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Tom Jenkins, Chair
Review of Federal Support to Research and Development
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18 February 2010

Dear Mr. Jenkins

We are pleased to submit the attached submission to the Review of Federal Support to Research and Development. George Brown College thanks the Panel for the opportunity to engage in this important work.

Our submission was prepared with careful consultation with key College and innovation system stakeholders and input from our Innovation Advisory Board (IAB). The IAB provides strategic direction to the GBC Research Labs. The IAB is a multi-sectoral small to medium enterprise (SME), entrepreneurial, and academic stakeholder group that helps ensure responsiveness to industry research, innovation and commercialization needs.

A summary of our most important recommendations is as follows:

- The government should support the full range of R&D and innovation activities as defined by the OECD.
- A Canadian innovation strategy is needed to support business innovation. This strategy should include leveraging post-secondary institutions (PSIs) for human capital innovation support and access to R&D equipment.
- Government should support clusters aimed at supporting business innovation in firms. Orient marketing, outreach and funding programs to the needs of industry and foster greater complementary linkages among all PSIs.
- Expand the definition of highly qualified personnel and implement Conference Board of Canada recommendations on developing national innovation education requirements and linkages.
- Continue and expand the suite of programs under the College and Community Innovation Program umbrella.
- Streamline application processes and forms, encourage complementary PSI business innovation supports, and reduce overlap and increase cooperation among federal and provincial agencies.
- Provide an "any point of entry" contact point for all involved in supporting business innovation.

We look forward to the results of the Panel's work.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Luke.

Robert Luke, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President
Research and Innovation
George Brown College

Handwritten signature of Peter Catford.

Peter Catford
President
HINext Inc
Chair, Innovation Advisory Board, George Brown College