

CANADA'S TOP 50 Research Colleges

RESEARCH INCOME STALLS

Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges grew their combined research income by only 0.5% in Fiscal 2015, compared with 4.7% growth in 2014 and 30.8% in 2013. Income at all 50 institutions rose to \$168.7 million from \$167.8 million in Fiscal 2014. Research income increased at 33 colleges and fell at 17 schools. The number of college researchers expanded to 2,100 from 2,036 the prior year.

The top research college was Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe, which attracted a total of \$10.3 million of research income in Fiscal 2015, up 9.8% from fiscal 2014. Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles posted \$7.9 million of research income, up 11.0% from the prior year, followed by Lambton College, which gained \$7.0 million, an increase of 32.7% from the year before.

PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

Nineteen Québec colleges accounted for \$68.1 million of research income – 40.4% of the Top 50 total – an increase from 36.3% in Fiscal 2014. Ontario's 15 colleges on the Top 50 list posted \$50.7 million of income and accounted for 30.1% of the total, down from 34.4%. Colleges in all other provinces/territories accounted for 29.5% of national research income.

Top 50 – Leading Provinces

Province	% of Total
Quebec (19)	40.4
Ontario (15)	30.1
Alberta (5)	9.6
British Columbia (3)	6.4

Top 10 Research Intensive Colleges

2015 Rank	Research Intensity (\$ per faculty)	Research College	Research Intensity (\$000)
1	24	Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue	\$540.8
2	28	Aurora College	\$338.1
3	13	Yukon College	\$313.0
4	27	Collège Shawinigan	\$296.1
5	12	Cégep André-Laurendeau	\$224.0
6	1	Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe	\$205.7
7	4	Cégep de La Pocatière	\$190.0
8	15	Mohawk College	\$184.2
9	39	Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon	\$181.2
10	2	Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles	\$178.9

Top 10 Research Colleges by Growth

2015 Rank	Income Growth	Research College	% Change 2014-2015
1	32	Fanshawe College	200.8
2	46	St. Lawrence College	99.3
3	37	Dawson College	81.5
4	38	Cégep de Sept-Îles	69.4
5	20	Algonquin College	51.1
6	17	Olds College	50.1
7	36	Holland College	45.5
8	29	Camosun College	44.2
9	47	Cégep de Rimouski	42.5
10	42	Saskatchewan Polytechnic	42.3

Among the 4 leading provinces with more than 1 college reporting, average per-college income was highest in British Columbia (\$3.61 million), Québec (\$3.58 million), Ontario (\$3.38 million) and Alberta (\$3.22 million).

RESEARCH INCOME GROWTH

In spite of the tepid national result (0.5% increase), many colleges exhibited substantial rates of growth in income last year. Income grew by over 200% at Fanshawe College, by more than 99% at St. Lawrence College and by over 81% at Dawson College. Many other colleges posted substantial research income gains as well.

RESEARCH INTENSITY

As a consequence of flat revenues and expanding research faculty numbers, average research intensity (research income per faculty) among the Top 50 fell by 2.6% to \$80,330 from \$82,430. Research intensity was highest at Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (\$540,800 per faculty), Aurora College (\$338,100), and Yukon College (\$313,000). Overall, 18 of the 50 research colleges posted intensities higher than the national average.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS, PROJECTS AND STUDENTS

Important indicators of the "reach" of college research are: the number of active and completed formal research partnerships and projects that colleges undertake with external organizations; and the number of students involved in research. Total partnerships increased by 12.5% to 2,551 in Fiscal 2015 from 2,268 in Fiscal 2014.

The number of completed projects rose by 13.0% to 2,439 from 2,158 the prior year. Also, 31 of 50 colleges expanded the number of completed projects. Sheridan College led its counterparts both in the number of formal partnerships (298) and completed projects (444) in Fiscal 2015. Cégep de Trois-Rivières (134 partnerships, 162 completed projects) was tops in its category. Cégep de Thetford was the leader among small colleges in forging partnerships (99), while Cégep de La Pocatière led in completed projects (204).

In total, the number of students paid to participate in research projects expanded by 33.2%, to 2,061 from 1,547 the year before. George Brown College (442 paid student researchers), Lambton College (99) and Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles (31) headed the large, medium and small categories, respectively.

INTERACTION WITH INDUSTRY

One of the colleges' key missions is to work with industry. RESEARCH Infosource asked the Top 50 Research Colleges to indicate the amount of research that companies funded in Fiscal 2015, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of their total research income. Overall, industry income fell 8.3% to \$37.2 million from \$40.6 million the prior year.

