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Mixed Picture for Atlantic Universities, 2 Provinces Surprise, 2 Disappoint in Research Income Growth

Several Universities fail to match 2.2% National Increase

Toronto, ON (October 17, 2012). According to *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2012*, released today, university research income in Fiscal 2011 fell -10.4% in New Brunswick to \$56.7 million and -5.8% in Newfoundland to \$70.2 million, but expanded 4.8% in Nova Scotia to \$161.4 million and 7.0% in Prince Edward Island to \$18.2 million, resulting in a mixed funding picture for the Atlantic region. *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2012* is available on the Research Infosource website, www.researchinfosource.com.

Research Infosource, Canada's Source of Research and Development Intelligence, released its annual ranking of Canadian universities. It found that research income in Fiscal 2011 shrank at 5 Atlantic Canada universities and expanded at 3 others. Performance was especially strong at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (21.7%), UPEI (7.0%), and Dalhousie University (5.8%), all of which exceeded the national Top 50 increase of 2.2%. In New Brunswick, both UNB (-10.5%) and Université de Moncton (-9.7%) experienced funding declines. In Nova Scotia, research income declined at Saint Mary's University (-14.5%) and St. Francis Xavier University (-13.4%). Research income also dropped at Memorial University of Newfoundland (-5.8%).

The 2012 result dropped Dalhousie to 17th place on the Top 50 ranking from 16th position last year. Saint Mary's dropped to 48th from 46th, and St. Francis fell to 49th place from 47th. In spite of its strong showing UPEI fell to 38th position from 37th.

"Fiscal 2011 was a tough year overall for Canadian universities, which managed only an increase of 2.2% in total research income", said Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource. "But it seems that Atlantic Canada was especially affected by the national trend, with income falling at a majority of institutions. On the positive side, income expanded faster than the national total at several universities."

Regional Picture

Examining provincial performance, university research income rose in 7 provinces and declined in 3. Gains were strongest in Saskatchewan where 2 universities posted a total increase of 8.0% in research income. UPEI boosted Prince Edward Island's total by 7.0%, while 13 Quebec institutions posted a combined gain of 6.1% and 4 British Columbia universities upped provincial research income by 5.8%. Provincial research income totals fell over the period in New Brunswick (-10.4%), Newfoundland (-5.8%) and Ontario (-2.0%). Research income growth in Manitoba (1.8%) also lagged the national increase of 2.2%. Ontario universities' 18 institutions captured 38% of the national total, down from 39% in Fiscal 2010. Quebec's 13 institutions increased their share to 27% of the total from 26% in Fiscal 2010. Over the period share was steady in Alberta (13% of the total) and increased 1% in British Columbia (12% of the total).

"The Fiscal 2011 result signals retrenchment of research funding at our top universities. Gone are the heady days of double-digit increases in funding", said Mr. Freedman. "By way of comparison, from Fiscal 2000-2010 annual increases were running from 3.0%-23.9%. This year's growth is the poorest since Research Infosource began tracking in 2001. With most research income coming from government sources – typically two-thirds or more - and with governments at all levels cutting back, it is not surprising to see total research support slipping" added Mr. Freedman. "It's not yet time to ring the alarm bells, because strong investments over the past decade have produced a robust research system. And, because other jurisdictions are experiencing the same pain, our competitive position will remain static".

About Research Infosource Inc.

Research Infosource Inc., a division of The Impact Group, is Canada's source of R&D intelligence. Drawing from proprietary databases, Research Infosource Inc. publishes **Canada's Innovation Leaders**, which includes *Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders List*, *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List* and *Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals List*. As well, Research Infosource publishes specialized reports and is the producer of *The Innovation Atlas of Canada*TM – a web-based research and innovation mapping and data information product. Data were obtained through Statistics Canada and the Research Infosource Canadian University R&D database. For the complete list visit www.researchinfosource.com.

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