

Response received July 2, 2009 (MoSST.Industry@ic.gc.ca)

Dear Professor Morris:

The Office of the Prime Minister forwarded to me a copy of your e-mail regarding federal support for science and higher education. I regret the delay in replying to you.

At the outset, let me assure you that the Government of Canada recognizes that investments in science and technology (S&T), and research and development (R&D) are key to fostering the innovation, talent, and ideas that enable modern economies to improve their competitiveness and productivity. These investments are a central component of our ongoing efforts to address Canada's social and economic challenges.

The government's sustained commitment to S&T is reflected in a succession of recent federal budgets that have made major, ongoing, multi-year investments in this area. This includes a wide range of measures to help advance our objective of building a sustainable national competitive advantage based on S&T, namely:

substantial funding for the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Genome Canada, and other organizations that are still spending the multi-year funding we have provided to them;
significant and ongoing increases in funding for the federal Granting Councils;
new initiatives to support public-private research partnerships;
expanded funding for student scholarships and industrial internships; and
new and enhanced initiatives to support international research excellence.

Budget 2009, *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, further builds on our commitment through one of the single largest federal budget investments in S&T to date. The plan announces \$5.1 billion in new S&T spending in the areas of infrastructure, research, people and commercialization. This new spending is aligned with Canada's S&T Strategy, *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage*, and has been targeted to address challenges arising from a deepening global economic downturn.

The Economic Action Plan, which was tabled on January 27, 2009, will continue to strengthen Canada's position in the world as a leading supporter of research. Our leading role in this area is evidenced by the fact that federal spending on S&T surpassed \$10 billion in 2007-2008, including \$2.7 billion in spending on higher-education R&D, which puts Canada ahead of all other countries in the G-7 and second only to Sweden in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Our ongoing support for higher-education R&D has included sustained increases in funding for the three federal Granting Councils to support their core programming. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) received successive increases of \$40 million per year in Budget 2006, \$85 million per year in Budget 2007, and \$80 million per year in Budget 2008. All of these increases are cumulative and represent ongoing, permanent support for core funding.

The Economic Action Plan includes significant support for the higher-education sector. A key measure in this regard is an investment of up to \$2 billion for infrastructure projects at post-secondary institutions. These projects will not only put Canadians to work and provide stimulus to communities throughout the country, but will also enhance the research capacity of post-secondary institutions,

enabling them to attract talent and provide a better educational experience for the highly skilled workers of tomorrow.

To complement this major investment in university and college infrastructure, Budget 2009 also provides \$750 million for leading-edge research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Furthermore, it allocates \$50 million to the Institute for Quantum Computing, based at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, to build a new world-class research facility. Recently, the Government of Canada also committed to providing \$5 million to the University of Western Ontario in support of the creation of the Ivey Centre for Health Innovation and Leadership. The Ivey Centre will leverage the strengths of partners from the academic and private sectors to identify, assess and commercialize innovative technologies, systems and processes that will benefit Canada's healthcare providers, patients and healthcare system.

Another important Budget 2009 measure is the allocation of an extra \$87.5 million over the next three years to temporarily expand the Canada Graduate Scholarships Program, which will result in an additional 500 doctoral scholarships and an additional 2,000 master's scholarships. Within the context of a wide range of support for advanced skills training, the additional scholarships awarded by SSHRC will be focused on business-related degrees in order to provide enhanced support and encouragement to students pursuing advanced training in an area critical to Canada's future economic success. In the last three years, our government has increased funding for the Canada Graduate Scholarships at SSHRC by roughly 20 percent for 2009-2010, making more scholarships available to more graduate students from all areas of study.

The measures outlined above will be supported by savings stemming from the government's ongoing strategic reviews of program spending. Designed to ensure that programs are achieving their intended results, are efficiently managed, and are aligned with the priorities of Canadians, these reviews are founded on this government's firm commitment to sound management and responsible spending. They are enabling departments to streamline operations, realign their activities, and transform their organizations to deliver better programs and better results to Canadians.

To conclude, allow me to reiterate this government's firm commitment to strengthening Canada's research excellence and scientific success, and to harnessing the positive social and economic benefits arising from Canadian S&T.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Dr. Gary Goodyear, P.C., M.P.

c.c. The Honourable Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.