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## **FEDERAL BUDGET MISSES OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE CANADA’S RESEARCH ADVANTAGE**

April 4, 2023 (Ottawa) – The federal government tabled Budget 2023 on March 28<sup>th</sup>. While acknowledging the support provided in previous budgets, the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) expresses its deep disappointment that no new investments in fundamental research were made which will negatively impact Canada’s global relevance, and the next generation of researchers.

“For Canada to be competitive through economic and social innovation, we must create new knowledge, and recruit and retain top calibre researchers. This budget is a missed opportunity to sustain robust and sustainable research science culture in Canada,” said Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker, Chair of the CCR.

Budget 2023 makes a passing reference to the final report of the [Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System](#) but takes no action to address the problems identified, including that Canada is falling behind in funding for basic research. The Budget also lacked the needed investment in Canada’s graduate students and postdoctoral fellows that was brought to the Government’s attention by student advocacy, from the CCR and many member organizations and the Advisory Panel. Canada’s graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have long faced rising living costs and insufficient funding levels. Investment in Canada’s research talent is necessary to bolster our capacity to solve the many societal challenges that Canada is facing.

While the impact of the Budget on federal science-based departments is still being assessed, announced cuts are likely to slow new hiring and travel budgets will be reduced. Federal scientists are an important component of many of our member organizations, and collaborative research along with career opportunities for students and early-career researchers depends on a public service that has the resources to promote and enable research collaboration.

The CCR, along with its member organizations, will continue advocating for a flourishing research sector in Canada and support our members' efforts to both show how research helps to address Canada’s most pressing challenges, and to put that research knowledge in the hands of people working to create those solutions.

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*The CCR is the largest advocacy coalition in Canada, focusing on research funding in all disciplines and support for post-secondary education. The CCR includes 20 organizations that represent more than 50,000 researchers and 650,000 students across disciplines.*

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