



CAP NEWS

**CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICISTS**

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CAP Submits Brief to HCFC

As it did in the previous two years, the CAP has submitted a Brief to the House of Commons Finance Committee, in preparation for the 2012 Federal Budget. CAP's three recommendations are:

1. That the federal government augment the Granting Councils' budgets by a modest 5%, directed to their programs that support basic research. Cost about \$120M p.a.
2. That the proposed savings from the reduction in the Canada Graduate Scholarships program be used to fund doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships in universities and industry, by re-directing the funds to the existing Granting Council programs. Cost \$17.5M p.a., funding for example 415 doctoral students and 250 postdoctoral fellowships each year.
3. At a time when the federal government, like many others, is aggressively pursuing reductions in spending, that Canada emulate many European governments by recognizing the unique importance of government science and ensuring that all essential government research programs are funded appropriately to meet their mandates.

The Brief was prepared by the CAP Science Policy Committee under the leadership of Paul Vincett, after a consultation where a record 188 CAP members provided input. The highly documented arguments leading to the three recommendations can be read in the [full 5-page Brief](#).

Stoicheff Campaign Doubles Target

The Optical Society of America Foundation and the CAP, through the Educational Trust Fund, have established the Boris P. Stoicheff Memorial Scholarship. The goal is to permanently endow a graduate student scholarship in Dr. Stoicheff's name, to be awarded in alternate years to a graduate student in Canada and the United States. The fund raising campaign in Canada and the United States had a target of \$40,000, half the amount coming from each partner.

The Canadian leg of the campaign was coordinated by then CAP President Henry van Driel. Due to the generosity of CAP members and friends of Dr. Stoicheff, almost \$45,000 has been raised to date, more than twice the CAP target of \$20,000.

PEO Statement RE Natural Science

The Executive Committee of the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO), at its August 8th meeting, approved the following statement clarifying its relationship with the practice of natural science:

PEO has no jurisdiction over the practice of natural science. Under the Professional Engineers Act, it regulates the practice of professional engineering. Where PEO is concerned a person not licensed by PEO might be practising professional engineering in addition to natural science, the Overlapping Practices Committee will be consulted.

This statement now appears on the first page of the PEO website (www.peo.on.ca) in a section reserved for 'permanent items'. In addition PEO will also cite the clarification in its publications wherever appropriate. The Overlapping Practices Committee, with a balanced representation of natural scientists and professional engineers, has the expertise required to help PEO resolve disputes early. The statement concludes the long negotiations begun last fall following amendments to the Ontario Professional Engineering Act which had removed from the definition of professional engineering an important exemption for practicing as a natural scientist.

CAM 2011

The [5th Canada-America-Mexico Graduate Student Physics Conference](#) will take place at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, DC, from September 29th to October 1st. On the Canadian side, thirty one students have submitted abstracts and are expected to participate. Twenty eight of these, who have applied and are eligible, will receive CAP scholarships provided by the Educational Trust Fund, which cover registration fees and part of travel expenses. Previous CAM conferences were held in Merida, San Diego, Montréal and Acapulco. Invited speakers include Canadian physicists Heather Logan (Carleton), Kris Poduska (Memorial) and Alexander Lvovsky (Calgary). Walter Davidson and David Lockwood (both at NRC) will also participate to CAM 2011 in panel discussions.

Canada will be hosting the CAM 2013 conference at a location to be determined shortly after the CAM 2011 conference is concluded.

Community News

[An International physics team involving Canadians sees hint that neutrino mysteries are ready to be solved.](#)

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