



Science Funding in Canada Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP)

Who we are:

- o An association representing physicists across Canada
- o Currently over 1700 members within academia, government, industry, and hospitals
- o A member of the Canadian Consortium for Research (20 organizations representing 50,000 researchers)
- o Our goal: to promote awareness of the vital role of research, science and technology in society

Importance of Science and Technology

- o Science and technology are the engines of long term growth and prosperity
- o Future jobs in the knowledge economy require highly qualified personnel
- o The world is much more competitive with the emergence of growing economies (China, India)

Canadian Research and Science Infrastructure

- o Most long-term research is conducted in universities
- o Training of most highly qualified personnel is done in universities
- o For these reasons, we must ensure adequate capacity within the universities
- o Key research funding agencies for physics: NSERC (operating funds) and CFI (infrastructure funds)

Recommendations (as submitted to FINA the House of Commons Finance Committee)

1. Expand the NSERC Discovery Grant program at a rate of \$15M per year until it reaches a level equivalent to its 2002 level adjusted for inflation and growth in GDP and population, because this program provides a critical foundation for Canadian innovation capacity.
[Supports "Productivity" and "Jobs"]
2. That funding of merit-based NSERC Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Fellowship programs be increased by \$86 million per year, phased in over 3 years, to a level that can support at least 2500 Postgraduate Scholarships and 300 Postdoctoral Fellowship awards per year to keep pace with the growth of industrial and academic needs for new highly qualified personnel.
[Supports "Productivity" and "Jobs"]
3. That current gaps in medium scale infrastructure funding be addressed by two measures: 1) that the CFI MSI fund be renewed and expanded by at least \$50M for the next five-year cycle beginning in 2016 to allow for the funding of the operating costs of a larger number of facilities; and 2) that an additional \$10M per year be given to NSERC to expand its RTI program to cover equipment up to \$1.5M through an annual competition.
[Supports "Infrastructure" and "Productivity"]

Please feel free to contact the CAP for further information.