



## INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN

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**Principal's Written Report  
Queen's University Senate  
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### Government Update

#### Federal: Budget 2014

- Budget 2014, released on February 11, 2014, includes encouraging news for the post-secondary sector, particularly for research. As a research-intensive university, this news is important, sending a strong message about the vital role that both post-secondary institutions and our researchers play in securing Canada's future prosperity and economic wellness. **Highlights from Budget 2014 include:**
  - The creation of the Canada First Research Excellence Fund which will invest \$1.5 billion over 10 years into research excellence, beginning with \$50 million in 2015-16 and growing to \$200 million in 2018-19 and beyond. The funding is supplementary and open to all post-secondary institutions. While we don't know how the funding will be allocated, we do know that it will be competitive and peer-reviewed.
  - \$46 million per year, beginning in 2014-15 and on an ongoing basis, to support Canada's granting councils in support of basic research. Funding includes \$15 million per year to both the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, \$7 million per year to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and \$9 million per year to the Federal Indirect Costs of Research Program.
  - The TRIUMF physics laboratory, of which Queen's is a member institution, will receive \$222 million over five years to support the facility's world-leading research and international partnership activities.
  - Budget 2014 also includes \$8 million to MITACS in order to expand its Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship program, and investments in internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students.



### **Awards and Honours:**

- Queen's faculty member John Smol (Biology) recently shared an honour with the University of Ottawa's Jules Blais. They are sharing NSERC's Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research, an award that recognizes teams of researchers who have produced a record of excellence in interdisciplinary research in the natural sciences and engineering. It is often considered to be the country's second highest research award.
- Professor Emeritus Vincent Mosco (Sociology), together with Dr. Catherine McKercher (Carleton University), will be receiving the Professional Freedom and Responsibility Award bestowed annually by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. It honours people and organizations for their "courage, persistence or brilliance upholding professional freedom responsibility," and has previously been bestowed on Noam Chomsky, Christopher Hitchens and Bill Moyers, among others.

### **Advancement Report:**

- Initiative Campaign donations now total \$394.8 million (79%) against the \$500 million goal.
- Gifts and commitments over \$100K for the month of January include:
  - \$150,000 towards student assistance through the Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Faculty of Health Sciences
  - \$125,000 to support student bursaries in the Faculty of Arts and Science
  - and \$125,000 to support the School of Business Global Development Award

### **Other business:**

- Congratulations to the incoming AMS executive team of Allison Williams, Philip Lloyd and Justin Reekie, and to Rector-designate Mike Young. I look forward to working with all of them the coming year. Congratulations, too, to the new student faculty society teams, and incoming student senators.
- Effective March 1, the departments of University Marketing and Government and Institutional Relations will fall under the purview of Michael Fraser, Chief Communications Officer at Queen's. Mr. Fraser currently oversees University Communications. As these areas grow in their complexity and strategic importance to the university, it makes sense to align our major external and internal functions under a single executive lead. This move requires no additions to the staff complement.