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FEDERAL BUDGET 2019: Support for Scientific Research and Development, and Science, Research and Technology Organizations

The 2019 Federal budget continued the Government's commitment to investment in science and research and education, through a few initiatives including the expansion of the Student-Work-Integrated Learning Program, new research scholarships to Canadian graduate students, support for Canada's youth pursuing post-secondary education through various taxation and loan-interest improvements, and work with Canada's Indigenous peoples to access post-secondary education and achieve academic success.

On August 2, 2018, the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC), working with advocacy partner the [Canadian Consortium for Research \(CCR\)](#) submitted a pre-budget recommendation for the 2019 Federal budget to the [House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance \(FINA\)](#). On March 20, 2019, CCR issued a response to the Federal Budget 2019. View the full [press release](#) from CCR.

The CIC encourages its members to meet with their Member of Parliament as the 2019 election becomes more central to communicate the key role that chemical sciences and engineering play in solving global challenges and for the prosperity of Canada. In such opportunities, members may consider discussing points from the CCR response. For example, inadequate funding for science and engineering education research, as well as the need for educational research to look at highly qualified personnel training models. Other areas of focus may be on investment in innovation, technology and commercialisation and the impact of addressing the technical skills shortage and implementation of the Strategic Science Fund. Or, the fact that the 2019 Federal budget did not include institutional research support or support for research infrastructure to build on the 2018 budget gains. Both are critical to enhance the environment for science and scholarship, which includes but is not limited to infrastructure-related start up costs, ongoing costs to support major science facilities, and replacement costs for research tools and instruments that are outdated. You are encouraged to personalize your message.

Additional key areas addressed in the Federal budget relevant to CIC's diverse membership and interests are included below*.

**Excerpts are taken from reports from: [Evidence for Democracy](#), [Nature](#), [Universities Canada](#), [Federation for the Humanities and Sciences](#).*



2019 Budget - Support for Scientific Research and Development, and Science, Research and Technology Organizations

1. Addressing the technical skills shortage
Global Talent Stream project piloted in the past is now permanent. Objective was to reduce the waited time for visas of certain foreign high-skilled talent to 10 business days. 2019 Budget included an investment of \$35.2 million over five years, starting 2019, with an additional \$7.4 million in ongoing funding.
2. Addressing the need for more entrepreneurs in Canada.
Futurepreneur Canada, a non-profit that supports aspiring business owners aged 18-39, will receive \$38 million over five years. Combined with matched investments from other partners, the funds will help create about 1,000 new entrepreneurs per year. The funds include \$3 million over five years earmarked for indigenous entrepreneurs.
3. Tax incentives for R&D (SR&ED)
Budget 2019 eliminated the income threshold for accessing the SR&ED enhanced credit. This means small to mid-size Canadian firms will be able to enjoy tax breaks of 35 per cent on expenditures.
4. Strategic Science Fund
Operation of a Strategic Science Fund will start in 2022-23 “using a principles-based framework for allocating federal funding that includes competitive, transparent processes”. This independent panel of experts will use the framework to select recipient organizations and fund allocation in a competitive allocation process.
5. New investments in several third-party science and research organizations
 - Stem Cell Network will receive funding of \$18 million over three years starting 2019-20
 - Brain Canada Foundation will receive up to \$40 million over two years starting 2020-21
 - Terry Fox Research Institute will receive up to \$150 million over five years starting 2019-20
 - Ovarian Cancer Canada will receive \$10 million over five years starting 2019-20
 - Genome Canada will receive \$100.5 million over five years starting 2020-21
 - Let's Talk Science will receive \$10 million over two years starting 2020-21
 - TRIUMF will receive \$195.9 million over five years starting 2020-21

2019 Budget – Students and Education:

1. Canada Student Loans
\$15 million over five years, starting in 2019–20, to modernize the Canada Student Loans Program. New proposed changes include lowered interest rates, new policies to support students who need to take a leave for medical or parental reasons, and supporting students with disabilities.
2. Graduate Scholarships
\$114 million over the next five years to increase the number of graduate scholarships available from NSERC, SSHRC and IHRC. This will provide an additional 500 masters scholarships and 167 doctoral scholarships per year.

3. Parental Leave for Student Researchers
\$37.4 million over five years to extend parental leave coverage from 6 to 12 months for students funded by any of the three main research agencies.
4. Student Work-Integrated Learning Program
Commitment to help students enter the workforce through 40,000 proposed new work placements per year by 2023-24, and to support the Business/Higher Education Roundtable's creation of an additional 44,000 work-integrated learning opportunities by 2021. The Student Work Placement program gives post-secondary students in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and business programs across Canada paid work experience related to their field of study. Over 11,500 paid student work placements will be created by this program through 2021.
5. International Education Strategy
\$147.9 million over five years for an International Education Strategy. The strategy will promote Canada as a leading study destination and give more students the international study and work opportunities so highly sought by Canadian employers.
6. Support for Low Income Families in accessing post-secondary education
New initiatives to support low-income students in accessing post-secondary education beginning in 2019–20.
7. Supporting Indigenous Post-Secondary Education
Starting in 2019–20, there are also several new investments including:
 - a. \$327.5 million over five years to renew and expand funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program
 - b. \$125.5 million over ten years, and \$21.8 million per year ongoing for an Inuit-led post-secondary education strategy
 - c. \$362 million over ten years, and \$40 million per year ongoing for a Métis Nation-led post-secondary education strategy consisting of financial assistance for Métis Nations students
 - d. \$9 million over three years, starting in 2019–20, for additional bursaries and scholarships for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students through “Indspire”, an Indigenous-led registered charitable organization.

2019 Budget – Skill Development:

1. New skills training tax credits
\$1.7 billion over five years for new skills training tax credits, including a credit for eligible workers to pay for training fees, and a credit supporting training for people receiving EI.