

**Appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on
Science and Research (SRSR)**

**October 25, 2023
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

(In-person)

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**Remarks to the
House of Commons Standing Committee on Science
and Research**

Dr. Christian Baron, CIHR

**October 25, 2023,
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Words: 872

Thank you, Mister Chair.

I would like to thank the Committee for the invitation to appear before you today and for drawing attention to an important topic for the research ecosystem in Canada. As CIHR's Vice-President of Research Programs, it is a privilege to contribute to the important work of your committee.

In an increasingly advanced and interconnected world, research and innovation have the power to advance the health and wellbeing of people around the world.

At CIHR, we recognize and value the importance of academic freedom, openness and international research collaboration in making the ground-breaking discoveries

that improve lives. We all know that health threats we face are increasingly global in nature, and that the health and well-being of Canadians is intertwined and dependent on the well-being of people everywhere.

To tackle the complex health challenges we are collectively faced with, we must continue working with colleagues around the world to leverage our shared knowledge and resources to find impactful solutions for all.

To advance this global research agenda, CIHR currently has 40 international initiatives supported by bilateral agreements with countries around the world. For example, this includes the European Union's Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research, which is the largest global research initiative aimed at tackling the

challenge of neurodegenerative diseases with research aimed at finding causes, developing cures, and identifying appropriate ways to care for those with neurodegenerative diseases.

As part of the work that your committee is currently conducting, CIHR has two active partnership agreements with the People's Republic of China through the National Natural Science Foundation of China or the NFSC, whose mandate is to support basic research and stimulate free exploration, identify and foster scientific talents, as well as to promote progress in science and technology.

The first agreement represents a five-year \$12.2M investment of which \$6.4M is provided by the NFSC on

the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases' call for research on Global Mental Health.

Through this initiative, seven research teams have been funded over a period of five years, including a research team led by Dr. Brian Mishara at l'Université du Québec à Montréal who developed a project for the adaptation of a World Health Organization intervention program for people who have experienced a suicide attempt in parallel projects in Ningxia, China, and among the Inuit community in Nunavut, Canada. This study is only one example of how international research can help us to understand how interventions work in different contexts.

The second partnership is to support the Healthy Life Trajectories' Canada-China team in collaboration with the

NFSC and the World Health Organization to address the increasing rates of obesity, particularly among youth. This partnership was renewed in 2022 with a \$2.5M investment from CIHR with matched funding from China. This international approach enables the sharing of expertise, the comparative analysis of interventions, the harmonization of data, and the assessment of biological mechanisms and interactions in different populations all of which contribute to the Healthy Life Trajectory initiative's ability to deliver greater impact in comparison to single-country projects.

While these global health initiatives have great potential to improve health, the globalization of research has also made us more vulnerable to threats from entities of concern.

Some may seek to exploit and compromise our intellectual property, research findings and sensitive information to gain a competitive advantage or threaten our national security.

In light of the multifaceted challenges that can arise when engaging with foreign partners, our efforts to foster such collaborations while maintaining the security and integrity of Canadian research has been, and will continue to be unwavering.

This is why, given the shared responsibility of creating a vigilant - while open and collaborative – ecosystem, we have been working closely with our federal partners,

national security agencies, academic institutions and researchers to protect Canada's research investment.

In addition to the critical tri-agency work that my colleagues have described, CIHR has implemented a new requirement as part of its strategic funding opportunities for applicants to describe the role of all applicant partners and how they will be involved and contribute to research related activities. As part of this process, risk and/or conflict of interest should also be explained if applicable.

In the context of CIHR's new Strategic Plan, which sets an ambitious 10-year vision for Canadian health research to be internationally recognized as inclusive, collaborative, transparent, culturally safe and focused on real-world impact CIHR has also committed to enhance national and

international collaboration to address global challenges, create stronger initiatives, and enable the sharing of expertise and infrastructure.

This inspired CIHR to launch the development of its first international action plan, which will put forward a coherent and unifying framework, by defining a set of guiding principles and criteria to uphold the highest standards in international collaborations and partnerships. This will include alignment with CIHR and broader government of Canada requirements, policies and positions, including matters related to research security.

