

**CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS CHAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA**



## **Canada Research Chairs Information Session**

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Canada, Research  
Chairs

Chaires de recherche  
du Canada

Canada

## Topics for today

- Overview of the CRC program
- Overview of the peer review process
- Renewals – what's been happening
- Tips on nomination preparation
- Program updates
- Equity in Chairs program
- 10<sup>th</sup> year evaluation



## Overview of the Chairs program

- CRC Program is managed by the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat
- the Secretariat is housed within SSHRC
- the Secretariat manages three tri-council programs:
  - The Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program
  - The Indirect Costs program
  - The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) program
- total of 18 staff within the Secretariat



## Overview of the Chairs program (cont'd)

- permanent federal program, established in 2000
- invests \$300 million a year
- 72 universities participating in the program
- \$2.3 billion total investment to date
- allocation based program:
  - every 2 years there is a national re-allocation process
  - based on the [research grant funding](#) received by universities from the three granting agencies - CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC - in the 3 years prior to the year of the allocation



## Overview of the Chairs program (cont'd)

- allocations include both Regular and Special Chairs
- of the total 2,000 Chairs, 1,880 are 'Regular' allocations, distributed by area of research as follows:
  - 846 Chairs (45%) NSERC
  - 658 Chairs (35%) CIHR
  - 376 Chairs (20%) SSHRC
- the remaining 120 are 'Special Chairs' for universities that have received 1% or less of the total funding paid out by the 3 federal granting agencies over the 3 years prior to the year of the allocation (can be within any discipline)



## Overview of the Chairs program (cont'd)

- results of the 2010 allocation will be released by Spring 2011
- the Secretariat will collaborate with universities that have lost Chairs to develop suitable reclamation strategies
- goal is to minimize negative impacts
- phase out mechanism using a sliding scale of decreasing support (100-50-0 percent) will be implemented as of Fall 2011
- Chairs will retain their titles until the end of their term



## Overview of the Chairs program (cont'd)

Two types of Chairs:

### Tier 1

- world leaders in their fields
- tenable for 7 years and renewable indefinitely
- valued at \$200,000 per year

### Tier 2

- exceptional emerging researchers with potential to become leaders
- tenable for 5 years and renewable only once
- valued at \$100,000 per year



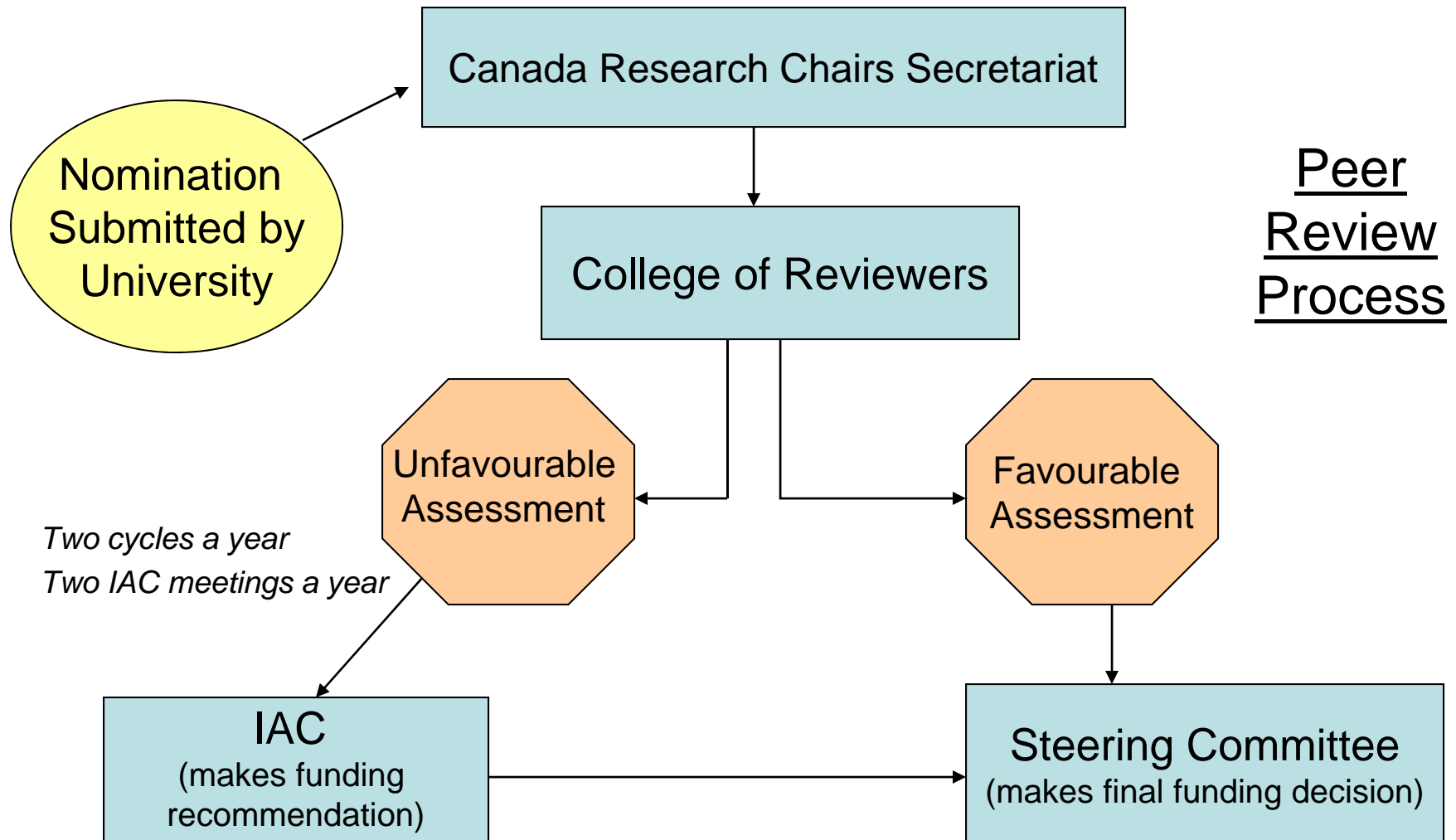
**Groups involved in the peer review process**

