



July 16, 2024

The Honourable Francois-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

The Honourable Mark Holland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

Dear Ministers:

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the federal government's recent announcement to establish a Capstone Research Funding Organization. The CPA is the largest national association for the science, practice, and education of psychology, representing over 7,000 members and affiliates.

The CPA has had an opportunity to review the letter of June 17, 2024, from Minister Champagne and Holland to the Presidents of the Tri-Councils regarding the creation of a Capstone Research Funding Organization (CRFO). As the federal government moves forward with the new organization, the CPA would offer the following constructive comments that seek to optimize the performance and impact of Canada's research enterprise:

What are the key principles that should guide additional decision-making around design and implementation of the new organization?

- Support for fundamental and investigator-driven research must continue to be a cornerstone of the federal research support system. Any new funding for mission-driven research should include additional funding for the Tri-Councils, as recommended by the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System.
- In keeping with the Advisory Panel's recommendations, the Tri-Councils should maintain autonomy and decision-making authority within the new structure. It is also essential that discipline-specific funding and programming also be maintained.
- As the federal government builds the new CRFO, there is an expectation that any additional funds that are required would be outside of the multi-year fiscal framework that was announced for the Tri-Councils in Budget 2024. In other words, new funding, short of any organizational/administrative efficiencies that can be identified, should be provided.
- In terms of the CRFO's governance structure, the CPA would strongly support disciplinary proportionality from all three Tri-Councils (i.e., natural sciences and

engineering, health, social sciences and the humanities). This, however, should not preclude other perspectives from being included as part of the Board of Directors, such as equity-deserving groups.

- The CPA is of the view that peer review should remain at the core of any new programming and strategic initiatives, and funding provided by the CRFO.

What should be the early priorities for the new organization?

- The CRFO should be open, transparent, and communicative with the research community on the decisions they are taking.
- With the objective of promoting an ongoing, open, and effective dialogue, the new CRFO should continue to develop an ongoing consultation/dialogue with the research community.
- The CRFO offers an opportunity for improved alignment and harmonization of common systems, including grant management and persistent identifiers. This also includes improvements to the grant application processes and, where possible, reducing the administrative burden for researchers.
- A key strategic objective will be for the CRFO to strengthen and coordinate its support for research infrastructure. This includes a life cycle approach to infrastructure funding and improving coordination with the Canada Foundation for Innovation.
- As much as possible, the CRFO should minimize overhead and administrative costs to ensure new research funding reaches the research community.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation. If need be, we would be pleased to discuss these issues further at your convenience. I can be reached at executiveoffice@cpa.ca.

We look forward to hearing more details from the federal government at the time of its Fall Economic Statement.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa Votta Bleeker, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association

cc:/: Members, Canadian Consortium for Research