

MaRS Discovery District — Toronto's Research-to-Industry Innovation Hub

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Quality score: 43/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Incorporated in 2000 to commercialise University of Toronto and hospital research, MaRS grew into a large innovation hub — but its Phase 2 office tower required roughly CAD 400 million in Ontario government support between 2011 and 2014 before being repaid via 2017 refinancing.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	1/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[MaRS Discovery District](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[MaRS Discovery District — Impact](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Academic Matters — Public money, private profit: A history of U of T's MaRS Discovery District](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[The Globe and Mail — MaRS slashes top ranks \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[BetaKit — MaRS DD bailout cost analysis \(2014\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

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