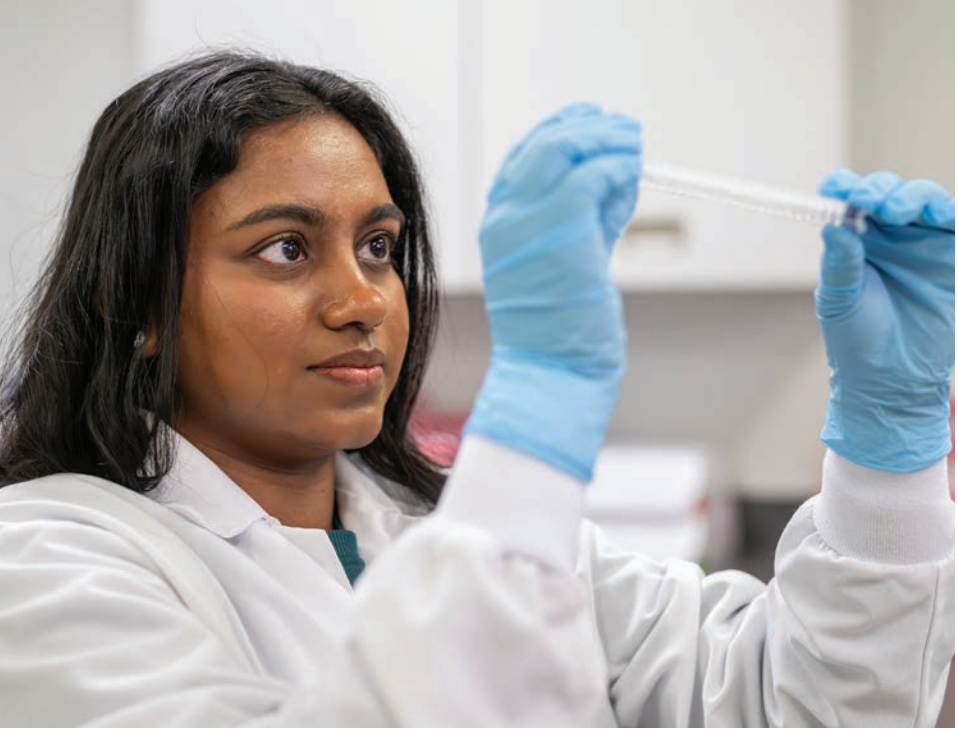


Accelerating Innovation, Advancing Industry

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy

ResearchSK.ca

Saskatchewan Canada

Table of **Contents**

A Message from Minister Warren Kaeding 4

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy 6

Our Core Pillars 8

Our Value Proposition 10

The Saskatchewan Advantage 12

Saskatchewan’s Research Priority Areas 24

Agriculture 26

Life Sciences 30

Energy 34

Mining & Critical Minerals 38

Our Future 42

A Message from Minister Warren Kaeding

Research matters. It drives innovation and develops solutions to the world's greatest problems, improving the lives of people in Saskatchewan and beyond.

In our rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever to support our research community to ensure future health, prosperity and Saskatchewan's economic security. The Government of Saskatchewan is a fierce champion of our world-class research community. Saskatchewan is home to the second largest research organization in the country with the Saskatchewan Research Council, Canada's only synchrotron with the Canadian Light Source and has a long history of supporting our research community. Research creates opportunities, enhances business productivity, develops new jobs for the economy and is key to helping achieve our 2030 Growth Plan Goals and propelling Saskatchewan towards a brighter future.

That is why as Minister responsible for Innovation, I am proud to introduce *Accelerating Innovation, Advancing Industry: Saskatchewan's Research Strategy*—a commitment to advance research, drive innovation and foster economic growth in our province.

Saskatchewan is home to many talented researchers and experts that make up the backbone of our research community. Connecting them with our industry leaders and investors is an important step we can take to increase productivity and build an economy that will be strong for decades to come. We want to unleash the potential of our innovators to discover and develop their ideas in our fields, factories, laboratories and mines, attract and train new talent, and share their solutions with the world.

To do so, we are aligning provincial supports and programs with three pillars that will guide our researchers to success.

Invent. For those with theories to prove and inventions to test, we will support them in having the equipment and facilities necessary to pursue their discoveries and ensure they have the financial capital to complete their work.

Commercialize. Saskatchewan is home to some of the most productive and advanced mines, oil fields and cropland in the world, making us the ideal testing ground for innovators to find industrial partners to prove their inventions. We will help create these partnerships and support innovators in scaling their solutions for commercial success.

Connect. Solutions need to find their way to the people that need them to have a true impact. Saskatchewan's strong international relationships mean we have existing connections to export what we create to the world. At the same time, we will help bring the world's best minds to work and discover in Saskatchewan.

While there is research across many disciplines and sectors that contribute to our society, we will focus our resources on key priority sectors that have the greatest impact today or potential in the future for the economic success of our province. Focusing on these sectors will grow larger hubs of expertise, the interconnectivity of which will generate new value for our economy.

Building on our reputation for research excellence, we know Saskatchewan can be the key that unlocks the next life-saving vaccine, energy solution or climate-resistant crop and transform our province and the world for the better. Saskatchewan's Research Strategy will support this vision of global impact and help build a strong and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Warren Kaeding
Minister Responsible
for Innovation

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy

Saskatchewan’s desire to discover the unknown and its unwavering commitment to research are driving tangible innovations with enormous national and international impacts—crop genetics that propelled Canada to be the world’s third largest wheat exporter, chemistry that forever changed how cement is manufactured around the world, nuclear medicine that has revolutionized cancer treatment and saved the lives of millions, and many more.

Global technological innovations in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, robotics and biotechnology are accelerating at a breakneck pace. The research and innovation in these emerging areas will have significant and at times unforeseen impacts on our economy, society and daily lives. It is therefore imperative that Saskatchewan seize these opportunities and remain an international research leader to secure the province’s economic future and well-being of its citizens.

Yet we know that the research process can be difficult, lengthy and require great resources in many cases. The road ahead for a scientist beginning their journey may seem never-ending and for businesses that would benefit from innovation the process and pay-off may seem uncertain.

This is why the Government of Saskatchewan has developed Saskatchewan's Research Strategy. This document outlines three core pillars that are essential to successful innovation: **invent, commercialize and connect.**

Next, it highlights the province’s competitive advantages in research with our enabling infrastructure, supportive programs and wider business and research ecosystem.

Finally, it identifies new and existing research supports that we will use to drive innovation within Saskatchewan’s research priority areas:

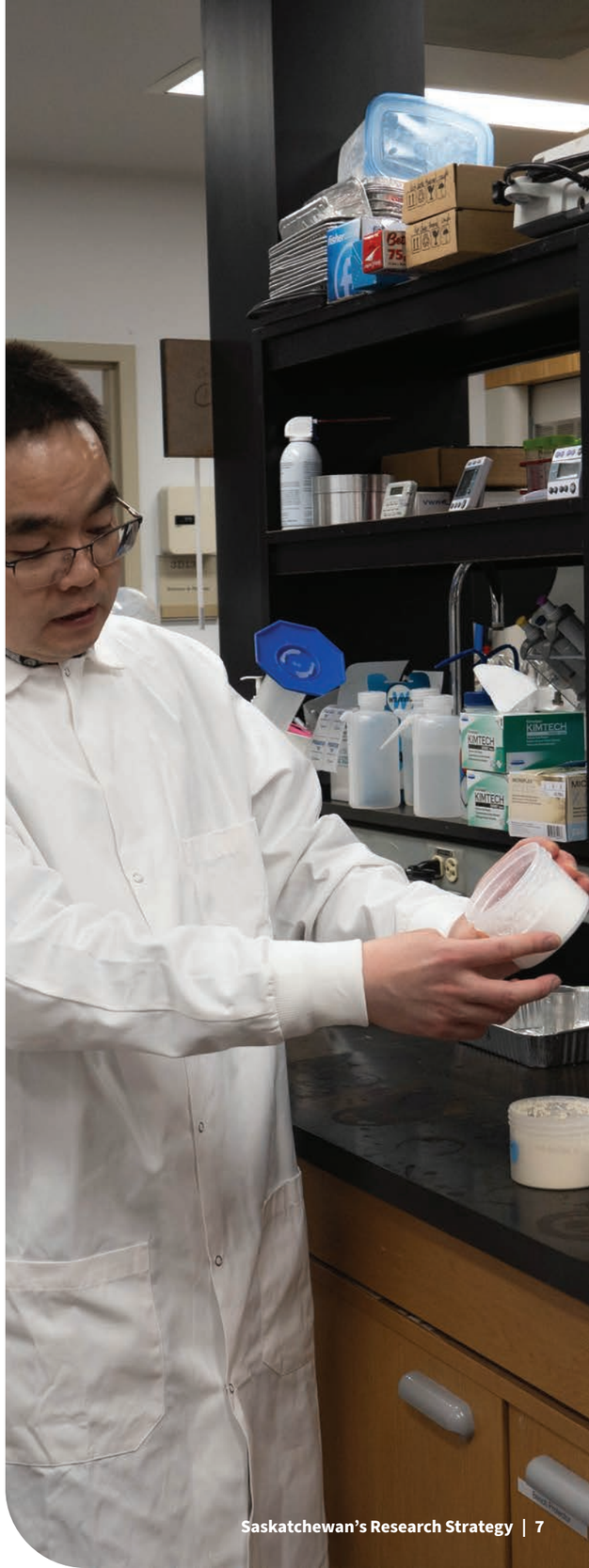
Agriculture: the main industry for many of our communities. Saskatchewan exported more than $18.5 billion in agricultural products in 2024, accounting for 41 per cent of total provincial exports in 2024. Much of that success is due to many years of crop and livestock science work by Saskatchewan researchers.

