Ottawa seeks proposal for initiatives to end violence against women on campuses

The federal government has launched a call for proposals for projects to address violence against women on post-secondary campuses. The federal government will accept submissions until January 27, 2012 for projects that cost under $200,000. There is no limit on the number of proposals the government could approve.
Federal government launches 2\textsuperscript{nd} CERC competition

10 chairs worth $10M each are up for grabs in a second round of the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program. Chairs will be awarded in the four large priority areas outlined in the 2007 Science and Technology Strategy along with digital economy. Selection will be done through a two-stage process with universities competing for the opportunity to establish chairs at their institutions, followed by a short-list of universities that will forward their nominees. It is estimated that a $10M chair attracts on average more than $19 million in leverage funding.

Ontario to build three new campuses

The Ontario government is planning to make good on their election commitment to build three new campuses that would offer undergraduate degrees in the province, with locations to be selected based on population and educational demands. The pledge, which was repeated in the recent Ontario Throne Speech, would open up 60,000 post-secondary spots by 2015–16. Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities, and former Winnipeg Mayor, Glen Murray has indicated the province is looking to address gaps in the current system and locate campuses in growth areas where there is an emerging economy that could be supported and reinforced by a local college or university. The campuses are likely to become satellite campuses of existing universities and colleges, and more likely combinations of the two, to better respond to what communities need.

5\% increase in industrial R&D projected

Industrial R&D is projected to increase to $15.6 billion in 2011, up 5\% from 2010 levels according to Statistics Canada. This is a positive sign after three consecutive years of declining R&D spending across almost all industrial sectors. 2011 projections are still below the $16.8 billion spent in 2007 however. Six industries will account for just over half of industrial R&D in 2011. The services sector accounts for 4 of the 6 - scientific research and development services ($1.7 billion), wholesale trade ($1.3 billion), information and cultural industries ($1.2 billion), and computer system design and related services ($1.1 billion). The manufacturing sector accounts for the other 2 - aerospace products and parts ($1.4 billion) and communications equipment ($1.4 billion).

Green Team Funding Available

Provincial funding is available again this year through the Provincial Green Team Grants to hire youth between the ages of 15 and 29 for summer jobs in Manitoba. There are two intakes for the grant, the first with a deadline of January 16\textsuperscript{th} for work between May 1\textsuperscript{st} and August 31\textsuperscript{st}, and the second with a deadline of March 8\textsuperscript{th} for employment between June 15\textsuperscript{th} and August 31\textsuperscript{st}. Applicants can request up to 560 hours per position for the first intake and 320 hours for the second, for a maximum of 4 positions. Applicants will be reimbursed the Manitoba minimum wage and 4\% vacation allowance for each approved program employee, as well as up to $250 in support costs.

Universities are eligible for funding so please coordinate your applications through Government and Community Engagement.

Applications for the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs Program are expected to be out in late January and Government and Community Engagement will coordinate applications once they are available.
EVENTS

Recreation spaces upgraded through RinC

On December 9, the University of Manitoba opened a new state-of-the-art circuit training room for women and a spin cycle room as part of an extensive series of upgrades in facilities at the Frank Kennedy Centre. Funding for the overall project was $729,649 with $240,000 being provided by the federal government’s Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RinC) program through Western Economic Diversification Canada. President Barnard and Rod Bruinooge, MP, Winnipeg South took part in the ribbon cutting event at the announcement. Other Frank Kennedy Centre upgrades funded through the program included: conversion of a gymnastics room to a basketball gym, expansion of the climbing wall, construction of family change rooms, and new basketball hoops in the Gold gym.

Visionary Conversations

The University of Manitoba has launched a new speaker series hosted by President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David T. Barnard. At the next event, Water: Too Much, Too Little, Two Lakes join our expert panel for a discussion of water resource issues that impact the supply and quality of water, the environment and the future of this very critical resource to our existence. More information on the February 15th session is available from the website and you can rsvp at government_community@umanitoba.ca. And save the date for these upcoming sessions:

April 11 – Human Rights and Gender Issues
June 13 – The Food We Eat

And you can catch past conversations on the U of M YouTube channel.

Parliament and Legislature to Return

Parliament will be back in session starting January 30 and will run till June. While a firm date has not been set, the expectation is for the Legislature to come back in March after having only sat for a brief 9 day session that followed the October election. Things at City Hall are already underway, with committee meetings being held throughout the month and the next regular council meeting set for January 25.