



**ERNEST C. MANNING
INNOVATION
AWARDS**

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August 6, 2014

Mr. James Rajotte, MP
Edmonton-Leduc
Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Dear Mr. Rajotte,

This letter is the executive summary of our submission.

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation seeks to partner with the Government of Canada to enhance the encouragement of Canadian innovators through our national innovation awards program.

We are requesting an investment from the Government of Canada of \$5 million. This funding would be comprised of a grant of \$2.5 million over five years, with an additional 1:1 match of revenue raised by the Foundation up to a maximum of \$2.5 million over the five years.

The Foundation is strongly aligned with the Government of Canada's priorities for innovation and economic growth, and proposes this partnership to enhance the celebration and encouragement of Canadian innovators by:

- Developing a private-public partnership to fund the Principal Award earned by Canada's top innovators;
- Increasing the value of selected awards such as the Young Canadian Innovator Awards, and
- Promoting the culture of Canadian innovation through a national speakers' tour featuring Ernest C. Manning Award Laureates and the Young Canadian Innovators.

This request was well-circulated among Government of Canada officials last year. At that time, we highlighted the strong alignment of our Foundation with the Government's priority of **increasing the competitiveness of Canadian businesses through research, development, innovation and commercialization**.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We look forward to discussing this proposal with you and your committee. If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation's President at Jennifer.diakiw@manningawards.ca or 403-930-4333.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diakiw
President

John Read
Chair, Board of Trustees

Attachment: Request for Funding in Budget 2015



Request for Funding in Budget 2015

Recommendation

To create a partnership between the Government of Canada and the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation that will encourage Canadian innovators and stimulate innovation. We are requesting \$5 million over five years, comprised of a grant of \$2.5 million, with an additional 1:1 match of revenue raised by the Foundation up to a maximum of \$2.5 million. This would mean government investment of \$1 million each year in the Foundation. The government would be recognized through naming the Foundation's Principal Award the Government of Canada Innovation Award.

Expected Cost, Savings and Economic Impact

The cost would be \$5 million over five years. The outcomes would be an increased number of innovators, who have a strong track record of creating wealth and contributing to Canada's economic growth. Some examples include:

- Reza Nasser, 2014 Manning Innovation Award Nominee, donated \$10 million to the University of Alberta.
- Dr. Robert Burrell, 2009 Manning Principal Award winner developed Acticoat Technology used in wound dressings, which are sold in 40 countries around the world, generating \$80 million in annual sales. This innovation is also widely used by the Canadian and U.S. military.
- Drs. Lindsay Machan and William Hunter, 2006 Manning Principal Award winners, developed stents coated with an anti-coagulant. Over 1 million of these stents are implanted each year, significantly reducing the \$22 billion in annual costs related to cardio-vascular disease.
- Mike Lazaridis and Gary Mousseau, 2002 Manning Principal Award winners developed the Blackberry Single Mailbox Integration wireless application. Today, the company employs close to 13,000 people.

The Manner in which the Federal Government could Fund the Recommendation

We propose funding for this partnership come from one of Industry Canada's agencies or departments with similar goals of stimulating and rewarding innovation. Examples include EDC, BDC or other entities within the Ministry such as Science and Technology. Another option might be funding from a coalition of Canada's Regional Development Agencies.

Groups of Individuals, Sectors or Regions that would Benefit from Implementation

This public-private partnership would encourage an increasing number of Canadians of all ages to consider innovation and entrepreneurship as a career choice. In addition to adult innovators, High School Students are one of the key stakeholder groups we reach through our Young Canadian Innovators Program. It would benefit all Canadians as we elevate national pride in Canada's outstanding innovators.

General Impacts that would Result from Implementation of the Recommendation

The benefits of this partnership would include:

- Granting the Government of Canada naming rights for the Principal Award, which is the top innovation prize in Canada;

- Profiling the Government of Canada as a premier champion of innovation, while benefiting from the Foundation's independent and stringent peer-review process;
- Increasing the value of selected awards such as the Young Canadian Innovator Awards, and
- Promoting the culture of Canadian innovation through a national speakers' tour featuring Ernest C. Manning Award Laureates and the Young Canadian Innovators.

Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation Description, History and Highlights

Description

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation celebrates and rewards Canadian innovators who have the imagination to innovate and the stamina to succeed. We recognize innovations that are commercially viable, that support our provincial and national economies by creating jobs and wealth, and that position our country as a global competitor.

We evaluate innovations, but celebrate innovators. Innovations can be finite, or they can be a stepping stone toward advances yet to be imagined. Innovators are continuously re-inventing themselves and their world - which is why we consider Ernest C. Manning innovators Canada's most valuable resource.

