



Council of Canadian Academies
Conseil des académies canadiennes

News Release

May 25, 2009 – Report on state of management and business research in Canada: Expert panel calls for more contact between researchers and managers

Ottawa – Canadian research in the field of management, business, and finance (MBF) ranks above the world average but there is little direct application of this research outside of the academic community. This is the principal finding of a report, released today, by an expert panel convened by the Council of Canadian Academies (Council).

In 2007, the Council was commissioned to do an independent study of the strengths and weaknesses of Canada's university-based research in the areas of "management, business and finance". The full report entitled "*Better Research for Better Business*" (available on the Council's website – www.scienceadvice.ca) looks at the current extent of MBF research in Canada (i.e., the number of researchers and their disciplines), the extent of collaboration in these fields, and the international standing of Canadian MBF research. The expert panel's central finding was that the scholarly community's activities in these areas rank above the world average. The panel noted that opportunities exist to much more effectively connect scholars in these areas with collaborators across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors for mutual benefit, and the panel recommended that resources be focused on cultivating those horizontal connections.

"The panel found that the research performance of several Canadian schools of management and business ranks quite well internationally," said David Zussman, Chair of the expert panel who currently holds the Jarislowsky Chair in Public Sector Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa. "However, it was apparent from interviews and surveys undertaken for the panel that there tends to be a disconnect between university research in MBF and the application of that research by the practice community themselves."

To address the gap between MBF research and its application, the panel suggested that the additional funds earmarked in the 2007 federal budget for MBF research be used to support large, multi-year, collaborative projects with demonstrated potential for relevance and knowledge transfer. The objective would be to improve the performance and competitiveness of Canadian business. The panel emphasized that the new program should encompass only the incremental, targeted funds allocated in the 2007 budget and should not affect the disbursement of funds traditionally used to support MBF research, nor should these focused funds reduce any of the allocations for other disciplines supported by SSHRC.

Commenting on the context for the panel's report, Professor Zussman noted that: "The panel was asked to assess the current state of affairs in MBF research in universities and, in light of that, to identify any outstanding opportunities where the targeted support for MBF research – already committed in the 2007 budget – could make a significant impact."

The full report and the report summary, the Report in Focus, are available for download in both official languages from the Council's website at www.scienceadvice.ca.

To arrange for interviews or for more information please contact:

Samantha Rae
Manager, Communications,
Council of Canadian Academies
613.567.5000 x 256
samantha.rae@scienceadvice.ca

For information about the Council of Canadian Academies, its services and products as well as previous expert panels, please visit the Council's website at www.scienceadvice.ca.