In closing, research security in our rapidly evolving ecosystem is a shared responsibility between government and academic institutions for which the importance cannot

be overstated. We must continue to work together to strike a balance between openness and security to protect our research.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to taking your questions.

Research Security

SYNOPSIS

On February 14, 2023, the Government of Canada asked the federal research ecosystem to adopt a further enhanced posture regarding national security related to sensitive research areas where any of the researchers working on the project are affiliated with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to national security.

QUESTION

How does CIHR protect the security of the research that it funds?

KEY MESSAGES

- CIHR recognizes the shared responsibility of the Government of Canada, federal granting agencies, research institutions, and researchers to take appropriate measures and remain vigilant in protecting Canada's investment in research.
- In coordination with federal government partners and university organizations, CIHR and its federal granting agency partners have developed a portal call the *Safeguarding your Research* portal that provides tools for the academic community to self-evaluate and take actions to mitigate risks associated with their research, their research partnerships and their international travel.
- In addition, researchers are expected to follow the best research practices in accordance with agency policies, such as the Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research, to maintain the highest levels of research excellence and integrity, academic freedom and openness, and the proper stewardship of public funds.
- Finally, CIHR is also working closely with federal partners on the implementation of the enhanced posture, as well as the establishment of a Research Security Centre announced in Budget 2022 to provide advice and guidance directly to research institutions.

BACKGROUND

CIHR has been working in partnership with federal partners, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) since 2018 to advance Canada's approach to research security, including the development of the *Safeguarding Your Research* portal and the development and implementation of the *National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships*. This work has been facilitated by a government-university collaborative effort to improve security awareness in the research community.

The *Safeguarding Your Research* portal provides tools for the academic community to self-evaluate and, when necessary, take actions to mitigate any security, safety, economic, or geopolitical risks associated with their research, their research partnerships and their international travel.

The *National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships* integrates national security considerations into the development, evaluation, and funding of research partnerships. The Guidelines better position researchers, research organizations and Government funders to undertake consistent, risk-targeted due diligence of potential risks to research security. NSERC has begun implementing these guidelines, which are being expanded to all granting councils and CFI in the near term.

Budget 2022 announced an investment of \$34.6 million over 5 years, starting in 2022-23, and \$8.4 million ongoing, to enhance Canada's ability to protect our research, and to establish a Research Security Centre that will provide advice and guidance directly to research institutions. CIHR is working with its federal partners on the implementation of these investments.

On February 14, 2023, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, in conjunction with the Ministers of Health and Public Safety, requested that the federal research funding agencies and CFI "adopt a further enhanced posture regarding national security."

CIHR is working closely with its federal partners on the implementation of this posture, specifically, the requirement for grant applicants seeking to conduct research in a sensitive research area to attest that none of the researchers working on the project are affiliated with a foreign military research institute, university, or laboratory of a hostile state actor.

In addition, researchers should continue to follow the best research practices in accordance with the *Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research* and other Agency policies to maintain the highest levels of research excellence and integrity, academic freedom and openness, and the proper stewardship of public funds.

Global Health Research

SYNOPSIS

Global health research is key for improving the health and well-being of people around the world, tackling health inequities and addressing the global health challenges of our time.

QUESTION

How is CIHR supporting global health research and what benefits can we expect from these investments?

KEY MESSAGES

- Thank you, Mister Chair, for the question. The health of Canadians is deeply intertwined with the health of people around the world.
- CIHR remains firmly committed to pursuing health equity through research to improve inequitable health outcomes while driving progress on global health research.
- In fact, over the last five years, CIHR invested over \$170 million in global health research initiatives.
- For example, CIHR is proud to support large scale global health research initiatives - such as the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases – to advance ambitious research agendas to tackle global health issues and improve the health of Canadians.
- This includes a \$2 million investment, matched \$2 million from the International Development Research Centre, to support projects that are examining how to implement one or more evidence-based interventions known to prevent or reduce exposure to non-communicable disease risk factors associated with city environments.

BACKGROUND

Global health research focuses in particular on the health of people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and on understanding systematic factors that shape health globally.

CIHR continues to integrate global health research across its programs and initiatives in an effort to grow capacity in this space. In fact, over the last five years, CIHR invested over \$170 million in global health research initiatives.

