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Minister of Research and Innovation  
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It's no secret – Ontario strives to be the top global jurisdiction for research excellence. Attracting, retaining and growing research talent helps support economically important sectors and leads to discoveries that bring tangible benefits to Ontarians.

# Ontario's Aggressive Innovation Agenda

Our province already generates nearly 50% of Canada's research output, has the fastest growing clean tech sector in Canada, and ranks second in North America, after California, for the number of ICT establishments<sup>1</sup>. But global competition is fierce.

That's why Ontario is intensifying efforts to strengthen high-growth sectors, including ICT, advanced manufacturing and life sciences. We're doing this by working with our partners through the entire innovation continuum – from research to commercialization and beyond.

This begins with ensuring we have a workforce with the right skills and knowledge. Ontario is continuing to boost its innovation and research

capacity, and more than 38,000 science, technology, engineering and mathematics students now graduate each year from our world-class universities and colleges.<sup>2</sup>

Through Ontario's Youth Jobs Strategy, virtually every campus now has programing available for the next generation of entrepreneurs, including mentorship and resources to start their own businesses. The province also created the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE) to help people turn ideas and discoveries into marketable products and services. Last year alone, it helped launch more than 900 tech-based firms<sup>3</sup>.

Building an exceptional foundation of talent has allowed us to make strategic

investments in research – over one billion dollars since 2003 – which have leveraged an additional \$2.8 billion in funding. The province is developing and attracting researchers to lead globally-recognized organizations such as the Perimeter Institute, the Ontario Brain Institute and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. International companies, like OpenText and Cisco, are also continuing to choose Ontario to expand operations and create jobs – a strong endorsement of our depth of talent.

The final part of Ontario's innovation continuum includes building a strong risk capital ecosystem through programs like the Ontario Venture Capital Fund and the Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund. At least 18 new seed and venture capital

funds have been established in Ontario since 2011<sup>4</sup>. Start-ups here are attracting the interest of leading global investors, including Ottawa-based Shopify, which has reached a market valuation of more than one billion dollars.

We have a lot to be proud of in Ontario, and with a clear plan centered around investing in talent, research and collaboration, I know Ontario will continue to build on our innovation agenda.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, US Bureau of Labour Statistics, ICT/Life Sciences unit analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

<sup>3</sup> RCE Deck: Ontario's Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, January 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Provided by RCE Division.