

Gerard Kennedy, MP/Deputé

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Breach of Trust on Jobs – Letting Our Students Down

Analysis of the federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP)

One of the largest components of the economic stimulus plan proposed for the economy in Budget 2009 is the \$2 billion national Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) proposed to renew facilities at Canada's post-secondary institutions and to deliver jobs where they are needed.

Unlike other infrastructure stimulus funds which cover items such as roads and bridges that can be found in every part of the country, the Knowledge Infrastructure Program is targeted to those areas which host college and/or university campuses. Detailed project information is now available for seven out of ten provinces (excluding Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador) and for the three territories, covering \$1.4 billion or 72% of funds for 221 projects at 132 different institutions.

Highlights:

Fairness Compromised

The analysis looks at funding from the standpoint of fairness to students, both in the context of the institutions they attended for their surrounding communities. Funding per full time student was used as the basic yardstick as the most equitable way of evaluating the reach of the program.

Federal funding per student ranges widely from \$65 to \$40,000 for different institutions, and we identify 22 institutions which received no funds at all. The seven-province average is \$1,362 in federal KIP funds per full time student.

Despite a strongly stated objective to support research and development there is a pronounced bias against larger institutions. Campuses of over 15,000 students, generally the most research-intensive institutions, were given below average per student grants of just \$1,038 per student. Most of these were in Opposition held ridings. (table 1)

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Table 1: KIP Funding to Universities over 15,000 Students

College or University	Federal Grant	Student Population	Average Per Student	Riding	Party
University of Toronto	\$5,500,000	44,756	\$123	Trinity-Spadina	NDP
York University	\$47,500,000	43,400	\$1,094	York West	LIB
University of British Columbia	\$32,500,000	34,452	\$943	Vancouver Quadra	LIB
University of Alberta	\$62,122,000	33,190	\$1,872	Edmonton-Strathcona	NDP
University of Western Ontario	\$25,000,000	30,200	\$828	London North-Centre	LIB
University of Ottawa	\$30,000,000	29,450	\$1,019	Ottawa-Vanier	LIB
University of Calgary	\$65,800,000	24,980	\$2,634	Calgary West	CON
McMaster University	\$19,250,000	23,300	\$826	Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale	CON
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	\$4,700,000	23,204	\$203	Edmonton Centre	CON
University of Waterloo	\$50,000,000	22,300	\$2,242	Kitchener-Waterloo	CON
University of	\$30,675,391	21,530	\$1,425	Winnipeg South	CON

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Manitoba					
University of Guelph	\$16,817,500	20,600	\$816	Guelph	LIB
Seneca College	\$4,000,000	19,701	\$203	Willowdale	LIB
Carleton University,	\$26,250,000	19,300	\$1,360	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Ryerson Polytechnic University,	\$16,450,000	18,800	\$875	Toronto Centre	LIB
Simon Fraser University	\$25,000,000	18,729	\$1,335	Burnaby-Douglas	NDP
Queens University,	\$28,818,000	18,000	\$1,601	Kingston and the Islands	LIB
SAIT Polytechnic	\$4,500,000	17,933	\$251	Calgary Centre-North	CON
Humber College	\$5,180,900	17,159	\$302	Etobicoke-Lakeshore	LIB
University of Saskatchewan	\$10,540,000	16,110	\$654	Saskatoon-Humboldt	CON
University of Victoria	\$21,500,000	15,775	\$1,363	Victoria	NDP
Total	\$532,103,791	512,869	\$1,038		

Conversely, the highest per student grants went to smaller, generally private institutions, most often in Western Canada and in ridings held by the Conservative party. The top 10 organizations received an average of \$6,792 per student.

