



Seminar 7: Capital Planning  
NSERC Funding for Early Stage Companies  
Megan Griffith  
May 21, 2014

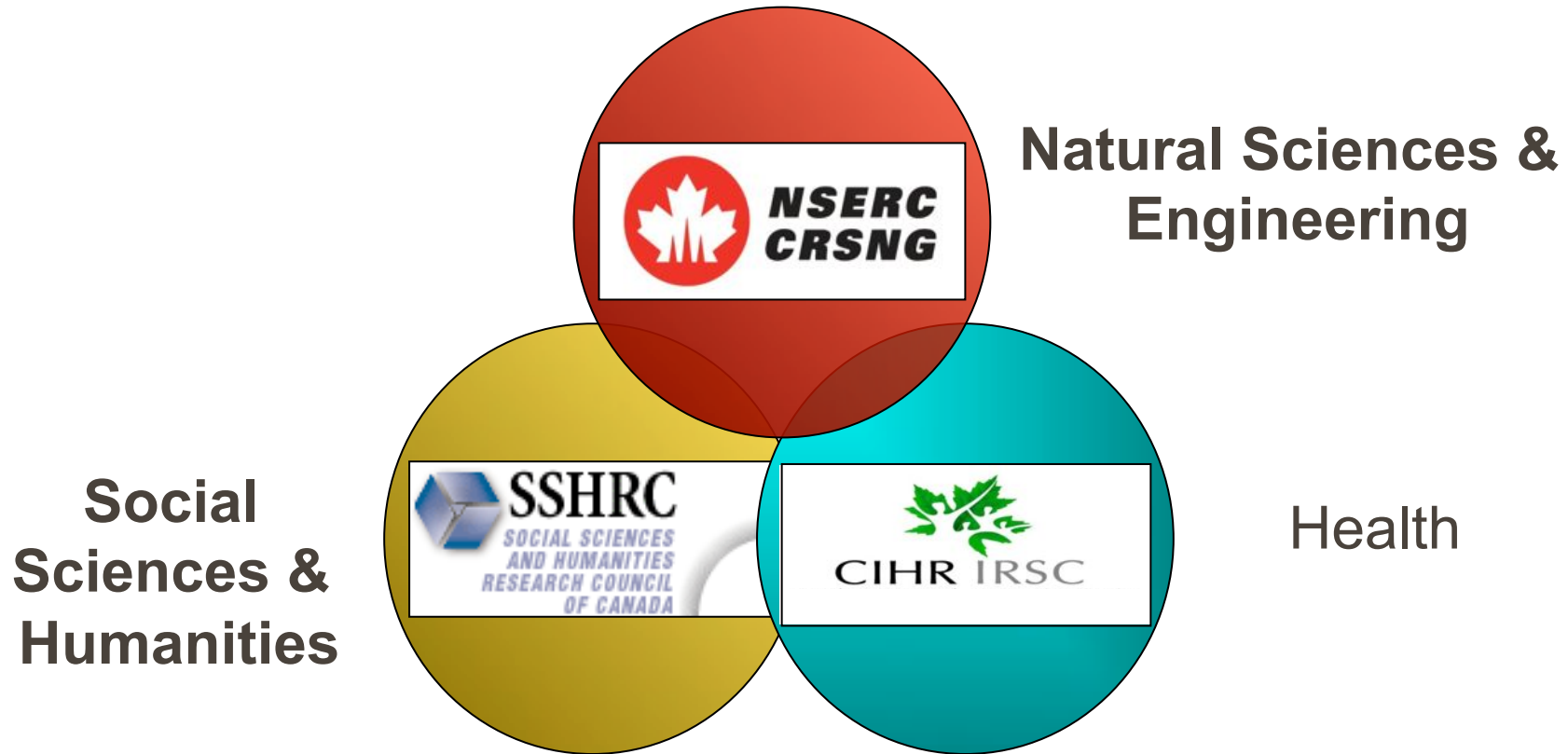


Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

# Federal Funding Agencies (aka the “Tri-Councils”)

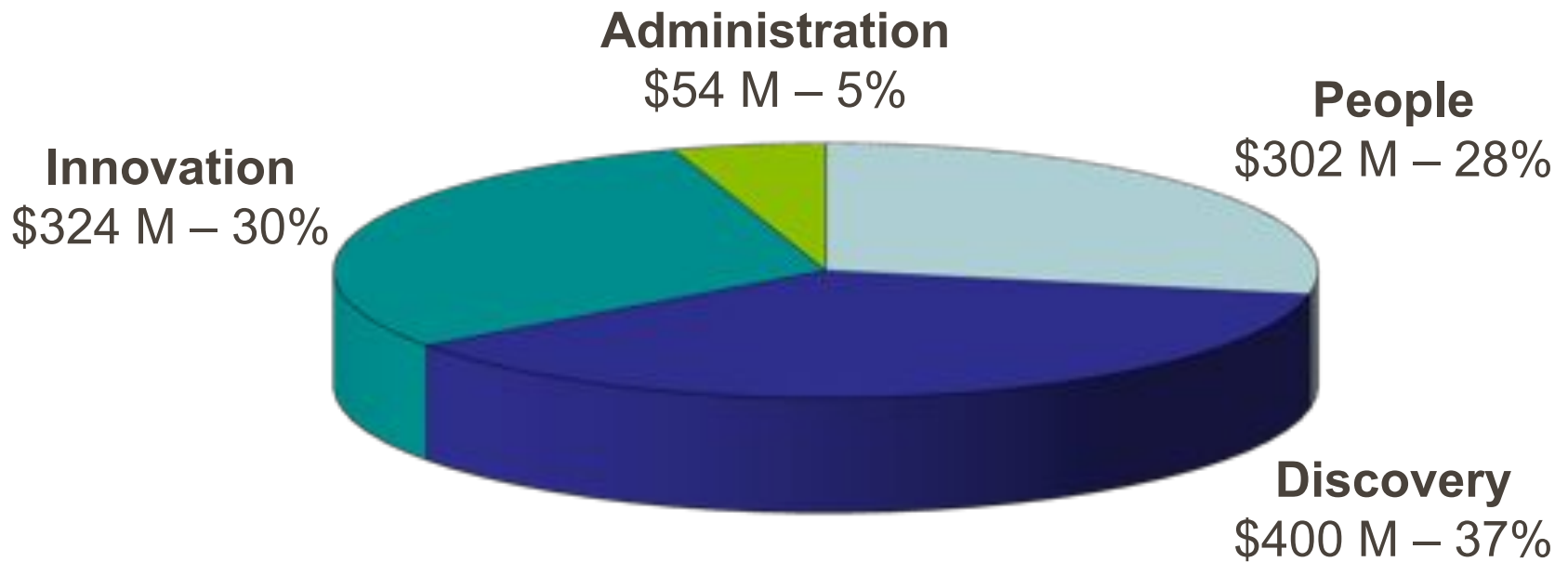


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# NSERC Budget

Total: \$1.1 billion



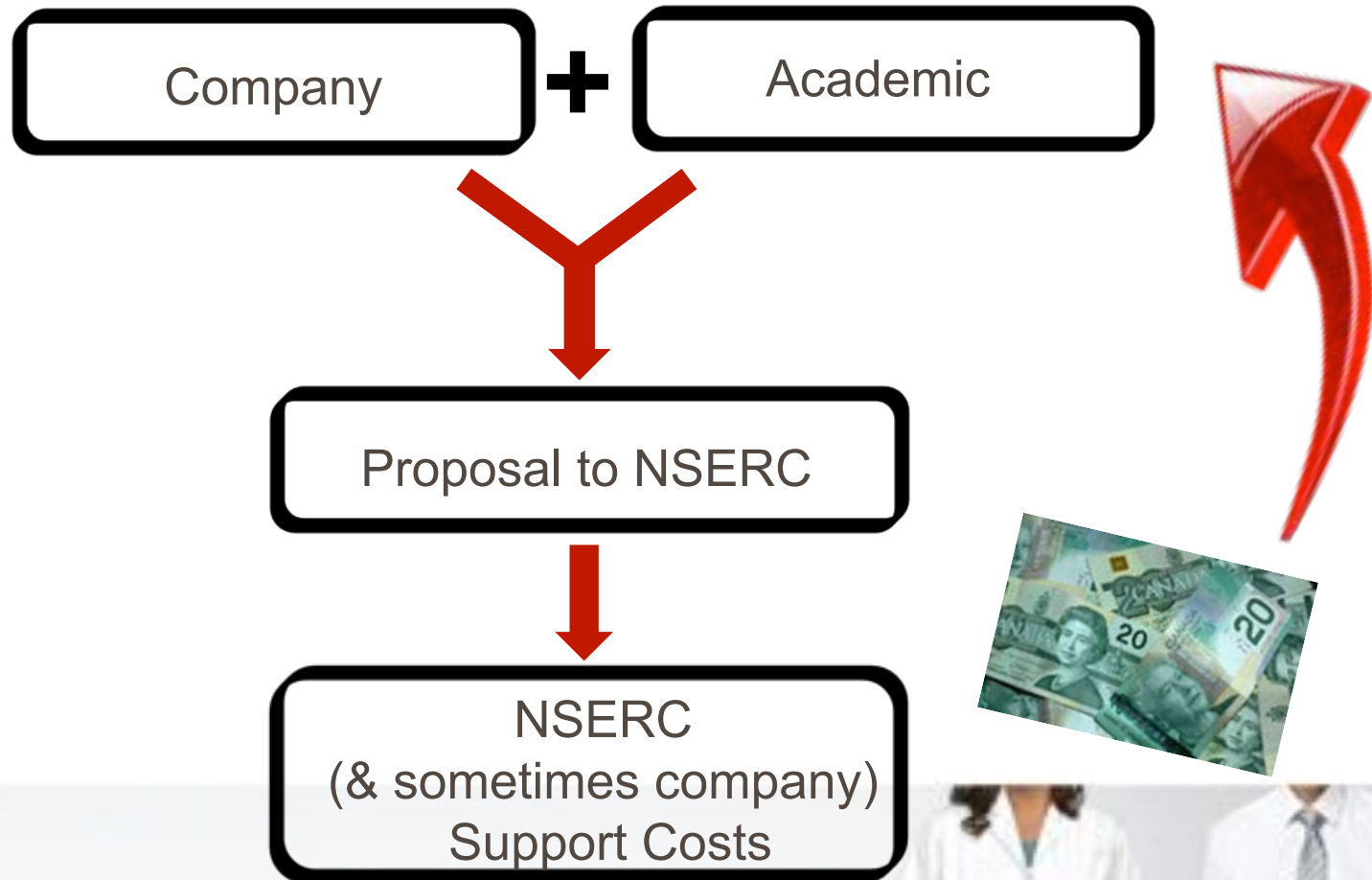
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# The 5 Streams of Research Partnerships



# How Do Companies and Universities Work Together?



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# NSERC Eligible Universities & Colleges

## Universities

- BC Institute of Technology
- The University of BC
- University of the Fraser Valley
- University of Northern BC
- Royal Roads University
- Simon Fraser University
- Thompson Rivers University
- Trinity Western University
- Vancouver Island University
- University of Victoria

## Colleges

- Camosun College
- Douglas College
- Emily Carr University of Art & Design
- Justice Institute of BC
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- College of New Caledonia
- North Island College
- Okanagan College
- Selkirk College
- Yukon College
- Langara College
- Vancouver Community College



# Hire an undergrad or co-op student...

Industrial Undergraduate  
Student Research Award  
(IUSRA)



- \$4,500 from NSERC
- University or College student
- Co-op or non-co-op
- No deadline
- 4 weeks processing time
- Hire up to 15 IUSRA students per year





# Some Past Competitors Participating in IUSRA...



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# Feedback from Companies...

