

# 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**  
Media Stories from Canada's Leading Healthcare Organizations

**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.”

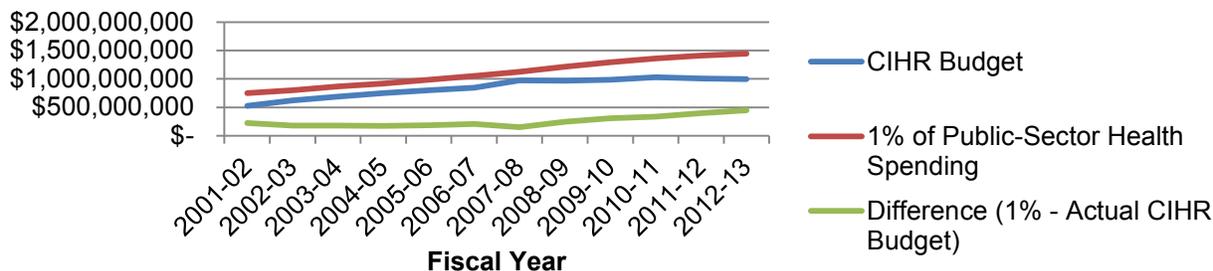


**Healthier Wealthier Smarter:** “Discover real stories featuring researchers and patients discussing the practical benefits of health research to Ontarians.”

### 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