Each year, the Foundation grants four Innovation Awards and eight awards in our Young Canadian Innovation Program. The Awards include:

- The \$100,000 Principal Award;
- The \$25,000 David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction;
- Two \$10,000 innovation awards, and
- Eight Young Canadian Achievement Awards of \$500 presented to students selected by a team of judges at the annual Canada-Wide Science Fair.
- Four Young Canadian Innovation Awards of \$4,000 presented to the top four of the eight students (above) selected by a team of judges at the annual Canada-Wide Science Fair.

The Foundation has a Canada-wide reputation as a trusted and highly honoured organization that plays an important role in Canada's innovation eco-system. Our reputation as the most prestigious innovation awards in Canada is due in large part to our independent, gold-standard peer review process and the caliber of our nominees and Laureates.

The Foundation has a national volunteer structure comprised of more than 100 outstanding Canadians who serve as the Trustees of its Board, Chapter Chairs and their 11 regional committees along with our Selection Committee members. In addition, we have a loyal following of donors and sponsors. This national network enables the Foundation to operate with relatively low administrative costs.

We celebrate innovation achievement at our annual gala, which is held in a different Canadian city each year. The gala has grown in recent years and now routinely hosts 500-600 people,

including leaders in government, business and academia. The Foundation is privileged to have The Honourable James Moore emcee our event in Ottawa on October 22, 2014, with Honorary Co-Chairs Tom Jenkins and Dr. David Strangway.

History

Since 1982, the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation has honoured close to 3,000 Canadian innovators from all over our country as nominees, and has celebrated the achievements of close to 300 Canadians as Ernest C. Manning Award recipients. The Foundation has now awarded over \$4.5 million to outstanding innovators of all ages.

Former Alberta Energy Company Chief Executive, David E. Mitchell decided that Canada needed to celebrate and support its home-grown innovation heroes. He believed Canadians who turned their creative genius into beneficial technology deserved recognition within their own country. Mitchell's vision and significant personal investment led to the creation of the Foundation.

It was a bright idea and it needed a prominent Canadian who would champion the notion. Mitchell approached Canada's longest serving Premier – Ernest C. Manning – who commanded national respect and asked him to attach his name to the idea. Together, Mitchell and Manning built a nucleus of highly esteemed Canadian scientists and business people who became the first trustees of the new Foundation. Manning visited the Nobel Prize organization in Sweden and the Ford Foundation in the United States to seek advice in structuring the made-in-Canada program.

To ensure the program's credibility, Manning, Mitchell and the other trustees agreed that an independent committee of expert evaluators would choose the award winners and their decision would be final. The Ernest C. Manning Foundation has been run that way since.

Highlights

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation recognizes, celebrates and rewards Canadian innovators. Since 1982, the Foundation has developed:

- ❖ A network of nearly 3,000 adult and youth innovators across Canada.
- ❖ A large network of regional leaders committed to Canadian innovators of all ages through its 11 chapters, from British Columbia to Atlantic Canada. They donate many hours reaching out to individuals and organizations to find and recognize local innovators.
- ❖ A distinguished network of Canadian business and academic leaders who volunteer their time to serve as Foundation Trustees, Selection Committee members, Chapter Chairs and members. (Named on our website: www.manningawards.ca)
- ❖ A close working relationship with the Canada-Wide Science Fair as well as teachers and students participating in the Fairs. Since the Young Canadian program was introduced in 1992, an average of 75 students self-nominate their projects each year to be

considered for one of 8 Young Canadian Awards. To date, close to 175 students have received the Foundation's Young Canadian Innovator Award.

The Foundation believes innovators and their innovations are improving the lives of Canadians and are adding significant value to Canada's economy. We strive to inspire other Canadians to become innovators by:

- ❖ Hosting an annual awards gala, organized by a volunteer committee of local leaders. The Gala now attracts some 600 (+) leaders in Government, Academia and Business. Tom Jenkins and Dr. David Strangway are the Honorary Dinner Chairs for the 2014 Gala, which will be held in Ottawa October 22.
- ❖ Celebrating regional nominees at local recognition events that are held in their Provincial Legislatures and at large business events across Canada.
- ❖ Stimulating the discussion of Canadian innovation through a dedicated public relations program.
- ❖ Telling our innovators' stories across Canada.
 - With the support of Shaw Communications as exclusive broadcaster who produces 5 compelling videos about the Manning Award winners. First shown at the annual awards gala, they are then broadcast on the Shaw/Global networks and on the Manning Awards website. In addition, Shaw Communications produces a call for entries announcement which is broadcast on its networks. The value of donated Shaw/Global television time is estimated to be close to \$1 million.
 - Maclean's magazine creates national awareness of award winners in 2011, 2012 and 2013 through an exclusive partnership which announces our winners to Canadians in their print and on-line publications.