Life Sciences: a growing sector built on our strong foundation in agriculture, animal health and crop genomics with emerging leadership in nuclear medicine, oncology and vaccine production. Saskatchewan has key infrastructure, including the Canadian Light Source, the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation and the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization that will enable research for decades to come.

Energy: a sector now synonymous with Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan’s carbon capture and sequestration research has been world-leading, allowing us to produce 457,000 barrels of oil daily with a smaller environmental footprint than our global competitors. A renaissance in nuclear power has created a heightened demand for Saskatchewan uranium, while we examine small modular reactor technology for our own use.

Mining & Critical Minerals: a fast-accelerating industry where Saskatchewan has deep roots. Threats to global supply chains mean Saskatchewan’s robust mining community, alongside the first Rare Earth Element refining capabilities in North America, has the opportunity to lead in what could be a $770 billion market by 2040. Meanwhile global agriculture and electricity continue to depend on Saskatchewan potash and uranium.

Through this strategy, the Government of Saskatchewan will collaborate with key stakeholders in the research ecosystem aligning post-secondary institutions, research organizations and industry to achieve Saskatchewan’s vision to become the premier destination for research that matters to the world.



Our Core Pillars

In the 1970s, a Saskatchewan farmer named Jerome Bechard had an idea to seed with a cultivator, eliminating the need to till the soil before sowing. Although Jerome had no formal technical background, he researched and worked on his invention for years. Eventually, Jerome worked with an entrepreneur named Frank Bourgault to commercialize the air seeder. The air seeder eventually became an industry best practice and exported to international markets, forever revolutionizing the global agriculture industry. Air seeders continue to be manufactured and innovated by multiple Saskatchewan-based firms, supporting thousands of highly paid manufacturing jobs and attracting millions in investments.

The air seeder is an inspiring story about Saskatchewan's ingenuity and research excellence. More importantly, it demonstrates how committing to research can solve real-world problems and result in groundbreaking innovations that change the world and generate massive economic impacts for the people of Saskatchewan. Before research is translated into tangible innovations that change how we live, work and play, like Jerome's air seeder, it typically goes through several critical stages of development. The research and development life cycle is not linear and is often riddled with risks and roadblocks. The supports required for success may be very different depending on the stage of research.

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy outlines three core pillars that represent important stages of innovation: invent, commercialize and connect.

By focusing on these critical stages and their core needs, including access to talent and infrastructure, robust funding programs and international networks, we reduce barriers and risk for our research community, making it easier for innovators to turn their ideas into solutions and bring them to global markets.

Invent

Most groundbreaking innovations begin with a basic discovery—whether it's something as simple as putting wheels on a handcart or the highly sophisticated processes of identifying gene traits that make crops more drought resistant. Discoveries lead to inventions that can be applied to solving real-world challenges.

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy will foster an environment that can harness these discoveries and transform them into innovations by the following actions:

- Attracting and developing highly qualified talent to bring new ideas and technical expertise that advance the research and development process
- Enhancing research infrastructure to provide state-of-the-art equipment and collaborative spaces that enable experimentation, testing and prototyping and reduce the barriers to entry for researchers
- Ensuring ample sources of funding, both public and private, are available allowing researchers to scale their ideas and take calculated risks as they develop their innovations

The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to invest in and strive to focus on its current early-stage research policies and programs, as well as introduce an expanded streamlined funding program that strategically aligns with these three key elements.

Commercialize

An idea has the most impact when it can be brought to life and shared with those who need it. For the research and development life cycle, this happens when discoveries are translated into viable products or services and produced on a large enough scale to effectively tackle real-world problems and generate economic value.

Saskatchewan has a prime opportunity to deepen and align its current programs to ensure our innovators will be first to market with their solutions and equipped to protect their discoveries and inventions.

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy will support programs that focus on the following:

- Testing and validating prototypes in real-world environments
- Providing entrepreneurial training
- Engaging with potential industry partners or customers
- Protecting intellectual property
- Strengthening capital investment in innovation

By equipping our research community with the tools needed to commercialize their discoveries, made-in-Saskatchewan innovations will successfully reach the market, benefiting businesses, industries and residents alike, while enhancements to programs such as the Saskatchewan Technology Startup Initiative will enable new sectors to flourish.

Connect

Saskatchewan knows the importance of being connected—we have nine international trade offices and export 65 per cent of what our province produces. As we look to the future, we must continue to look beyond our borders as Saskatchewan solves challenges that are global in reach. For made-in-Saskatchewan innovations to realize that global potential, we need to build bridges between our research community and key international players.

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy will facilitate strategic engagement to enhance our areas of research with the best minds and project local innovations into new markets:

- Supporting research collaboration between research institutions and organizations nationally and abroad
- Facilitating talent and investment attraction opportunities
- Exporting Saskatchewan-made solutions through our global networks

The Government of Saskatchewan will enhance its support for programs and services that create opportunities for Saskatchewan innovators to showcase and exchange their knowledge within the province, nationally and globally. This will assist our researchers and companies in reaching new markets while attracting world-class talent and building strong international partnerships to enhance our province's research capabilities and ultimately reach our goals to grow the economy.

Our Value Proposition

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to creating a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan. That means thinking about how we can address the world's demands utilizing our own extensive research expertise and resources right here in Saskatchewan.

While Saskatchewan's population may be a small portion of the global community and we may feel very distinct from much of the world, our key priorities and challenges are not so different. Everyone needs access to reliable and safe food, energy and health care.

Saskatchewan researchers built the first carbon capture and sequestration power plant in the world, cumulatively capturing over 6.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in its first 10 years—equivalent to removing approximately 150,000 cars from the road annually on average.

Carbon capture technology has also enabled the use of enhanced oil recovery techniques, allowing our province to produce an additional 700 million barrels of oil, with a lower environmental impact than other jurisdictions.

In 2024, Saskatchewan exported more than $6 billion in cereal grains, $3.4 billion in oilseeds and $3.1 billion in pulse crops. Saskatchewan agriculture producers are feeding more people with the same amount of farmland, thanks to advances in crop genetics, technology and environmental practices.

The Government of Saskatchewan sees the incredible opportunities our research community can grasp as our province's priority research areas align with the most critical economic sectors in Canada and the world.

By continuing to build up our foundational strengths in each of these sectors and invest in emerging areas, Saskatchewan's Research Strategy ensures high demand for our future innovations globally and targeted growth to achieve Saskatchewan's economic goals.

$18M invested by the Innovation & Science Fund into research since 2018, leveraging $137M in external investment with a 13:1 Return on Investment

Home to **Saskatchewan Research Council**
Canada's 2nd largest research and tech organization

Home to 4 of Canada's 19 Major Scientific Initiatives

- Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization
- SuperDARN Canada
- Global Water Futures Observatories
- Canadian Light Source

1st

First commercial Rare Earth Element processing facility in North America

Developed over

500 crop varieties

of

40 crop types

generating

$1.2B in GDP impact

2x

5G Innovation Labs provide an ideal environment to develop and test technologies on clean 5G networks

Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization

8 commercialized vaccines

6 world firsts

Permanently sequestered 591,430 tonnes of CO_2 at Aquistore, the largest CO_2 field lab in the world

The Saskatchewan Advantage

Saskatchewan is unmatched in its access to abundant natural resources, world-class research institutions and dedication to economic success in this country. The low cost of living and high quality of life in our communities is ideal for attracting and retaining top talent. Our supportive business environment reduces red tape and maintains a competitive tax environment with one of the lowest small business tax rates in the country, saving money and time.

