

2011-12 Report on the Indirect Costs of Research Program

Since 2003 the Federal Indirect Costs of Research Program provides Canadian universities with annual funding to help pay for a portion of the hidden or “indirect” costs of research. Examples of such costs include lighting and heating for research space, salaries for staff that provide technical or administrative research support, training costs for workplace health and safety, and the administrative costs associated with getting a patent for an invention.

According to government criteria, funded costs must be “indirect” costs such as central and departmental administrative costs that institutions incur to support research but are not direct costs for specific research projects. Indirect Costs funding may be used to cover new expenditures as well as to maintain the current level of services to and support of an institution’s research environment, and to generate improvements, innovations and efficiencies in its management.

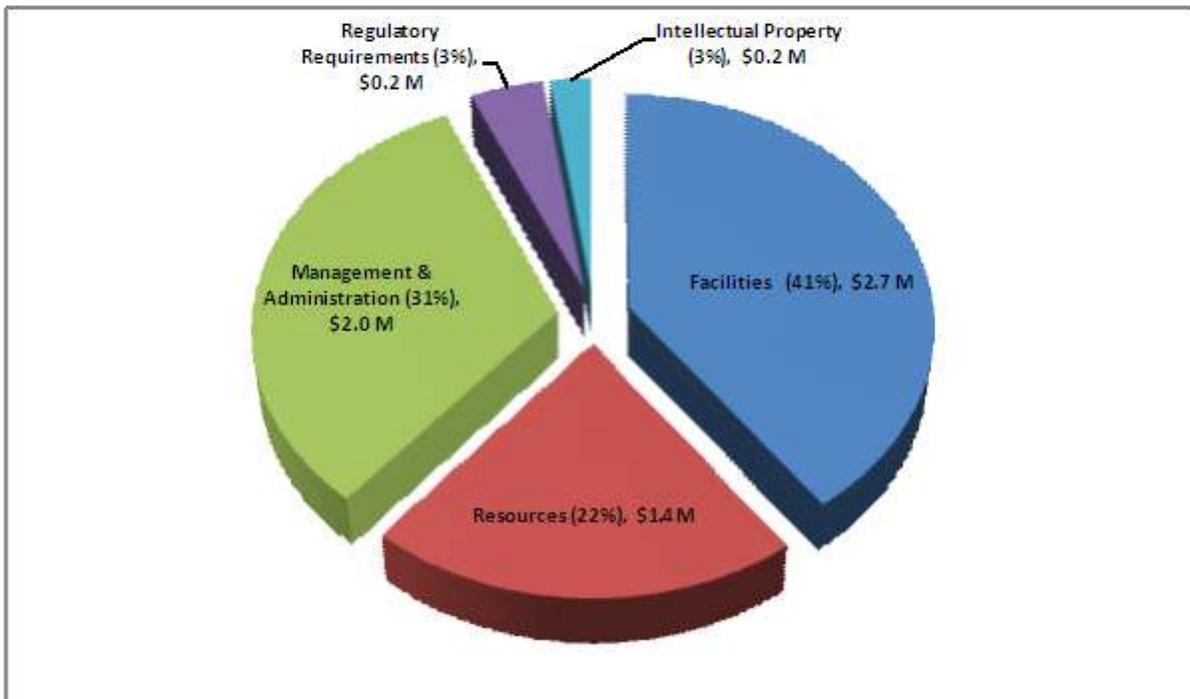
For more information about the Indirect Costs Program (ICP), please visit the Government of Canada website at: http://www.indirectcosts.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx

ICP at Dalhousie University

Dalhousie University has included the Indirect Cost of Research grant into its operating budget where it funds the indirect costs borne by the budget. In addition to costs in the various units, the University also allots strategic initiatives funding to identify areas of strategic focus for the University. Two of the strategic focus areas have an impact on research. The University has directed funds to a variety of areas to improve research strengths and renew University facilities. The total of indirect costs for the 2011-12 fiscal year was \$38.2 million, of which \$6.5 million was covered by the indirect costs grant.

