

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

YEAR IN REVIEW 2007-2008
(APRIL 2007-MARCH 2008)

Canada 

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

When the Government of Canada launched the Canada Research Chairs Program in 2000, it aimed to establish 2,000 research professorships in universities across the nation. This would strengthen research capacity in Canadian universities and increase their ability to attract and retain the world's most accomplished and promising minds.

As of March 31, 2008, the Chairs Program has achieved its aims. With a total investment of nearly \$2 billion, 1,833 Chairs have now been recruited to 70 Canadian universities. Since the inception of the program, universities have recruited close to 600 researchers from abroad, 46 per cent of whom have been Canadian expatriates.

Of the 372 nominations approved this year, almost two-thirds were renewals of existing Chairs. Thanks to the program's collaboration with the Canada Foundation for Innovation, more than 130 of these Chairs also received over \$20 million in grants for infrastructure that will support their work.

The Canada Research Chairs Program is an integral part of Canada's federal Science and Technology Strategy (S&T strategy), launched in May 2007, which seeks to strengthen Canada's global competitiveness.

Canada Research Chairs are deepening the knowledge base that will support Canada's society and economy in the 21st century. For example, 80 per cent of Chairs are conducting research in Canada's four areas of research strength identified in the S&T strategy. Other Chairs are creating and mobilizing knowledge in important areas of social policy, such as the North and the Arctic, Canadian culture, security and defence, and education and literacy.

Canada Research Chairs are also helping to train the next generation of Canadian researchers and leaders, ensuring Canada's continued success in the global knowledge economy.

On behalf of the Canada Research Chairs Program, I would like to thank all Members of Parliament and the Canadian public for their continued support.

Yours in research,

Chad Gaffield, PhD, FRSC
Chair, Canada Research Chairs Program Steering Committee
President, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council



THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS PROGRAM

Program context and description

The Canada Research Chairs Program, a permanent program created in 2000, seeks to establish Canada as a research leader in the competitive environment of the global knowledge-based economy. The Government of Canada allocates \$300 million a year through this program to support research professorships—known as Canada Research Chairs—in Canadian universities. As of March 31, 2008, 70 universities were eligible for the program, 1,833 chairholders were active, and nearly \$2 billion had been invested in the program.

To support Canada's research excellence and expand its research capacity, the Chairs Program aims to achieve the following objectives: to attract and retain excellent researchers in Canadian universities; to improve universities' capacity for generating and applying new knowledge; to strengthen the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP); and to optimize the use of research resources through strategic planning.

The Canada Research Chairs Program, a tri-agency program, is administered by a permanent secretariat within the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The program is governed by a Steering Committee composed of the presidents of the three federal granting agencies (the Canadian Institutes of Health Research [CIHR], SSHRC and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council [NSERC]), the president and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), and the deputy minister of Industry Canada. Chairs are awarded on the basis of a rigorous peer-review process that includes a college of reviewers, the Interdisciplinary Adjudication Committee and the Program Steering Committee.

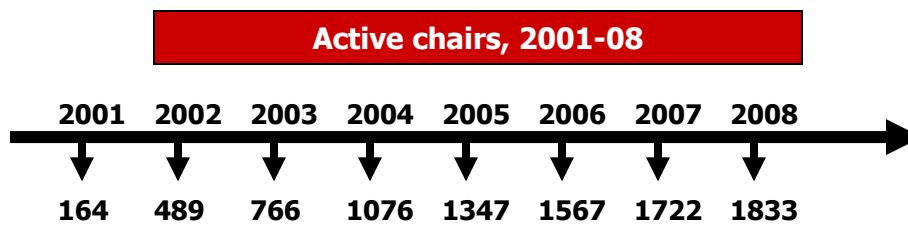
The number of Chairs allocated to a university is in accordance with the amount of funding provided by the three federal granting agencies over the previous three years to that university's researchers (including funding provided to researchers working in an affiliated health research institution or hospital). The breakdown of Chairs by federal granting agency is as follows: 20 per cent to research in social sciences and humanities, 35 per cent to research in health sciences, and 45 per cent to research in natural sciences and engineering. There is also an allotment of 120 special Chairs provided to smaller universities to build research capacity.

