

Capstone consultation briefing note

This document has been prepared for Research Canada members to ensure all have access to key details and documents pertaining to the federal government's engagement process underway to receive stakeholder input as it aims to move ahead on certain 2024 federal budget measures.

Background

In addition to [announcing many measures to support research, innovation and talent](#), the [federal budget tabled on April 16, 2024](#) proposed:

- A new capstone research funding organization, under which the granting agencies will continue to support excellence in investigator-led research, to improve coordination across the federal research funding ecosystem and to focus on mission-driven, international and major interdisciplinary endeavours.
- A new advisory Council on Science and Innovation with leaders from across the academic, industry, and not-for-profit sectors, to help set priorities and increase impacts of these federal investments.

These measures aim to respond to the report of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System ([Bouchard report](#)).

Throughout May 2024, Research Canada met with officials across the departments of Health, Industry Science and Economic Development and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to get more details on these proposals. On June 12, 2024, the Interim President of CIHR and senior staff met with the Research Canada board to seek preliminary input and provide more on the impending consultations on the capstone organization implementation.

Research Canada members were debriefed at RC's Annual General Meeting later that day, just prior to the [letter from the Ministers of Health and ISED to the Tri-agency presidents was made public on June 17th](#), providing further details on the proposed capstone and discussion questions the agencies could use to engage stakeholders in the month of July 2024.

Actions and next steps

Following a Town Hall convened by Research Canada virtually on Wednesday, June 26 (close to 100 organizations in attendance) and broad consultations of its own, Research Canada completed a submission and shared with its membership and other organizations on Friday, July 12, 2024, in advance of the July 17, 2024, deadline to submit input to the CRCC Secretariat (CRCCsecretariat@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca).

Research Canada has also developed and sent a key message document to members to ensure we try to speak as consistently on the main areas of concern and opportunity for the health research and innovation ecosystem as possible. To receive a copy, please email Kevin Conquest at kconquest@rc-rc.ca.

Our government relations on this matter are ongoing and will increase in the coming months as we: continue to iterate with government on this in the lead up to more substantial announcements in the Fall Economic Statement; develop a [Budget 2025 submission by the August 2, 2024 deadline](#), and as we continue all-party outreach in advance of a federal election.

Members note: This briefing note is evergreen and will be updated and re-circulated when substantive additions or changes have been made. Dated Friday, July 12, 2024.

For more information

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