- CRC Secretariat Staff
- College of Reviewers
- Interdisciplinary Adjudication Committee (IAC)
- Steering Committee





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## Steering Committee members

Chad Gaffield, President, SSHRC (Chair)

Suzanne Fortier, President, NSERC

Alain Beaudet, President, CIHR

Gilles Patry, President and CEO, CFI

Richard Dicterni, Deputy Minister, Industry Canada

Pierre Charest, Director General, Health Canada (observer)

*This committee receives funding recommendations from the College of Reviewers and IAC and makes final funding decisions*



## College of Reviewers

- made up of experts (including current Chairholders) from a wide range of fields of research
- members assess all nominations and accompanying CFI infrastructure requests
- based on these assessments, the Secretariat and IAC make recommendations to the program's Steering Committee



## Interdisciplinary Adjudication Committee (IAC)

- 15 experts from the College of Reviewers (5 members from each granting agency - CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) plus the Chairperson
- a third of IAC's membership includes researchers from outside Canada
- reviews “problematic nominations” and makes funding recommendations to the Steering Committee



**IAC reviews nominations that have:**

- received mixed reviews / recommendations not to support from College of Reviewers (problematic nominations)
- a Tier 2 Justification
- received only two reviews from the College of Reviewers



## Overview of peer review process

- 2 intake deadlines per year for nominations (April and October)
- 3 members of the College of Reviewers evaluate each nomination and CFI request:
  - Consensus = CRC Secretariat recommends support
  - No consensus = review by IAC
- Steering Committee approves all recommendations



## Evaluation criteria

- A - Quality of the chairholder and of the proposed program of research
  
- B - Quality of the institutional environment, institutional commitment and integration of the chairholder's research with the university's Strategic Research Plan



## Evaluation Criteria – NEW NOMINATION

### *A. Quality of the nominee and of the proposed program of research*

#### ***Tier 1 nominees should:***

- be outstanding and innovative researchers whose accomplishments have made a major impact in their fields;
- be recognized internationally as leaders in their fields;
- have superior records of attracting and supervising HQP and, as chairholders, be expected to continue to attract HQP; and
- be proposing an original, innovative research program of the highest quality

#### ***Tier 2 nominees should:***

- be excellent emerging researchers who have demonstrated particular research creativity;
- have demonstrated the potential to achieve international recognition in their fields in the next five to ten years;
- be proposing an original, innovative research program of high quality; and
- as a chairholder, have the potential to attract HQP





## Evaluation Criteria – NEW NOMINATION

### ***B. Quality of the institutional environment, commitment and fit of proposed chair with the university's Strategic Research Plan***

#### ***Institutional environment***

- environment for the Chair (opportunities for collaboration with other researchers working in the same or related areas at the nominating institution, in the same region, within Canada and abroad)

#### ***Institutional commitment***

- protected time for research (for example, release from teaching or administrative duty), additional funds, office space, administrative support, and hiring of other faculty members

#### ***Fit of the proposed chair with the SRP***

- importance of the Chair to the strategic development of research at the institution
- fit of the chair with the university's SRP
- how the chair will contribute to the attainment of the university's objectives



## Evaluation Criteria – RENEWAL NOMINATION

### *A. Quality of the nominee and of the proposed program of research*

#### *Performance Report:*

- 1) how the chairholder has achieved the objectives set out in the original nomination
- 2) how they have upheld the standards of excellence of the program
- 3) what the added value has been of holding a Canada Research Chair



