

*Report to President of CSZ of the highlights of the Canadian Council on Animal Care
(CCAC) meeting, Ottawa, September 27–29, 2011*

CCAC met for its regular Fall meeting in Ottawa September 27-29. The mid-year performance report for 2012-2013, prepared on September 24, is attached and forms part of this report.

Although the timing of the meeting was regular the agenda was not; the primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the draft Comprehensive Business Plan 2013-2016 developed in response to the call for funding put out by CIHR in collaboration with NSERC on 17 July 2012 (<http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprntyDtls.do?prog=1643&view=currentOpps&org=CIHR&type=AND&resultCount=25&sort=program&all=1&masterList=true>) The CIHR-NSERC requirements are for a justification of its mandate by CCAC and development of a business plan for 2013-2016.

At the September meeting CCAC reaffirmed its mandate and public trust to ensure the welfare of animals used in teaching and research. CCAC emphasized

- (i) The centrality of the integration and interdependency of the four CCAC programmes (Guidelines, Three Rs [Replacement, Reduction, Refinement], Assessment, Finance and Planning).
- (ii) The importance of being aware of the enormous in-kind contributions by volunteers who sit on Council, conduct assessment, and prepare documents.
- (iii) The importance of responding to changing Society values with respect to animals.
- (iv) The importance of responsiveness to the Public and of serving the Public in trust.
- (v) The importance of ongoing education and training in the ethical use of animals in teaching and research.

Development of a business plan is within the context that CIHR/NSERC will only continue to fund the costs associated with (a) production/maintenance of guidelines for the use of animals in research and (b) for activities of the Three Rs committee. The obvious implication — discussed at length by the Council — is the need to find funding for assessments, including site visits and certification of animal care facilities. The draft business plan includes seeking a fee-

for-service from those institutions with animal care centres. Consultation has begun with The U15, a group of 15 research-intensive universities represented by the VP (Research) of each Institution. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U15_\(universities\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U15_(universities))). It will not escape your attention that a fee-for-service could be levied against institutions seeking a ‘Good Animal Practice’ (GAP) certificate for their animal care facilities or against individual researchers seeking certification of animal care protocols.

CCAC anticipates that interim funding will be provided until 31 March 2013 (grant application to be submitted by 30 October 2012), with 2013-2014 devoted to consultation, development and submission of the full business plan and request for funding. April through the summer of 2013 will be a critical time for member organizations to interact with CCAC as this plan/grant application develops.

Respectfully submitted, October 5, 2012 by Brian K. Hall, CSZ representation to CCAC