

# Research News

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## CFI awards \$5 million to researchers

BY FRANK NOLAN  
Research Promotion

On November 27, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) announced \$5 million in new funding to support two major research programs at the University of Manitoba. One project brings together researchers from across Canada as part of an advanced social sciences research network, while the other involves the use of state-of-the-art analysis tools to understand chemical processes important to a wide range of environmental issues, including the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

"The CFI's support of cutting-edge research infrastructure has transformed Canada's research landscape and increased the country's international



Photo by Frank Nolan  
Dean Emeritus Raymond Currie, senior scholar in the department of sociology.

competitiveness," said Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of the CFI. "Investments like these have allowed the University of Manitoba to become a destination of choice for some of the world's top research talent."

Dean Emeritus Raymond Currie, a senior scholar in the department of sociology, leads the National Research Data Centre (RDC) Network, which has received \$4 million in new funding. Originally established in 2000, the network has grown to involve close to 40 universities across Canada. The network gives social science researchers access to comprehensive Statistics Canada data sets, provides training in the analysis of complex longitudinal data, and works to strengthen the links between social scientists and the potential users of the knowledge they generate, including governments and policy makers. Research projects are organized around several major themes, including the social determinants of health, early child development, and a variety of economic issues.

The new funding will provide for upgrades to secure data transfer infrastructure, as well as supporting the Data Documentation Initiative, which aims to standardize the way data sets are maintained so that they can be more directly compared with findings from other countries.

CFI also awarded \$1 million to Frank Hawthorne, Canada Research Chair in crystallography and mineralogy, to support advanced studies of Earth materials. The funding will provide for state-of-the-art X-ray diffraction and spectroscopy equipment that will allow researchers to examine the structure of minerals and complex chemical



Photo by Frank Nolan  
Distinguished Professor Frank Hawthorne, geological sciences, Canada Research Chair in crystallography and mineralogy.

reactions at a molecular level.

Hawthorne is one of the world's leading mineralogists, and the infrastructure will support his work in characterizing the crystal structures in complex rock-forming minerals, and the chemical reactions involved in a wide range of processes that have a significant impact on the environment, including the disposal of nuclear waste, and acid mine drainage.

"I am very pleased that CFI has selected these projects for support, since both of them have the potential to produce very real benefits for the people of Canada and for the health of our environment," said Joanne Keselman, Vice-President (Research) at the University of Manitoba.

"CFI programs are highly competitive, and the success of these investigators has shown once again that University of Manitoba researchers are among the best in the country."

The new funding is part of a major investment by the CFI to support 86 projects at 35 institutions across the country, an investment which included the inauguration of two new CFI funds. The first is the Leading Edge Fund (LEF), designed to enable institutions to build on and enhance already successful and productive initiatives supported by past CFI investment. The second is the New Initiatives Fund (NIF), designed to enhance Canada's capacity in promising new areas of research and technology development.

"This substantial injection of funding will ensure cutting-edge research continues at the University of Manitoba," said the Honourable Vic Toews, Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada. "The University of Manitoba has a reputation as a world-class facility that attracts top researchers from around the world. Manitobans should continue to be proud of the work that is conducted at the school."

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians.

A complete list of projects funded today by the CFI can be found at: [www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca).

### In Brief

#### City of Winnipeg CAO featured at Smartpark speaker series

Annitta Stenning, the city's chief administrative officer, was the featured speaker at Smartpark's Interactive Speaker Series, "The Power 30," on November 28th. Stenning and moderator Geoff Kirbyson of the Winnipeg Free Press discussed salaries paid to city employees, which Stenning said are comparable to those paid by similar organizations in Canada. Stenning added that competitive wages are essential for retaining good employees who might otherwise be lured to cities like Calgary or Edmonton, which have been actively recruiting in Winnipeg.

Over the hour-long discussion, Stenning also described her own career, and discussed the topics of women in government and the presence of women on the Winnipeg Free Press "Power 30" list.

## Nursing research at St. Amant

BY SUSAN PARKER  
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In the Faculty of Nursing, research associate Bev Temple holds an innovative position jointly funded by the University of Manitoba and St. Amant. The pilot position is a three-year term, with the possibility of extension, and it provides a valuable opportunity for Temple's students to participate in her research activities at St. Amant.

The goal of Temple's program is to increase the amount of nursing research around individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) with the hopes of improving their quality of life, which is the central theme of the research centre at St. Amant.

"Involving students increases the amount of research we can do and also trains new professionals," Temple said.

Temple's team includes St. Amant's director of research Dickie Yu, psychology, Shahin Shooshtari, family social sciences, and St. Amant program

manager Toby Martin.

To demonstrate this commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities, St. Amant recently changed its name from the "St. Amant Centre" to better represent the wide range of community services it provides. St. Amant is a comprehensive resource for Manitobans with developmental disabilities, and offers a range of programming, services and care to support both individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Services include a large main residence, 54 community sites and homes, a research centre, a school and a daycare. St. Amant also offers an effective program for children with autism and another for families who care for a developmentally-disabled individual at home.

Currently working with Nursing instructor Elaine Mordoch, the team is studying student nurses and their attitudes toward individuals with intellectual disabilities. Temple's research is based on the idea that

nursing students may not recognize their interaction with these individuals as part of their nursing role.

"I hope my research will reveal ways to influence the curriculum and educate nurses to better understand and have positive attitudes towards individuals with intellectual disabilities," Temple said. "Can we improve the care that these individuals receive when they reach the health care system by starting with the new nurses entering the system?"

On January 5, 2007, Temple and her team will be describing this project and other collaborative programs as part of the Faculty of Nursing Research Seminar Series. Their presentation, *Research Opportunities/Collaboration at St. Amant*, will take place from noon until 1:00 in Room 344 of the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, and everyone is invited to attend.

For more information, please call Susan Parker at 474-7021 or by email at [susan\\_parker@umanitoba.ca](mailto:susan_parker@umanitoba.ca)

## Bringing Research To Life

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