Among large colleges Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) was the leader, attracting \$1.24 million of research income from industry. Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe was tops among medium colleges (\$5.62 million) and Cégep de La Pocatière led small colleges, with \$3.23 million of research income from industry.

In terms of industry contribution to all research income (percent of total), Saskatchewan Polytechnic led

Spotlight on College Research Activity

NUMBER OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS*

Rank	Large	#	Rank	Medium	#	Rank	Small	#
1	Sheridan College	298	1	Cégep de Trois-Rivières	134	1	Cégep de Thetford	99
2	Niagara College	149	2	Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick	81	2	Collège Shawinigan	98
3	George Brown College	130	3	Cégep Édouard-Montpetit	74	3	Cégep de La Pocatière	88

NUMBER OF COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS*

Rank	Large	#	Rank	Medium	#	Rank	Small	#
1	Sheridan College	444	1	Cégep de Trois-Rivières	162	1	Cégep de La Pocatière	204
2	George Brown College	112	2	Cégep Édouard-Montpetit	80	2	Collège d'Alma	108
3	Niagara College	105	3	Cégep de Sainte-Foy	61	3	Cégep de Thetford	99

NUMBER OF PAID STUDENT RESEARCHERS**

Rank	Large	#	Rank	Medium	#	Rank	Small	#
1	George Brown College	442	1	Lambton College	99	1	Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles	31
2	Centennial College	235	2	Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe	72	2	Cégep de La Pocatière	23
3	Algonquin College	160	3	Cambrian College	48	3	Cégep de Thetford	21

INDUSTRY RESEARCH INCOME+

Rank	Large	\$000	Rank	Medium	\$000	Rank	Small	\$000
1	NAIT - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	\$1,235	1	Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe	\$5,615	1	Cégep de La Pocatière	\$3,225
2	British Columbia Institute of Technology	\$1,061	2	Cégep André-Laurendeau	\$4,107	2	Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon	\$1,512
3	SAIT Polytechnic	\$1,055	3	Cégep Édouard-Montpetit	\$2,118	3	Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles	\$1,501

INDUSTRY RESEARCH INTENSITY (Industry Research Income as a % of Total Research Income)

Rank	Large	%	Rank	Medium	%	Rank	Small	%
1	Saskatchewan Polytechnic	32.5	1	Cégep André-Laurendeau	87.3	1	Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon	92.7
2	NAIT - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	26.7	2	Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe	54.6	2	Cégep de Sept-Îles	62.0
3	SAIT Polytechnic	24.3	3	Cégep de Sainte-Foy	40.9	3	Collège d'Alma	60.9

Notes:

1. Data are for FY2014-2015.

2. Size is based on total college income:

Large: more than \$100 million; Medium = \$50 million to \$100 million;

Small = less than \$50 million.

*Research partnerships and completed research projects with external organizations governed by formal written agreements

**Students that were involved in applied research projects that were paid for their work

+Research income from industry sources in the form of grants or contracts; excludes in-kind contributions/donations

the way among large colleges, with industry contributing 32.5% of all research income. At medium size Cégep André-Laurendeau, companies contributed 87.3% of the college's research budget. Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon derived 92.7% of its research budget from industry, leading both the small colleges and nationwide.

THIS YEAR AND NEXT

From a financial standpoint, the pace of college research has slowed dramatically, to 0.5% growth last year, compared with growth rates of 4.7% in Fiscal 2014, 30.8% in Fiscal 2013 and 33.3% in Fiscal 2012. Encouragingly, the number of college faculty involved with research is on the rise, as is the number of paid student researchers. Similarly, there is strong growth in the number of active research projects and the number of projects being completed. In addition, many individual colleges performed better than the national trends would indicate.

Colleges in Québec performed especially well last year, occupying 5 of the top 10 spots nationally. Québec colleges have affiliated CCTTs – dedicated college centers for technology transfer – which have

proven to be effective mechanisms for linking college research to external organizations. A national Technology Access Centres program was recently launched to help spread the CCTT model more widely across Canada, but is still in a formative stage.

With most college (and university) research dollars coming directly or indirectly from federal government coffers, college research activity tends to vary with federal largesse. Direct corporate research funding accounts for a small portion of the total. Last year we highlighted some structural impediments to college research: faculty do not generally have a research mandate; there is no dedicated graduate student researcher pool; and, the infrastructure to support additional research is not yet well developed. These continue to be barriers. We also proposed that the colleges work together to establish a national action plan that would focus on moving the sector forward in research. We still believe this would be a good idea.

Colleges will undoubtedly be looking to the federal government's impending science and technology strategy to signal new directions – and new resources – for college research.