



Photo courtesy of National Research Council Canada

### Some NCE Success Stories

The merger of two spin-off companies from the **Canadian Genetic Diseases Network** has created an organization with the critical mass to accelerate multiple drug discovery programs in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, ocular disorders, epilepsy, schizophrenia and other neurological diseases. The network is also working with two partners to create Canada's first national training environment in bio-informatics.

The **Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems Network** is conducting research into the filtering theory behind computer-based tracking and image-processing systems. Their work related to navigational tracking can be applied to search and rescue missions, quality control in building material manufacturing, and military aircraft applications to reduce civilian casualties.

The **Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network** is collaborating with universities, the Alberta Research Council and the private sector to develop and bring to market a cattle vaccine to counteract the bacterium *E.coli* 0157:H7, the cause of "hamburger disease," which could have significant health impacts in Canada and around the world.

# Canada's strategic funding programs

## Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

Established as an independent corporation by the Government of Canada in 1997, the CFI invests in infrastructure projects to support research excellence and strengthen research training at universities, colleges, hospitals and not-for-profit research institutions across Canada. CFI funding covers 40 percent of the eligible costs of projects, with the remaining 60 percent coming from the research institutions and their funding partners, which include the provinces and other levels of government, as well as the private and voluntary sectors. To date, the CFI has been entrusted with a capital investment of \$3.15 billion from the Government of Canada. The CFI's mandate runs until 2010. **Web site:** [www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca)

## Canada Research Chairs

This new federal government initiative will fund the creation of 2,000 new research chairs in Canadian universities and their affiliated research institutes and hospitals with an investment of \$900 million over five years. The program's goal is to achieve the highest levels of research excellence. It has been designed to attract the world's most promising researchers in all fields of scientific research to Canadian universities.

In their positions as Chairholders, they are expected to provide the vision for and lead specific programs that will extend the boundaries of Canadian research, thereby ensuring Canada's continued ability to participate at the forefront of international research. The program is designed to ensure the effective use of research resources through institutional strategic planning. **Web site:** [www.chairs.gc.ca](http://www.chairs.gc.ca)

## Genome Canada

Another new federal government program, Genome Canada, was created to coordinate genomics research in Canada. The program will help Canada to become a world leader in genomic research in a few selected sectors of strategic importance to this country, such as health, agriculture, environment, forestry and fisheries. Five new genome science centres located across the country are being created to provide laboratory services to researchers from universities, government and industry, giving them access to the leading technologies in the field. The centres will also support research into the social, legal and ethical questions related to genomic research. **Web site:** [www.genomecanada.ca](http://www.genomecanada.ca)

## Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCEs)

Canada's NCE program is a unique research and development partnership of universities, the private sector, governments, hospitals and agencies in the natural and applied sciences, social sciences, health and humanities. Its objectives are to:

- stimulate internationally competitive, leading-edge fundamental and applied research in areas critical to Canadian economic and social development;