

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Alberta Colleges' Research Income Declines by -6.3%, Lags National Trend
SAIT Polytechnic in 1st place in Alberta, 3rd Place in National Ranking**

TORONTO, Oct. 22, 2015 – SAIT Polytechnic captured 1st place in Alberta and 3rd place nationally in Fiscal 2014 total sponsored research income by attracting \$7.2 million of funding, an increase of 9.1% from Fiscal 2013, according to Research Infosource Inc., which today released its annual list of *Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges*. Second in the province was Olds College (21st overall, \$2.8 million), followed by Red Deer College (29th overall, \$1.8 million). George Brown College led its counterparts across Canada in total sponsored research income by attracting \$14.2 million of funding in Fiscal 2014, a gain of 53.5% from Fiscal 2013.

Funding rose at 3 of the 6 Alberta colleges that reported to Research Infosource this year. (NAIT and Bow Valley College did not participate.) Strong income gains took place at Olds College (up 39.3%) and Red Deer College (up 26.3%). In total, the Alberta colleges captured 9.9% of all Canadian college research funding.

“Alberta colleges’ performance was somewhat disappointing this year”, said Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource Inc. “Their combined income fell by -6.3%, which was well below the 4.7% Canadian total gain. Alberta colleges also suffered a -5.1% fall in the number of researchers, a -0.6% drop in formal research partnerships, and a -17.4% decline in formal research projects completed. It appears as though the troubles in the oil and gas sector are spilling over to the college sector as well.”

On the national scene, Canada’s 50 leading research colleges posted a total of \$158.0 million of research income in Fiscal 2014, a gain of 4.7% and a smaller increase than the 38.8% expansion in Fiscal 2013. National college research activity and output continued to expand this year. Researcher numbers grew by 14.3%, active research partnerships rose by 15.6%, and completed research projects increased by 13.4%.

“The slowdown in growth of Top 50 college research income in Fiscal 2014 after two years of rapid 30%+ increases does raise some questions”, said Mr. Freedman. “It is not clear whether the slowdown comes from a decline in available research funds from governments, corporations and the community sector, or from limitations of the college research paradigm; for example, their ability to absorb additional funding with current faculty, student and infrastructure resources.”

For complete information: http://www.researchinfosource.com/top50_col.php

About Research Infosource Inc.

Research Infosource Inc. is Canada's source of R&D intelligence. Drawing from proprietary databases, Research Infosource Inc. publishes **Canada's Innovation Leaders**, which includes *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List*, *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List*, *Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals List* and *Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges List*. As well, Research Infosource publishes specialized reports and *The Innovation Atlas of Canada*[™] – a web-based research and innovation mapping tool and data information product.

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