, bacteria and nematodes.

- Over the coming year, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food will develop an approach for additional investments in agricultural science and research, informed by the review of federal support for fundamental science to be undertaken by the Minister of Science.

Ocean and Freshwater Research

- $197.1 million over five years, starting in 2016–17, to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to increase ocean and freshwater science, monitoring and research activities and to provide support for the Experimental Lakes Area in Northwestern Ontario.

Student Related Measures

Canada Student Grant

- Budget 2016 proposes to increase Canada Student Grant amounts by 50%:
    - From $2000 to $3000 per year for students from low income families
    - From $800 to $1200 per year for students from mid-income families
    - From $1200 to $1800 per year for P/T students

- In total, these measures will provide assistance of $1.53 Billion over 5 years starting in 2016-17, and $329 million per year afterwards.

- Going forward, the Government will work with the provinces and territories to expand eligibility for Canada Student Grants so that even more students can receive non-repayable assistance. Under the new model, the existing low- and middle-income thresholds will be replaced with a single progressive threshold under which grant amounts will gradually decline based on income and family size.

- The new eligibility thresholds are expected to be in place for the 2017–18

academic year, following consultations with provinces and territories. Budget 2016 proposes to provide $790 million over four years, starting in 2017–18, and $216 million per year thereafter to expand eligibility thresholds.

Canada Student Loans

- No student will have to repay their Canada Student Loan debt until they are making at least $25,000. This measure provides assistance of $131.4 million over five years, beginning in 2016–17, and $31 million per year thereafter.

Flat Rate Student Contribution

- Budget 2016 proposes to introduce a flat-rate student contribution to determine eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants to replace the current system of assessing student income and financial assets. This measure will provide assistance of $267.7 million over four years, starting in 2017–18, and $73 million per year thereafter.

- Allows students to work and gain valuable labour market experience without having to worry about a reduction in their level of financial assistance.

- Benefits adult learners, many of whom may work while studying or have significant financial assets.

- The Government will work collaboratively with provinces and territories to finalize the flat-rate contribution model in time for implementation in the 2017–18 academic year.

Eliminating the Education Tax Credit and the Textbook Tax Credit

- Budget 2016 proposes to eliminate the Education and Textbook Tax Credits, effective January 1, 2017.

- Savings realized from eliminating these credits will be used to enhance student financial assistance, to help provide timely assistance to students from low- and middle-income families.

- Tax credit amounts carried forward from years prior to 2017 will still be claimable in 2017 and subsequent years.

- Measures proposed in Budget 2015 related to the Canada Student Loans Program and Canada Student Grants will not be pursued in order to better target support to students from low- and middle-income families.

Co-ops and Work Integrated Learning

- Government will launch the Post-Secondary Industry Partnership and Co-operative Placement Initiative in 2016.
- Supports new co-op placements and work-integrated learning opportunities for young Canadians, with a focus on high-demand fields, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics and business.
- Total costs of this measure would be $73 million over four years, starting in 2016–17.
- Further development of support for co-op placements will be integrated in the Government's commitment to advance an Innovation Agenda to spur economic growth

Private Sector Innovation Oriented Measures

Innovation Networks and Clusters

- Budget 2016 proposes to make available up to $800 million over four years, starting in 2017–18, to support innovation networks and clusters as part of the Government's upcoming Innovation Agenda. Clusters involve an extensive web of complementary linkages between companies and other actors, such as universities and colleges, research organizations and financing sources, in a specific industry sector and location.
- Budget 2016 recognizes that translating Canada's science and technology strengths into successful, globally competitive companies requires the private sector, post-secondary institutions, governments and other stakeholders to work together more strategically to achieve greater impact.
- Budget 2016 announces the Government's intent to develop, in collaboration with provinces, territories, research institutions and other stakeholders, a nationwide Canadian Cluster Mapping portal.

Other measures

- $50 million additional funds to IRAP.
- $4 million over two years, starting in 2016–17, to renew the Canadian Technology Accelerator Initiative.
- $50 Million over five years for National Optics Institute (Quebec City), through Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions.