

Canada and Ontario invest to renew infrastructure at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology

\$13.0-million investment will expand research and foster innovation

For Immediate Release

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Canadians will be better equipped for the well-paying middle-class jobs of today and tomorrow as a result of a \$33.5M investment in the University of Ontario Institute of Technology by the federal and provincial governments, community partners, and the university.

This joint federal-provincial investment was announced today by Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Member of Parliament for Whitby and Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and by Granville Anderson, Member of Provincial Parliament for Durham.

The Government of Canada's [Innovation Agenda](#) aims to make this country a global centre for innovation—one that creates jobs, drives growth across all industries and improves the lives of all Canadians. This investment is a prime example of that vision in action.

The funding will support the Software and Informatics Research Centre (SIRC), which will act as a hub for research in health and business analytics, IT security, networking, gaming, and software engineering at UOIT. SIRC will promote interdisciplinary and experiential learning for students in computer science, IT and engineering. SIRC will also enable e-learning and more e-guest lectures and interactions with industries through innovative digital and conferencing technology.

Of the \$33.5M investment, \$11.8M will come from the federal government and \$1.2M from the Government of Ontario. The university will fund the remainder of the building's construction from its capital reserves, as well as from the university's donors, alumni and supporters in the business community.

The funding from the Government of Canada is being allocated through the [Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund](#), which will enhance and modernize research facilities on Canadian campuses and improve the environmental sustainability of these facilities.

Improving postsecondary infrastructure is also part of the Provincial Government's economic plan to build Ontario and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses.

Quotes

"These infrastructure investments will help create high quality, well-paying jobs that can help the middle class grow and prosper today, while also delivering sustained economic growth in the Durham Region for years to



come. Through the Strategic Investment Fund, we are strengthening the foundation for building Canada into a global centre for innovation.”

– Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Member of Parliament for Whitby

“This once-in-a-generation investment by the Government of Canada is a historic down payment on the government’s vision to position Canada as a global centre for innovation. That means making Canada a world leader in turning ideas into solutions, science into technologies, skills into jobs and start-up companies into global successes. This investment will create conditions that are conducive to innovation and long-term growth, which will in turn keep the Canadian economy globally competitive.”

– The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

“Encouraging scientific awareness in Durham and across Canada depends on supporting our world-class scientists and researchers. Through investments such as those under the Strategic Investment Fund, we are continuing to lay the groundwork for making Canada a global leader in scientific excellence.”

– The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science

“UOIT has, since its inception, been a leader in terms of innovation. This new Software and Informatics Research Centre will allow the university to build on and expand that work, while at the same time providing more students with the learning environment and opportunities they require.”

- Granville Anderson, Member of Provincial Parliament for Durham

“This investment in our university by the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario will help to make Durham Region and Northumberland County a leading hub of new knowledge generation, skills development and economic success. It also represents an investment in our students—the entrepreneurial young women and men who will be the citizen leaders of tomorrow.”

-Tim McTiernan, PhD, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Quick facts

- The Government of Canada’s Innovation Agenda is designed to ensure Canada is globally competitive in promoting research, translating ideas into new products and services, accelerating business growth and propelling entrepreneurs from the start-up phase to international success.
- The targeted, short-term investments under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund will promote economic activity across Canada and help Canada’s universities and colleges develop highly skilled workers, act as engines of discovery, and collaborate on innovations that help Canadian companies compete and grow internationally.
- The Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund supports the Government of Canada’s climate change objectives by encouraging sustainable and green infrastructure projects.

Associated links

- [Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund website](#)
- [Innovation Agenda backgrounder](#)

Follow Minister Bains on social media.

Twitter: [@MinisterISED](#)

Instagram: [ministerised](#)



Contacts

November Chernick
Communications and Outreach
Office of Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Member of Parliament- Whitby
O: (905) 665-7054
C: (289) 356-4054

Media Relations
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
343-291-1777
ic.mediarelations-mediasrelations.ic@canada.ca