Use of the grant is reported in five categories. The pie chart and descriptions below illustrate the distribution of the ICP grant by category:

Total 2011-12 Indirect Costs Program Grant: \$6,511,000



Total Indirect Costs at University
Percentage covered by Indirect Costs Grant

\$38.2 M
17.0%

Description of costs included in the five categories:

	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Funded by ICP</u>	<u>% of Grant</u>
Research Facilities	16.0 M	\$2.7 M	41%
<p>Research facilities occupy significant space on the Dalhousie campus. This includes laboratories, research networking spaces, offices of research and finance administration, and offices of researchers. The expenditures for 2011-12 include operating costs for such facilities such as custodial, security, maintenance and utilities and insurance. Technical support for research is also included in this category.</p>			
Research Resources	\$8.2 M	\$1.4 M	22%
<p>The University reported a portion of library operating costs, administration staff salaries as well as acquisition of library holdings in this category. Expenditures related to the cost of information resources such as databases, telecommunications, information technology and research tools for the benefit of researchers were also reported under this category.</p>			
Management & Administration	\$11.7 M	\$2.0 M	31%
<p>These costs include institutional support for the completion of grant applications/research proposals, salaries and benefits for staff who work on grant applications and research proposals (e.g., grant facilitators, secretarial and administrative assistants) were reported. Salaries and benefits for employees who support the research enterprise (research, financial, human resources and purchasing offices as well as Faculty departmental administrative support) are also expenditures included in this category.</p>			
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	\$1.4 M	\$0.2 M	3%
<p>The cost of training of faculty and other research personnel in health and safety, animal care, ethics review, handling radiation and biohazards, and environmental assessments is included. Technical support for animal care, handling of dangerous substances, biohazards and radioactive materials is a significant expense included in this category. In addition, costs associated with the creation of regulatory bodies such as the Research Ethics Board are recognized.</p>			
Intellectual Property	\$0.9M	\$0.2 M	3%
<p>The University reported expenditures for the Industry Liaison and Innovation (ILI) unit that supports the research community at Dalhousie University and the affiliated hospitals. ILI is responsible for promoting innovation, research development, industry engagement and start-ups. ILI enables the movement of University research from the institutions to the community with tangible results, enabling economic growth.</p>			
	<u>\$38.2 M</u>	<u>\$6.5 M</u>	<u>100%</u>

Impact of the ICP at Dalhousie

The Indirect Costs grant provides \$6.5 million in revenue to support the operating budget of the University. This important source of funding represents about 3.7% of Faculty budgets. Without this funding, alternative funding sources or significant reductions in costs would need to be achieved. The funding allows the University to provide a well sourced research environment including staff and facilities to help attract and retain high quality researchers and highly qualified personnel.

The Indirect Costs grant is important as it allows for a level of administrative support that fosters research excellence. Specifically, ICP enabled more central organization and coordination of large-scale research applications. Teams consisting of the lead researchers as well as representatives from Research Services, Financial Services, Facilities Management and Purchasing are formed to assist with the application to, and administration of, large-scale research projects.

As a research intensive university, Dalhousie occupies approximately 100 buildings many of which house space for research purposes. Approximately 27.4% of net useable space of the University is used for research. The cost of such space in terms of utilities, insurance, custodial and maintenance was estimated at \$13.4 million in 2011-12. Such costs are partially supported by the Indirect Costs grant.

In particular in 2011-12 there are new and continuing costs for the operation and maintenance of the new Life Sciences Research Institute. Also the University's facilities renewal budget covered renovation costs to research intensive buildings such as the Life Science Centre and Dunn Building in 2011-12. Without the ICP grant support to the operating budget, the University's ability to improve and develop new research facilities would be severely constrained.

Dalhousie's Information Technology Services Department directly supports researchers with their technology needs and they support all the programs, systems, and networks required to efficiently operate in a university environment. ICP funds have helped the Dalhousie Libraries keep up with the new and more demanding information access requirements of researchers, allowing them to remain competitive with their peers nationally and internationally. The ongoing challenge of acquiring and providing access to the ever increasing amount of scholarly information on a world-wide scale would be hindered without the support provided through the ICR program.

These are all examples of how Indirect Costs Program has impacted and improved the research environment at Dalhousie. The result; last year Dalhousie increased total research funding by about \$5 million, was able to grow industry supported research by 15%, and has been able to attract and retain many new leading researchers such as a new Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC), 2 new Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRC), a new Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Industrial Research Chair, and has renewed 12 of the current CRCs.