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University Research Income Approaches $8.3 Billion

Toronto ON, 25 January 2022. Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities posted combined research income of $8.27 billion in Fiscal 2020, a gain of 3.0% over Fiscal 2019, reported Research Infosource Inc., which today released its annual ranking. Research income increased at 31 universities and declined at 19 others. Average research intensity - research income per faculty position - was $202,900 in Fiscal 2020, a modest increase of 2.1%. Graduate student intensity - research income per graduate student - was $39,000, a slight decline from Fiscal 2019.

Research leader University of Toronto again led the Medical tier and national university rankings with $1.23 billion of research income in Fiscal 2020, up 13.3%. University of Waterloo ($211.2 million, down -12.3%) retained the top spot among Comprehensive universities and Laurentian University ($37.8 million, down -4.1%) led the Undergraduate tier. “Fiscal 2020 university research income growth was somewhat muted” said Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource Inc. “Compared with gains of 5.7%, 3.6% and 6.8% respectively over the previous three years, the Fiscal 2020 result could best be seen as treading water.”

The 2020 result was mainly due to a -3.9% drop in Provincial Government funding, coupled with a -3.9% drop in NSERC funding, and weak Foreign and Individual research support. Research funding at SSHRC (10.9%), CIHR (10.2%) and CFI (8.2%) rose considerably, and funding from Corporate sources also expanded by a healthy 6.7% in Fiscal 2020.

Twenty-two universities gained membership in Research Infosource’s prestigious $100 Million Club, reporting research income in excess of $100 million each in Fiscal 2020. New to the Club was Ryerson University, which posted research income of $105.6 million in Fiscal 2020. Club members had a combined research income gain of 4.2%, slightly above the national level, and representing 90% of the total.

Research income expanded fastest in Fiscal 2020 at these universities: Université de Sherbrooke (Medical tier, 21.2%), Ryerson University (Comprehensive tier, 32.7%) and Trent University (Undergraduate tier, 17.1%). University of Toronto (Medical) topped the rankings for faculty research intensity ($446,600 of research income per faculty) and was joined by other tier leaders University of Guelph (Comprehensive, $196,600) and Université du Québec à Rimouski (Undergraduate, $151,500).

In Fiscal 2020, University of Toronto reported the highest Corporate research income among its Medical peers ($141.2 million), while University of Waterloo led the Comprehensive category ($31.4 million) and Université du Québec à Chicoutimi ($7.6 million) led the Undergraduate tier. Corporate research income as percent of the total research income accounted for 37.0% of the total at Queen’s University, leading in the Medical category, 15.2% at University of Guelph (Comprehensive) and 34.3% at Université du Québec en Abitibi- Témiscamingue (Undergraduate).

Research Infosource has designated 3 institutions as Research Universities of the Year 2021 in their respective categories: University of Toronto (Medical), University of Waterloo (Comprehensive) and Université du Québec à Rimouski (Undergraduate). These institutions demonstrated superior performance on key measures of research success.
In association with its 20th Anniversary, Research Infosource shined the spotlight on Two Decades of University Research Progress as measured by research income growth FY2001-FY2020 and publication growth 2000-2019 at full-service universities. The top leaders in each category were:

- **Total Research Income Growth**: Université de Sherbrooke (Medical, 394.6%), Ryerson University (Comprehensive, 1,071.3%) and Université du Québec à Rimouski (Undergraduate, 407.1%).
- **Corporate Research Income Growth**: Memorial University of Newfoundland (Medical, 715.1%), Concordia University (Comprehensive, 247.4%) and Lakehead University (Undergraduate, 467.3%).
- **Not-for-Profit Research Income Growth**: Université de Sherbrooke (Medical, 541.6%), Concordia University (Comprehensive, 6,589.6%) and Lakehead University (Undergraduate, 7,712.5%).
- **Total University Research Publication Growth**: University of Ottawa (Medical, 264.3%), Ryerson University (Comprehensive, 1,084.0%) and Lakehead University (Undergraduate, 321.3%).
- **University International Collaboration Publication Growth**: University of Ottawa (Medical, 579.3%), Ryerson University (Comprehensive, 2,523.5%) and Wilfrid Laurier University (Undergraduate, 1,255.6%).
- **University Cross-sector Collaboration Publication Growth**: University of Calgary (Medical, 522.3%), Ryerson University (Comprehensive, 2,066.7%) and University of Northern British Columbia (Undergraduate, 1,000.0%).

Said Research Infosource’s CEO, Ron Freedman, “While overall gains in research inputs and outputs have been impressive over the past 20 years, many institutions stood out for their very rapid growth far in excess of the average. We salute all of Canada’s research universities and wish them every future success.”

For complete information: https://researchinfosource.com/top-50-research-universities/2021

Further, for complete analysis, additional rankings, a Focus on Canada’s Recovery: Research is Key and other editorial content check out Canada’s Innovation Leaders (CIL) 2021 coming March 2022, https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2021

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Research Infosource Inc. is Canada’s source of R&D intelligence. Drawing from proprietary databases, Research Infosource publishes Canada’s Innovation Leaders, which includes Canada’s Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders, Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities, Canada’s Top 40 Research Hospitals and Canada’s Top 50 Research Colleges. As well, Research Infosource publishes specialized reports.

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