



## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### **U15 Canada welcomes role for research universities in securing Canadian sovereignty through new defence spending**

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**June 9, 2025 (TORONTO, ON)** – U15 Canada has welcomed the federal government's commitment to a new defence and security plan that recognizes the role Canada's leading research universities can play in supporting their vision for a strong, resilient and sovereign Canada, including through the creation of BOREALIS to advance cutting edge research.

Leading research universities in Canada are home to expertise and advanced infrastructure in emerging technologies that range from arctic monitoring, ocean surveillance to cybersecurity. At present however, less than 20% of Canada's spending on defence goes towards equipment and research and development, the second lowest share amongst all NATO members. As Canada seeks to boost defence spending to meet our NATO commitments, it will be critical to realize the unfulfilled potential of Canada's research ecosystem to contribute towards this effort.

"Investing in research in this way will help strengthen Canada's sovereign capacities in areas of critical national importance and enhance our productivity. It will also drive economic and social gains in dual-use technologies that support Canadian competitiveness and elevate Canada's ambition to be a world-leading hub for research and innovation," said Robert Asselin, Chief Executive Officer.

"Canada's leading research universities are ready to work productively with the new government to promote Canadian security and sovereignty. I was pleased to join the Prime Minister at the University of Toronto this morning and it is welcome to note that the capabilities of Canada's leading research university are being recognized as a core strength Canada can leverage at this uncertain time," added Dylan Hanley, Executive Vice-President.

### **About U15 Canada**

U15 Canada is an association of fifteen leading research universities across Canada. U15 Canada works to optimize research and innovation policies and programs that advance knowledge, develop highly-qualified leaders for all sectors, and mobilize knowledge for the benefit of all Canadians. In this way, U15 Canada seeks to help Canadian universities make a prosperous, sustainable and just future for all.

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