At its outset, the Canada Research Chairs Program had the goal of ensuring that the 2,000 Chairs were awarded to Canadian universities by 2007-08. The Program Secretariat is proud to report that this objective has been achieved (the year 2005 marked the first year that all Chairs were allocated). As of March 31, 2008, 1,833 chairholders were active in Canadian universities (see



Chart 1 below). In the initial years of the program implementation, the number of Chairs allocated to universities was increasing, as was the number of active chairholders. As the program enters its mature phase, it is expected that new implementation considerations will arise. For example, in 2007-08, for the first time since the program's inception, the number of renewal nominations surpassed the number of new nominations.

Chart 1: Number of active chairs, 2001-08



As for all government programs, accountability is a priority for the Chairs program. As a result, the program has adopted a number of approaches to ensure accountability among chairholders, institutions and the program itself. These include annual reporting by both institutions and chairholders, financial reviews of institutions' and chairholders' accounts during the course of tri-agency financial monitoring visits, an internal audit scheduled for 2009-10, and a 10th-year evaluation to be carried out in 2009-10. The summative evaluation will examine whether the program continues to be relevant, the extent to which it has achieved its objectives and the results and impacts made. Planning for the evaluation will commence in 2008-09.

For a detailed description of the Canada Research Chairs Program, please consult the program's website at www.chairs.gc.ca.



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 2007-08

During the 2007-08 fiscal year (April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008), 372 nominations were approved for Canada Research Chairs Program funding (see Table 1 for complete breakdown). As indicated earlier, renewal nominations—which represented 64 per cent of total nominations—surpassed for the first time new nominations (36 per cent of total nominations). This brought the total count of active chairholders to 1,833 (see Table 2 for the breakdown by granting agency).

Approved nominations

Table 1: Approved nominations in 2007–08

Type of nomination	Gender	Tier ¹	NSERC	CIHR	SSHRC	Total
New	Women	1	3	2	3	8
		2	17	14	10	41
	Men	1	13	13	3	29
		2	33	13	10	56
Total new nominations			66	42	26	134
Renewal	Women	1	4	3	7	14
		2	8	10	7	25
	Men	1	51	41	16	108
		2	49	24	18	91
Total renewal nominations			112	78	48	238
Total all nominations			178	120	74	372

¹Tier 2 Chairs (\$100,000 per year for five years) are awarded to excellent emerging researchers. Tier 1 Chairs (\$200,000 per year for seven years) are awarded to outstanding senior researchers who are recognized as international experts in their fields.



Table 2: Breakdown of active Chairs by federal granting agency

Research in social sciences and humanities	Research in health sciences	Research in natural sciences and engineering
401 (23%)	606 (33%)	826 (45%)

Support requests submitted to CFI

The program maintains close ties with CFI. Universities may submit a request for infrastructure support to CFI at the same time as they submit a nomination for funding of a Canada Research Chair to the program. Each year, between 100 and 200 candidates for Canada Research Chairs submit a request to CFI for support. In 2007-08, CFI allocated 131 awards, amounting to \$20,953,957. In 2008-09, the success rate of chairholder requests for infrastructure support submitted to CFI was 100 per cent.

Table 3: Approved support requests submitted to CFI in 2007-08

Type of nomination	Gender	Tier	NSERC	CIHR	SSHRC	Total
New	Women	1	2	0	0	2
		2	15	9	7	31
	Men	1	10	8	1	19
		2	25	10	5	40
			52	27	13	92
Renewal	Women	1	1	1	0	2
		2	2	3	2	7
	Men	1	7	5	2	14
		2	9	5	2	16
			19	14	6	39
			71	41	19	131



INVESTMENT TRENDS

Since 2002, the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat has asked each university to produce an annual report providing a statement of expenditures for the current year as well as information concerning the impact of the program, including associated funding from CFI. In 2005, the Secretariat introduced an annual report for chairholders that also collects information on program results (see the next section for a summary of these impacts).

In 2007-08, all universities (70) and 1,481 chairholders submitted annual reports. As part of the program's continuing performance and evaluation strategy, a new annual report was launched during this fiscal year in order to collect more accurate and detailed information.

Statement of expenditures

Each university must submit an annual statement to the Secretariat showing how each chairholder has spent the funding received. Table 4 (below) shows the amounts for different categories of expenditures, as well as the corresponding proportion of total funding from the Canada Research Chairs Program spent in 2007-08.



