



## CAP Presents its First Ever Brief to the House of Commons Finance Committee

Since June, the major activity of the newly reconstituted Science Policy Committee (SPC) was the preparation of two briefs to the House of Commons Finance Committee (HCFC). The first brief was created for, and submitted by, the CAP (its first ever to the HCFC), while the SPC Chair took the lead in finalizing a brief on behalf of the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR), the main umbrella group for lobbying on behalf of the whole research community.

The CAP recommendations were based on the results of a survey of its members sent at the end of July. With the exception of its industrial members, the results were remarkably consistent, with priorities going, in order of preference, to more Discovery Grant money, better support for infrastructure, and the creation of a Canadian Neutron Centre. The CAP's brief to the House of Commons Finance Committee puts the emphasis on these priorities, with TRIUMF forming a key part of the infrastructure recommendation.

### **The CAP recommends to the HCFC that :**

1. NSERC's budget for basic science (its "Discovery Grants Program") be increased by 10%. Cost: about \$40M p.a.
2. Canada start detailed planning to supersede the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor in Chalk River with the proposed Canadian

*Neutron Centre, a world-class multi-purpose facility for advanced research with neutron beams, for nuclear power R&D, and for isotope production. A formal design and costing would require about \$5M.*

3. Significant new funding be provided for the costs of major science infrastructure, not covered by ongoing programs. Specifically, CAP recommends renewal of funding for TRIUMF and a doubling of NSERC's Major Resources Support Program. Cost: about \$96M p.a.

For their part, the CCR recommendations noted below were based on vigorous discussions over several months at the CCR Steering Committee, at which the two CAP members played a leading role, and overlap significantly with those of the CAP brief.

### **CCR recommends to the HCFC that:**

1. The government augment the funding for basic research by increasing by 5% the base budgets of the three granting councils and of Genome Canada, with any new targeted initiatives being funded separately and in full consultation with the research community. Cost: about \$100M p.a.
2. The funding for the indirect costs of university research rise to represent 40 percent of the direct costs allocated to the granting councils. Cost: about \$200M p.a.

(The full briefs are available on the CAP website.)

## Five-year and joint CASCA/CAP Memberships coming in 2010

Starting in January 2010, the CAP is introducing two changes to its membership procedures. To decrease administrative hassles for its members, **five-year memberships** will be available as of next year. This new option will also allow members to renew at current price levels, adding flexibility to the actual structure, without affecting the CAP's finances.

Recognizing that many of its members' interests bridge disciplines, CAP is also expanding its collaborations with related

scientific societies. CAP members can already benefit from a 30 percent reduction in their membership fees at both societies when they are a member of both the CAP and the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) or the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP). A new agreement with CASCA means that, starting in 2010, these reduced membership fees will also be available to those working at the frontier of physics and astronomy. Don't forget to mention this good news to your astrophysicist colleagues!

## Community News

The 45th Annual Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference, was hosted by the Department of Physics at the University of Alberta, from October 1 to 5. The CUPC also included a Graduate Studies and Career Fair on October 4th.

The Fourth Canada-America-Mexico (CAM) Graduate Student Physics Conference will take place in Acapulco Mexico, October 22-24. Through the support of a number of companies and organizations, the CAP is able to support registration, local expenses and partial travel for 30 graduate students from Canadian universities.

## 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.

The Educational Trust Fund urgently needs your support in order to continue the sponsorship of these important activities in support of physics education and outreach in Canada!

Tax deductible donations can be made to the ETF at any time via the CAP website.

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