Major initiatives to support global health research include:

Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative (HeLTI): HeLTI builds upon both the diverse research capacity and wealth of existing data sets in Canada, while using a unique set of coordinated linked international intervention cohorts to focus the powerful Developmental Origins of Health and Disease approach specifically on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) both in Canada and in countries where the burden is greatest. HeLTI seeks to generate evidence that will inform national policy and decision-making for the improvement of health and the prevention of NCDs.

Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD): brings together major international research funding agencies specifically to address the growing burden of NCDs in LMICs and vulnerable populations in high-income countries.

CIHR and IDRC have committed a total of \$4 million to support research under the eighth GACD call for proposals on the implementation of one or more evidence-based interventions known to prevent or reduce exposure to non-communicable disease risk factors associated with city environments. Applications to this call closed in June 2023 with funding expected to start in February 2024.

Global Health 3.0: CIHR's Framework for Action on Global Health Research 2021-2026

This Framework is the agency's commitment to leveraging the power of research to accelerate global health equity for all. Resulting from a consultation process, the Framework will guide CIHR's strategic investments and activities in global health research from 2021–2026. It will encourage the agency to leverage the range of its resources and domestic and international relationships to make meaningful and lasting impacts – with regard to both generating new knowledge and to equitably mobilizing this knowledge for improved health and well-being.

International Partnerships

SYNOPSIS

International partnerships can position Canadian researchers as leaders and innovators in key research initiatives and programs and lead to groundbreaking discoveries by leveraging collective resources and expertise.

QUESTION

How does CIHR partner with international partners around the world?

KEY MESSAGES

- Mister Chair, I thank the member for the question.
- CIHR is committed to ensuring that Canadian researchers are able to establish strategic alliances and participate in large international initiatives placing Canadian research at the heart of international research and innovation.
- Through these international collaborations, Canadian researchers can gain access to leading expertise, facilities and technologies, as well as unique populations and environments to push the limits of what can be accomplished individually.
- In fact, over the last 20 years CIHR's international collaborations have steadily risen and CIHR currently has approximately 40 international initiatives supported by bilateral agreements.
- In light of this, CIHR's Strategic Plan committed to the development of a new *International Action Plan* to address global challenges, create stronger initiatives, and enable the sharing of expertise and infrastructure, to improve the health of people in Canada and throughout the world.

IF PRESSED ON THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN...

- The International Action Plan is set to be published in the near future.
- It will define a set of guiding principles and partnership criteria to integrate our international engagements under a coherent and unifying framework.
- This Plan will provide CIHR with the flexibility to adapt to changing international research priorities and map how, why, when and with whom we engage to align with broader health research priorities with a focus on impact.
- Finally, this Plan is expected to include guiding principles on adherence to the latest policies and procedures in research excellence and responsible stewardship of public funds including the adherence to research security initiatives to safeguard Canada's research investment.

BACKGROUND

In today's global economy, international and global health partnerships are the building blocks for advancements in knowledge and innovation. International partnerships enable Canadian researchers to participate in major research collaborations to gain access to the world's best facilities, equipment, and research training environments, and nurture talent, and advance knowledge.

Over the last 20 years CIHR's international collaborations have steadily risen. This has brought both challenges in managing multiple engagements but also great successes through the engagement and leadership of CIHR Institutes on international initiatives. For example, CIHR currently has 40 international initiatives supported by bilateral agreements with countries such as China, Israel, and Japan and multilateral agreements that span multiple countries and include international programs such as the [Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases](#), the [Human Frontier Science Program](#) and many programs under the [European Framework Programme](#).

CIHR's proposed International Action Plan builds upon our international strengths and successes and defines a set of **guiding principles** and **partnership criteria** to integrate our international engagements under a coherent and unifying framework.

