

COMMUNIQUÉ

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS IN KNOWLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE WILL FACILITATE CANADIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For immediate release
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OTTAWA – The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) applauds the *Investments in Knowledge Infrastructure* that the federal government will be making through Budget 2009. Improving for university research facilities, increasing graduate scholarships, enhancing support for Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), extending broadband access, and funding targeted research and development projects will promote innovation and economic development far into the future.

Canada's research libraries provide supporting resources and services to researchers as an important part of Canada's knowledge infrastructure, and while some kinds of research funding, such as the Indirect Costs program were not addressed in Budget 2009, we recognize the investments to university research facilities serve some similar ends. The \$2 billion that is targeted to university infrastructure, especially when matched with other funding, will go far to address deferred maintenance at universities. The \$750 million for the CFI will result in the development of other forms of research and development infrastructure, in which Canada's research libraries look forward to participating.

The \$87.5 million for Canada graduate scholarships will encourage the building of a highly skilled workforce and a new generation of Canadian researchers. In this context, although Budget 2009 did not enhance regular research funding through the national granting councils, CARL anticipates that this is a temporary situation, and that the research undertaken by the graduate students will find sufficient funding.

The extension of broadband access to rural communities will allow more Canadians to have access to online information and education. We encourage the government to

support also the digitization of content for the use and transformation of those now connected. New investment in particular areas of research and development, such as green energy, space exploration, and nuclear technology, will be good for the research enterprise in Canada as a whole.

These economic measures are obviously important to Canada's future and the health of our research institutions. CARL would encourage the government to keep in mind that it is also possible to stimulate the economy and innovation through thoughtful and fair policy development in such areas as copyright legislation, open access to publicly funded research, and international trade agreements.

"Canada's university libraries, many of which have considerable deferred maintenance, look forward to being able to work with their campus administrations to address the most pressing matters so as to be able to better support their researchers," says Leslie Weir, CARL President and Chief Librarian, University of Ottawa. Ernie Ingles, CARL Vice-President/President-Elect and Vice-Provost, Learning Systems & Chief Librarian of the University of Alberta expressed hope that "the additional CFI and cultural funding might provide opportunities for exciting developments in scholarly communication and online access to Canadian heritage materials important in research."

CARL is the leadership organization for the Canadian research library community. The Association's members are the 27 major academic research libraries across Canada plus Library and Archives Canada, the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and the Library of Parliament. CARL members are the backbone of Canada's intellectual holdings in all disciplines.

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