



Canada Research
Chairs

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**CANADA
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CHAIRS.**

**THINKING
AHEAD.**



Executive Summary

Canada Research Chairs Program: Best Practices Workshop

June 17-18, 2002

Toronto

Prepared by:
Canada Research Chairs Secretariat

September 2002



The Chairs Secretariat identified an opportunity to improve program delivery through the sharing of “Best Practices” among universities. To this end, a “Best Practices” workshop was held in Toronto on June 17-18, 2002.

Overall, university administrators have received the Chairs Program very favourably. Strong indications were given that the success of the Chairs program is to be measured by the achievement of the global recognition for research in Canada. This will largely be dependent on the extent to which universities are able, over the next few years, to attract world-class and potentially world-class researchers and to create serious competitive centres of research excellence in Canada.

Program and university stakeholders agreed that there are four key issues that require follow-up subsequent to the workshop on a more immediate basis:

1. to address the gender imbalance;
 - suggestions were made regarding the need to draft guidelines for universities regarding the establishment of targets for women Chairholders, and the reporting of progress against the targets established
2. to address the issue of the proportion of chairs allocated to the humanities and social sciences;
 - a motion was presented requesting that the federal government expand the Chairs Program by the creation of an additional 400 Chairs to be devoted exclusively to the humanities and social sciences disciplines
3. to provide greater flexibility in the Chair allocation formula;
 - general support was expressed for greater flexibility in the attribution of Chairs. Suggestions were made regarding the removal of the strict budget allocation of \$200,000 per annum for a Tier 1 Chair and \$100,000 per annum for a Tier 2 Chair which would allow universities to better respond to researchers' needs and reflect the real cost of doing research in certain fields. It was also suggested that universities be given a fixed overall Chairs budget and be allowed to allocate Tier 1 and Tier 2 Chairs as needed rather than being tied to a fixed allocation by Tier. Finally, greater flexibility was sought in the allocation of Chairs according to granting agency.
4. to improve the capability of Canadian universities to recruit internationally;
 - suggestions were made regarding the possible increased involvement of the Chairs Secretariat in the preparation of communications packages as a tool for recruitment, serving as a liaison between government departments such as Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Human Resources Development Canada and the universities, and providing leadership in the organising of “Team Canada” recruitment missions abroad.

The results of the workshop will be incorporated into the third year review study and the intent is to implement recommendations stemming from that study by the end of the year.



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