



## 2011 Federal Budget Highlights

### RESEARCH CANADA'S OVERALL RESPONSE

Research Canada issued a press release expressing its support of the steady, incremental increases of health research funding provided over successive recent federal budgets. While the organization also expresses the view that a lot more can and should be done for health research in Canada, it is important to recognize that these investments send a positive signal that health research matters to the Government of Canada and that

it views research investments as being vital for Canada's long-term competitiveness and productivity growth. (Please see additional comments below).

### DRIVING INNOVATION—CANADA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY STRATEGY

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan sets the stage for the Digital Economy Strategy to make Canada a leader in the creation, adoption and use of digital technologies and content. Budget 2011 measures include:

- Providing \$80 million in new funding over three years through the Industrial Research Assistance Program to help small and medium-sized businesses accelerate their adoption of key information and communications technologies through collaborative projects with colleges.
- Announcing \$60 million over the next three years to promote increased student enrolment in key disciplines related to the digital economy.

### STRENGTHENING CANADA'S RESEARCH ADVANTAGE

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan announces new resources to support leading-edge research, international collaborations, health research of national importance, and the creation of world-class research centres in Canada. Budget 2011 measures include:

- Investing an additional \$37 million per year to support the three federal research granting councils:
  - *NOTE: \$15 million per year for both CIHR and NSERC, and \$7 million for SSHRC*

➔ *Comment: Research Canada stresses the need for the Government of Canada to strengthen its commitment to the upstream investment in discovery research that keeps the commercialization pipeline rich and deep.*

- Providing an additional \$10 million per year, for the Indirect Costs Program, for costs such as those related to operating and maintaining facilities.
  - Investing \$53.5 million over five years to support the creation of 10 new Canada Excellence Research Chairs.
- *Comment: Research Canada makes the point that while the Canada Research Chairs program is a critical program for supporting established scientists, it is not; however, a replacement for a continuum of career-development programs that protects our human capital at every stage of their training. Sustainable funding models for salary support for health researchers are urgently required if we are going to protect our pool of talent for business innovation and productivity growth.*
- Allocating up to \$100 million to help establish a Canada Brain Research Fund to support the very best Canadian neuroscience, and accelerate discoveries to improve the health and quality of life for Canadians who suffer from brain disorders.
    - *Note: funding to be matched by partners of Brain Canada*
  - Providing an additional \$65 million for Genome Canada to continue its groundbreaking work.
    - *Note: this additional funding is to launch a new competition in the area of human health, and sustain the operating costs of Genome Canada and Genome Centres until 2013–14.*
  - Investing \$4 million over three years to support the construction of a cyclotron for the production of medical isotopes at the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute.
  - Providing \$35 million over five years to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to support excellence in climate and atmospheric research at Canadian post-secondary institutions.
  - Providing \$50 million over five years, beginning in 2012–13, to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics to support its leading research, education and public outreach activities.
    - *Note: funding to be matched by partners of the Perimeter Institute*

## FOSTERING COMMERCIALIZATION AND BUSINESS INNOVATION

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan supports the creation of high-value jobs with targeted resources to improve commercialization and support demonstration of new technologies in the marketplace. Budget 2011 measures include:

- Supporting 30 new Industrial Research Chairs at colleges with \$3 million in 2011–12 and \$5 million a year on a permanent basis starting in 2012–13.
- Allocating \$12 million over five years, starting in 2011–12, through the Idea to Innovation program to support joint college-university commercialization projects.

- Providing \$40 million over two years to Sustainable Development Technology Canada to continue to support the development and demonstration of new clean technology projects.
- Supporting the operations of the National Optics Institute with \$45 million over five years.

➤ *Comment: Research Canada emphasizes the importance of the need to support the entire cycle of R&D, from discovery, through to product development and commercialization, to the marketplace and to health-care settings. It also underscored the need to invest in a balanced fashion across the continuum of activities that, in aggregate, comprise an innovation system that is predicated on research and development.*

## PROMOTING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Next Phase of Canada's Economic Action Plan helps Canadians get the education and skills they need to succeed with new budget measures that include:

- Enhancing and expanding eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants for part-time and full-time post-secondary students with an investment of over \$34 million a year once fully implemented.
- Investing \$9 million over two years to expand adult basic education programming in the territories to increase employment opportunities for Northerners.
- Providing up to \$10 million a year in tax relief and Registered Education Savings Plan assistance to the increasing number of Canadian post-secondary students who study abroad.
- Providing \$10 million over two years to develop and implement an international education strategy that will reinforce Canada as a country of choice to study and conduct world-class research.
- Encouraging skills certification by making all occupational, trade and professional examination fees eligible for tax relief.

## ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS OF NOTE

### *Establishing a Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence*

Canadian post-secondary institutions are becoming more globally connected and strengthening their research linkages with peer institutions in emerging markets, particularly in India. Our universities and colleges have worked to establish important academic exchanges and research collaborations with Indian students, researchers and faculty. In addition to building stronger research ties and creating valuable learning opportunities, these partnerships will generate positive impacts for Canada's economy and society.

As part of the Government's wider India engagement strategy, Budget 2011 provides \$12 million over five years for a competition to select a Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence, open to proposals in all areas of research. The centre will focus on creating partnerships that bring together key individuals and organizations from Canada and India, accelerating the exchange of research results, and increasing Canada's international visibility and reputation as a research leader.

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## **PALLIATIVE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE**

- For people who are living with a life-threatening illness, no matter how old they are, appropriate palliative and end-of-life care ensures respect for the person nearing death and maximizes quality of life for the patient, family and loved ones. The Government supports various programming and initiatives related to palliative and end-of-life care. Budget 2011 will provide one-time funding of \$3 million to help support the development of new community-integrated palliative care models.