

September 25, 2008

An open letter regarding research to:

Rt Hon. Stephen Harper, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Hon. Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

The **Canadian Consortium for Research** (CCR) speaks for 18 organizations representing the full spectrum of science – natural, health and social sciences, the humanities and engineering. We exist to advocate on behalf of research in all sectors and post-secondary education. While the majority of the almost half million researchers and students our constituent organizations represent are based in universities, many of our groups have numerous members in government laboratories and in private sector research centres.

Canadians place a high value on health and environmental, social and economic well-being. To achieve these shared goals, we need a healthy research capacity—one that churns out new ideas and discoveries that fuel the innovation pipeline. Canada has taken steps to develop its own supply of people, ideas, technologies and knowledge and we believe it is critical that this development be fostered by Canada's next government.

Through the attached questionnaire, we seek clarification on your party's plans for research in the government, university, college and private sectors and are specifically interested in your views on:

- support for Canada's granting councils;
- large scale scientific facilities;
- funding for the humanities and social sciences;
- non-regulatory federal laboratories; and
- the Science Technology and Innovation Council.

The CCR asks these questions on behalf of our members, but more so for future generations of Canadians, who need action now on basic research to make sure that innovation will flow fully into the coming decades. We plan to post the questions and your responses on our own website and also to link from our individual members' websites.

We thank you on behalf of our 18 organizations and approximately 50,000 researchers and 400,000 students represented in these member groups.

Sincerely,

Jody Ciuffo, Chair, Canadian Consortium for Research
2705 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 8K2