




Canada's Innovation Ecosystem: College talent needed



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Innovation - the challenge for all economies

Trends in Innovation:

-  Incremental
-  Idea to invoice
-  Moving from a focus on R&D to C

Colleges focus on business innovation

The perpetual challenge in Canadian innovation

- ▣ Comparatively low business investment in R&D
- ▣ Industry Demographics
 - Natural Resources vs Manufacturing
 - Traditional versus Emerging Industries
 - Low ICT investment/adoption by SMEs
- ▣ Loss of major R&D performers
- ▣ Dominance of small firms staying small
- ▣ Build up of academic research capacity not matched by increase in economic outputs

College applied research enterprise in Canada

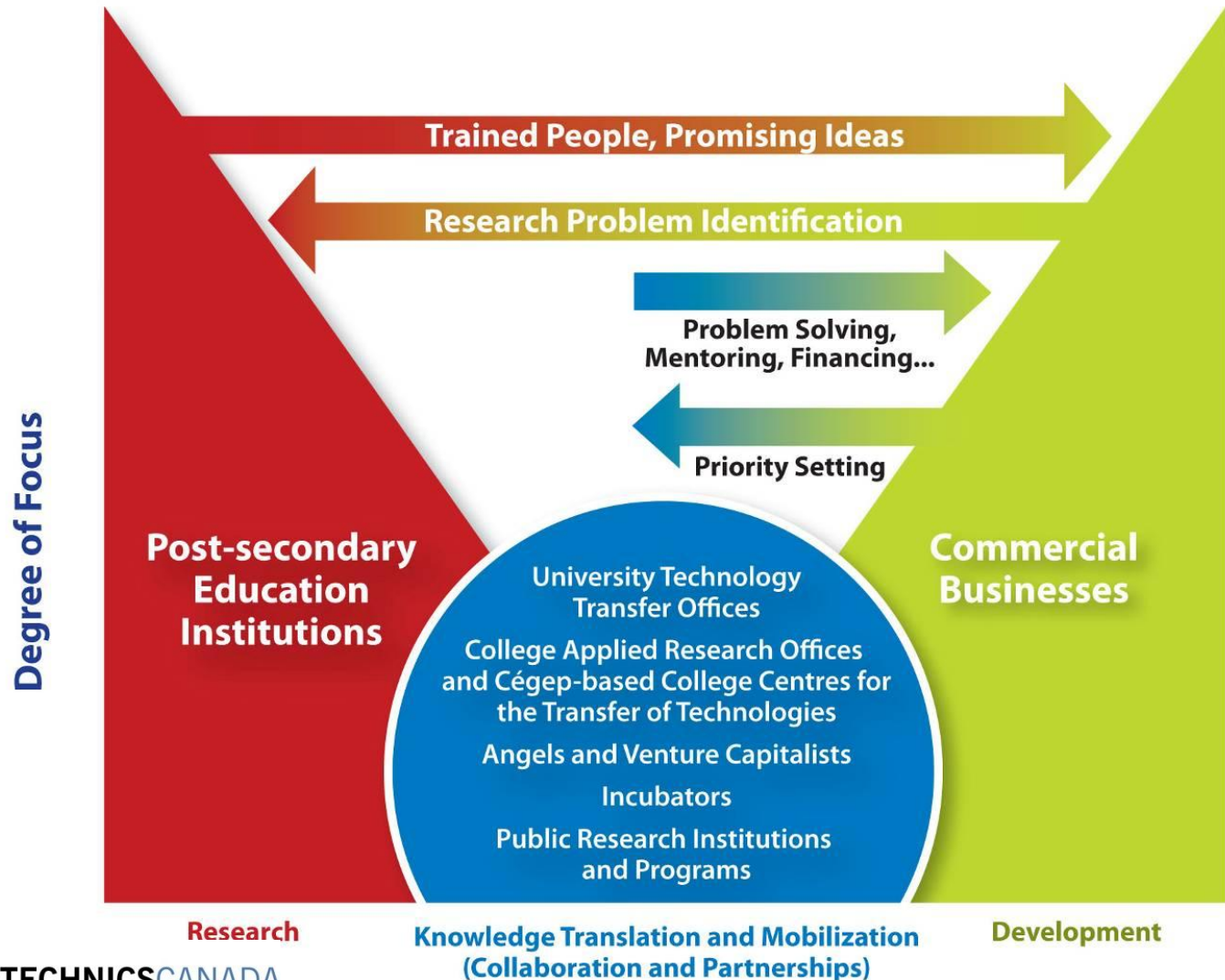
- ▣ Why did it start?
- ▣ What is unique?
- ▣ Where does it work best in Canada?
- ▣ What barriers do colleges face?

College applied research: Benefits for industry



- Access to scarce, relevant, reliable resources
- Expert faculty/staff
- Knowledgeable, creative and responsive students
- Institutional facilities and equipment
- Finances for smaller firms with weak access to R&D capital
 - Grants obtained by institution
 - Investors attracted as firm's business value increased
- Sector agnostic support:
- Living lab & business development
- Multi-disciplinary teams
- Work at industry speeds
- Students as potential hires: Innovation-ready on Day One!

-R&D Review: key takeaway



R&D Review: key recommendation

Talent – ... the development of a federal business innovation talent strategy, working closely with the provinces and relevant federal departments and agencies, focussed on increasing business access to, and use of, highly qualified and skilled personnel.

Talent for Innovation: International Models

Value hands-on skills – making and fixing things

 Germany

Collaboration and networks

 Finland

Machinery of Government

 United Kingdom

Innovation is a team sport



- ▣ All kinds of talent needed
- ▣ Model for innovation should be customer and user driven, not linear
- ▣ Companies commercialize, people innovate

Questions?



For more information, please visit:

[www. polytechnicscanada.ca](http://www.polytechnicscanada.ca)

[www. rd-review.ca](http://www.rd-review.ca)



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