The Action Plan depicts the criteria for partnerships or international collaborations and includes alignment with the health research community, *CIHR Act* and Strategic Plan, domestic and international priorities, expertise needs, research impacts, advancing Indigenous self-determination and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, it provides a set of guiding principles which emphasize the importance of supporting CIHR, broader government strategies and priorities, adherence to all CIHR and government requirements, policies and positions including research security requirements and highlights the anticipated mutual benefits of the partnership.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (SRSR)
MEETINGS FALL 2023

Summary of meetings for the following study: Citizen Scientists; Research and Scientific Publication in French; and International Moonshot Programs

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CPC: Corey Tochor (Vice Chair), Ben Lobb, Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner, Gerald Soroka
LPC: Valerie Bradford, Lena Metlege Diab, Hon. Helena Jaczek, Lloyd Longfield, Ryan Turnbull
BQ : Maxime Blanchette-Joncas (Vice-Chair)
NDP: Richard Cannings

***Note: membership changed between the June 20th meeting to the September 20th meeting.

June 20th

Witnesses:

- Christian Leuprecht, Professor, Royal Military College of Canada
- Jim Hinton, Intellectual Property Lawyer

Summary:

Mr. Leuprecht discussed the infiltration of Canadian research institutions by Chinese scientists backed by Chinese government entities. He detailed a deep connection between Canadian universities and Chinese scientists and was very critical of the government's inaction on the topic. He stated that the inaction of the government is creating further problems and called for a major response as soon as possible. He identified a number of proposals to help address the issue and ensure safety and security of Canadians and the research done at universities.

Mr. Hinton discussed his work in the intellectual property field and its relation to Canadian research. He noted the severity of the infiltration of China into Canada's university system, especially in research. He stated the security risk facing Canada and the Canadian government's support for this invasion. He proposed the need for increased transparency by universities, and enhanced oversight over universities and their business dealings with foreign enterprises.

September 20th

Witnesses:

- Alliance Canada Hong Kong: Cherie Wong, Executive Director, and Benjamin Fung, Canada Research Chair and Professor, McGill University
- University of Alberta - China Institute: Gordon Houlden, Professor and Director Emeritus

Summary:

The witnesses discussed with MPs the threat of revoking scholarship or research funding for professors and students supported by the institutions in the PRC. **Professor Gordon Houlden from the University of Alberta – China Institute** cautioned for balance in imposing restrictions on research collaboration as

collaborations in certain spheres, particularly health research, could benefit Canada significantly. He mentioned that ISED has the capacity to develop a list of sensitive research topics and problematic PRC entities for collaboration. In response to a question from the MP Michelle Rempel Garner (CPC), **Professor Benjamin Fung from McGill University confirmed that National Security Guidelines need to be inserted in the institutional eligibility criteria of the granting councils, including CIHR.**

September 25th

Witnesses:

- Margaret McCuaig-Johnston, Senior Fellow, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and Institute of Science, Society and Policy, University of Ottawa
- Anna Puglisi, Senior Fellow, Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Georgetown University

Summary:

On September 25, the Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) of the House of Commons continued its study of the ***Use of Federal Government Research and Development Grants, Funds, and Contributions by Canadian Universities and Research Institutions in Partnerships with Entities Connected to the People's Republic of China.*** Margaret McCuaig-Johnston from the University of Ottawa and the former EVP of NSERC singled out health, brain research and genomics among the specific areas on which cooperation with China threatens national security. She noted that funding is an important level of influence, and the implementation of National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships helps prevent risks: Ms. McCuaig-Johnston mentioned through security vetting of research proposals 2/3 of those received by NSERC have already been sent back. She referred to the importance of the implementation National Security Guidelines by Genomics Canada.

September 27th

Witnesses:

- Center for Research Security and Integrity: Jeffrey Stoff, President
- U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities: Chad Gaffield, Chief Executive Officer
- Universities Canada: Philip Landon, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer

Summary:

Members focused their interventions on the measures taken by universities and the government to address research security. Witnesses were generally supportive of Canada's current approach, framing Canada as a leader in this area with room still to grow.

Jeffrey Stoff noted that many of the risks and threats to Canadian research is not theft, but rather the application of undue influence of various processes. The witnesses recommended inquiry into "gifts" given to research institutions that require specific research done by specific individuals. PRC research institutions primarily support defence industries and will approach research in a variety of targeted means to extract research from other countries.

Philip Landon updated the committee on measures taken by research institutions for research security and recommend what the government can do to assist. The witness noted that Canada's universities have significantly increased their research security capacity, while protecting research and researchers. He noted that measures need to be specific and targeted. Mr. Landon recommended the government consider specific grants to enable researchers to refuse collaboration with potentially risky researchers without harming their ability to conduct their research in Canada. Mr. Landon emphasised the need for a country agnostic approach to avoid increasing discrimination.

