

Investing in fundamental research will diversify and strengthen Canada's economy, create quality jobs, keep Canadians healthy, and prepare us for challenges like COVID-19. That is why the CAN is recommending the following:

- 1- We recommend that the government of Canada provide a one-time 25% increase in investment in the main federal funding agencies for research restart and recovery from the setback of the COVID-19 pandemic to research laboratories in Canada.
- 2- We recommend that the government commit to providing robust and reliable yearly increases in funding for basic discovery research to sustain and grow Canada's scientific community. A 10% budget increase every year until funding levels are commensurate to other countries of the G7 will ensure Canada's research ecosystem is healthy and resilient to face any future challenge.

*The greatest scientific and medical breakthroughs have been made by researchers studying basic questions in biology. In Canada, discovery science is funded by three main granting councils: 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 (SSHRC), collectively known as the tri-councils. **Increasing investment in Canadian tri-council funding agencies is an investment in the future of Canada.***

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of scientific research in Canada in times of crisis. We need now, more than ever, to build on the scientific discoveries of Canadian scientists to ensure we win the fight against COVID-19 in the immediate future. While the government has rapidly responded to the pandemic by funding COVID-19 related research, it is also crucial to support scientific research in all other areas of basic and medical research. **Neurological disorders – disorders that affect the brain and nerves – are the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of death worldwide.** To fix the brain, we need basic research to understand how it works.

Canadian neuroscience laboratories that perform basic research rely mainly on funding provided by the Canadian Government through the tri-councils. Currently, this funding is insufficient as only ~15% of applications are successful in securing operating funds from the CIHR for new scientific projects. According to the latest data from the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development <http://www.oecd.org/>), **Canada is the only country in the G7 whose investments in Research and Development have steadily declined in the last 15 years, hurting our global competitiveness that may take years to recover.** While increases in research investment have been made, they have not kept up with the inflation rates.

In addition, investments in scientific research generate the innovation that **drive economic recovery**. It also means the creation of jobs for highly qualified personnel. Our survey of Canadian scientists revealed that over 60% of funds given to laboratories through tri-council grants are used to pay for salaries of trainees, research assistants, technicians and post-doctoral fellows that work in laboratories.

Canada must build its national intellectual capital and its scientific readiness today to ensure Canada is ready to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. **Our scientists are ready and motivated to work for Canada, and to contribute to Canada's recovery and economic restart.** Investing in research today will ensure we can meet new challenges and remain competitive in a changing economy.

We invite you to read our full submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finances <https://can-acn.org/docs/CAN-FINA-submission-2020.pdf>