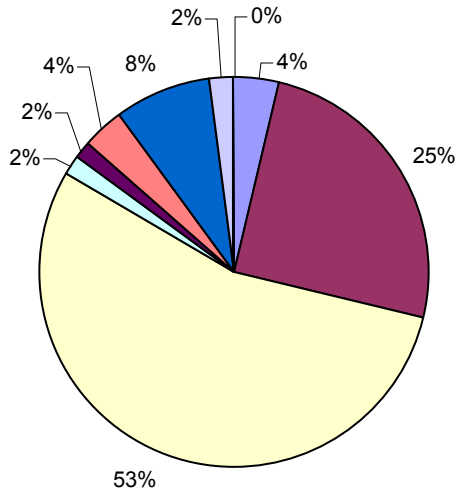
Table 4: Allocation of funds in 2007-08

Expenditure categories	Amount (\$), 2007-08	Proportion (%), 2007-08
Student salaries	8,215,335	3.3
Non-student salaries	23,584,483	9.4
Chairholder salary and benefits	186,910,722	74.8
Professional services or contracts and technology	1,695,299	0.6
Equipment (including motor vehicles)	1,625,422	0.7
Materials, supplies and other expenses	6,888,930	2.8
Administration costs related to the Chair	16,742,708	6.7
Travel expenses	3,706,101	1.5
Allocation for teaching replacement to allow for research	405,421	0.2
	249,774,421	100

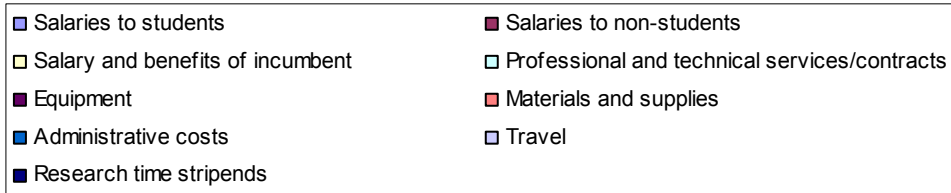
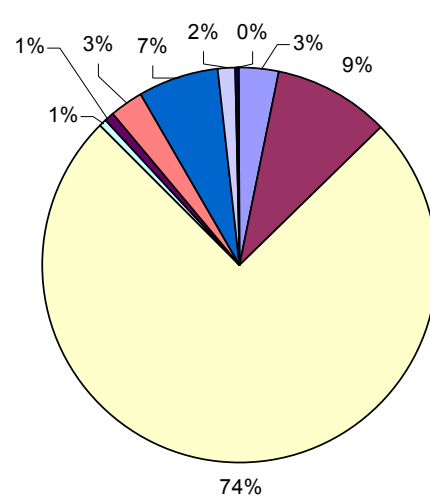


The following charts show the distribution of funds at the beginning of the program (2002-03 is the earliest period of time for which complete data is available) and now, in 2007-08. Certain trends can be observed in how the funds have been used since the program was put in place. While most of the funding goes toward chairholder salaries, this proportion has increased—from approximately 50 per cent at the outset to approximately 75 per cent today. At the same time, investments in non-student salaries have fallen steadily, from around 20 per cent in early years to approximately 10 per cent today. All other areas have remained relatively constant.

**Chart 2:
Allocation of funds in 2002-03**



**Chart 3:
Allocation of Funds in 2007-08**





PROGRAM IMPACTS

The Canada Research Chairs Program seeks to make Canada a research leader in the competitive environment of the global knowledge-based economy. It is at the centre of a national strategy intended to strengthen Canada's long-standing and proud tradition of research excellence. As outlined below, the reports of institutions and individual chairholders demonstrate that the program met its objectives in 2007-08.

We are also providing a snapshot this year of how Canada Research Chairs are contributing to the knowledge base that supports government priority areas—namely, S&T strategy and other government priority areas.

Science and technology strategy

Canada's federal S&T strategy, *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage*, released in May 2007, sets out a multiyear plan to improve Canada's competitiveness through the use of science and technology. This plan recognizes that talented, skilled, creative people are the most critical element of a successful national economy. The Canada Research Chairs Program contributes to this People Advantage.

The federal S&T strategy also outlines four priority research areas, which represent the principal clusters of prominent Canadian S&T strengths as judged against international standards of excellence: environmental sciences and technologies; natural resources and energy; health and related life sciences and technologies; and information and communication technologies. These priorities were identified in an assessment¹ conducted by the Council of Canadian Academies in 2006, who, at the request of the Government of Canada, explored Canada's strengths in S&T.