Among the province's numerous advantages, our commitments to developing infrastructure, enhancing the research ecosystem and providing supportive programs have built a strong foundation for research excellence that can continually grow and adapt to new challenges and opportunities.

The following centres, organizations and programs noted are not intended to be an exhaustive list of the Saskatchewan research community, but highlight those most prominently aligned with our priority research areas.

SUCCESS STORY

Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is the only Canadian member of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). This global partnership is working to accelerate vaccine development against epidemic and pandemic threats.

Infrastructure and Research Hubs

Infrastructure is essential. It connects talented teams of researchers with state-of-the-art equipment and specialized spaces to bring innovation to life.

For decades, Saskatchewan has invested in establishing a closeknit network of renowned provincial and national research facilities centralized in our province's main corridors.

These have generated dynamic knowledge hubs essential to attracting, training and retaining top research talent in the province and facilitating national and international partnerships, collaborations and information sharing.

University of Saskatchewan Research Hub

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is one of the top research universities in Canada, capturing nearly one quarter of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) national Major Science Initiatives funding in 2024, and has established itself as a world leader in water and food security, vaccine development and infectious disease research and human, animal and environmental health.

The USask campus is home to multiple national and provincial flagship research centres instrumental in building research capacity in critical areas and serving academia and industry needs.

Canadian Light Source (CLS)

- Canada's only synchrotron and one of the largest scientific investments in the country's history. Its full service offering to industry clients makes it one of the most accessible synchrotron facilities in the world.
- Unique infrastructure allows scientists to utilize beamlines for more advanced and experimental techniques, like spectroscopy, diffraction and imaging, not possible at other facilities in the country. This has led to breakthroughs in innovative health, agriculture, environment and advanced materials research.

Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (Fedoruk Centre)

- Advanced nuclear science facility focused on nuclear research, development and training and home to the Saskatchewan Cyclotron Facility – one of the few cyclotrons in Canada accessible to external researchers and industry.
- Produces radiopharmaceuticals and medical isotopes for clinical applications, preclinical research, radiochemistry and nuclear imaging.

Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)

- World leader in infectious disease research and vaccine development for humans and animals for almost half a century and currently establishing itself as Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research.
- One of the largest high containment facilities in the world with extensive vaccine manufacturing infrastructure, including a new facility to expand preclinical research development capacity. It also offers contract research services to the biopharmaceutical industry.

Crop Development Centre

- Field crop research centre focused on improving existing crops, creating new uses for traditional crops and developing new seed varieties.
- Operating since 1971, the Crop Development Centre's work contributes an estimated $893 million to the Saskatchewan economy, $295 million to the Alberta economy and more than $24 million to the Manitoba economy.

Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS)

- Agri-science digital and plant genomics institute, home to multiple advanced technology platforms, including the Omics and Precision Analytics Laboratory (OPAL), supporting innovative solutions to produce globally sustainable food.

Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)

- One of the five accredited veterinary medicine colleges in Canada, making internationally significant discoveries in areas, including basic and applied sciences, clinical sciences, toxicology, comparative medicine, environmental health and other aspects of life sciences.

Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS)

- Co-lead for the Global Water Futures (GWF) program, Canada's premier national university-operated scientific freshwater observation network, supporting sustainable use of the world's water resources.

Opus

- Deep tech incubator providing academic founders with entrepreneurial and business support to help bring research-backed innovations to market.

Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR)

- Partnership of organizations supporting and advancing patient-oriented research in Saskatchewan and addressing pressing health concerns in the province.

Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE)

- Comprehensive cattle research facility with a complex of field and science labs that support all aspects of raising livestock like forage development, grazing & pasture management, cattle reproduction, vaccine development & disease control and animal nutrition.
- Supports additional specialty animal research areas, including bison reproduction, herd management and disease control, provides scientific support to real-life problems facing livestock producers and collaborates with producer organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

The University of Saskatchewan recently surpassed $400 million in awarded research revenue—its highest ever in a single year.

University of Regina Hub

The University of Regina (U of R) is a comprehensive research university with leading research Centres of Excellence in digital futures, including data mining, data security and policy; integrated human health; equity, disease and prevention; and water, environment and clean energy.

Clean Energy Technologies Research Institute (CETRI)

- Centralized energy development and carbon-based energy technological research centre and home to the Canadian Energy Transition hub. It includes hands-on training, analytical services and technical advising services.

Institute for Microbial Systems and Society (IMSS)

- Functional genomics lab studying the genetic makeup, gene expression and gene function in microbial organisms, advancing interdisciplinary research of microbial resistance in agriculture, life sciences and mining.

Centre on Aging and Health

- Specializing in gerontology, the centre provides research and expertise on long-term care, women's health, age-related brain disorders, Indigenous perspectives and holistic health as well as musculoskeletal health and mobility.

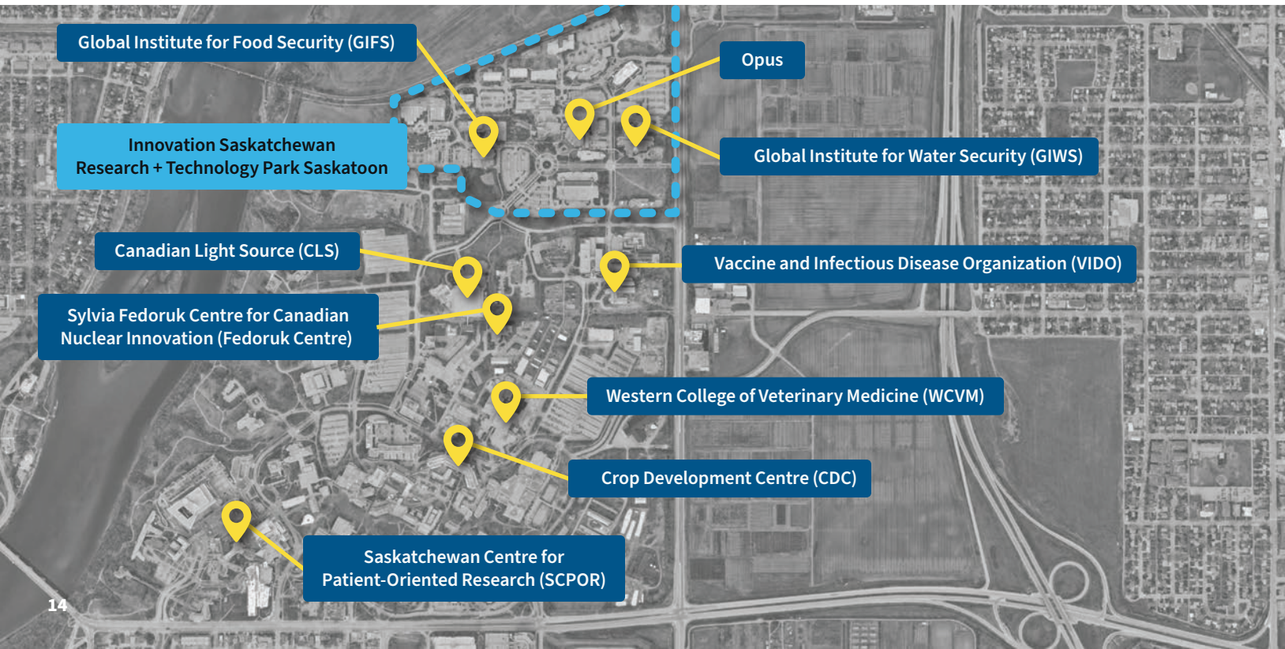
Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment (CIPSRT)

- Partnering with the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) in support of the mental health of public safety personnel. This includes work in treating post-traumatic stress injuries, methods to build resilience and wellness, supports for family members of public safety personnel and developing peer support.

