



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

U15 universities stepping up to recruit top research talent to Canada

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

August 27, 2026 (OTTAWA, ON) – U15 Canada welcomes the announcement of research chair recipients in the first round of the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative, a new strategy to attract top research talent to Canada. The announcement confirms that 64 world-class researchers have received funding, totaling \$504 million, with 84% recruited to U15 universities.

“Today’s announcement demonstrates what can be achieved when the federal government backs research excellence and when leading research universities are empowered to compete for world-class talent,” said Robert Asselin, CEO of U15 Canada.

At a time of growing global competition, the federal government signaled through this initiative that investing in top talent is the foundation for a stronger, more resilient and prosperous Canada. By investing in excellence, this initiative helped to recruit some of the world’s leading researchers, whose ideas and innovations will generate benefits for Canadians across sectors and communities.

Leading research universities responded quickly to recruit top scientific talent from across the world, while also encouraging Canadian researchers abroad to bring their important work back home. This collective effort reflects a shared commitment to realizing the vision of a thriving research system that strengthens Canada’s capacity for innovation and discovery.

“These researchers will drive breakthrough innovation, strengthen our national capabilities and train the next generation of talent. Today’s announcement represents an investment in the future success of a sovereign Canada,” added Mr. Asselin.

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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