It is evident that Canada Research Chairs have contributed significantly to these areas of Canadian strength, as 80 per cent of chairholders conduct research in one or more of the areas targeted by the strategy (see Table 5). The highest area of concentration is found in the area of health and related life sciences and technologies. As interdisciplinary research becomes a common practice for many researchers, several chairholders' disciplines relate to more than one of the S&T priority areas. Therefore, it should be noted that the research areas are not mutually exclusive. The breakdown is as follows:

¹ <http://www.scienceadvice.ca/documents/Complete%20Report.pdf>



- ▶ 51 per cent of chairholders’ research programs are in health and related life sciences technologies (100 per cent of CIHR chairholders; 32 per cent of NSERC chairholders; 17 per cent of SSHRC chairholders). Their research programs cover a broad range of biomedical, clinical, health services and policy, and population and public health research areas. This includes such topics as genomics, diabetes, food safety, nutraceuticals, e-health, the social determinants of community health and the neurobiology of drug abuse.
- ▶ 15 per cent of chairholders are conducting research in the environmental sciences and technologies (28 per cent of NSERC chairholders; 10 per cent of SSHRC chairholders; less than 1 per cent of CIHR chairholders), studying and innovating in fields such as water quality, climate modelling, sustainable community development, and global environmental politics.
- ▶ 14 per cent of chairholders’ research is related to information and communication technologies, looking to advance knowledge in quantum information, bioinformatics, e-commerce and e-learning, to name a few.
- ▶ 8 per cent of chairholders are researching questions regarding natural resources and energy (17 per cent of NSERC chairholders; 12 per cent of SSHRC chairholders), studying, for example, glaciology, alternative fuel cells, clean energy systems, oil and gas policy, and resource management.

Table 5: S&T priority research areas and chairholder disciplines

S&T priority research areas	NSERC chairholders	CIHR chairholders	SSHRC chairholders	Totals
Environmental sciences and technologies	234/826 (28%)	2/606 (0.3%)	41/401 (10%)	277/1,833 (15%)
Natural resources and energy	137/826 (17%)	0/606 (0%)	9/401 (2%)	146/1,833 (8%)
Health and related life sciences and technologies	268/826 (32%)	606/606 (100%)	67/401 (17%)	940/1,833 (51%)
Information and communication technologies	200/826 (24%)	0/606 (0%)	47/401 (12%)	247/1,833 (14%)



Other Government Priority Areas

Canada Research Chairs are also conducting research in a variety of other subject areas that provide important foundations for policies and decision-making in areas of importance to Canadians. These include: the North and the Arctic; Aboriginal Canadians; Canadian culture; the well-being of children; community development; crime prevention; security and defence; and education and literacy.

Reported results and impacts

The information collected from universities and chairholders consistently confirms the importance of the Canada Research Chairs Program for Canada's research environment, outcomes and impacts. According to their feedback, the objectives of the Chairs program are being met. The program is described as instrumental in retaining and attracting world-class scientists to foster new research directions. It is a catalyst for the creation of research teams, where top researchers, students, trainees and technicians come together to strengthen research clusters of utmost importance to the social and economic development of Canada.

Our Canada Research Chairs research programs and accompanying CFI-funded equipment also benefit the community at large, economically, socially and environmentally, making our community and region a better place to live and work for all.

Thompson Rivers University

Recruitment and retention of top researchers

The Canada Research Chairs program plays a major role in attracting and retaining some of the world's most accomplished and promising minds to Canada. Since the beginning of the program, universities have tended to submit nominations for researchers that are already on their faculty, therefore using the funding as a retention tool, followed by for researchers from foreign universities (see Chart 4). This remains the trend for the 2007-08 candidates (see Table 6).

Recruitment of researchers from outside of Canada increased steadily until 2005, when it then began to decline. Again, this is due in part to the balance being tipped in favor of renewal nominations as opposed to new nominations. Nonetheless, since the inception of the Canada



Research Chairs program, universities have been able to recruit close to 600 researchers from abroad, 46 per cent of whom have been Canadian expatriates.