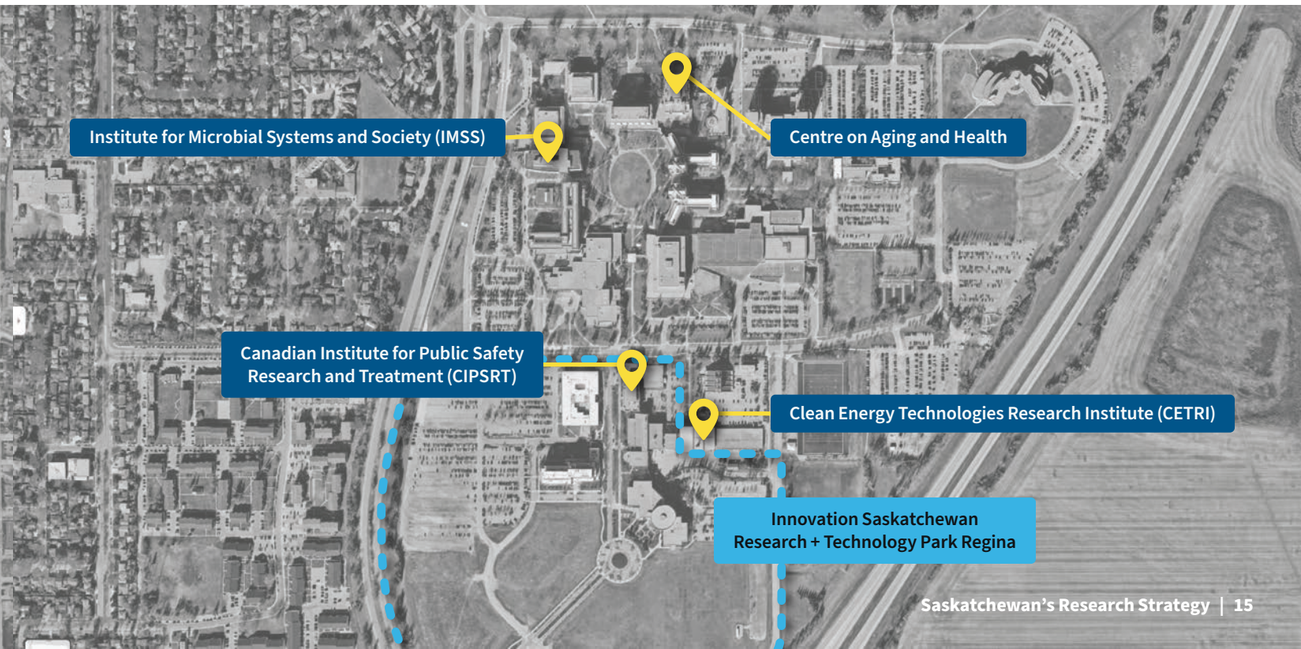
SUCCESS STORY

The University of Regina collaborated with the University of Texas to develop a first of its kind genetic resistance test for a strain of Mycobacterium intracellular, a relative of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.

University of Saskatchewan Hub



University of Regina Hub



Innovation Saskatchewan R+T Park Hubs

Innovation Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan's central innovation agency, owns and operates two research and technology (R+T) parks in Saskatoon and Regina.

The R+T parks are microcosms of Saskatchewan's larger research landscape and extensions of the USask and U of R research hubs where additional university-owned and/or operated facilities are located alongside other prominent research centres.

Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC)

- Industry-driven research organization and home to the Energy Innovation Hub. A world leader in carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS), enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and geothermal energy and managing the Aquistore Project - the most comprehensive full-scale geological field laboratory for CO_2 storage in the world.

International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII)

- Innovation steward for the mining and minerals sector providing funding for both research and development (R&D) projects and education and training (E&T) programs designed to support the technological innovation of the mining industry.

Ag-West Bio

- Member-based, non-profit organization working to accelerate innovation and commercialization, helping bring research in bioproducts and biofuels, agri-food and health sectors to market.

Global Agri-Food Advancement Partnership (GAAP)

- Non-profit partnership aimed at attracting agri-food companies looking to establish a presence in western Canada and helping facilitate access to facilities and research infrastructure, scale-up supports, mentorship and investment opportunities for early-stage companies.

Genome Prairie

- Non-profit organization supporting stakeholders capturing and maximizing the benefits of advanced research in genomics and related biosciences, including agriculture, human and animal health and the environment.

Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL)

- Central provincial public health hub providing specialized screening and diagnostic testing, water testing, reference testing and conduct of communicable disease detection, surveillance, infection control and prevention.

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)

- Provincial agency that funds, supports and promotes the impact of health research that matters to Saskatchewan people. Current areas of focus include child and youth health, rural and remote health, lung health and brain health.

Co.Labs

- Saskatchewan's first technology incubator, providing programing and mentorship for founders as they develop their companies and scale into commercial success.

Sasktel 5G Innovation Labs - Powered by Samsung

- Dual 5G Network-enabled facilities purposefully designed and equipped to provide businesses, students and researchers access to workstations, Radio Access Network (RAN) software tools and operational measurement data from the lab site to study, test and validate technological solutions using advanced 5G networks.

Sask Polytech Joseph A. Remai Campus

Unique to Canada, the new campus is a first-of-its-kind planned development connecting Sask Polytech's workforce development programs, USask's academia programs and Innovation Saskatchewan R+T Park's industry tenants and specialized infrastructure in a centralized, technology-rich learning environment.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech) provides technical training and applied problem solving that drives economic growth in the province, with campuses in Saskatchewan's four largest cities.

Sask Polytech's award-winning applied research is where ideas meet reality, delivering practical solutions to everyday problems. It operates six specialized applied research centres.

BioScience Applied Research Centre (BARC)

- Offers industry experts access to a team of instructors and research personnel whose skills include analytical chemistry, analytical instrumentation, biochemistry microbiology and molecular biology.

Centre for Health Research, Innovation & Scholarship (CHRIS)

- Works to support excellence in applied research for nursing, health science, education and community services.

Digital Integration Centre of Excellence (DICE)

- Saskatchewan's first technology access centre, providing data networking and analysis solutions.

Hannin Creek Education & Applied Research Centre (HCEARC)

- Leading Sask Polytech's natural resource programs, it includes aquatic assessment tools, plant and wildlife surveys, laboratory facilities for microscopy, sonogram analysis and advanced GPS survey technology.

Innovative Manufacturing Centre

- Allows manufacturers to access the latest tools, equipment and expertise to improve production methods and test new ideas, including biomaterials testing, 3D printing and robotics.

Sustainability-Led Integrated Centres of Excellence (SLICE)

- Works to advance sustainability in the agriculture, energy and resource, forestry and manufacturing sectors.

SUCCESS STORY

Saskatchewan Polytechnic was recently ranked the top research college in Canada for number of completed research projects and number of research partnerships, and was second in industry research income growth, with a 130 per cent increase from the previous year.

SUCCESS STORY

The Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre has developed and processed over 1,000 products, including the successful development of vegan meat products for multinational companies.

Research Ecosystem

Saskatchewan's research ecosystem extends beyond these central innovation hubs and into vital areas driving growth and innovation throughout the province, creating a vast system of support. These organizations provide specialized expertise, equipment and training that works with and complements the main innovation hubs to enrich and enhance our robust research network.

Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)

- Canada's second largest research and technology organization, the world's largest uranium and potash laboratories and the first and only Rare Earth Elements (REEs) processing facility in North America.
- Assists clients with commercial laboratory space, contract research and pilot plant development, mineral processing and technology services, emissions validation and pipe flow expertise.

Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre (Food Centre)

- Full service agri-food innovation facility and leader in plant protein innovation and high-demand global food trends.

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency

- Key partner in the fight against cancer, hosting world-class researchers, providing bench and clinical research, including clinical trials, and epidemiological research.

Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS)

- Research and training partnership between the U of R, USask and Sask Polytech that aims to advance innovation in the energy and mineral sectors and ensure alignment of research priorities between industry, government and academia.

Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI)

- Flexible on-site innovation centre with multidisciplinary research team and Crop Processing Development Centre and Grain Innovation Hub equipped for advanced testing, modelling and farm-scale research.

Cultivator powered by Conexus (Cultivator)

- Canada's first credit union-led tech incubator, helping founders access mentors and programs to refine their product and raise capital.
- AGTECH ACCELERATOR program connects companies developing cutting-edge agriculture technology with industry and investors.

Mitacs

- National non-profit research and development organization driving innovation through skills training for Canada's top students.
- Ministry of Advanced Education invests annually in Mitacs research internships to equip Saskatchewan post-secondary students and postdoctoral fellows with work experience and increase competitiveness.

Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP)

- Non-profit corporation supporting the province's export industry, enhancing trade and business development, international engagement and access to buyers.

Business Environment

Saskatchewan has one of the most supportive business environments in Canada.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to reducing red tape and maintaining a competitive tax environment, currently with one of the lowest small business tax rates in the country, which saves money and time, making it easy to do business.

