



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

By: Canadian Consortium for Research

Established in 1976, the Canadian Consortium of Research (CCR) consists of 20 organizations that represent researchers in all disciplines across Canada and within multiple sectors. With more than 50,000 researchers and 650,000 students represented in these member groups, the CCR is the largest umbrella organization in Canada whose primary concerns are the funding of research in all sectors and support for post-secondary education. For more information, please visit <https://ccr-ccr.ca/>.

Recommendations

1. Sustain and Grow Fundamental Research Investments

Maintain the core research grant increases from Budget 2024 for SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR, and commit to long-term, predictable annual funding increases. Ensure the new capstone research organization supports investigator-led, curiosity-driven, and interdisciplinary research.

2. Support All Disciplines and Multi-, Inter and Transdisciplinary Approaches

Canada's most urgent societal challenges demand integrated approaches that cross disciplinary boundaries and strong support for all disciplines. Funding mechanisms and governance structures that foster sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering and cross-disciplinary approaches are needed.

3. Create a Temporary Tariff Relief Fund for Researchers

Establish a targeted relief fund to offset the cost increases caused by 2025 tariffs on scientific equipment and energy, which are straining research budgets and delaying projects. This fund is critical to preserving continuity and capacity in Canadian research.

4. Stabilize and Renew the Academic Workforce

In partnership with provinces, address the financial crisis facing post-secondary institutions resulting from the rapid changes to the international student program and stagnant public funding to protect Canada's current and future research workforce.

Introduction

The Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) urges the federal government to recognize continued, stable, and growing investments in fundamental research as an essential and non-negotiable pillar of Canada's economic security, global competitiveness, and social resilience. At a time marked by significant political and economic recalibration, sustained support for research across all disciplines—including the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health, and engineering—is vital. Canada's ability to attract and retain top talent, mobilize knowledge, and turn discoveries into real-world solutions hinges on the strength of our research ecosystem.

To this end, maintaining and expanding upon the historic investments made in Budget 2024 will be key to ensuring Canada remains a leader in global innovation. Taking an ambitious and inclusive approach to funding—one that integrates fundamental, applied, and interdisciplinary research—will empower scientists, scholars, and students across the country to deliver the insights, technologies, and public good that underpin a more equitable and prosperous future for all Canadians.

As the federal government shapes Budget 2025, the CCR urges the retention and deepening of Budget 2024's research investments and offers the following key recommendations to maximize the impact of public research funding.

1. Sustain and Grow Fundamental Research Investments

The CCR calls on the federal government to retain the full scope of core research grant increases announced in Budget 2024, using these as a new baseline for ongoing investments in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). These investments must be coupled with a clear commitment to long-term, predictable annual growth in investigator-led research funding. Without such stability, Canada risks losing ground in both domestic capacity and international standing.

It is essential that the newly proposed capstone funding organization is designed to amplify support for curiosity-driven research across disciplines, and to enable multi- and interdisciplinary collaboration that breaks through traditional sectoral silos. This type of research—driven by curiosity, critical inquiry, and scholarly independence—forms the foundation for future applied breakthroughs and innovation.

2. Support All Disciplines and Multi-, Inter and Transdisciplinary Approaches

Solving Canada's most complex and pressing societal challenges—such as climate change, public health resilience, and the ethical deployment of artificial intelligence—requires coordinated research that spans traditional disciplinary boundaries. Crucially, the design and governance of new research funding structures must reflect this interdisciplinary ethos by including representation from the full range of academic communities—science, engineering, social sciences, humanities, and beyond—to ensure inclusive and balanced research directions.

The federal government must reaffirm its commitment to the critical role played by the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in shaping Canada's public policies, democratic institutions, and social cohesion. These fields generate the evidence, analysis, and cultural insight that underpin inclusive decision-making, community resilience, and the ethical advancement of science and technology.

Yet SSH fields continue to face persistent funding disparities and perceptions of lesser value, which undermine their contributions to national priorities. Budget 2025 should take concrete steps to address this imbalance. By anchoring SSH within Canada's broader research priorities, the federal government can ensure that future policies are grounded in a full understanding of human behaviour, values, and systems—alongside scientific and technical data.

3. Create a Temporary Tariff Relief Fund for Researchers

The CCR also urges the government to address an urgent and emerging pressure stemming from the new tariffs introduced in March 2025. These tariffs impose a 25% duty on a wide array of imported scientific equipment, components, and laboratory consumables, alongside a 10% tariff on energy products—both of which are critical to the daily operation of research labs.

These tariffs are creating budgetary strain, delaying research, and increasing procurement costs across the post-secondary and research sectors. Small and medium-sized research units, hospitals, and start-ups are particularly vulnerable, often lacking the reserves or scale to absorb these added costs. To mitigate these impacts, the federal government should establish a Temporary Tariff Relief Fund to offset the increased costs of research infrastructure and operations. This measure would preserve research continuity and protect Canada's innovation ecosystem from unintended policy side effects.

4. Stabilize and Renew the Academic Workforce

Canada's research excellence relies on a stable, well-supported, and diverse academic workforce. However, this foundation is under growing strain. Long-standing issues such as stagnant graduate scholarships, inadequate postdoctoral funding, and the rise of insecure academic employment are now being compounded by acute financial pressures facing post-secondary institutions across the country.

Most urgently, the 2024 cap on international student admissions introduced by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has led to significant budget shortfalls at universities and colleges that depend heavily on international tuition revenue. The fallout has already begun as institutions are reducing course offerings, closing programs, freezing hiring, and laying off staff. These cuts are eroding the capacity of Canada's research and teaching, weakening support for current researchers, and limiting training opportunities for the next generation of scientists and scholars.

These challenges are unfolding in a context where core federal support for post-secondary education has not seen an increase to its base funding since 2008. Investments made in Canada's science and research, including in Budget 2024 risk being undermined as costs of education continue to rise and research and teaching jobs are lost. Addressing the workforce crisis and stabilizing post-secondary education must now be seen as a necessary complement to Budget 2024's science and research commitments.

Conclusion

A thriving, inclusive, and innovative research ecosystem is the foundation of Canada's long-term prosperity and global relevance. As the federal government prepares Budget 2025, the Canadian Consortium for Research calls for a bold and sustained commitment to strengthening the research enterprise. This includes deepening the investments launched in Budget 2024, embracing interdisciplinary collaboration and championing the social sciences and humanities, protecting research capacity from economic and trade-related pressures, and stabilizing the academic workforce.

Protecting the integrity of Canada's research ecosystem requires both targeted research funding and broader support for the institutions that educate and employ researchers. Budget 2025 must take this dual challenge seriously to ensure Canada remains a destination for world-class research, innovation, and talent development.