



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Office of the President

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September 13, 2013

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Industry Canada
Minister of State (Science and Technology, and
Federal Economic Development Initiative for
Northern Ontario)
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Dear Minister Rickford:

The University of Manitoba welcomes the federal government's commitment in Budget 2013 to review the Indirect Costs Program to ensure that it is meeting its objective of reinforcing excellence in postsecondary research. We are pleased to participate in the review of the Indirect Costs Program and would like to thank you for this opportunity. The University of Manitoba believes strongly that this program is a key component in the continued success of the federal government's research and innovation agenda.

Support through the Indirect Costs Program is key to advancing Canada's science and technology agenda. When the indirect costs of research are adequately funded, universities are better able to:

- Compete internationally in attracting top researchers to Canadian campuses;
- Ensure compliance with increasingly complex regulatory requirements;
- Fund increasingly sophisticated databases, computers and research facilities that allow Canadian university researchers to collaborate with colleagues around the world, thus fostering international research collaboration;
- Fuel commercialization of university research; and
- Provide greater access to the knowledge and innovations created by university research for small and medium-sized businesses across the country.

The University of Manitoba received approximately \$8 million in 2012-13 to help offset the cost of doing research. These funds were critical to the maintenance and expansion of the University's research facilities, both on our campuses and affiliated research and teaching hospitals. Program funding has

allowed us to resolve safety concerns and infrastructure deficiencies as well as provide for new renovated research spaces. For example, our Pathology Building Ventilation Upgrade project includes two new rooftop ventilation/cooling units which, when completed, will bring the building up to the necessary standards required by a modern research facility. Program funds have also enabled our Department of Engineering's biomedical research program to expand from just one active lab in 2009 to four active labs, better equipping our Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering to do her inventive work which would lead to better diagnosis and prevention of Alzheimer's and reduce healthcare costs in Manitoba.

The program has also allowed the University to redirect operating funds to support general research development like establishing funding programs to develop new seed initiatives in areas that were previously unsupported. These operating funds were redirected to undergraduate and graduate student research opportunities, thereby enhancing our students' learning experience.

As you know, universities are drivers of change in their communities and on the world stage. Our researchers are required to respond to increasingly complex issues, both locally and globally and in order for universities to remain globally competitive, we must ensure that research facilities are modern and up-to-date. Not only does this benefit our researchers housed here at the University of Manitoba, but it serves as a magnet for attracting researchers from across the globe by providing the spaces needed for these discoveries. The Indirect Costs Program plays a key role in maintaining and expanding research capacity across the country and enabling researchers to be at the centre of cutting-edge research.

When these indirect costs of research are unfunded, we are required to use funds that have been earmarked for other purposes and there are missed opportunities to fully fund the actual research. As a result, a situation arises whereby we utilize resources that could otherwise be applied to furthering the federal government's research and innovation agenda.

The University of Manitoba is home to the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change. We currently hold 44 Canada Research Chairs and we are home or a partner in 53 research centres, institutes and shared facilities that believe in collaborative research and scholarship. Without the Indirect Costs Program, the University of Manitoba would surely lag behind in adopting the latest technologies, making it challenging to attract top researchers and increasingly difficult to sustain our current level of excellence that we, with support from the federal government, have worked to build.

An increase to the Indirect Costs Program would allow the University of Manitoba to remain competitive by ramping-up our innovation activities and partnerships. It would help leverage benefits and linkages with the private sector, further our commercialization efforts, and develop new seed initiatives. The University of Manitoba must continue to be nimble and be able to respond to the research challenges of the 21st century; continued and increased funding of the Indirect Costs Program will help us meet these challenges head-on.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your commitment to further research and innovation in Canada and to undertaking this review of the Indirect Costs Program. We look forward to engaging with you in the future on this and other research matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David T. Barnard', written in a cursive style.

David T. Barnard, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor

cc: Digvir S. Jayas
Vice-President (Research and International)
University of Manitoba