



## HEADLINES

### Preview of 2012

The New Year always brings predictions for the year ahead and who better than Alex Usher to provide [an interesting overview of what is to come](#) for post-secondary education in 2012. Based in large part on what occurred in 2011, Usher predicts labour unrest will be the top issue for higher education in 2012, citing the strikes at Brandon University and McGill as evidence that labour demands are growing while budgets are getting tighter. Usher also anticipates a tight federal budget which will certainly impact post-secondary institutions. Provincially, he expects to see increases in funding in Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, real declines in Ontario and B.C., and the status quo everywhere else. Usher's piece also looks at what is to come internationally in 2012.

### AUCC outlines priorities for next federal budget

As the federal government makes strategic decisions in preparing its 2012 budget, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) has recommended an increase of \$40 million to the base budgets of the 3 federal granting agencies, as well as an increase of \$16 million to support the institutional costs of research in its [2012 Pre-Budget Submission](#). AUCC also recommends allocating an additional \$10 million to support innovative and proven university programs that boost Aboriginal student access and retention, and increasing funding for Aboriginal graduate students by creating 1,000 scholarships a year valued at \$10,000 each. AUCC also suggests the government create scholarships, valued at \$10,000, to attract 2,000 Brazilian students to Canada each year for the next 3 years.

### A "Harper-ized" Canada Student Loans Program?

There is growing evidence that the Harper Government is pushing forward with its agenda to return to a more classic version of federalism that adheres to constitutional responsibilities, or at least that was Jane Taber's take in [a recent Globe and Mail article](#). The impact of this new approach will resonate across sectors, with post-secondary institutions likely not exempt from the new direction. [Alex Usher believes](#) that while federal research investment is likely safe based on recent comments (although he does warn the Budget process may be unkind to SSHRC), student loans may be another story all together. Citing the challenges of federal-provincial governance, Usher thinks a new "Harper-ized" student aid system may emerge in the next 4 years with the federal government simply cutting a cheque to the provinces in exchange for agreement on some simple governing principles.

### Ottawa seeks proposal for initiatives to end violence against women on campuses

The federal government has launched [a call for proposals](#) for projects to address violence against women on post-secondary campuses. The federal government will accept submissions until January 27, 2012 for projects that cost under \$200,000. There is no limit on the number of proposals the government could approve.



## Federal government launches 2<sup>nd</sup> CERC competition

10 chairs worth \$10M each are up for grabs in [a second round of the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program](#). Chairs will be awarded in the four large priority areas outlined in the [2007 Science and Technology Strategy](#) along with digital economy. Selection will be done through a two-stage process with universities competing for the opportunity to establish chairs at their institutions, followed by a short-list of universities that will forward their nominees. It is estimated that a \$10M chair attracts on average more than \$19 million in leverage funding.

## Ontario to build three new campuses

The Ontario government is planning to make good on their election commitment to [build three new campuses](#) that would offer undergraduate degrees in the province, with locations to be selected based on population and educational demands. The pledge, which was repeated in the recent Ontario Throne Speech, would open up 60,000 post-secondary spots by 2015–16. Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities, and former Winnipeg Mayor, [Glen Murray](#) has indicated the province is looking to address gaps in the current system and locate campuses in growth areas where there is an emerging economy that could be supported and reinforced by a local college or university. The campuses are likely to become satellite campuses of existing universities and colleges, and more likely combinations of the two, to better respond to what communities need.

## 5% increase in industrial R&D projected

Industrial R&D is projected to increase to \$15.6 billion in 2011, up 5% from 2010 levels [according to Statistics Canada](#). This is a positive sign after three consecutive years of declining R&D spending across almost all industrial sectors. 2011 projections are still below the \$16.8 billion spent in 2007 however. Six industries will account for just over half of industrial R&D in 2011. The services sector accounts for 4 of the 6 - scientific research and development services (\$1.7 billion), wholesale trade (\$1.3 billion), information and cultural industries (\$1.2 billion), and computer system design and related services (\$1.1 billion). The manufacturing sector accounts for the other 2 - aerospace products and parts (\$1.4 billion) and communications equipment (\$1.4 billion).

## Green Team Funding Available

Provincial funding is available again this year through the [Provincial Green Team Grants](#) to hire youth between the ages of 15 and 29 for summer jobs in Manitoba. There are two intakes for the grant, the first with a deadline of January 16<sup>th</sup> for work between May 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, and the second with a deadline of March 8<sup>th</sup> for employment between June 15<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>. Applicants can request up to 560 hours per position for the first intake and 320 hours for the second, for a maximum of 4 positions. Applicants will be reimbursed the Manitoba minimum wage and 4% vacation allowance for each approved program employee, as well as up to \$250 in support costs.

Universities are eligible for funding so please coordinate your applications through [Government and Community Engagement](#).

Applications for the federal government's [Canada Summer Jobs Program](#) are expected to be out in late January and Government and Community Engagement will coordinate applications once they are available.



## EVENTS

### Recreation spaces upgraded through RinC

On December 9, the University of Manitoba opened a new state-of-the-art circuit training room for women and a spin cycle room as part of an extensive series of upgrades in facilities at the Frank Kennedy Centre. Funding for the overall project was \$729,649 with \$240,000 being provided by the federal government's [Recreational Infrastructure Canada \(RinC\) program](#) through Western Economic Diversification Canada. President Barnard and Rod Bruinooge, MP, Winnipeg South took part in the ribbon cutting event at the announcement. Other Frank Kennedy Centre upgrades funded through the program included: conversion of a gymnastics room to a basketball gym, expansion of the climbing wall, construction of family change rooms, and new basketball hoops in the Gold gym.



*Pictured (Left to right): President Barnard, Associate VP (External) John Alho, Director of Active Living Gary Thompson, MP for Winnipeg South Rod Bruinooge and Dean of Kinesiology and Recreation Management Jane Watkinson*

### Visionary Conversations

The University of Manitoba has launched a new speaker series hosted by President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David T. Barnard. At the next event, *Water: Too Much, Too Little, Two Lakes* join our expert panel for a discussion of water resource issues that impact the supply and quality of water, the environment and the future of this very critical resource to our existence. More information on the February 15th session is available from [the website](#) and you can rsvp at [govern-ment\\_community@umanitoba.ca](mailto:govern-ment_community@umanitoba.ca). And save the date for these upcoming sessions:

April 11 – Human Rights and Gender Issues

June 13 – The Food We Eat

And you can catch past conversations on the [U of M YouTube channel](#).

### Parliament and Legislature to Return

Parliament will be back in session starting January 30 and will run till June. While a firm date has not been set, the expectation is for the Legislature to come back in March after having only sat for a brief 9 day session that followed the October election. Things at City Hall are already underway, with committee meetings being held throughout the month and the next regular council meeting set for January 25.