Chart 4: Chair Recruitment origin by year, 2000-08

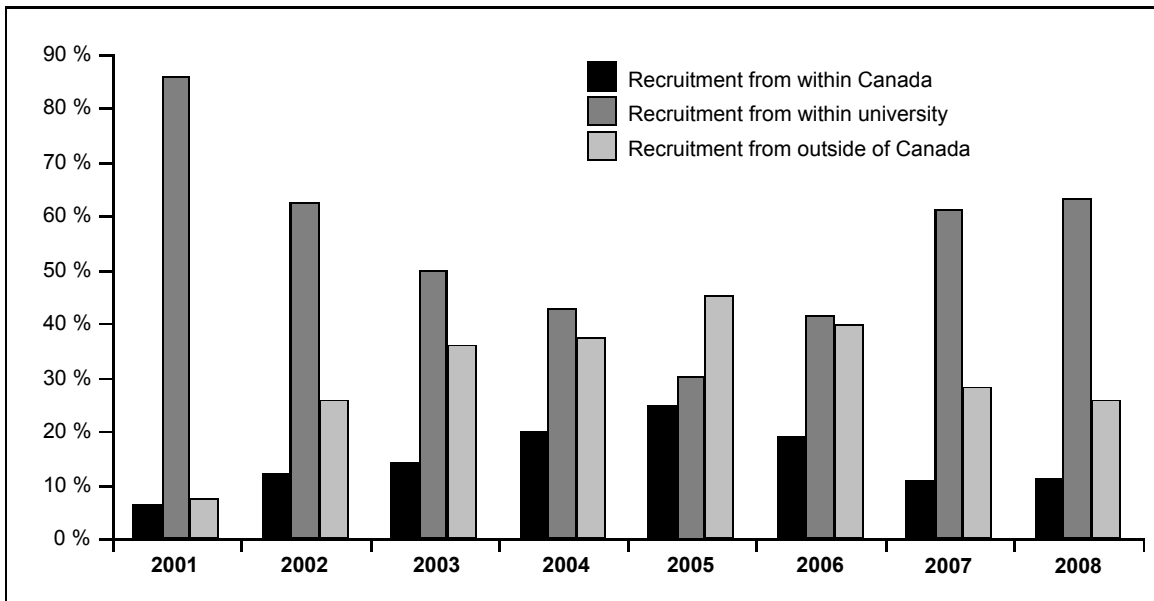


Table 6: Place of origin of candidates, 2007-08

Place of origin	Approved nominations
University submitting the nomination	230
Another Canadian university	40
Canadian institution other than a university	3
Foreign university	85
Foreign institution other than a university	14
	372



Many universities and chairholders describe the program as a critical factor for faculty retention. As one university explains:

Retaining top researchers in Canada has always been a challenge. As research becomes a global enterprise, competition from other countries and regions around the world like India, China and Europe has made it more difficult to keep our best scientists in Canada. The Canada Research Chairs Program has had a significant impact on our ability to retain our top researchers and allow them to grow their research programs.

The University of Western Ontario

When asked to rate the importance of the Chairs awards (including the associated CFI funding) to the institution's ability to retain top researchers, the majority of universities answered "very important" (53 per cent) and "important" (39 per cent). The program is described as enhancing the institutions' competitiveness to retain faculty because it not only enables the university to offer better working conditions (more attractive compensation package, better infrastructure, more time available for research by way of reduced teaching loads and reduced administrative responsibilities), but also creates an exciting research climate and brings recognition and prestige to both the chairholder and the university.

The Canada Research Chairs Program is not only an essential tool for stimulating all types of research activities, but also helps attract and, in particular, retain high-calibre researchers, including exceptional students.

Université de Moncton

Fewer universities rated as highly the importance of the program's role with regards to the institution's ability to attract researchers, either from outside Canada (33 per cent very important and 17 per cent important) or inside Canada (34 per cent very important; seven per cent important). Many institutions rated the impact on attraction as "not applicable," since they used their Chair allocation to renew existing chairholder's mandates. Nonetheless, those who did use the funding as a recruitment tool described it as a well-known incentive for top researchers to join an institution. Some universities, mainly large ones, continued to devote their Canada Research Chairs allocation solely to recruiting external academics.



Many institutions and chairholders also considered that the positive impact on retention and attraction was extended to other faculty, students and HQP as well. They benefited from the program through access to state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment, through research collaborations with chairholders, and through many other combined efforts, such as workshops, seminars and joint supervision of graduate students. As such, collaborations were created or strengthened, and the capacity for generating and applying new knowledge, another objective of the Canada Research Chairs program, was improved.

