

FACT SHEET

WHY DOES THE CANADIAN INSTITUTES FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR) NEED ENHANCED FUNDING SUPPORT?

1. Why is CIHR-funded research important?



Health: CIHR-funded research saves lives, creates new medicines and technologies, addresses public health issues, and modernizes the health system.



Prosperity: CIHR supports over 13,000 investigators and attracts world-leading clinicians and scientists to the benefit of our patients, health system and economy.

2. How do we know that CIHR-funded research is important?



Innovation Sensation: “A one-stop shop for information about the research and innovation successes taking place in Canada’s academic healthcare organizations.”



Research 2 Reality: “A groundbreaking initiative that shines a spotlight on world-class scientists engaged in innovative and leading edge research in Canada.”

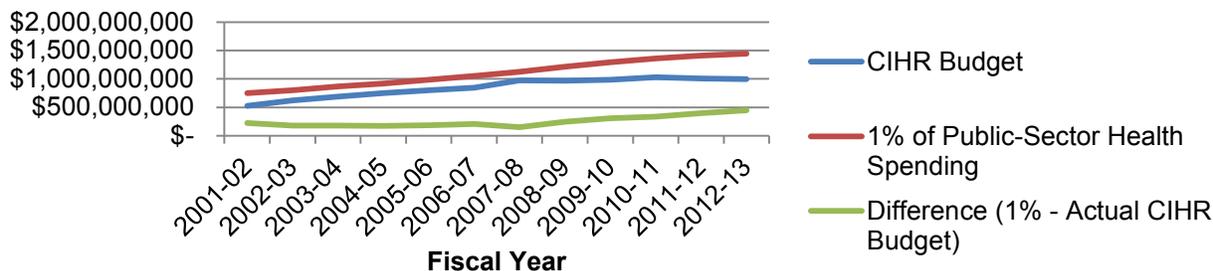


Healthier Wealthier Smarter: “Discover real stories featuring researchers and patients discussing the practical benefits of health research to Ontarians.”

3. What is the problem?

CIHR was to have a budget equal to 1% of public health spending, but CIHR’s budget has not kept up with health expenditures or inflation.

Difference Between 1% of Healthcare Spending and Actual CIHR Budget



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4. How does the problem manifest?

- CIHR has been forced to make a number of difficult decisions:
 - Funding only 150 of 400 outstanding scientists through the new Foundation Scheme grants
 - Leaving the supervisors of 956 staff and students to face a \$173 million funding shortfall
 - Allocating 30% of funds to more applied initiatives, reducing funding for researchers
 - Cutting the MD/PhD and other training programs to save money
 - Cancelling the Cochrane Collaboration for which Canada is known internationally
 - Changing the peer review process to reduce in-person meetings and discussion
 - Rejecting 80–95% of funding applications, including those deemed outstanding
 - Requiring applicants to find matching funding for their grant applications
 - Changing the advisory and funding capacity of its 13 institutes
- The perception that Canada is deliberately dismantling its ST&I landscape:



Funding changes usher in a dark age for Canadian science

JOVANA DRINJAKOVIC
Special to The Globe and Mail
Published Monday, Dec. 15, 2014 10:30PM EST
Last updated Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014 12:57PM EST



THE LUNCH Leading Canadian scientist's biggest challenge? Funding fatigue

ANDRÉ PICARD - PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTER
The Globe and Mail
Published Friday, Sep. 26, 2014 5:01PM EDT
Last updated Friday, Sep. 26, 2014 7:05PM EDT



Health researchers digging into own pockets to bridge gap in funding

KELLY GRANT - HEALTH REPORTER
The Globe and Mail
Published Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015 7:27PM EST
Last updated Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015 7:36PM EST

Cuts to MD/PhD funding greeted with 'horror' by medical scientists

Federal funding cuts threaten 'endangered species' of physician-scientists
CBC News | Posted: Aug 13, 2015 4:40 PM ET | Last Updated: Aug 13, 2015 10:43 PM ET

5. What are possible solutions?

1. Increase CIHR's budget by \$100 million per year
2. Increase the base budget of CIHR by \$250 million (same amount paid for Signature Initiatives)
3. Begin an Innovation Fund, allowing CIHR to repatriate all funding to the generation of research