

News Release:

Canadian Consortium for Research welcomes increased research funding, cautions that more needs to be done

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2011

OTTAWA— The Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) recognizes and welcomes the additional spending on research contained in the March 22, 2011 Budget, particularly in light of the difficult fiscal situation the Federal Government addressed this year. However, the CCR is disappointed that the Budget did not adequately address the barriers to higher education faced by many students and their families.

The Budget provides \$37 million per annum in additional funding to the Federal Granting Councils. *"This increase, which broadly compensates for inflation, means that the Federal Granting Councils will continue to be unable to fund all research proposals that fully meet the Councils' rigorous criteria of excellence. However, I am encouraged that most of the new funding appears to be available for basic research, a key driver of social and economic progress in Canada,"* said Paul Vincett, Chair of the CCR.

The CCR is pleased to see that its recommendation to increase funding for the indirect costs of research has been partially met with an infusion of an additional \$10 million per annum. As well, \$65 million has been provided to Genome Canada, \$12 million over 5 years to NSERC's 'Idea to Innovation' program, and up to \$100 million for a new Canada Brain Research Fund. The CCR is particularly pleased to see the commitment of \$35 million over five years to NSERC for climate and atmospheric research, but notes that this amount falls significantly short of the funding previously received through the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences.

The CCR also welcomes new funding provided to two distinguished research institutes: \$50 million over five years to the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo and \$45 million over five years to the National Optics Institute in Quebec City.

In contrast to the additional research funding noted above, the 2011 Budget includes little help for post-secondary education students who will continue to incur unacceptably high debt loads. The CCR's recommendation to develop additional graduate scholarship programs was not addressed in this Budget.

Increases in support for post-secondary education and research, especially for basic research, will continue to be essential for Canada's long-term prosperity.

The Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR) is the largest umbrella organization in Canada primarily concerned with the funding of research in all disciplines and support for post-secondary education. Established in 1976, CCR consists of 18 organizations representing more than 50,000 researchers and 500,000 students in a wide range of disciplines across Canada. While the majority of these researchers are based in universities, the constituent organizations have numerous members in government laboratories and in private sector research centres.

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Additional funding measures in the 2011 Budget which may be of interest to CCR members:

- \$53.5 million over 5 years for ten new Canada Excellence Research Chairs
- \$4 million over 3 years for a medical isotope cyclotron at Thunder Bay, Ontario
- \$80 million over 3 years to IRAP for partnerships between colleges and SMEs
- \$5 million per annum to NSERC for 30 new Industrial Research Chairs at colleges
- \$40 million over 2 years to Sustainable Development Technology Canada to support the development and demonstration of new clean technology projects
- \$12 million over 5 years for a Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence
- \$97 million over 2 years for research, development and demonstration of clean energy and energy efficiency
- \$405 million to AECL to cover commercial losses and support AECL's operations including ensuring a secure supply of medical isotopes and maintaining safe and reliable operations at the Chalk River facility
- \$60 million over 3 years to promote increased student enrolment in key disciplines related to the digital economy
- \$34 million to enhance eligibility criteria for Canada Student Loans and Grants for full- and part-time students
- Up to \$10 million in tax relief and RESP assistance for Canadian post-secondary students studying abroad