



March 18, 2009

Dear Colleague,

As you likely know, changes are coming to Alberta's research and innovation system that will affect our organizations and consequently, we want to ensure that you are aware of these developments in your ongoing communications to researchers at your institutions and organizations. Please feel free to share this with interested staff and researchers.

We and our colleagues in government have been meeting frequently over the past year to advise on the development of a more aligned research and innovation system. Such an innovation system is inclusive, everyone understands where they "fit", and all activities contribute effectively to the system as a whole, so that the system in turn can capture value for research investments. Such a system is integral to a diversified and robust knowledge-based economy—the Next Generation Economy—that will position our province advantageously on the global stage.

Minister Horner has just introduced the next stage in this work: ***The Alberta Research and Innovation Act*** (Bill 27). This is the latest step towards uniting provincial research and innovation activity. Next is the development of regulations under the Act that will describe how the system will function. Once the regulations are completed—the anticipated timeline is this fall—the Act will be proclaimed and will become law. The new framework will require an aligning of the existing functions of a number of current organizations. In the meantime, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research (Alberta Ingenuity Fund) will continue to govern with, and operate under, their current Acts. Other research funding organizations that report to government but do not have individual governing legislation will also be included under the new Alberta Research and Innovation Act and will transform to the new model.

Some of you will have specific questions regarding the impact the changes will have on the various funding programs but those changes likely won't be fully known until the regulations are complete. Advanced Education and Technology has created a page on its website with information about the new research and innovation framework development, the transition into the new system, and questions and answers. Please visit <http://aet.alberta.ca/innovationframework> regularly as this site will have the latest information on the system changes. As well, please do not hesitate to call any of us: we welcome any questions you might have and we'll provide what information we can.

Sincerely,

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