

Indirect Costs Program Public Disclosure

The Indirect Costs Program was created in 2003. The Government of Canada recognized that research has costs other than the direct funding covers. From the program's website <http://www.indirectcosts.gc.ca/>, "By alleviating the financial burden of expenses, such as lighting and heating, the program ultimately helps researchers concentrate on cutting-edge discoveries and scholarship excellence. After all, it is easier to achieve a eureka moment when the lights are on."

There are five broad categories of eligible expenditures for the Indirect Costs Program (ICP) Grant:

1. Research facilities;
2. Research resources;
3. Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise;
4. Regulatory requirements and accreditation; and
5. Intellectual property.

Each university manages the Indirect Costs Grant it receives by making appropriate choices while respecting the above categories. In 2011-2012, Laurentian University received an Indirect Costs grant totalling \$1,528,328 from this program.

The ICP grant has allowed Laurentian University to offer the administrative and intellectual support to all our new researchers who might have been attracted to other universities.

The Research, Development and Creativity Office has been able to use the funds made available to the university to provide matching funds in successful grant applications. Laurentian University has put in place a new policy to provide partial matching funds to any successful Research, Tools and Instruments grant application (NSERC). This approach was made possible by the ICP grant.

The funds that have been reported as paying for custodial, security, utilities, insurance, etc., have allowed the university to spend more on the main teaching mission which has allowed us in turn to maintain and, sometimes increase the number of faculty members. Those hires have in turn allowed us to increase our research intensity.

The 2011-2012 Indirect Costs Program grant of \$1,528,328 has allowed Laurentian-University to maintain and enhance our research capacity. This investment has allowed Laurentian University to allocate resources in support areas in such a way that would not have been possible without the Indirect Costs Program grant.

The Indirect Costs grant has helped fund effective and efficient support for researchers. The Indirect Costs grant provided for greater accountability through the following:

- Timely and accurate financial reporting

- Using generally acceptable business processes for the procurement of goods and services (this in turn ensures that researchers have the best goods and services at the best prices possible)
- The Indirect Costs grant helps the university in complying with the various regulations related to research (research with animals, with human subjects, with radioactive materials, etc.)

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Given the rising costs of personnel (staff and faculty), without the Indirect Costs grant, it would have been very difficult to invest as heavily in the areas noted above. The Federal investment in Indirect Costs has allowed Laurentian University to specifically target expenditures that are in support of research without competing with other priorities put forward by other areas of the institution.

It is safe to say that had the Indirect Costs program not been available to the university, most of the expenditures that were supported would not have made it through the operating fund at the university.

Distribution of the Indirect Costs grant

