

INDIRECT COSTS PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMATIVE EVALUATION OF THE INDIRECT COSTS PROGRAM

GENERAL COMMENTS

The summative evaluation of the Indirect Costs Program was carried out in its sixth year of operation in preparation for the renewal of its Terms and Conditions. The evaluation study was mandated to answer four questions related to the continued need for the program, its success to date in achieving its objective, its value for money, and the efficiency of program delivery. The recommendations focus on these elements and program management is of the opinion that the issues can be addressed within the renewed mandate and authorities of this permanent program.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That the Government of Canada maintain the Indirect Costs Program for college and university research.

RECOMMENDATION 2

That, in the absence of compelling evidence suggesting that change is required, the existing approach used in dealing with affiliated health research centres be maintained.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That the current formula for a progressive range of ICP funding rates be maintained.

RESPONSE

Management supports these three recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the questions in the reporting form be reviewed to better assess the incremental impact of the program.

RESPONSE

Management supports this recommendation and will prepare an action plan to review the performance indicators with grant recipients and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 5

That, in collaboration with postsecondary institutions, the granting agencies support the development of a methodology to establish a baseline measurement of the state of research environments.

RESPONSE

Management supports this recommendation and will prepare an action plan to deal with this issue.

RECOMMENDATION 6

That the level of funding for ICP operations be reassessed to ensure sufficient resources are available to meet due diligence, program oversight, and monitoring requirements.

RESPONSE

Management supports this recommendation. It will develop a three-year business plan to address the immediate recommendations in this report, as well as to identify future directions which will be pursued to ensure the program achieves its strategic objectives.

May 28, 2009