Connect with NSERC:
Community Engagement Visit
Spring 2016
Overview

• Highlights of Federal Budget 2016
• Towards NSERC 2020
• Funding Opportunity Updates
• Policy Updates
• Wrap-up
Highlights of 2016 Federal Budget

• “Minister of Science will undertake a comprehensive review of all elements of federal support for fundamental science over the coming year”

• Government developing Innovation Agenda

NSERC: $30 million + $15 million (2015 Budget) = $45 million moving forward

$95 million per year to federal funding agencies
Over to you...

• Questions?
• Comments?
• Advice?
Towards NSERC 2020

• Vision and Mission
• Fostering a science and engineering culture in Canada
• Launching the new generation
• Building a diversified and competitive research base
• Strengthening discovery-innovation dynamic
• Going global
Towards NSERC 2020

• **Vision:** To make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians
  – Convener, Mobilizer, Advisor

• **Mission:** We are the focal point for discovery and innovation in natural sciences and engineering for Canada.
  – We back bold, high-impact ideas
FOSTER A SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CULTURE IN CANADA
Fostering a Science and Engineering Culture

- **Goals:** Increase interest, awareness, and appreciation of science as a way of experiencing, understanding, and enriching the world.
- **Strategy:** Take national leadership and be focal point for science promotion
- **Outcome:** Culture that values science and engineering
Fostering a Science and Engineering Culture

• **Promote:** target under-represented groups and teachers, increase funding for PromoScience, broaden scope of PromoScience

• **Celebrate:** increase profile of NSERC researchers, increase recognition of science promotion, outreach, and mentoring activities in peer review

• **Guide:** leading Science Odyssey, address gaps and share best practices
Over to you...

• Questions?
• Comments?
• Advice for implementation?
LAUNCH THE NEW GENERATION
Launch New Generation

- **Goal:** Mobilize Canada's future brain trust, enable early-career scientists’ independent research careers

- **Strategy:** Review investment tools to provide more support to early-career researchers
Launch New Generation

• **Supporting Action:** exploring options to support the launch of independent research careers for young investigators in academia and in industry

• **Outcome:** More opportunities for early-career for advance their careers and work in research-intensive jobs in the university setting and in industry
Launch New Generation: In Action

- DG and Early Career Researchers
- RP and Early Career Researchers
- Current PDF Programs offered by NSERC
Over to you...

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Advice for implementation?
BUILD A DIVERSIFIED AND COMPETITIVE RESEARCH BASE
Diverse & Competitive Research Base

• **Goal**: stimulate breakthrough research, mobilize and connect expertise across populations, institutions, disciplines, regions, and sectors

• **Strategy**: Provide the support and flexibility for researchers to pursue high quality research that will promote diversity and interdisciplinarity

• **Outcome**: A world-class, dynamic, diverse, and interdisciplinary research enterprise in Canada
Diverse & Competitive Research Base: In Action

- Gender Equity Action Plan
- Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP): recently re-signed five-year MOU
- Provide incentives for college-university collaborations
- Discovery Development Grants for small universities
- Discovery Grant Extension with funds
- CREATE – increased focus on gender equity
Diverse & Competitive Research Base: In Action

• Implement NSERC’s Gender Equity Action Plan
  – Policy statement on gender equity
  – Reporting competition results by gender
  – Representation of women on review committees
  – Awareness of gender (unconscious) bias
  – Consideration of gender in research content and teams
  – Policies and practices as to how to assess diverse types of research contributions
  – Consultation and engagement with stakeholders
Over to you...

• Questions?
• Comments?
• Advice for implementation?
STRENGTHEN THE DYNAMIC BETWEEN DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION
Discovery-Innovation Dynamic

- **Goal**: Deepen the interactions between colleges and universities, the private sector, governments and civil society

- **Strategy**: Mobilize the research enterprise. Build on mechanisms and convene partners

- **Outcome**: A new generation that can work simultaneously in both discovery and innovation
Discovery-Innovation Dynamic

• Encourage researchers to work in discovery and innovation with ease and advance more discoveries toward innovation
  – Awareness, Opportunities, Support

• Strengthen the interactions of industry sectors, companies and innovative start-ups with universities and colleges
  – Matchmake, Convene, Fellowships, Expertise Awareness

• Showcase the dynamic between discovery and innovation
Discovery-Innovation: In Action

- Engagement visits now involve the discovery and innovation sides of NSERC
- Marketing of Discovery to Innovation
- Showcasing success stories
Over to you...

• Questions?
• Comments?
• Advice for implementation?
GO GLOBAL
Going Global

• **Goal**: Secure Canada's access to global knowledge & expertise. Increase participation in international research endeavours

• **Strategy**: Leverage Canada’s strengths in areas of national importance. Gain access & contribute to world-class knowledge, talent and expertise

• **Outcome**: Wider and stronger participation in strategic int’l research networks. Recognition of Canada’s significant contributions in both discovery & innovation
Going Global

• Opportunities for international training and research partnerships
  — Support collaborative research that addresses national and global challenges

• Build relationships with selected international agencies in areas of mutual strength
  — More scalable and focused than current informal researcher-researcher relationships

• Enhance participation of multinational/international businesses in research collaborations for the benefit of Canada
Going Global: In Action

• Global Research Council: NSERC first Canadian host, to take place during Canada 150 in 2017
• European Union: Waterworks collaboration
• Horizon 2020 funding for joint EU-Canada aerospace projects
Over to you...

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Advice for implementation?
Funding Opportunity Updates
Innovation Updates

• RP - Strategic Partnerships – Project and Networks
• Engage policy changes
• IUSRA are now “Experience Awards”
• Evaluations – Strategic; results of Industry-driven programs
Strategic Partnerships
Projects & Networks

• New Target Areas in place for 2016 competitions
  — Environment & Agriculture
  — Natural Resources & Energy
  — Information and Communications Technologies
  — Advanced Manufacturing

• Letter of Intent phase planned for 2017 Project competition

• Going Global – Strategic Networks
Engage Grant Updates

• Reason for changes: enhance the quality of applications received, and reduce the sheer number of proposals submitted.
  — Engage Grants applicants at universities are now limited to one new award per fiscal year*: + peer review support through NSERC required
  — Industrial partners limited to 2 Engage grants per year, (including university and college-based projects) & minimum size: 2 employees + 2 years in business.
Name Change IUSRA
Now known as Experience

• Motivation
  – Confusion between IUSRA and USRA
  – Allows it to be identified correctly as Co-op placements in Canadian companies
Discovery Updates

• Early Stage Researchers – extension option
• HQP criterion– FAQ for applicants and reviewers published, impact being evaluated
• DG Budget allocation
• Portal and CCV
Discovery Updates

• Discovery Frontiers
  – New award in *New Materials for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency* announced January 2016

• Research Tools and Instruments
  – Applications now submitted via Research Portal
  – Review of quota system and university-based processes underway
Discovery Updates

• PGS and CREATE Evaluation – Key outcomes
  – PGS and CREATE are effective at supporting excellence among graduate students and postdocs
  – Aligned with Government and NSERC priorities and meet their objectives

• CGS-M updates – allocation
Over to you...

• Questions?
• Comments?
• Advice?
Policy Change Updates
Policy Change Updates

• Open data

• Subject matter eligibility:
  - Tri-agency guidelines updated
  - NSERC Annex with specific examples now available
Wrap-up

• Final questions comments?
• Further engagement visits planned at campuses across Canada
• Other suggestions, questions can be directed to connect@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
• Thank you!