

Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges List 2014 Analysis

Research on a Rapid Growth Path

Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges maintained a rapid pace of growth, posting a 30.8% increase in combined Fiscal 2013 research income to \$152.8 million, up from \$116.8 million the year before. The number of faculty involved in research expanded by 10.6% to 1,874 from 1,694 the prior year. As a result, Fiscal 2013 research intensity – research income per faculty – expanded by 18.2% to \$81,500 from \$69,000 in Fiscal 2012.

British Columbia Institute of Technology headed the Top 50 list by attracting \$15.2 million of research income, followed by Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) at \$9.7 million and George Brown College at \$9.3 million. Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles (\$6.7 million), SAIT Polytechnic (\$6.6 million), Red River College (\$5.8 million), Cégep Édouard-Montpetit (\$5.4 million), Seneca College (\$4.4 million), Sheridan College (\$4.3 million) and Yukon College (\$4.3 million) rounded out the top 10 colleges.

Provincial Performance

On a provincial basis, Ontario's 16 colleges accounted for 31.5% of total Top 50 research income (\$48.1 million). They were followed by 16 colleges in Quebec, which recorded 26.8% of the total (\$41.0 million) and 8 colleges in Alberta, which were responsible for 18.0% of national research income (\$27.4 million).

British Columbia institutions led their peers by recording an average of \$6.35 million each of research income. Second on the list was Manitoba, where its lead research college – Red River College – attracted \$5.82 million of income. Yukon College pushed that territory into 3rd place by attracting \$4.26 million of research income.

Top 50 – Leading Provinces		
Province	Average \$ (millions)	% of Total
Ontario (16)	\$3.00	31.5
Quebec (16)	\$2.56	26.8
Alberta (8)	\$3.43	18.0

Income Growth Leaders

Ten colleges exhibited very high growth in income. George Brown College saw its research income expand by more than three times (355.3%). Lakeland College (308.3% increase) and British Columbia Institute of Technology (193.0% increase) led the pack in income growth. Five

other colleges had income growth in excess of 100%. These figures reflect the effects of both real income growth and a move towards improved income reporting.

Top 10 Research Colleges by Growth			
2013 Rank		Research College	% Change 2012-2013
Income Growth	Overall		
1	3	George Brown College	355.3
2	20	Lakeland College	308.3
3	1	British Columbia Institute of Technology	193.0
4	39	Cégep de Rimouski	187.3
5	40	Saskatchewan Polytechnic ^(a)	154.7
6	24	Humber College	143.7
7	16	Cégep de Thetford	129.4
8	15	Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon	113.5
9	4	Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles	91.9
10	33	Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick	66.2

Research Intensity

Average Top 50 research intensity – research income per faculty – advanced by 18.2% to \$81,500 in Fiscal 2013. This follows a 13.4% intensity improvement from \$69,000 in Fiscal 2012. Twenty-two of the 50 research colleges posted research intensities higher than the national average.

Lakeland College topped the intensity ranking with \$522,600 per researcher, followed by Yukon College (\$472,900), Mohawk College (\$243,400), Lambton College (\$222,000) and Cégep André-Laurendeau (\$187,500).

Top 10 Research Intensive Colleges			
2013 Rank		Research College	Research Intensity (\$ per Faculty) \$000
Research Intensity	Overall		
1	20	Lakeland College	\$522.6
2	10	Yukon College	\$472.9
3	22	Mohawk College	\$243.4
4	17	Lambton College	\$222.0
5	14	Cégep André-Laurendeau	\$187.5
6	4	Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles	\$166.6
7	7	Cégep Édouard-Montpetit ^(b)	\$151.1
8	3	George Brown College	\$149.5
9	6	Red River College	\$149.3
10	32	Collège Shawinigan	\$141.7

^(a) Formerly named SIAST - Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

^(b) Formerly named Collège Édouard-Montpetit.

This Year and Next

This is the second year that Research Infosource has reported on the research income of Canada's research colleges. Data reporting and data consistency are improving, and we thank the colleges for their cooperation.

As this year's data clearly show, Canada's colleges are expanding their role in research. Thanks in large measure to increased funding by federal and provincial governments and continuing support from industry, more resources are being made available and colleges are responding. As a result (see Spotlight on College Research Activity) the number of research partnerships and projects with external organizations is growing rapidly. So too is the number of college researchers involved.

College research tends to be applied; it is focussed on meeting the needs of local companies and organizations. From a national innovation perspective college research provides a valuable complement to university research, much of which is curiosity-driven. Students comprise the bulk of the research workforce at colleges, and student involvement in research is also growing. This hands-on involvement provides students with a better understanding of research tools and methods and makes them more valuable employees. This represents a real win-win situation for colleges, students, employers ... and the economy.