Chad Gaffield noted that Canadian universities take research security seriously and have been increasing efforts to protect research. He noted that Canada has one of the most globalized research communities, which provides access to international knowledge and development, while exposing Canadian research to additional risks. He discussed a working group on research security that attempts to make research as secure as necessary, and open as possible. The witness mentioned increased funding given in Budget 2022 that enabled universities to increase security practices. He discussed how universities are working to avoid unintentional consequences to increasing research security, including discrimination against foreign students and the risk of losing talent.

October 4th

Witnesses:

- Jim Hinton, Intellectual Property Lawyer
- Ivana Karaskova, China Projects Lead, Association for International Affairs (AMO)
- Texas A and M University System Research Security Office: Kevin Gamache, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Security Officer

Summary:

Members focused their interventions on the current situation of Canadian research security, best practices for universities to protect their research, and recommendations for the federal government. Witnesses all commented on the need for a country agnostic approach that recognizes that the majority of threats are coming from a single state, and agreed that there is a long way to go before research is secure.

Jim Hinton stated that it is clear that Canadian universities have had clear ties with Chinese firms that work with their military. There are new patents from as early as 2021 for research done by Canadian universities and Huawei. There needs to be greater transparency by universities regarding their research partnerships. We need to have proactive policies that require Universities to work with security agencies to be aware of necessary practices and key threats. Canada must retain strategic Canadian intellectual and research assets and products.

Ivana Karaskova noted that 1) China focuses on Ai, quantum mechanics, aerospace, and biology, using legislative and "gray-zone" mechanisms to acquire research from abroad. 2) China uses foreign technologies to boost its domestic capacity. 3) China has been clear that it seeks to substitute foreign technologies with domestic development and achieve research dominance in several key fields. 4) Chinese technology acquisition abroad is largely directed by the needs of the Chinese military. She recommended the following: 1) adopt an actor-specific approach, 2) draw redlines of risk, 3) measures targeting universities and research centres need to be aimed at bringing them onboard, 4) national

security manager for advice and issue recommendations to all universities, 5) ensure that Canada remains competitive internationally by encouraging domestic growth.

Kevin Gamache noted that American technological research and development has been under attack from various foreign governments and state actors. He discussed the role of the Research Security Officer (RSO) that includes monitoring, identification of risks, processes for reviewing foreign collaboration, and other measures. He went on to discuss research security seminars that permit the academic community to discuss measures and best practices.

October 16th and October 18th

Both meetings were held in-camera as the committee reviewed draft reports.

SRSR Member Bios



Lloyd Longfield, LPC (Chair) (Guelph)

Mr. Longfield has been working in manufacturing and community benefit organizations in Guelph for 30 years, including as a President of the Guelph Chamber of Commerce.

Since his election in 2015, he served as a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee for Industry, Science and Technology, Standing Committee for Agriculture and Agri-Food, Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development and a Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Mr. Longfield's interests include local collaboration on environment, housing, mental health, Indigenous reconciliation, early learning, childcare, entrepreneurship and economic development.

He was elected as a Chair of SRSR on April 25, 2023.



Maxime Blanchette-Joncas, BQ (Vice-Chair) (Rimouski-Neigette—Témiscouata—Les Basques)

A graduate of business administration from l'Université du Québec à Rimouski. Mr. Blanchette-Joncas has held administration positions at BDC and in the municipal public sector.

Since his election in 2019 Mr. Blanchette-Joncas has taken particular interest in the fight against climate change, improving the quality of life of older adults, protection of the agricultural center and social housing.

In the 43rd Parliament Mr. Blanchette-Joncas introduced bill C-295 to incentivize recent graduates to seek employment in rural regions. The bill died on the order paper with the election announcement.

Mr. Blanchette-Joncas supported the May 1, 2023 nationwide walkout led by Support Our Science to demand more funding for federally-sponsored fellowships and scholarships in a joint press conference with the organizers and Mr. Richard Cannings (NDP).



