



CAP NEWS

CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF
PHYSICISTS

Volume 11, Number 5
September 20, 2012

Letter to NSERC regarding RTI

NSERC is currently consulting the research community regarding the future of the RTI program. The future of this program is currently under consideration as a direct outcome of cuts to the federal budget. Based on these cuts, NSERC anticipates that the total amount of funding available will be between \$6M and \$10M annually; at the best-case scenario of a \$10M allocation, this value would translate to a cut of nearly 70% compared to 2010-2011 funding allocations. Continuing to respond in a timely way to ongoing NSERC issues, the CAP has offered feedback to NSERC regarding the changes to the RTI program through a letter written and sent to NSERC (<http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2012-09-12/cap-sends-letter-nserc-re-rti-program>).

CAP/NSERC Survey Results

The CAP survey of its members regarding changes made to the Discovery Grant (DG) program since 2008 is now completed. Following cancellation of the Research Tools and Instrumentation (RTI) and Major Research Support (MRS) programs in April 2012, feedback on these programs was also requested in the survey. The summary of the survey, compiled by Drs. Barbara Frisken (Director of Academic Affairs for CAP) in consultation with Gabor Kunstatter (President, CAP), Mike Roney (Past President, CAP), and John Dutcher (Chair, CAP NSERC Liaison Committee) is available on the CAP website (<http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2012-08-27/summary-capnserc-survey-results-and-observations>).

CAP submission to House of Commons Finance Committee

The CAP Science Policy Committee, in consultation with the CAP's Council, prepared responses for federal measures are needed to meet the challenges presented by: i) economic recovery and growth, ii) job creation, iii) demographic change, iv) productivity, and v) other challenges. The document available on the CAP website (<http://www.cap.ca/en/news/2012-07-29/cap-submission-house-commons-finance-committee>) concluded that a strong science, technology, and innovation community is important to each of the areas mentioned above.

Council of Canadian Academies Report

The Council of Canadian Academies report of the international expert panel on science performance and research funding was published in July 2012. The panel assessed that a combination of performance indicators and expert judgment are the best formula for determining how to allocate science funding. The panel's chair commented, "the most significant finding of this panel is that quantitative indicators are best interpreted by experts with a deep and nuanced understanding of the research funding contexts in question, and the scientific issues, problems, questions and opportunities at stake." Other panel findings include: a determination that many science indicators and assessment approaches are sufficiently robust; international best practices offer limited insight into science indicator use and assessment strategies; and mapping research funding allocation directly to quantitative indicators is far too simplistic, and is not a realistic strategy for Canada.

Educational Trust Fund

The Educational Trust Fund (<http://www.cap.ca/en/activities/educational-trust-fund>) helps CAP members to develop physics outreach activities for traditional audiences or projects for engaging the public. It provides resources and advice to help physicists share their passion with public audiences. Innovative ideas and new approaches are particularly encouraged. The most notable activities supported by the ETF are: i) the annual CAP Lecture Tour, ii) the High School and University Prize exams, iii) the Canadian Undergraduate Conference, iv) the Canada-wide Science fair and v) the Physics Olympiad preparation. The ETF needs your support in order to continue supporting these activities. *Please give generously!*



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2012 CAP Congress

The 2012 Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2012>), the largest physics meeting in Canada, took place in Calgary during June 11-15. The event was attended by over 600 physics researchers from universities, industry, and government labs. The meeting offered its usual outstanding scientific program of plenary sessions, invited sessions, contributed sessions, and poster sessions. The next CAP Congress (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2013>) will take place in Montreal from May 27-31, 2013.

New Book Review Editor for Physics in Canada

The Editorial Board of Physics in Canada welcomes Dr. Richard Marchand as the new Book Review Editor. Dr. Marchand (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~rmarchan/>) will encourage members to select books for review, will approve requests for books, ensuring book reviews are received, will edit the submitted book reviews for posting on the CAP website and publishing in Physics in Canada and, when appropriate, will identify books that could be targeted for a feature book review.

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference 2012

The Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (<http://www.cap.ca/en/students-educators/canadian-undergraduate-physics-conference>), one of the largest of its kind in North America will be hosted this year by University of British Columbia during October 25-29. Students involved in research, as well as several notable speakers, will present on a variety of topics including astronomy & astrophysics, nuclear and particle physics, biomedical engineering, and quantum nanoelectronics. Sponsors include: UBC, CAP (through the ETF fund), COMP, SNOLAB, CINP, Centre for Quantum Information and Quantum Control, Physics 24/7, PIMS, TRIUMF, IQC.

CAM 2013 at the University of Waterloo

The Canadian-Mexican-American (CAM) graduate student physics conference will be held in Waterloo from August 15-18, 2013. This conference provides an opportunity for graduate students to share the results of their research with their peers and to network with other students on an international level. CAM also features plenary talks as well as panel sessions with senior researchers. Please stay tuned to <http://www.cap.ca/CAM2013> for more details as the conference approaches.

CAP Joins the International Association of Physics Students

We are proud to announce that the CAP has become a national member of the International Association of Physics Students (IAPS). The IAPS (<http://www.iaps.info/>) is an association of physics students and student societies from around the globe, working to promote peaceful collaboration. The IAPS runs an annual conference, visits to global research institutions, summer schools, exchange programs and multinational meetings all over the world.

CAP News is a publication of the **Canadian Association of Physicists**

Suite 112, McDonald Building, University of Ottawa, 150 Louis Pasteur Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N5

Tel: 613-562-5614 Fax: 613-562-5615 Email: CAP@uottawa.ca

Website: www.cap.ca

Editor: Adriana Predoi-Cross, CAP Director of Communications