

On the Move

Redefining the Middle

The Conservatives have successfully redefined the middle ground of Canadian politics claiming a majority victory last evening and affecting an overwhelming Liberal defeat. Mr. Layton's NDP is now the Official Opposition in Canadian politics. Clearly this victory demonstrates a much more polarized electorate where Quebec nationalism continues to be a consequence for federal politics.

The advantage of a majority government is that there is now opportunity for meaningful policy dialogue and development in the wake of a stable, four-year government, where Mr. Harper and the Conservatives can now take the long view in tackling Canada's biggest challenges. Mr. Harper needs to build on the innovation agenda and focus on the important role that health R&D plays in this country.

The Conservative Government is dedicated to getting back to work today, and therefore we are confident that in short order the platform they put forward during the election campaign based upon the 2011 Federal Budget will be the focus of the new Parliament. We have attached, for your information, the **2011 Budget Analysis** Research Canada prepared for our members following its release in March, for your convenience.

A Unique Opportunity for Research Canada and Canadian Health Research in Canada

There will be many new faces on Parliament Hill in the weeks ahead faced with a steep learning curve on a number of public policy fronts. Research Canada is uniquely positioned as a public education organization to provide these MPs with an overview of the health research landscape in Canada in terms of funders, performers and outcomes of health research paving the way for consensus policy positions emanating from the R7, for example, and specific recommendations focused on the critical interests of key sectors (e.g. academic, private) emanating from national organizations dedicated to advancing health research in Canada.

Research Canada intends to give the health research community it represents the *Hill Advantage* by being organized and responsive to the educational needs of MPs upon their return. Research Canada will cultivate its relationships with MPs by first providing them with a Research Canada update upon their return which introduces them to the organization and Research Canada's Health Research Caucus, chaired by Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie. We will then meet in person with many of these MPs and invite them to join our informative, dynamic and non-partisan Caucus that will assist them in their important work on the Hill and provide them with an overview of Canadian Health Research.

On the Move May 3, 2011

¹ The R7 is a bold and practical partnership of organizations aimed at developing consensus around policy focused on improving the health and wealth of Canadians.



On **May 30**th **2011** Research Canada will hosts its first Health Research Caucus event on Parliament Hill focused on **Mental Health Research in Canada.** We will hold a second event on **October 17**th on the Hill focused on **Pain Research in Canada.** Following each of these events we will work hard to make sure that these MPs during parliamentary recesses visit our member institutions in their respective ridings to learn more about the excellence in health research on the ground that is strengthening the health and wealth of each of their communities.

At its upcoming Annual General Meeting on November 2nd, 2011 (mark your calendars)
Research Canada will treat federal MPs and our members and partners to an international health innovation panel presentation: Building an Innovation Nation from the Health Care
System Up to help inform the successful renewal of the 10-year Health Accord which hinges on carving out the appropriate and necessary role health research has to play in affecting a stronger publicly funded health delivery system in this country.

Research Canada through its dynamic advocacy program will work closely with Members of Parliament to make this new Parliament work for the health research and health innovation interests that will make Canadians the healthiest population in the world and strengthen Canada's productivity growth into the future.