Improving the capacity for generating and applying new knowledge

Funding from the Canada Research Chairs program facilitates ties between experts, thereby fostering new synergies that improve their capacity for generating and applying new knowledge. Universities stated that chairholders trained research teams or joined them as members, building solid, productive collaborations that not only strengthened their university's priority fields of research, but also helped to develop new research approaches. They were also called upon to share their insights through knowledge dissemination activities and as experts to provide advice.

Their position as a Canada Research Chair also leads to invitations to be consulted as experts on media stories, policy discussions, working groups, grant selection panels and committees, or collaborators on international research projects. The profile of the Canada Research Chairs and associated media coverage also enhances the profile of the University and its visibility in the national and international community.

University of Guelph

Most chairholders (74 per cent) reported that they collaborated (regular contact with another researcher/other researchers in order to respond to a shared research question) significantly with researchers from their own institution or its affiliates. They also collaborated with researchers from other Canadian universities (50 per cent significantly and 33 per cent moderately) and, to a lesser extent, with researchers from the government, private and not-for-profit sectors (inside and/or outside of Canada). Furthermore, most institutions considered that the Canada Research Chairs Program played a major role in their ability to support existing or new teams, which helped develop a critical mass of research.

Additionally, in 2007-08, 91 per cent of chairholders participated in a variety of activities to share the insights gained through conducting their research with people outside of the academic world. They conducted seminars and lectures directed to the general public, gave local, national and



international television and radio interviews, published articles in national newspapers, etc. The majority of chairholders were also called upon to provide their expert advice or opinion to a variety of stakeholders and organizations (i.e., elected and other government officials, the private sector, and other Canadian or international organizations).

Strengthening the training of highly qualified personnel

Canada Research Chairs train the next generation of skilled workers by supervising students and other HQP (e.g., trainees, postdoctoral fellows and research professionals). For 2007-08, chairholders (among the 1,481 that submitted a report) counted 1,136 undergraduate students, 1,277 master's students, 1,288 doctoral students, 1,086 postdoctoral researchers and 812 other HQP under their direct supervision. They also report that over 3,000 students obtained degrees under their direct supervision. Many chairholders consider that the significant visibility of their title, along with the availability of state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure made possible by CFI funds, contributed to attracting and retaining talented HQP.

Seventy-three per cent of chairholders indicated that their Chair position had a significant impact on enhancing the training they could otherwise provide to their HQP. The reduction in teaching load that the Chairs program facilitates was often mentioned by researchers as being beneficial to training, as they were able to dedicate more one-on-one time to their students and other HQP. Additionally, the HQP under chairholders' supervision had the privilege of taking part in a number of stimulating research-related activities amongst teams of world-class researchers.

One of the major impacts related to investments by the Canada Research Chairs Program and the Canada Foundation for Innovation is the development of excellent research environments conducive to training highly qualified personnel. Thanks to state-of-the-art infrastructure (e.g., laboratories and research equipment) and financial support for students (e.g., through research assistant positions), chairholders are aided by many students, postdoctoral researchers and research personnel, all of whom play an essential role in ensuring a dynamic research environment.

Université de Montréal

Optimizing the use of research resources through strategic planning

The Canada Research Chairs Program seeks to optimize the use of resources by requiring each university to develop a strategic research plan that helps strengthen its fields of research. This



plan defines the fields in which the university intends to increase or maintain research excellence, and describes the way in which it intends to use the allocated Chairs for recruiting and maintaining world-renowned experts in these areas. When submitting a nomination, the university must demonstrate the importance of the Chair for the development of strategic research conducted in that institution or in its affiliated institutions, institutes or hospitals. The examiners determine whether the candidate complies with the university's strategic research plan and evaluate the way in which the candidate will help to achieve the university's objectives.

Institutions stated in their 2007-08 reports that they continue to reinforce the research themes identified in their plans by making concerted efforts to recruit and retain experts in those fields. They also developed their research platforms by creating internal institutional funding programs; securing additional external funding; establishing or strengthening research centres, working groups and collaborations; developing undergraduate and graduate programs that are in line with the identified themes; and investing in infrastructure and equipment that enables chairholders and their colleagues, collaborators and students to conduct advanced research.