Corey Tochor, CPC (Vice-Chair) (Saskatoon—University)

Prior to entering politics, Mr. Tochor was a local Saskatoon entrepreneur who owned and operated Health Conveyance, a communications company that provides electronic messaging in health facilities across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Tochor was first elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature in the 2011 provincial election. His legislative responsibilities began early in his first term when he served as Deputy Chair of Committees. He served as Deputy Whip and was later appointed Deputy House Leader by Premier Wall. Re-elected in 2016 he was elected Speaker of the Legislature.



Valerie Bradford, LPC (Kitchener South—Hespeler)

Ms. Bradford spent 15 years supporting small businesses and bringing jobs and investments to Waterloo Region as an economic development professional for the City of Kitchener and is the former Chair of the Workforce Planning Board.

Ms. Bradford is passionate about universally affordable and accessible childcare, to allow parents and particularly women, to fully participate in the workforce.



Richard Cannings, NDP (South Okanagan—West Kootenay)

Mr. Cannings a graduate in zoology from Memorial University in Newfoundland taught for 17 years at the University of British Columbia prior to a career as a consulting biologist. Mr. Cannings was a board member of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. In 2015, Mr. Cannings entered Federal politics and has been an MP since.

Mr. Canning's interests have been heavily focused on the impacts of climate change and conservation in Canada. Prior to sitting on SRSR he has been on the Natural resources committee for six years. Since 2015, Mr. Cannings has introduced three private member's bills on topics such as the use of wood in public projects, lakes and rivers and on the species at risk registry.



Lena Metlege Diab, LPC (Halifax West)

Ms. Diab a graduate in political science, economics and law from the Universities of Saint Mary and Dalhousie has had a career and law and was a small business owner prior to a political career in the Nova Scotia legislature. She has subsequently been a Nova Scotia cabinet minister for Immigration and Labor and Advanced Education.

She was elected as a liberal MP for Nova Scotia in the 2021 Federal election.

Ms. Diab sees SRSR as an opportunity to shine the light on Canada's strong research sector which often goes unnoticed.



Helena Jaczek, LPC (Markham—Stouffville)

Dr. Helena Jaczek was elected to serve as Member of Parliament for Markham—Stouffville in 2019 and re-elected in 2021. She is the Minister Responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and Vice-Chair of the Treasury Board of Canada.

Before her work at the federal level, she was the Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Oak Ridges-Markham from 2007 to 2018. During that time, Helena served as Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Chair of Cabinet, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, Vice-Chair of the Health, Education and Social Policy Cabinet Committee and, from 2011 to 2014, Chair of Liberal Caucus.



David Lametti, LPC (LaSalle—Émard—Verdun)

Mr. Lametti was elected as Member of Parliament for LaSalle-Émard-Verdun in 2015 and served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from 2019-2023.

Prior to being named Minister he had held the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development since 2017. He had previously served as Parliamentary Secretary for International Trade, following the 2015 election.



Ben Lobb, CPC (Huron—Bruce)

Mr. Lobb holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee and previously worked in the Finance Department for Desire2Lean (D2L) and Wescast Industries in Wingham, Ontario.

Mr. Lobb was first elected to the House of Commons in 2008.



Michelle Rempel Garner, CPC, (Calgary Nose Hill)

Mrs. Garner was first elected in 2011. In government, she held the positions of Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment. In opposition, she previously served as the Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Development and the Shadow Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and was the Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. Mrs. Garner is the co-chair of the Parliamentary Caucus for Emerging Technologies. She is a member of the King's Privy Council for Canada.



Gerald Soroka, CPC (Yellowhead)

Mr. Soroka served as a Division one Councilor and Mayor of Yellowhead County before making the jump to federal politics. During his time as Mayor, he was also elected as Vice President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties from 2008 to 2010.

Mr. Soroka comes from a long line of farmers and has farmed for the majority of his life where his grandparents homesteaded in the 1930s.



Ryan Turnbull, LPC (Whitby)

Mr. Turnbull is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

He was elected as the Member of Parliament for Whitby in 2019, and re-elected in 2021. He has been a member of various parliamentary committees, groups, and associations, including the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Briefs Submitted

The Government Affairs Unit has reviewed the briefs for the SRSR study *Use of Federal Government Research and Development Grants, Funds, and Contributions by Canadian Universities and Research Institutions in Partnerships with Entities Connected to the People's Republic of China*.

