



CAP Calls for Federal Policy to Fund “Big Science”

In a brief submitted to the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, CAP is urging the Federal Government to put together a plan for the establishment of new national research facilities and for the long-term funding and maintenance of existing facilities. CAP also urges the government to look beyond individual government departments

and agencies, and to solicit advice from the broader Science and Technology community. “CAP’s position is that excellence and importance of the scientific project should be the chief criteria for all new Canadian investment in science, and that peer review is the fundamental keystone of these decisions.” See [CAP Brief and Letter to PM](#).

NSERC Discovery Grant Program International Review

The [International Committee](#) established to review NSERC’s Discovery Grant (DG) Program published its findings on May 2. The report is an excellent overview of the current state of the DG Program. Overall, the Committee reported that the DG Program, in combination with other NSERC and non-NSERC funding sources, is supporting research excellence in Canada at a world class level. The report notes that the DG program will hand out \$328M to 10,300 researchers in 2007/08, but that the funding awarded in 2007 was only 38% of the total requested by all applicants (successful and unsuccessful). The Committee offered 5 recommendations:

1. Review applications according to merit cri-

teria without reference to previous DG funding level.

2. Increase the number of [Discovery Accelerator Supplements](#).

3. Increase support for training post doctoral fellows.

4. Fund the DG Program at a level sufficient to prevent the average grant size from decreasing in real (constant dollar) terms.

5. Revise the Grant Selection Committee (GSC) structure.

Word is out that the GSC Structure Review Committee will recommend that NSERC adopt a Conference Model for reviewing DGs. Stay tuned for the interim report due out at the end of May.

TRIUMF Crafting a 5-Year Vision (submitted by Tim Meyer)

TRIUMF works with the Canadian scientific community to address compelling science and technology questions that transcend the capabilities of individual institutions. Initially launched by three universities as a facility for intermediate-energy nuclear physics, TRIUMF has now grown to be a truly nationwide effort that includes particle physics, molecular and

materials science, and life science. The bulk of TRIUMF’s operations are funded through 5-year agreements with the National Research Council. TRIUMF is using a public process to formulate a new vision for the cycle that begins in 2010. Details and timelines can be found on [TRIUMF’s website](#).

CAP Communications Committee — Help Wanted !

The CAP is seeking volunteers to stand on a new Communications Committee. Communications is becoming increasingly important within the CAP and there is a need to expand interactions/connections among members. The Communications Committee consists of the CAP Director of Communications (Chair), the Editor of Physics in Canada and 3 representatives from the CAP membership. The Com-

mittee is responsible for enabling effective communications between the CAP Executive, CAP Council and the membership; and among members, including Division Chairs and Friends of CAP. The Committees responsibilities will include the CAP Website, News Bulletin and information brochures. If you are interested, please contact Bill Whelan (wwhelan@upei.ca, 902.566.0419).

Community News

Dr. Neil Turok has been appointed Executive Director of [Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics](#).

NSERC announces [CREATE Program](#) to support HQP training.

CAP announces results of University Prize Examination:

1. Mark York, Queen's
2. Cedric Lin, UBC
3. Alan Robinson, UBC

For a complete list of winners see [Lloyd G Elliott Prize](#).

News items can be submitted to wwhelan@upei.ca

Educational Trust Fund

The [CAP Educational Trust Fund](#) supports important education and outreach activities, including the CAP lecture tours, university and high school prize exams, the Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference and the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

So when you renew your CAP membership, please consider giving to the ETF.

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