

Long-Range Plan for Subatomic Physics

Committee Composition:

The Committee will be made up of experts representing the main sub-groups supported by the Grant Selection Committee. These areas are Theory, Nuclear Physics (including nuclear astrophysics), High-Energy Physics, Neutrino Physics, and Particle Astrophysics. The Chair will be a senior Canadian having a broad overview of subatomic physics in Canada. It is expected that there will be some overlap in membership with the current GSC, and with the previous planning committee.

Mandate:

The Committee is to prepare a forward look for subatomic physics in Canada covering the period until 2016. This forward look will advise NSERC and the Subatomic Physics Grant Selection Committee (GSC) on the community's priorities for both current and future projects. It must be driven by the science of the community, and emphasize science goals.

The plan must be prepared in consultation with the wider Canadian subatomic physics community, and with the groups which represent it. It is expected that the first five years (2006 to 2011) will be dealt with in somewhat more detail than the second five years (2011 to 2016). It is also expected that the plan will be re-visited at the end of the first five year period.

The report should address three budget scenarios:

1. Status quo (that is, increases more or less consistent with inflation, but not above that);
2. Significantly more funding available to the discipline, consistent with a doubling of NSERC's budget over the ten-year period of the Plan;
3. Significantly less funding available to the discipline, consistent with a 20% cut to NSERC's budget over the ten years of the Plan.

Specific issues to be addressed by the Plan, in each of the scenarios outlined above, include:

- How best to support the present program, and
- How best to incorporate new initiatives into the program

The report must also take into account the following:

- The role of TRIUMF
- The role of theory
- The relationship between NSERC and other bodies which support subatomic physics in Canada (these include, but are not limited to, TRIUMF, NRC, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the universities)
- The fluctuating balance between investments in capital and operating funds within the NSERC subatomic physics envelope

The report should be addressed primarily to NSERC, but the committee is encouraged to address other parties as appropriate. The report will be a public document.

Process:

This is intended to be a community-driven process in which NSERC will act as an observer and resource. Input to the process will be solicited by the committee itself. Care must be taken to ensure that the process is open to participation by all members of the subatomic physics community.

The committee will be provided with financial support from NSERC for the purpose of organizing appropriate meetings, for the travel of committee members to these meetings, and for the preparation of the report.