Saskatchewan R&D Tax Credit

- Provides a 10 per cent refundable credit on the first $1 million in qualifying expenditures, with R&D expenditures in excess of that limit eligible for a 10 per cent non-refundable credit.
- 100 per cent of eligible R&D expenses can be applied against net income when calculating federal tax credits.

Saskatchewan Manufacturing and Processing (M&P) Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

- Offers a refundable 6 per cent credit on purchases of building, machinery and equipment for manufacturing and processing and there is a reduced corporate income tax rate for manufacturers.

Government of Saskatchewan Programs

The Government of Saskatchewan provides companies, institutes and researchers with programs and incentives that help fund, accelerate, commercialize and share research in our province.

Innovation Saskatchewan

Innovation Saskatchewan, the province's innovation agency, supports Saskatchewan's research community and tech sector through grant programs, tax incentives, research funding and research and technology (R+T) parks.

Saskatchewan Technology Startup Incentive (STSI)
(Expanded)

- One of Canada's most aggressive tech tax credit programs, offering a 45 per cent tax credit to Saskatchewan-based investors supporting eligible Saskatchewan startups. This program is being newly expanded to include eligible life sciences companies.

Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund (SAIF) & Agtech Growth Fund (AGF)

- Twin programs providing non-repayable grants of up to $450,000 to novel technological solutions that address specific industry challenges in mining, energy, manufacturing & processing, health care and agriculture.

Since 2018, Saskatchewan Technology Startup Incentive (STSI) has helped attract over $108 million in private investment and been an influential part of Saskatchewan's success in creating 108 per cent growth in tech sector employment from 2019-2024.

Innovation & Science Fund (ISF)

(Expanded)

Used to promote economic growth through innovation and research, ISF is being expanded to introduce four critical streams:

Research Infrastructure

Support to maintain Saskatchewan's world-class research infrastructure and seize opportunities to build research capacity and advance provincial priorities.

Research Projects

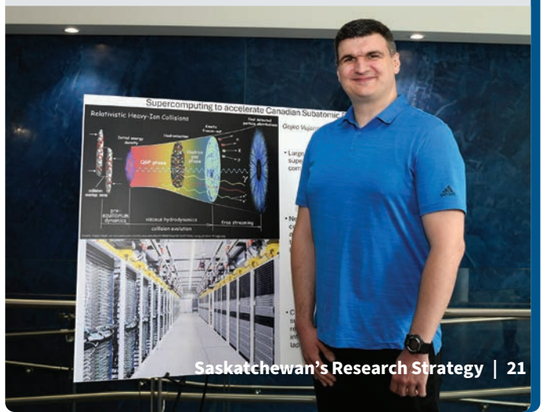
Financial support to enable research projects, including matching funding with public or industry partners.

Research Ecosystem

Funding for supporting organizations and programs that advance commercialization and build capacity in research priority areas.

International Research Collaboration

Investment in projects and programs that attract new research talent to our province or partnerships with international institutes.



Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture helps the agriculture industry manage risk and enable a globally competitive, thriving and sustainable agriculture and food sector by supporting farmers, ranchers and agri-business.

Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT)

- Provides funding for demonstration projects conducted by producer organizations or First Nations at the local level. Successful trials can then be adopted at the regional level.

Strategic Field Program (SFP)

- Offers funding for field level primary production demonstrations, value-added processing technology demonstrations and/or the evaluation of targeted practices and technologies.

Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)

- Supports development of solutions in crop, livestock, soils, environment and value-added processing areas to support the long-term sustainability of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector and is available to public and industry researchers.

Strategic Research Initiative (SRI)

- Targeted funding to advance strategic priorities within the industry, inviting multi-disciplinary teams to develop and submit research proposals on rotating themes beyond the scope of ADF.

Strategic Research Program (SRP)

- Federal-provincial funding program to facilitate recruitment and retention of top research personnel in priority areas like crop genetics, livestock development, food & bioproducts development and soils & environment.

Value-Added Services

- Specialized team with knowledge in many disciplines like agriculture, economic development, product development & marketing, intellectual property and value chain partnerships.

Ministry of Energy and Resources

The Ministry of Energy and Resources develops, co-ordinates and implements policies and programs to promote the growth and responsible development of the province's natural resources industries.

Saskatchewan Critical Minerals Innovation Incentive (SCMII)

- Provides transferable royalty credits for qualified innovation commercialization projects at a rate of 25 per cent of eligible projects costs and is open to both pilot projects and commercial scaling projects.

Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive (SPII)

- Provides transferable royalty credits for qualified innovation commercialization projects at a rate of 25 per cent of eligible projects costs. Eligible innovations must be assessed at a minimum of Level 7 on the SPII Technology Readiness Level Scale.

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training leads efforts to help individuals prepare for and obtain employment, including assisting employers with the development, recruitment and retention of works to support the provincial labour market.

Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

- Offers pathways for skilled workers to be nominated by the province to become permanent residents.

Credential Recognition

- Provides information and personalized support to professionals educated and/or trained elsewhere in Canada or abroad to become licensed to work in a regulated occupation in Saskatchewan.

Ministry of Trade and Export Development

The Ministry of Trade and Export Development advances economic growth in the province by connecting Saskatchewan researchers, industry leaders and more with high-value international partners and buyers to generate further opportunity.

Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive (SCII)

- Tax incentive offering a reduction of the provincial Corporate Income Tax Rate to 6 per cent for 10 consecutive years to eligible corporations that commercialize their qualifying intellectual property in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan International Offices

- Saskatchewan has a network of nine offices in Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, United Arab Emirates, India, China, Vietnam, Singapore and Japan focused on trade relationships, supporting Saskatchewan businesses, identifying partners for our post-secondary institutes and assisting in exporting Saskatchewan products and attracting investment to the province.

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Tax Credit

- New 45 per cent non-refundable tax credit for individuals or corporations who invest in the equity of an eligible Saskatchewan SME. The program is being piloted with eligible SMEs in the food and beverage manufacturing and machinery and transportation equipment manufacturing sectors.

Saskatchewan's Research Priority Areas

While Saskatchewan's areas of research expertise and capabilities are extremely diverse, the resources available to support public research are finite. The government is committed to ensuring that public dollars are invested into research areas that will provide the highest return on investment and tangible benefits for the people of Saskatchewan.

As part of the Government of Saskatchewan's long-term vision in Saskatchewan's Research Strategy, we have identified four Research Priority Areas:

- Agriculture
- Life Sciences
- Energy
- Mining & Critical Minerals

These areas were chosen based on the province's areas of strategic advantage, as well as sector growth opportunities, giving Saskatchewan researchers an opportunity to advance rapidly in these respective areas. Additionally, the priority areas represent some of the most critical economic sectors for Saskatchewan, Canada and the world. Future innovations in these sectors have the potential to not only create generational prosperity for the people of Saskatchewan, but they are also vital to solving global challenges such as food and energy security.

Agriculture

Saskatchewan Agriculture Research Strengths

- Established world leader in agriculture research specifically in the areas of crop genetics, plant-based proteins, soil health and livestock development.
- Home to a cluster of world-class agriculture research institutions and unique infrastructure.
- One-of-a-kind accelerated plant breeding programs and technology platforms.
- Eight strategically located Agriculture Applied Research Management (Agri-ARM) sites represent various prairie soil zones and climates, allowing new technologies and practices to be tested in a real-world environment.
- Robust and expanding ecosystem of agriculture research chairs jointly supported by government and industry.
- Strong research collaboration with industry—The Saskatchewan Crop Commissions, which represent virtually all Saskatchewan grain, oilseed and pulse farmers, direct millions in industry revenues towards research annually.

Saskatchewan is a global pioneer in agriculture, known worldwide as a consistent and reliable supplier of high-quality livestock and agri-food products. In 2023 Saskatchewan was the world's leading exporter of dry peas, lentils, durum, canola oil, canary seed, mustard and oats. Agriculture exports have increased 32.62 per cent since 2014, accounting for 41 per cent of total provincial exports in 2024. These economic achievements were made possible through a commitment to research, including plant and animal genetics, soil science and agtech.

Food insecurity is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The United Nations estimates that by 2030, the world will need to grow 1 billion tonnes more of cereal crops than it did in 2024 to meet the nutritional demands of a growing population. Saskatchewan is already such a critical producer that dozens of countries are impacted by our production each season. The challenge to Saskatchewan is now creating more food products with the same land usage, while continuing to do so in the most environmentally responsible and input efficient manner. Innovation through increased investment in research is the only way we can support the agriculture industry in achieving the required levels of efficiency gains.

