Overview of 2012 Federal Budget

With this first majority budget, the Conservative Government put forward its vision for the future Canada:

- Government will be smaller and less intrusive;
- individuals will take more responsibility for their own retirement and;
- business will return to driving the economy.

The 2012 budget is a platform for the hands-off political approach the Government prefers; one that combines sweeping spending cuts to the public service with a handful of targeted policy changes geared to drive future investment.

Economic Action Plan 2012 embraces a commercialization agenda for research and does not contemplate the long-term value of discovery research. Nor does the budget embrace the importance of social innovation and the health services, primary care and public health research that leads to innovative policies and programs that improve Canadians health, well-being and their standard of living.

View the budget analysis document.

View Research Canada's news release on the budget.

Health Research Caucus Visit to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute

Leading researchers in the areas of genetics of rare diseases and childhood obesity gave presentations to parliamentarians earlier this month as part of Research Canada's Health Research Caucus Institute Visit Program. The visit included a tour of

Dr. Robert Screaton describes his research
CHEO RI's facility.
Watch for the next newsletter for more details from this exciting event.

**RC Update for Parliamentarians**
The second issue of our quarterly newsletter, the Research Canada Update for Parliamentarians, was released on the Hill in February 2012. It was distributed to all MPs and Senators and then further promoted by the Health Research Caucus Chair, Senator Kelvin Ogilvie and by the two Vice-Chairs, Ms. Megan Leslie, MP, and Dr. Kirsty Duncan, MP. The newsletter focused on the excellent research being conducted by some of our member institutions and the impact that research is having on improving the lives of Canadians. This update is also available on Research Canada's website in the Publications section.