## Evaluation Criteria – RENEWAL NOMINATION

### A. *Quality of the nominee and of the proposed program of research (cont'd)*

#### **Tier 1**

- continues to distinguish him- or herself as an outstanding, world-class researcher;
- has successfully attracted, and continues to attract, HQP; and
- is carrying out a program of research that is producing leading-edge results which are making a significant impact at the international level

#### **Tier 2**

- is developing into an outstanding, original and creative researcher of world-class calibre and is poised to become a leader in his or her field;
- has successfully attracted, and will continue to attract, HQP; and
- is carrying out a program of research that is producing important results which are making a significant impact in the field



## Evaluation Criteria – RENEWAL NOMINATION

### *B. Institutional environment, institutional commitment, Strategic Research Plan*

- how the Chair will continue to function in, and contribute to, the institutional environment
- the university's commitment to continue to provide the Chair with the necessary support
- how the Chair will contribute to the university's SRP



## Renewals – what’s been happening

- Tier 2s are not intended as a “feeder system” for Tier 1s
- total of 1,034 renewals (Tier 1 & 2)
- very high success rate
- Emerging Negative Decision (END) process for problematic renewals



## Emerging Negative Decision (END) process

- renewals where IAC is not supportive or wants more information/clarification
- list of questions or concerns to be addressed
- university has 60 days to respond (2 pages)
- reassessment by IAC to make its final funding recommendation



## Tips from the IAC on nomination preparation

- demonstrated international recognition (or potential)
- publication strategy with disciplinary context
- impact of work
- value-added for having held a CRC (renewals only)



## Tips from the IAC on nomination preparation (cont'd)

- Tier 2 premature nomination:
  - limited evidence of research independence
  - low productivity to date
  - lack of direction and clarity of research program
  - insufficient knowledge or recognition of existing research

**Not linked to the number of years post-degree**





## Common stumbling blocks

- low university support (protected time for research, research support)
- premature Tier 2 nominations
- unexplained delays in research
- lack of rationale for contributions (provide context for choice of venue and evidence of impact for discipline)
- fit with the research environment (SRP, research centres, infrastructure)



## Letters of reference

- 3 letters per nomination
- **New nominations:**
  - Tier 1:** no conflict of interest (1 international)
  - Tier 2:** 1 of 3 letters free from COI
- **Renewals:**
  - Tier 1 and 2:** no COI (1 international)
- letters to be sent directly to the CRC Secretariat in Ottawa
- format and COI instructions are on Chairs web site



## Program updates

- a "Renewal Calendar" on the CRC web site indicates the last possible submission date for renewal nominations
- evaluations from the College of Reviewers will no longer be edited prior to them being sent to the university
- Tier 2 justification pre-screening process is now permanent



## Program updates (cont'd)

### Letters of reference:

- can now be sent to the Secretariat directly by the nominating institution or by the referee
- the Secretariat will not verify letters of reference for conflicts of interest
- the university must ensure that a COI does not exist in cases where letters must be 'conflict free'
- in instances where a COI must not be present, the letter must include a statement from the referee declaring that there is none



## Equity in the Chairs program

- in 2008, universities were asked to set targets for the representation of the four designated groups to address the issue of equity
- nomination forms were changed to include:
  - self-identification of membership in the four designated groups
  - monitoring for recruitment process at universities



## Equity in the Chairs program (cont'd)

- recruitment process must be transparent, open and equitable:
  - open advertising with a statement of commitment to equity in the nomination and appointment process
  - encouragement for [persons in designated groups](#) to apply
  - active recruitment measures for members of underrepresented groups
  - involvement in the Chair recruitment, nomination and appointment process by university equity officers, or equivalent



## Equity in the Chairs program (cont'd)

- records must be kept for 12 months
- target setting exercise every 3 years
- annual recognition of universities with exemplary equity practices and strategies is being designed
- contact person: Louise-Michelle Verrier



## 10th year evaluation of the CRC program

- as 2010 was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chairs program, the main evaluation objectives are:
  - to identify the successes of the program to date;
  - to learn from our collective experiences; and
  - to specify areas for improvement in order to ensure the program's future success.





## 10th year evaluation of the CRC program (cont'd)

### Timelines and key deliverables

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Final evaluation design report | January 2010                    |
| Data collection phase          | March to June 2010              |
| First draft evaluation report  | October 2010                    |
| Final evaluation report        | April 2011 ** subject to change |



## **Statistics**

### **As of November 2010:**

- total number of filled CRC positions: **1,845**
- Tier 1 CRCs: **784**
- Tier 2 CRCs: **1,061**
- CRCs recruited from outside of Canada: **546 (30%)**
- female CRCs: **463 (25%)**
- male CRCs: **1,382 (75%)**



## How to contact us:

- **questions about CRC program - university contact:**  
[www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/contact-coordonnees/index-eng.aspx](http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/contact-coordonnees/index-eng.aspx)
- **questions about equity:**  
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- **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI):**  
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## Questions?

