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Sharp Fall in Research Income at Alberta Universities 3 Universities Record Overall –10.9% Drop in Funding

Toronto, ON (17 October 2013) - Three Alberta universities recorded a substantial –10.9% drop in their combined research funding in Fiscal 2012, according to *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List*, released today by Research Infosource Inc. Declines were steepest at University of Lethbridge (-20.6%) and University of Alberta (-15.6%), followed by University of Calgary (-1.3%).

“This year we saw research income fall at all three of Alberta’s Top 50 Research Universities”, said Ron Freedman, CEO of Research Infosource. “The declines appear to be linked to cutbacks in provincial support for research.”

Infosource also designated three institutions as Research Universities of the Year 2013 in their respective categories: University of Toronto (Medical/Doctoral), University of Waterloo (Comprehensive) and Université du Québec à Rimouski (Undergraduate).

Despite its drop in funding, University of Lethbridge performed well enough on four other research income and output measures to be designated as the 3rd ranked Research University of the Year in the Undergraduate category.

“It was only two years ago that national university research income expanded at an annual 3.6% pace, a rate of increase that seems idyllic compared with this year’s pace of 1.1%”, said Mr. Freedman. “Cutbacks in provincial government support weighed heavily on this year’s results. Corporate funding has been reined in by weak global business conditions and the retreat of the pharmaceutical sector from research funding. Federal government support has been steady, but a far cry from the expansionary trend of the past decade. Governments typically account for over two-thirds of university research income, so future prospects are directly tied to the fortunes of the public sector. And at the moment those fortunes are not bright. Inevitably, this will mean that individual researchers and research teams will need to do more with less for the foreseeable future.”

Note:

Data were obtained through Statistics Canada and the Research Infosource Canadian University R&D database.

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*, *Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals List* and *Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges List*. As well, Research Infosource publishes specialized reports and *The Innovation Atlas of Canada*TM – a web-based research and innovation mapping and data information product. For the complete list visit http://researchinfosource.com/top50_univ.php.

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