

# DUNIN-DESHPANDE QUEEN'S INNOVATION CENTRE

## Building change makers and catalysing potential



### The Organization

Founded in 2012, DDQIC aims to catalyse the potential for creative problem-solving, developing entrepreneurial mindsets, and fostering a culture of innovation across Queen's University, the Kingston community, and globally.

### The Need

Students and researchers need access to capital and a bridge between academia and industry to translate new and transformative ideas into real-world solutions.

### The Solution

DDQIC enables the successful implementation of innovative solutions by supporting students and researchers in entrepreneurship, commercialization, and investment. They achieve this through partnerships with private donors and government grants, offering resources like incubators, workshops, programs, non repayable capital, and pitch competitions.

### In Their Own Words

“The opportunity costs of doing social or environmental work when an organization is not very good or efficient at what they do is huge. For example, it could mean that for a million dollars, a million nets were handed out instead of two, which ultimately means that a million children got malaria when it could have been prevented.”

### Key lesson(s) or best practice(s) shared

Adopting business practices, including market discipline and entrepreneurship principles, can empower social purpose organizations(SPOs) to focus on creating a strong value proposition, demonstrating proof of concept, and competing effectively. This, in turn, can increase their impact and effectiveness.

## AT A GLANCE

### Type of organization

Nonprofit organization

### Social finance approach

Technical assistance and non repayable capital

### Sustainable development goal(s)



### Investment readiness stage

Social financial awareness



Organizational ability



Network development



Business model/  
plan development

Impact  
measurement  
and reporting

This case study was developed as part of a research conducted by Imagine Canada, funded by the Government of Canada's Investment Readiness Program. Visit [imaginecanada.ca/en/social-finance](http://imaginecanada.ca/en/social-finance) for more information.