EQUITY WITHIN THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS PROGRAM

Equity was first identified as an issue in the 2001 review of the Canada Research Chairs Program, where it was noted that the proportion of women being nominated was significantly lower than the proportion of women on faculty. Since that time, through numerous actions, the proportion of female chairholders has increased, and currently 25 per cent of the chairholders are women.

In 2006, the Canada Research Chairs program reached a settlement agreement in relation to a complaint filed in 2003 by eight professors from various regions of Canada concerning the representation of members of four designated groups (women, members of visible minorities, people with disabilities and Aboriginal peoples) within the program.

Further to this agreement, in 2007-08, the Chairs program hired a consultant to develop a methodology to help universities establish targets for the representation of members of the four designated groups among their chairholders.

In 2008-09, the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat will request that universities use the developed methodology to establish targets for chairholder representation from the four designated groups. An analysis of the program will then be conducted to 1) assess current representation of the four designated groups, and 2) determine if the program promotes equitable representation from the four designated groups among chairholders.

At the same time, the Canada Research Chairs Program aims to develop a process to recognize universities that adopt exemplary practices for the recruitment and nomination of chairholders and that reach or surpass their equity objectives.



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CHAIRS INITIATIVE

In 2007-08, the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat continued its collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on the International Research Chairs Initiative (IRCI), with the program officially launched in early December 2007.

The central objective of this initiative is to build healthier, more equitable and more prosperous societies in low- and middle-income countries by strengthening the research capabilities of their universities. The partnership of existing Canada Research Chairs and chairholders in low- and middle-income countries will create unique training and fieldwork opportunities for students and identify new avenues for knowledge, policy or technology transfer. This program provides an avenue to increase the reach of Canada Research Chairs to the rest of the world.

Active Canada Research Chairs and international chairholders from the five eligible geographic regions (Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; South Asia, and South and Southeast Asia) were eligible to apply. Successful teams will be awarded \$1million over five years (all of the funding is being provided by IDRC). Applications within the following thematic program areas were accepted:

- ▶ Information and Communication Technologies;
- ▶ Social and Economic Policy in the fields of economic growth, poverty and inequality; health policies and systems; peace, conflict and development; and women's rights and citizenship;
- ▶ Environment and Natural Resource Management; and
- ▶ Innovation, Policy and Science.

The deadline for receipt of the letter of intent (LOI) was March 3, 2008, and a total of 105 eligible LOIs were received. An interdisciplinary committee of eight experts will review the LOIs, and four teams from each of the five eligible countries will be invited to submit full proposals. Of the 20 full proposals, one team from each region will be funded. Funding decisions will be made in early 2009.



COMMUNICATIONS

Ministerial announcements

During the period covered by this report, the Canada Research Chairs Program communications team organized three national ministerial announcements, in collaboration with CFI and the university community. The aim of the announcements was to make public the names of the 333 researchers selected as chairholders during the year.

The announcements proved to be good opportunities for demonstrating how money invested by the Government of Canada in academic research helps to strengthen Canada's economic growth and enhance quality of life for Canadians. The federal investment for the period totalled \$299.2 million.

National celebration, university celebrations and other events

The Chairs program held a national celebration to showcase the work of its chairholders and promote the importance of the research it supports. The event, which was hosted by the Université du Québec en Outaouais, attracted more than 200 guests, including chairholders, university presidents, representatives of federal research granting agencies, and postsecondary education and university research stakeholders. The celebration showcased the work of Stéphane Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in Cyberpsychology, and featured two roundtables on the topic of "Inventing the Future."

In addition, the Chairs program communications team took part in seven celebrations in 2007-08 organized by Canadian universities to pay tribute to their chairholders.

The program also participated in the 2007 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the 2007 conference of the Canadian Association of University Research Administrators, and the Congrès de l'Association francophone pour le savoir 2007, as well as the 2007 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Media relations and media coverage

To increase its visibility within the national community of science journalists, the Canada Research Chairs program took part in the 2007 annual conferences of the Professional Writers Association of Canada and the Canadian Science Writers Association.



In all, more than 3,500 articles mentioning the program and its chairholders were published between April 2007 and March 2008.

Website

The website (www.chairs.gc.ca) of the Canada Research Chairs Program is its main communications tool. The site includes a database giving an overview of each chairholder's research. During 2007-08, the program's website received 850,797 visits.