## Companies report:

- 94% consider the project a success
- 98% anticipate hosting another IUSRA student in the future
- 94% of IUSRAs improved their research productivity
- 95% gained new knowledge; 87% intend to apply the results
- 77% were able to finish research that otherwise would not have been completed
- 37% of companies have hired at least one former awardee



# Tackle a research challenge...

Engage Grant (EG)  
(University)

Applied Research &  
Development Grant (ARD)  
(College)

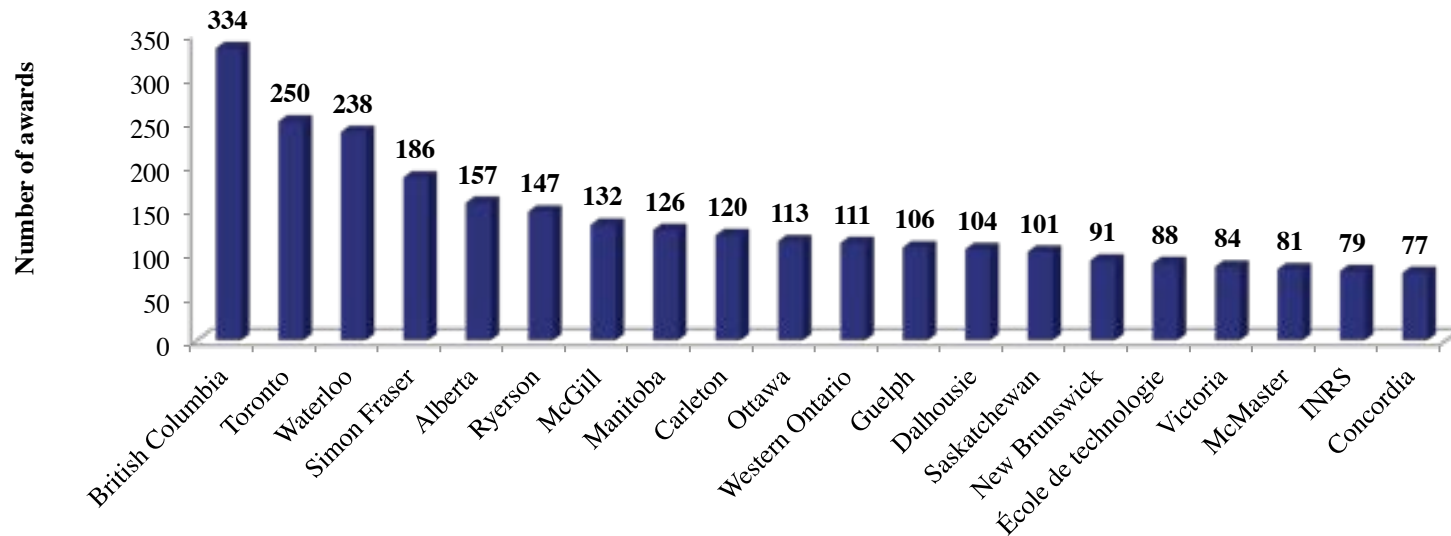


- New collaboration
- 6 month project
- Up to \$25K from NSERC
- No company cash
- Company owns the IP
- No application deadline
- 4-6 week turnaround

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# Top 20 Universities Using Engage



Updated 2014/04/30

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# A Local Engage Project

Dr. Mu Chiao, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, University of British Columbia  
Company Partner:



Project: A new-low cost imaging device for skin cancer screening

*To develop a low-cost magnifying dermoscope that can be attached to a smartphone and an integrated wireless data transmission capability*

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# A Local Engage Project

Dr. Jennifer Love, Associate Professor,  
Chemistry, University of British Columbia  
Company Partner:



Project: Evaluation of polyols from polyurethane recycling

*To determine the chemical composition and characteristics of the polyols in order to commercialize these recycled materials for a variety of industrial applications*

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# Feedback from Companies...

## At the end of the project:

- 94% of projects were a success
- 86% of problems were partially or completely solved
- 76% intend to apply the results
- 96% gained new technology or knowledge
- 60% provided stimulus for future R&D
- 72% provided new business opportunities
- 98% would recommend Engage to another company



# Feedback from Companies...

## One year later:

- 84% enhanced skill and knowledge base
- 49% impact on competitiveness
- 62% impact on research or business direction
- 57% impact on product or services
- 84% relationship building
- 72% learned about the benefits of academic R&D
- 69% increased access to HQP
- 70% will collaborate further

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# Questions?

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