Table 2: Top Ten Institutions by Per Student KIP Funds

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Institution	Funding amount	Students	Per student	Riding	Party
St. Peter's College	\$6,036,000	150	\$40,240	Saskatoon-Humboldt	CON
Carlton Trail Regional College	\$2,135,000	71	\$30,070	Saskatoon-Humboldt	CON
College of New Caledonia	\$5,000,000	233	\$21,459	Cariboo-Prince George	CON
Great Plains College	\$6,825,000	393	\$17,366	Cypress Hills-Grasslands	CON
Cumberland College	\$3,363,000	229	\$14,686	Prince Albert	CON
Newman Theological College	\$4,180,000	300	\$13,933	Edmonton--Sherwood Park	CON
Southeast Regional College	\$7,092,500	512	\$13,853	Souris-Moose Mountain	CON
Algoma University	\$8,007,572	1,080	\$7,414	Sault Ste. Marie	NDP
University of Ontario Institute of Technology	\$14,000,000	5,330	\$6,886	Whitby-Oshawa	CON
Wilfrid Laurier University (Brantford campus)	\$13,000,000	2,000	\$6,500	Brant	CON
Total	\$69,639,072	10,298	\$6,762		

The only clear funding strategy that can be discerned is the same pattern already evident in other infrastructure funds. In the available national picture, colleges and universities hosted by Conservative MPs were given 33% more on a per student basis than those in Opposition ridings. The funding gap is nearly \$250 million.

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Table 3: 7 provinces analyzed¹ - partisan by party:

Party	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Independent	Opposition	Total
Total Funding	\$643,509,898	\$374,578,492	\$419,817,088	\$1,969,500	\$796,365,080	\$1,439,874,978
# of Students	406,329	341,172	307,820	1,880	650,872	1,057,201
Average per student	\$1,584	\$1,098	\$1,364	\$1,048	\$1,224	\$1,362
\$ Difference	\$404					
% Difference	33%					
Extra Cons Funding	\$263,113,417					

In the 4 out of the 7 provinces that include those presently most politically competitive, there is a very pronounced bias for Conservative hosted colleges and universities over those in Opposition ridings, ranging from 41% more per student in Saskatchewan to 101.5% more in Ontario. In Alberta, the Conservatives are actually disadvantaged by 56% on a per student basis, although there is still 17% of funding to be committed, while they have 27% less per capita funding in Manitoba.

¹ There was insufficient information, as not all of the funding has been announced, to analyze New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Québec (see Table 5).

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Table 4: Average KIP funding per student by province²

Average Per Student	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Independent	Opposition	Total	Con/Opp
Ontario	\$2,181.49	\$1,110.00	\$1,278.40	\$0	\$1,172.26	\$1,432.90	+102%
Nova Scotia	\$2,061.31	\$888.48	\$1,333.15	\$1,047.61	\$1,180.31	\$1,334.36	+74%
B.C.	\$1,914.26	\$990.02	\$1,204.50	\$0	\$1,118.06	\$1,367.29	+71%
Saskatchewan	\$1,301.21	\$924.36	\$0	\$0	\$924.36	\$1,205.70	+41%
Manitoba	\$1,270.77	\$0	\$1,760.65	\$0	\$1,760.65	\$1,472.64	-27%
Alberta	\$880.74	\$0	\$1,868.17	\$0	\$1,868.17	\$1,082.34	-56%
PEI	\$0	\$1,807.23	\$0	\$0	\$1,807.23	\$1,807.23	n/a

Table 5: % announced funding by province (show all provinces)

Top Level Facts:

Total size of the program: \$2,000,000,000

Announced Funding with project details analyzed: \$ 1,437,674,978 (71.88%)

	Actual Announced	Notional Funding Amount	Percentage Announced
PEI	\$10,500,000	\$8,000,000	131.25%
NWT	\$2,182,000	\$2,000,000	109.10%
Ontario	\$797,981,946	\$776,000,000	102.83%
Nova Scotia	\$57,195,866	\$56,000,000	102.14%
Yukon	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	100.00%
BC	\$260,876,000	\$264,000,000	98.82%
Manitoba	\$71,116,701	\$72,000,000	98.77%
Saskatchewan	\$56,857,000	\$60,000,000	94.76%
Alberta	\$178,965,465	\$216,000,000	82.85%
Quebec*	\$250,994,996	\$466,000,000	53.86%

² There was insufficient information, as not all of the funding has been announced or details released, to include results for New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Québec in the full analysis at this time (see Table 5).

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NL*	\$12,770,000	\$30,000,000	42.57%
New Brunswick*	\$17,229,411	\$44,000,000	39.16%