

ISRN – Influences and Impacts in the Public Policy Arena

*A view from the
public policy - research borderlands*

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ISRN: Encounters, Interactions, Influences

- ISRN and the Provincial Government –Dancing with Changing Partners
 - Enterprise Opportunity and Innovation/ Economic Development and Trade
 - Economic Development and Trade
 - Research and Innovation
- ISRN at U of T
 - Evolution of Research Funding Criteria: Lessons from ISRN

ISRN and the Ontario Government

- Policy-related Contributions
 - Counterweight to “universal programme” approach
 - Significance of emerging sectors
 - R&D and Skills linked to economic dynamism
- Programme-enabling Contributions
 - Legitimized attention to economic ecology - linkages, relationships and critical mass (e.g., RINs, Communitech, MaRS)
- Challenging Engagements
 - “If you’re paying us you’d better damn well talk to us!!”

ISRN and the *Zeitgeist*

- “The traditional separation between basic and applied research is being dissolved by recent technological progress in a most remarkable and dramatic way.” Cal Stiller (2010)
- “..instead of a relay race, it has become like a basketball game – the whole team committed to moving the ball down court and the ball being passed to any player who holds an advantage at any time.” Henry Friesen, quoted by Cal Stiller (2010)
- ISRN came to the Ontario Government to play basketball

ISRN and Funders' Expectations of Academic Excellence – A U of T Benchmark

- Network Leadership
- Multi-faceted Collaboration
- Engagement with Non-academic Partners
- Knowledge Translation
- Development of Skills and Expertise
- Transformational Insights and Applications
- Focus on Matters of Relevance
- Disciplinary Leadership
- Measurable Impact



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