

The case for investing in Canada's knowledge infrastructure

Canadian universities are key to the country's research and innovation, helping train the talent needed for the future. However, ballooning deferred maintenance costs and outdated research facilities mean we risk falling behind our global competitors.

Deferred maintenance liability

\$17.2 BILLION



of aging buildings require immediate action or action within 1-2 years

Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2019

Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2019

Universities as community hubs

Modern and energy-efficient university infrastructure is crucial to support students as well as the broader community. Community members make use of universities' recreational facilities—gyms, swimming pools and sports fields—and use buildings for community gatherings, emergency shelters and public health initiatives.

To unlock Canada's full knowledge and innovation potential, Canadian universities should be integrated into federal infrastructure programs including energy-efficient and accessible upgrades.

State of the art university facilities, amenities and technologies:



Provide the best learning environment for Canada's future workforce



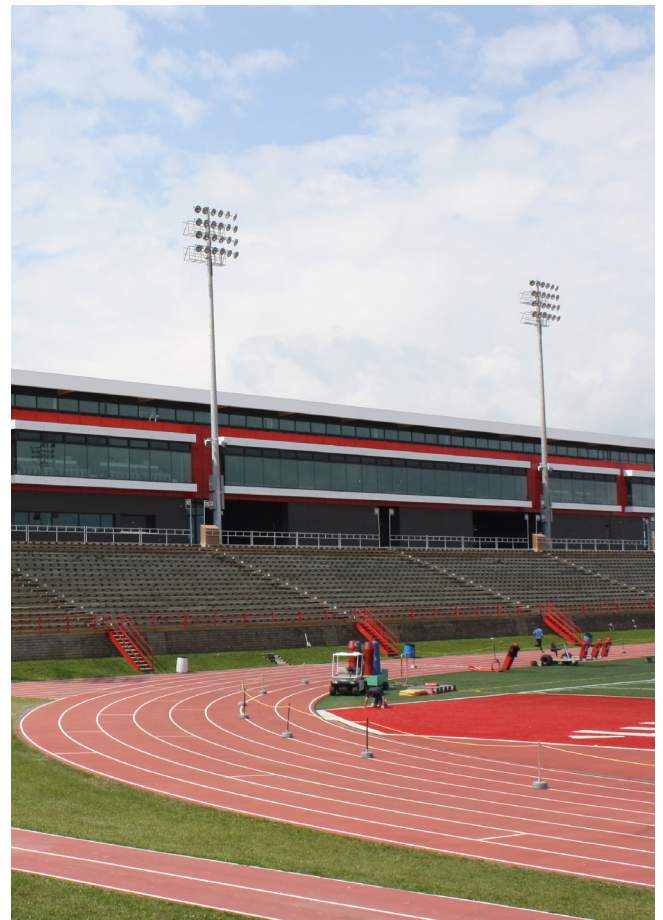
Attract talent and business partnerships



Lower energy costs and ensure long-term sustainability



Better serve the needs of local communities



Reduces energy use and emissions

Decarbonizing the building sector is critical to achieving Canada's net-zero commitment by 2050. And universities can make a substantial impact.

Investments in deferred maintenance projects enable universities to retrofit existing infrastructure, reduce energy costs and contribute to climate goals.



Investment in the 2016 Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (PSI-SIF) resulted in:

300 PROJECTS
delivered
IN 3 YEARS

Nearly 2/3
contributed to energy
efficiency and sustainability

Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2019



In 2019, Carleton University used funding from the PSI-SIF to renovate the ARISE building, which now serves as a hub for research and innovation in clean energy, health and information technology. This building supports student skill development and has helped foster collaboration with industry including Ericsson, Bombardier, Telus, Best Buy, Cisco and IBM.

Universities are ready to
improve infrastructure now

\$7 BILLION
shovel-ready projects on campuses
across Canada

Nearly 2/3
are renovations to
existing facilities

Over 1/2
**COST LESS THAN
\$10 MILLION**

Canadian Association of University Business Officers, 2019

We recommend:

Ensure that existing, new or renewed federal funding programs for energy-efficient infrastructure and accessible retrofits are designed to allow all post-secondary institutions to apply for support.