

Elbow's Up for Science: Advancing Canadian Science as a Cornerstone of National Prosperity and Economic Resilience: A Call to Action for Canada's Leaders

To all candidates seeking to lead Canada into the future, now is the time to prioritize science. Canadian researchers are ready to drive the breakthroughs that will shape our economy, safeguard our health, and secure our independence, but they need your support. While other G7 nations increase investments in research and innovation, Canada is falling behind. Without bold action, we risk losing top talent, sacrificing global competitiveness, and missing out on life-changing discoveries. A robust commitment to science is not a luxury - it's a strategic necessity for a stronger, healthier, and more resilient Canada.

Why should Canada invest in research and innovation?

Research is key to informing Canada's response to critical challenges.

- **Strengthening Canada's Economy** – *Made-in-Canada* discoveries are the foundation for innovation that supports a stronger and more resilient 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 student and interns constitute important assets for medical and high-tech companies in Canada, who are looking to fill high paying and competitive job opportunities.
- **Building Canada's Competitiveness and Leadership in the World** – Canada's scientists are highly respected on the world stage and are leaders in many areas including **mental health, stroke, autism, dementia, 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 worldwide¹. 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.

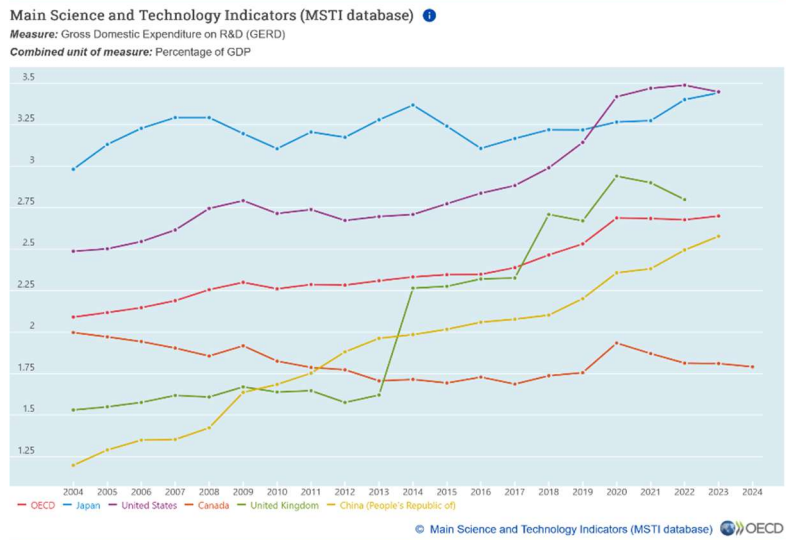
¹ Feigin et al. Lancet Neurol. 2019;18(5):459-480. doi:10.1016/S1474-4422(18)30499-X

Investing in science and research is an investment in the **well-being of all Canadians.**

Canada is falling behind in science funding

According to the latest data from the OECD, Canada is the only country in the G7 whose investments in Research and Development have steadily declined over the last 20 years. (View OECD data in figure on the right: <https://data-viewer.oecd.org/?chartId=82ac7b91-4dc5-4518-8fd1-26b87ebfdd9b>

Data accessed April 8, 2025).



We propose that **Canada aim to reach investment levels on par with the average of G7 countries.** We suggest implementing the recommendations of the Bouchard report, specifically a **10% annual increase to the budgets for 5 years²**, 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.

Canada has a chance to lead: the world needs more Canada

Diversity breeds scientific discoveries which fuel the economy. Current threats to academic freedom, barriers to open scientific inquiry, and the rise of **misinformation** coming from our neighbours to the south weaken public trust in science at a time when impartial **evidence-based solutions** and scientific knowledge are more important than ever. Canada can have an important role to play as a leader in science and research at this crucial period. Canadian researchers are ready to take on this challenge and contribute to Canada's positive leadership in a changing world.

We urge you to champion large, transformative and sustained funding increases to Canada's research ecosystem. The stakes are high, but the opportunity is greater: to make Canadian science a global beacon, and ensure prosperity, innovation, and well-being for generations to come.

² <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/panel-federal-research-support/en/report-advisory-panel-federal-research-support-system#26>