These requirements are driving new investments in agtech, which Saskatchewan is at the forefront of. Precision agriculture is helping minimize waste for agriculture producers by utilizing geographic information systems and variable-rate input applications. Drone technology is assisting in field management, with artificial intelligence being layered on today to assist in analyzing data to inform decisions on weed control, drainage and fertilizer applications.

SUCCESS STORY

Through a collaborative partnership, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) created a commercial vaccine to protect livestock, especially in feedlots, from significant health issues like bacterial calf scours commonly caused by E.Coli infections. This vaccine protects livestock in Saskatchewan and around the world and saves industry more the $300 million annually

Saskatchewan is home to Emmertech the largest agtech venture capital fund in Canada, with more than $60 million to invest in innovations in the agriculture supply chain.

Pair this capital with Saskatchewan's tech accelerators, including the AGTECH ACCELERATOR at Cultivator powered by Conexus, which are home to many startups providing data-driven solutions in product management, transportation and product marketing.

Meanwhile many more researchers continue to innovate to bring new agriculture equipment and practices to market. Established centres like the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) have long histories of engineering excellence to create improvements to livestock management, seeding, harvesting, input application and transport equipment to minimize product loss and maximize efficiency.

PAMI, alongside the Crop Development Centre and Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) form a collection of expertise that advances cutting-edge research to improve crop yield and resilience to climate change.

There is much work to be done and breakthroughs to achieve in agriculture research. Through Saskatchewan's Research Strategy we will invest in the development of more climate-resilient crops, smart agriculture technologies to make farms more efficient, inputs that enhance soil health, processes to manufacture more desirable plant-based foods and much more.

Saskatchewan's agriculture sector will remain a global leader of food production, agriculture research and sustainable agtech.

SUCCESS STORY

Saskatchewan has some of the most sustainable agriculture practices in the world. A recent study showed Saskatchewan's production of five major field crops has a significantly smaller carbon footprint in comparison to regions that export the same product. Saskatchewan canola had a 67 per cent lower carbon footprint than the global average, and field peas 95 per cent lower than any other region studied.

Did you know that lentils were not traditionally grown in Saskatchewan, but the province is now a top producer?

In the 1970s USask researchers and the provincial government began experimenting with lentils after noting the crop was not only well-suited to the province's semi-arid climate and soil conditions but would add a viable crop to diversify farming beyond wheat and barley. By the 1980s and 1990s, lentil farming expanded rapidly across the province and Saskatchewan now produces about 95 per cent of Canada's lentils (almost $2 billion in exports in 2023) and supplies more than one-third of global demand, expected to reach $8.8 billion in value by 2029.

Our Commitment

- Increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes by continuing to support basic and applied agriculture research.
- Grow agriculture value-added processing and manufacturing in the province by investing in research & development of new technologies and processes.
- Support commercialization and adoption of innovative technologies and practices.
- Train, attract and retain agriculture research talent.
- Invest in procuring and maintaining agriculture research infrastructure.

Actions Underway

- Providing $18.9 million in annual funding to agriculture research projects.
- Funding 15 research chair positions at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture to support crop genetics, livestock development, soil and environment, and food and bioproducts development.
- Providing long-term support and partnership with key institutions to attract investment and talent.
- Developing dedicated programs to encourage technological innovation in sensors, imagery, robotics, automation and fintech to support agriculture producers.

Life Sciences

Saskatchewan Life Science Research Strengths

- Strong specialized research expertise in infectious diseases, vaccine development, advanced biomedical imaging, oncology, neuroscience and cardiovascular health.
- Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research with Containment Level 4 capacity nearing completion, Containment Level 3 facilities, biomanufacturing capability and expanded animal facility capacity for preclinical research and development.
- Canada's only synchrotron facility with specialization in biomedical imaging, macromolecular crystallography, diffraction and scattering.
- Canada's only x-ray lithography beamline the Synchrotron Laboratory for Micro and Nano Devices (SyLMAND).
- One-of-a-kind nuclear facility with 24 MeV cyclotron supporting high-grade radiopharmaceutical production and innovation in nuclear imaging.
- World-class research infrastructure with industry-friendly policies and practices.

The Life Sciences sector, despite a long history in Saskatchewan, still has huge potential for growth. With high demand from health care constantly searching for new innovations, technologies, treatments and pharmaceuticals to improve health outcomes, the search for research talent and innovative solutions is fast-paced and global. It is no surprise Saskatchewan's life science sector is particularly strong in plants and animal research due to its strong agriculture sector. Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) is world renowned for developing vaccines and immunity-enhancing technologies against infectious diseases, attracting researchers from across Canada and over 30 other countries to develop vaccines and therapeutics for animals and humans.

As Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research, VIDO is a vertically integrated organization with Containment Level 2 and 3 facilities and a Containment Level 4 facility, including large animal housing and vaccine manufacturing, in development. This makes VIDO one of the only facilities in the world with this capacity for infectious disease research and development of new medicines.

In addition to Saskatchewan's longstanding life science research strength in animal health, the province is also at the forefront of human health research and innovation. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) offers a full range of health science colleges, all with intensive research programs and the Royal University Hospital as the province's largest teaching hospital, closely affiliated with the College of Medicine, which conducts research across the breadth of biomedical sciences, clinical medicine, health systems and health populations.

Only a few blocks away from the College of Medicine is the Canadian Light Source (CLS), which enables researchers to focus on drug development, protein crystallography and biomedical imaging. Behind CLS, the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (Fedoruk Centre) operates a facility that includes a 24 MeV cyclotron that enables research into novel radiopharmaceuticals and innovative nuclear imaging to advance cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease research and care.

SUCCESS STORY

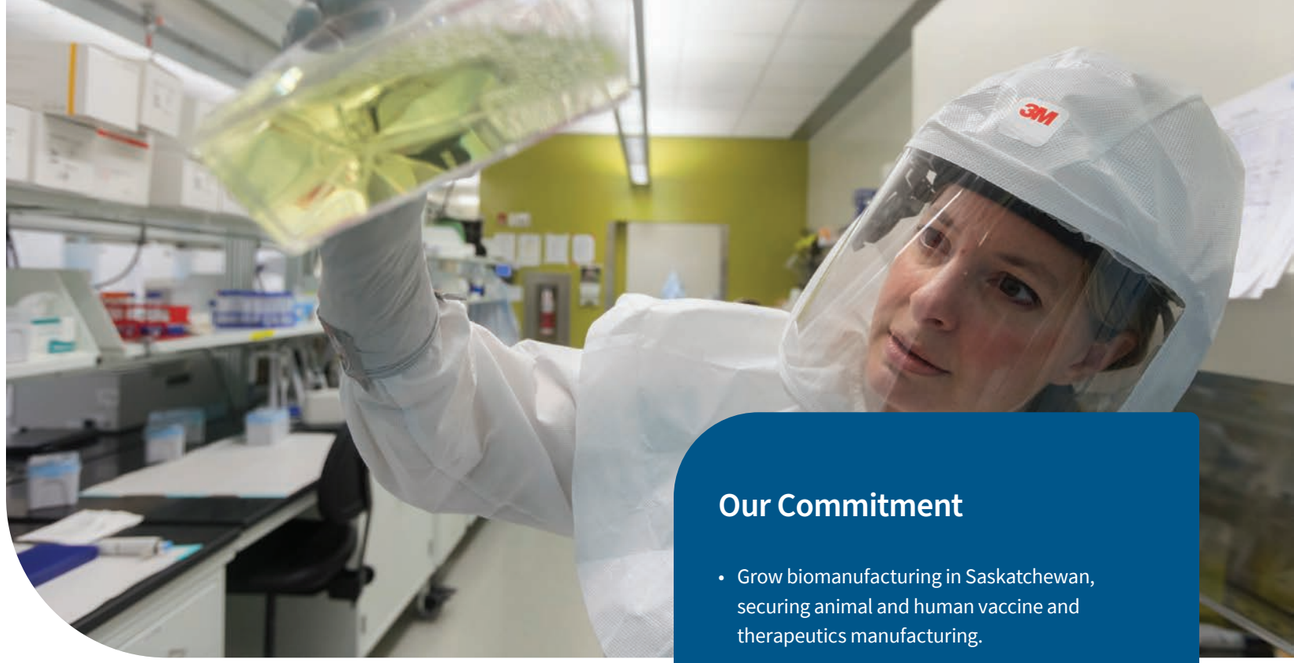
The Honorable Sylvia Fedoruk developed the world's first cobalt-60 therapy unit for targeted cancer radiation therapy and the first nuclear medicine scanning machines, laying the foundation for modern diagnostic technologies like CT and PET scanners. The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation continues her legacy as Saskatchewan's sole producer of FDG (fluorodeoxyglucose)—a radiopharmaceutical required to operate nuclear imaging equipment like the PET and CT scanner at the Royal University Hospital—increasing access to vital health care services for more than 3,000 patients each year in Saskatchewan.

