

Who we are

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) is the largest association of neuroscientists in Canada dedicated to advancing brain research. Our association is composed of over one thousand researchers, who work at academic institutions across the country. We share the common goal of ensuring neuroscience remains one of the greatest research and innovation strengths of Canada.

What we recommend

A bold plan to boost Canada's economy by investing in research and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians

Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada **increase the core budgets of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) by ten percent annually for the next five years**, as recommended in the *2023 Report of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System*¹. The objective of this recommendation is to bring Canada's investments in research and development to a level on par with other countries in the G7.

Recommendation 2: That the government of Canada make **research on the Brain and Mental Health a national priority** by investing in research to understand the brain through well-established and trusted organizations in the field.

Why invest in research and innovation?

Fundamental research is key to informing Canada's response to new challenges.

- **Diversifying and Strengthening Canada's Economy** – *Made-in-Canada* discoveries are the foundation for innovation that supports a stronger and more diverse Canadian economy.
- **Providing Good Jobs for Canadians** – Investing in scientific research leads to the creation of jobs for highly qualified personnel (HQP) within research laboratories, industry, government, and the public sector. Our trainees constitute important assets for medical and high-tech companies in Canada, who are looking to fill high paying and competitive job opportunities.
- **Maintaining Canada's Competitiveness and Leadership in the World** – Canada's scientists are highly respected on the world stage and are leaders in brain research including **mental health, neuropathies, stroke, autism, memory and dementia, sleep, pain, artificial intelligence, and spinal cord injury**. However, it is difficult for Canadian scientists to remain competitive and attract talent as the disparity in research support with other countries continues to widen.
- **Helping Canadians lead healthy and productive lives** - Brain and Mental Health disorders and diseases are the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of death worldwide². Through their research, Canadian neuroscientists work tirelessly to provide hope to Canadians who live with diseases and conditions for which there are currently no cures, and few treatments.

¹ <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/panel-federal-research-support/en/report-advisory-panel-federal-research-support-system>

² Feigin et al. *Lancet Neurol.* 2019;18(5):459-480. doi:10.1016/S1474-4422(18)30499-X



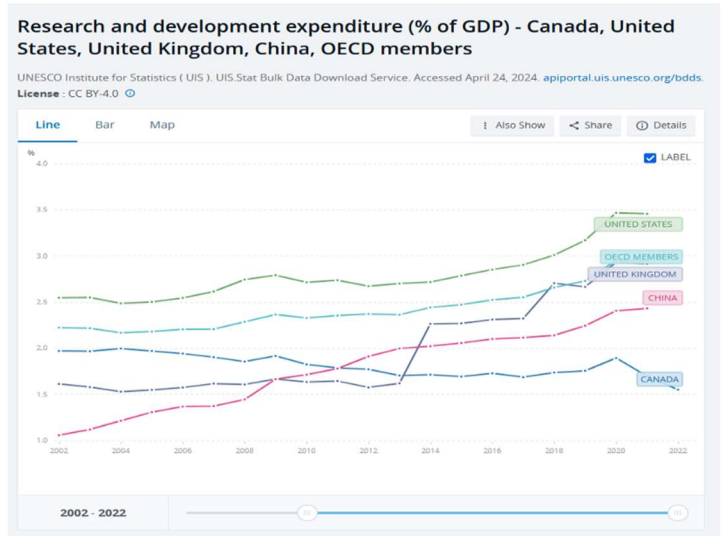
CAN-ACN

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Canada is falling behind in science funding

According to the latest data UNESCO institute for statistics Canada is the only country in the G7 whose investments in Research and Development have steadily declined over the last 20 years.

It is essential to accelerate the budget increase to CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC (tri-agency) and we propose implementing the recommendations of the Bouchard report, specifically a **10% annual increase to the budgets for 5 years**, an efficient way to address the need to better support trainees and research support staff paid through research grants, to support the scientific community and to boost the innovation economy.



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). UIS.Stat Bulk Data Download Service. Accessed April 24, 2024. apiportal.uis.unesco.org/bdds.

The following table shows tri-agency budget increases proposed in **Budget 2024** for the next 5 years

	2024-25	2025-26	2026- 27	2027-28	2028- 29
Initial budget	3799.6	3874.6	3952.6	4085.6	4316.6
Enhancing Research Support*	75	153	286	517	764
Budget after increase	3874.6	3952.6	4085.6	4316.6	4563.6
Percent increase (relative to previous year)	2%	2%	3%	6%	6%

*Data from Budget 2024, Table 4.1, page 212

While the overall tri-agency budget increases over the five years following budget 2024, it does so at a rate that is **close to or below inflation rates for many years**, and only slowly increases afterwards.

We propose that **Canada aim to reach investment levels on par with the average of G7 countries.**

Increasing the government's investment in health R&D will be key to a healthy Canada, both in terms of economics and the health of our citizens. Investment in Canadian brain research will not only support a knowledge-based economy prepared to face future challenges, it also provides evidence-based medical knowledge to improve and prevent brain diseases and disorders, which affect 50% of Canadians across our lifetime.

Increased support for Canadian science will strengthen the Canadian Economy by supporting innovation and health – let's make it a priority!

Contact our team : advocacy@can-acn.org