As of October 20th, 2023, there were 4 briefs published on the website:

- [Anna Puglisi, Senior Fellow, Center for Security and Emerging Technology, Georgetown University, USA](#)
- [Alliance Canada Hong Kong](#)
- [Center for Research Security and Integrity](#) (a U.S.-based non-profit organization)
- [Government of Ontario](#)

None of the briefs refers to the programming or policies of Canadian federal granting agencies in their recommendations.

Below is information that may be relevant to the work of CIHR:

- Anna Puglisi calls for supporting underrepresented population in STEM fields.
- Center for Research Security and Integrity (CRSI) brief mentions the challenges of risk monitoring of informal research collaborations. CRSI recommends developing or refining risk assessment criteria, frameworks, and methodologies and providing due diligence and risk assessment support to specific institutions requesting assistance. They note that more intense scrutiny is needed for the institutions and suggest multi-country cooperation on this matter.
- Alliance Canada Hong Kong lists collaborative grant applications of Chinese and Canadian researchers to Government of Canada or other Canadian funders as recruitment tactics, used by Chinese state-affiliated and private businesses to recruit university professors and researchers. They recommend developing country-agnostic strategies and policies for ensuring research security and supporting international students whose study permits and scholarships are weaponized by their home governments.
- The Government of Ontario noted that research security is a shared responsibility that should involve all provinces, federal research funding partners, postsecondary institutions and the researchers themselves.

Estimated CIHR Investments by Research Area
As of October 2023

	\$ millions	
	2021-22	2017-18 to 2021-22
Access to care	\$67.03	\$223.32
Addiction	\$50.43	\$179.91
Aging	\$109.58	\$484.57
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	\$6.05	\$41.34
Alzheimer's	\$54.26	\$227.35
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)	\$20.03	\$132.89
Arthritis	\$25.14	\$120.94
Asthma	\$12.46	\$57.68
Autism	\$19.20	\$78.28
Autoimmune disease	\$32.38	\$147.12
Cannabis	\$15.73	\$60.13
Cancer	\$226.82	\$1063.22
Cardiovascular	\$115.08	\$542.12
Circulatory & respiratory health	\$227.09	\$1058.12
Cystic fibrosis	\$5.33	\$28.46
Diabetes	\$51.33	\$250.46
Eating disorders	\$2.10	\$5.65
Ebola	\$0.68	\$2.65
E-health	\$27.06	\$96.15
Epilepsy	\$10.78	\$52.36
Gastrointestinal	\$37.42	\$187.00
Genetics	\$576.98	\$2,743.66
Global health	\$257.26	\$968.80
HIV-AIDS	\$41.18	\$226.07
Indigenous Health Research	\$62.60	\$238.36
Infection & immunity	\$465.84	\$1,980.95
Influenza	\$3.28	\$21.68
Kidney	\$27.84	\$147.73
Liver	\$14.92	\$70.29
Lyme disease	\$1.55	\$6.34
Mental health	\$144.26	\$496.93
Metabolism	\$39.18	\$183.94

\$ millions		
	2021-22	2017-18 to 2021-22
Multiple sclerosis	\$12.39	\$45.70
Musculoskeletal health & arthritis	\$178.06	\$678.14
Neuroscience	\$238.51	\$909.14
Nutrition	\$59.25	\$258.18
Obesity	\$37.19	\$185.75
Opioids	\$20.13	\$75.80
Pain	\$45.32	\$164.93
Parkinson's	\$14.22	\$76.32
Population & public health	\$205.19	\$851.41
Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI)	\$6.22	\$22.73
Rare diseases	\$38.53	\$196.80
Respiratory	\$50.52	\$274.81
Spinal cord injury	\$9.07	\$32.25
Stem cell	\$42.55	\$306.90
Stroke	\$27.18	\$144.22
Suicide	\$10.97	\$31.13
Transplantation	\$23.59	\$116.84
Traumatic brain injury	\$12.05	\$51.05
Tuberculosis	\$5.56	\$29.73

Notes:

Amounts for individual projects may be double-counted in the case where a project was found relevant to more than one research area (e.g., a project could be relevant to both diabetes and obesity). Therefore, the sum of individual research areas will not reflect the overall expenditures by CIHR.