Together with other leading human health science organizations in the province such as the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR) and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, the province is continuously making strategic research investments to protect the health of the people of Saskatchewan and Canada.

Our strategy will enhance support for our plant and animal research facilities and projects in the province that are essential to establishing and elevating our global leadership. Beyond this, there are major opportunities to enhance our life sciences leadership in human health research and innovation aligned with global demand.

Saskatchewan is well positioned to capitalize on global markets and enhance domestic security by securing talent and supply chains. Besides simply their expertise, Saskatchewan research centres have some of the most industry friendly research policies. The Fedoruk Centre is one of the few cyclotron facilities in Canada available to outside users, CLS provides full service to industry clients, VIDO provides contract research services and the post-secondary institutions have attractive intellectual property policies.

While we recognize the opportunity in the life sciences sector, we also know that more work needs to be done to grow this sector. This includes exploring barriers to capital attraction, gathering industry feedback, better understanding unique data requirements and how the Saskatchewan health sector works with academia and industry to better patient outcomes. Strengthening collaboration between government, post-secondary institutions and industry will be a win for all parties and lay the groundwork to grow the sector's presence in Saskatchewan. That equates to both better health outcomes for patients and the creation of high-quality jobs in our province.



Enhancing Key Life Science Infrastructure

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to strengthen its network of world-class research centres through targeted investments to provide state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, ensuring the province remains at the forefront of research innovation. In 2025-26, a $3 million commitment to CLS and an additional $4.1 million commitment to VIDO, building on an earlier $15 million to expand capabilities to become Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research, will enhance key infrastructure at these world-class institutions.

Our Commitment

- Grow biomanufacturing in Saskatchewan, securing animal and human vaccine and therapeutics manufacturing.
- Attract more specialists in key fields to advance research and improve health outcomes in alignment with the health care system goals.
- Strengthen infrastructure and processes to bring health research out of our post-secondary institutions and into the world.
- Support industry in organizing and collaborating with each other, facilitating knowledge sharing, regulatory review issues and best practices.
- Make Saskatchewan a more efficient jurisdiction for industry to perform clinical research, including clinical trials.

Actions Underway

- Expanding the Saskatchewan Technology Startup Incentive (STSI) to include eligible life science companies.
- Expanding the Innovation & Science Fund (ISF) into streams supporting research projects, infrastructure, the research ecosystem and international collaboration, advancing promising innovations and the life science sector.
- Providing long-term support and partnership with key institutions to attract investment and talent.

Energy

Saskatchewan Energy Research Strengths

- Pioneering research in sustainable subsurface energy in areas such as enhanced oil recovery, carbon capture and geothermal.
- Home to the world's first fully integrated, post-combustion CO_2 capture and storage project.
- Robust energy research cluster anchored by the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, Clean Energy Technologies Research Institute and the CCS Knowledge Centre.
- Strong pipeline of research talent as a result of energy systems focused engineering programs.
- One of four provinces committed to advancing small modular reactor deployment for power generation.
- Advancing research of microreactors for decarbonizing industrial applications led by Saskatchewan Research Council.

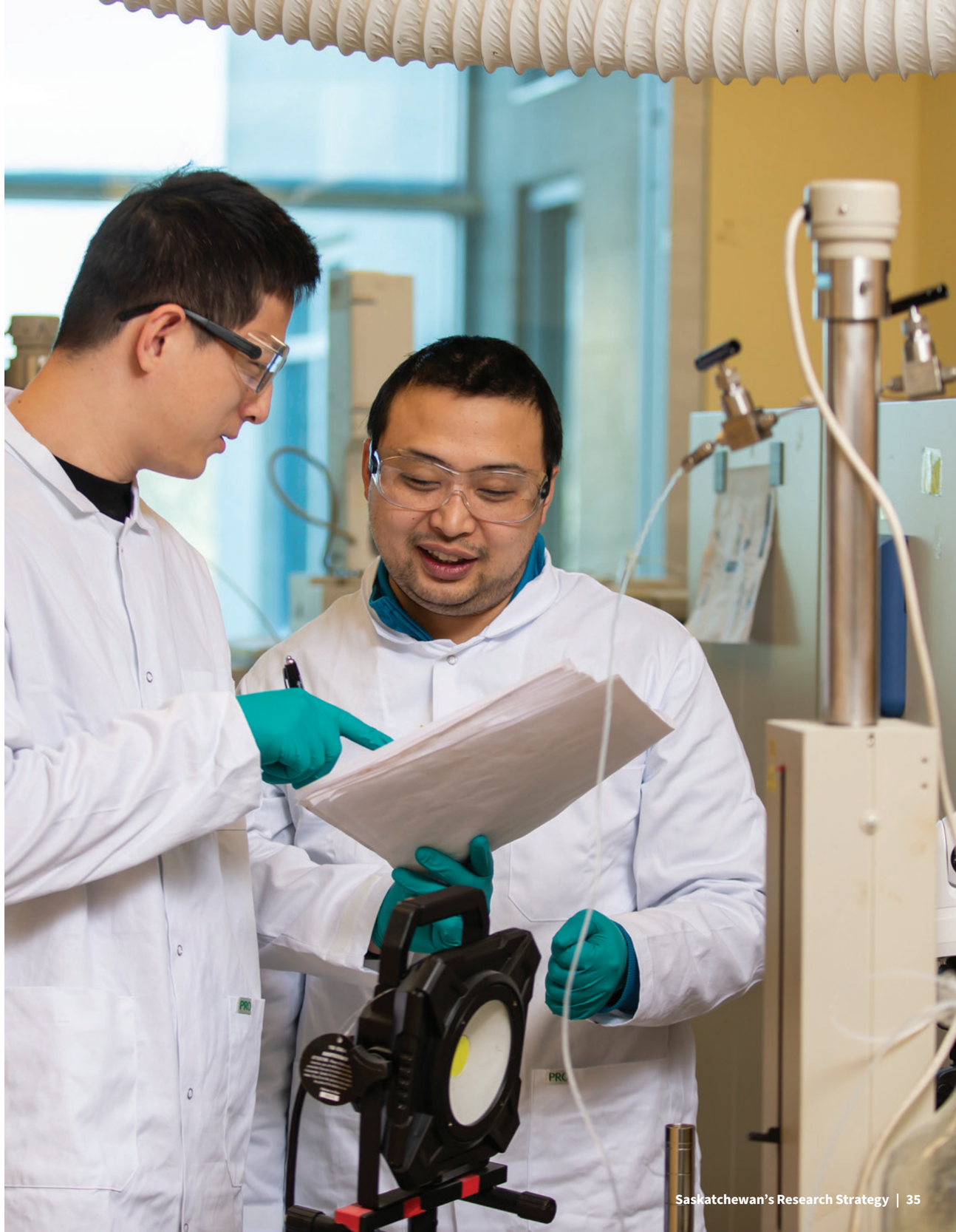
Saskatchewan is a Canadian hub for energy innovation. The province is known for deploying innovative technologies based on decades of research and producing some of the most sustainable oil and gas products in the world. With accelerating work in subsurface energy, new research in small modular reactor (SMR) technology and expertise in hydrogen and carbon sequestration, it is becoming clear that Saskatchewan is leading the way to safeguard Canadian energy security.

Saskatchewan's oil and gas industry is a major contributor to the provincial economy. Each year Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector invests significant capital to grow production and reduce emissions, which supports over 25,000 direct and indirect jobs. In 2023 Saskatchewan produced 454,000 barrels of oil per day, making it the second largest producer in Canada. If all oil producing countries adopted regulations like those in Saskatchewan, greenhouse gas emissions would be cut by 25 per cent.

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goal is to see production increase to 600,000 barrels per day while making Saskatchewan the best place to test oil and gas innovation. Investment in research has already been key to a strong energy industry in Saskatchewan, ensuring that we are able to increase production while decreasing the associated emissions. It is going to take even more innovation to achieve our goals.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2013 Saskatchewan Research Council, alongside Cowessess First Nation, trailblazed a new utility-scale wind-battery microgrid project. This was the first utility-scale wind-battery system behind the power meter in Canada, paving the way for future Indigenous opportunities in the renewable power sector.



