

Allocation of funds awarded by SSHRC and CIHR

From the start, the SSHRC and CIHR awards have been *Network* awards, and the Network has been responsible for distributing these funds to individual RDCs to assist them with their operating costs.

Over time, the allocation of these operating funds has evolved. In the early years, over 80 percent of the award was allocated to *fixed costs* associated with RDC operations. As the Network matured, payment of fixed costs declined gradually to about 20 percent of the allocation, replaced by an increased emphasis on *rewarding activity and successful output*.

The Directors have unanimously approved a new **allocation formula** to be applied to our next award, with the understanding that modifications could be made as the Network develops.

This formula recognizes five funding needs: (a more detailed rationale for these components and how the measures were established is available from the committee report on allocation of funds)

1. National RDC Commitments: Network personnel, administrative infrastructure and dissemination costs, such as salaries and travel for the Executive Director and secretary, the Knowledge Transfer Coordinator, development of the network website, intranet etc.

The remainder is to be divided among Centres according to the following criteria:

2. Fixed Component To acknowledge the basic costs associated with operating a Centre or Branch, determined after interviews with the Analysts in the Centres who identified tasks common to each site irrespective of the total volume of research activity.

“The allocation for fixed costs shall not exceed 32% and not exceed \$25,000 for a Centre or \$7,000 for a Branch with adjustments for inflation“. Motion passed by the Directors, April 24th, 2009.

3. Partner Contributions An amount equal to 15% of the contribution from Partner(s) to a Centre is to be given to the host Centre. This modest amount is intended to recognize the cost-savings of having partners over establishing a Branch when the number of researchers at a given university is not high enough to warrant a branch on site.

4. Research activity This variable amount is determined by the volume of research done in the Centres as measured by researcher/contract dyads. Centres with more research activity receive a larger portion of the funding, and activity is determined by

number of research contracts, the category of researcher, and the number of researchers per contract¹.

- 5. Rewards for Output** One Network goal is to make research count. To this end, the Directors decided to allocate 20% of the funds available for activity to be awarded based on weighted Output measures.

¹ We conducted a study which shows that students require more support than experienced researchers, and that contracts with more researchers take more time to administer. Our activity measure, termed the *researcher/contract dyad*, estimates 1.5 for each student, and counts each additional academic researcher on a contract up to a maximum of four.