

## **PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT – Federal Research Support Fund Laurentian University**

### **What are the Indirect Costs of Research?**

In order for research projects to be conducted, there is a host of everyday, practical requirements that must be addressed and in place. These requirements, that may not be directly obvious, have associated costs; these are the indirect costs of research. Some of the specific costs include those behind-the-scenes expenses incurred by the university supporting the day-to-day research enterprise. Without heat, electricity, computer and network maintenance or administrative staff, research projects would be near impossible to complete. Costs incurred to keep the lights on, maintain database servers, or the wear-and-tear maintenance for lab space all contribute to the indirect cost of research.

### **How does the Federal Indirect Cost Program help?**

In 2003, the Government of Canada introduced the [Indirect Costs Program \(ICP\)](#) to help post-secondary institutions offset the less obvious costs of research. The annual grant helps institutions manage the financial demands of the indirect cost of research. By easing the institutional financial burden ICP helps the university create an environment where researchers can focus on their research, collaborate with colleagues, and translate their discoveries and innovations.

The federal [Research Support Fund](#) (formerly the Indirect Costs Program) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions with the costs associated with managing their research enterprise, helping them to maintain a world-class research environment.

The objective of the Research Support Fund (RSF) is to assist Canadian postsecondary institutions with the expenses associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC). Research funding provided through the granting agencies is generally limited to direct project costs (e.g., research equipment, research assistant salaries, etc.). Institutions whose researchers receive funding for research also incur costs to manage their research enterprise. These are often called indirect costs of research.

RSF funds may be used to cover new expenditures, to maintain the current level of services, or to support an institution's research environment and improve its management. The five expenditure areas are:

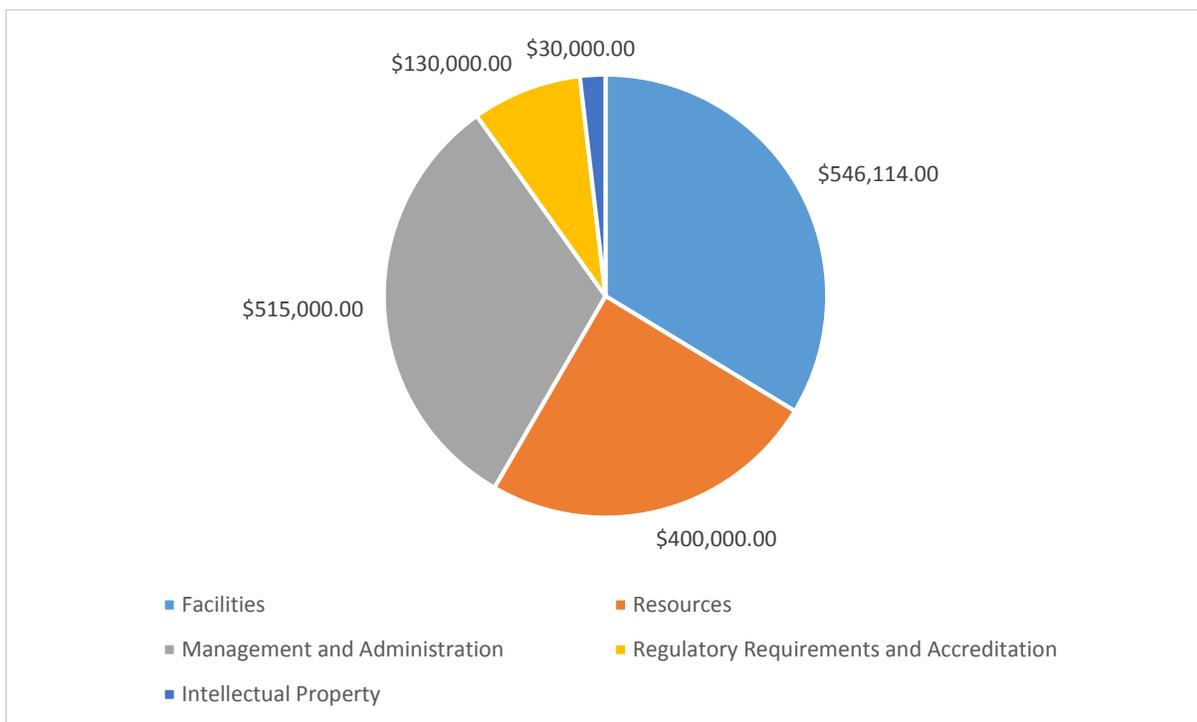
1. [Research facilities](#);
2. [Research resources](#);
3. [Management and administration of an institution's research enterprise](#);
4. [Regulatory requirements and accreditation](#); and
5. [Intellectual property and Knowledge mobilization](#).

Overall, grants for indirect costs must add to, and not displace, any research support funds that postsecondary institutions have received from the provincial government, private sector or other federal sources.

Whether the grant pays for the maintenance of libraries, laboratories or research networking spaces, or for the technical support required for an institution's website or library computer system, the overall goal of the fund is to help ensure Canada's research institutions remain among the best in the world. By subsidizing the financial burden of indirect costs, the fund ultimately helps researchers and universities focus on delivering innovative research and scholarly excellence.

### Laurentian University's Indirect Costs Grant Allocation

The amount of Laurentian University's (LU) Indirect Costs grant is calculated using an algorithm based on the amount of funding awarded in the previous fiscal year by Federal granting agencies. According to this calculation, in 2014/15 LU received a grant of \$1,621,114, which was allocated in the five categories as shown in the pie chart below.



LU invested funds in **facilities** to support and maintain laboratories and other research spaces across campus. These funds help ensure that researchers can rely on a research space where they can discover and innovate.

A significant portion of the grant was allocated to **research resources** to ensure that up-to-date, relevant materials are available to support research and training at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. Maintaining a library is at the very core of an institution as it is a repository of knowledge and an academic foundation for the research enterprise.

**Management and administration** funds supported salaries and benefits of staff in the Research, Development and Creativity Office and in the Financial Services Office. These teams are central services that facilitate and administer, pre- and post-award functions supporting research initiatives.

**Regulatory requirements and accreditation** funds supported Animal Care Certification and Research Ethics staff to proactively meet compliance issues. These efforts help minimize risk to researchers and to the University, and help ensure that research funds are used only on projects that meet regulatory and other compliance guidelines.

Funds expended on the management of **intellectual property** allowed for the successful execution of contracts and agreements when working with sponsored research and industry.