One of Saskatchewan's key energy research areas is carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS). Our pioneering research in CCUS has allowed industry to supply the province and the world with energy while sequestering CO_2 permanently. Over the past 25 years, Saskatchewan has permanently sequestered more than 600,000 tons of CO_2 while also utilizing enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to cumulatively produce more than $40 billion in oil production. Decades of research in CCUS at the University of Regina (U of R) and the government's investment in commercializing the technology enabled the province to be a leading expert in CO_2 EOR and carbon storage monitoring, measurement and verification.

The province is also forging ahead in its research on other forms of renewable subsurface energy. Saskatchewan is quickly emerging as a Canadian leader in geothermal energy by leveraging our world-class public geoscience information and local energy research talent. The province is on track to establish Canada's first commercial geothermal power plant in southeast Saskatchewan. Many of our municipalities are assessing the feasibility of using geothermal as a heat source through research collaboration with the local energy research cluster based in Regina. The province is also investing in research on the feasibility of a hydrogen hub in the Regina-Moose Jaw corridor by utilizing CCUS and other subsurface energy storage technologies.

Saskatchewan is also building its nuclear research capacity, specifically for SMRs for utility power generation and microreactors for industrial and research uses. This research is spanning across our post-secondary institutions and research institutes, like Saskatchewan Polytechnic (Sask Polytech) and the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), in close partnership with government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations.

SUCCESS STORY

SaskPower's Boundary Dam coal-fired power plant is the world's first fully integrated, post-combustion CO_2 capture and storage project. It is capable of capturing up to 800,000 tonnes of CO_2 each year and has prevented nearly 6.6 megatonnes of CO_2 from entering the atmosphere since it began operation in 2014—equivalent to removing approximately 150,000 cars from the road annually on average.

Not only will our nuclear research help accelerate Saskatchewan's plans to achieve net-zero emissions, but the required planning, construction, maintenance and supply chain have the potential to generate hundreds of high-paying jobs in the province. Together we will establish Saskatchewan as the western Canadian hub for nuclear innovation.

Saskatchewan is ready to be a Canadian leader in energy innovation. Continued strategic research investments in technologies to produce petroleum sustainably and reduce the cost of renewable energy will be vitally important in securing Saskatchewan and Canada's energy future and independence.

Our Commitment

- Seek technology improvements to help increase Saskatchewan oil production to 600,000 barrels per day.
- Increase research investments in sustainable petroleum production, such as CO_2 enhanced oil recovery and polymer flooding.
- Accelerate research for development and production of renewable subsurface energy, such as geothermal and compressed air energy storage.
- Enhance the province's energy research expertise and capacity by facilitating further collaboration between industry and post-secondary institutions.
- Advance research in nuclear energy with the goal of enabling deployment of SMRs for utility power generation and microreactors for industrial use.

Actions Underway

- Establishing the Energy Innovation Hub to allow the Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) to augment the development of technologies related to sustainable subsurface energy production.
- Deploying Mitacs funding towards developing and retaining highly qualified personnel in energy cleantech research & development.
- Working with municipalities to research the feasibility of geothermal as a renewable source of heat for civic facilities.
- Supporting key investments for nuclear engineering research, workforce training, and SMR engineering and technology testing.

Mining & Critical Minerals

Saskatchewan Mining & Critical Minerals Research Strengths

- World-leading research programs in water, environmental sciences, processing, digital solutions and engineering—necessary for interdisciplinary mining and critical minerals research.
- Leading critical minerals research in production techniques such as direct lithium extraction, in situ leaching, advanced instrumentation, automated mineralogy and processing technologies.
- Home to 27 of Canada's 34 critical minerals.
- World's largest potash mining industry, which continually collaborates with the local research community in geology, engineering and other disciplines.
- World's highest grade uranium deposits and second largest global producer.
- First and only commercial-scale Rare Earth Elements (REEs) processing facility in Canada and the first fully integrated REE metals producer in North America.

Saskatchewan is a global powerhouse in mining. The province supplies the world with some of the highest quality minerals that are vital to the global economy. Our world-leading research in hydrology, geology, processing technologies, environmental science and engineering is indispensable for our mining sector to produce more, at lower cost, in a more sustainable manner.

Saskatchewan boasts the largest potash industry in the world, accounting for 35 per cent of global production in 2023. Potash is a critically important nutrient for agriculture due to its various benefits for crop production and as such, Saskatchewan's potash industry plays a central role in global food production and security. To ensure that the industry can increase production of this critical mineral sustainably and safely, research in the areas like water management and energy use will be important moving forward.

Saskatchewan is also home to the world's largest high-grade uranium deposits and was the second largest global producer of this critical mineral in 2023. Uranium is the primary fuel source for nuclear power generation, supplying 9.2 per cent of the world's electricity in 2023. As the world looks increasingly to nuclear as a dependable source of clean baseload electricity, Saskatchewan has an opportunity to advance research across the nuclear fuel cycle to grow the industry beyond mining and processing.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2024 the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) became the first entity in North America to begin producing Rare Earth Metals at commercial scale, including monthly production of 10 tonnes of neodymium-praseodymium, used in the production of high-strength magnets found in electric vehicles, wind turbines and electronics. This production will increase to 40 tonnes monthly in mid-2025.

Photo credit: SRC

While Saskatchewan potash and uranium will continue to play a vital economic role, the province is home to 27 of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's list, which includes Rare Earth Elements (REEs), helium, copper and lithium. These minerals are of strategic importance to Canada's economic and national security, including being key inputs in renewable power generation and electric vehicle production and essential for manufacturing many advanced technologies.

For example, helium is used in a multitude of critical applications, including medical imaging and quantum computing. Saskatchewan is already investing in research on areas such as direct lithium extraction, which will be vital in scaling the development of these critical minerals to commercial levels. The province is committed to leveraging and investing in related research expertise to unlock these economically important resources. REEs are now some of the most in-demand materials in the world. A group of 17 metallic elements are necessary to the production of many of the most advanced products in the world, including radar systems, jet engines, electric vehicle batteries, cell phones and computer components.

Today the vast majority of the global supply for REEs makes Canada dependent on foreign countries. This makes our economy and national defence vulnerable. Increasing production and processing in Saskatchewan is a positive for all Canadians.

Saskatchewan's ability to expand its role as a major global exporter of critical minerals will be key to securing future economic growth and prosperity. Investing strategically into the research and innovation for sustainably extracting and processing these critical minerals will be important in ensuring that Saskatchewan can meet global demand and secure the supply chain of these products for our country.

Our Commitment

- Leverage interdisciplinary research in water, environmental sciences and engineering to accelerate development of critical minerals projects and ensure sustainable operation life cycles.
- Invest strategically in research related to innovative mineral extraction, processing and manufacturing technologies.
- Facilitate further collaborations between research in energy and mining disciplines to scale technologies that repurpose underutilized energy infrastructure for minerals extraction.
- Enhance and maintain research infrastructure that will enable better geological analysis and process development.

Actions Underway

- Establishing Saskatchewan as a Rare Earth Elements hub.
- Supporting sector activity through the Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive and the Critical Minerals Processing Investment Incentive.
- Improving publicly available geoscience data to help de-risk mineral exploration.

Our Future

Investing in our research community now will prepare us for a prosperous future.

Saskatchewan's research community is critical to a strong and growing economy that benefits everyone. Our intent is to maximize the outcomes of our investments in critical scientific tools and infrastructure, ensuring innovation translates into prosperity for our province.

This strategy demonstrates where we will focus our efforts and achieve global excellence. It is intended to guide innovators with expertise that aligns with our priority research areas and clarifies how they can find support for the most critical phases of research.

Through our core pillars and government programs and investments, Saskatchewan will continue to support research, encourage its entrepreneurship and utilization in our industry, helping connect our solutions with the world.

Saskatchewan's Research Strategy Core Pillars

Invent
Leverage our strengths in research infrastructure and program supports to maximize opportunities and ensure a pipeline of innovation to solve our challenges.

Commercialize
Focus on key research stages to make it easy for innovators to prove their inventions, ensure they are responsive to industry's needs and have the capital to scale their solutions.

Connect
Share Saskatchewan's expertise in our priority research areas with communities worldwide to elevate our global research leadership and drive collaboration.