

## **Final Evaluation of the New Opportunities Fund (NOF)**

### ***Response from the CFI:***

The CFI is pleased to note that the final evaluation of the NOF prepared by SPR Associates Inc. is overall, very positive. Many of the recommendations are a welcome reinforcement of past decisions. For example, the Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF), the successor to the NOF, offers additional funding and increased flexibility for balancing recruitment and retention goals. Some recommendations in the report are outside the CFI's mandate or do not provide sufficient value-added to justify the resources that would be required to implement them. The CFI did identify a number of items that are actionable and may improve the delivery of CFI programs including the LOF. Based on the recommendations of this evaluation the CFI will:

- examine factors influencing project completion times to determine if there are opportunities for the CFI to contribute to efficiencies;
- ensure the adequacy of application and reviewer instructions that address the issue of financial viability of projects in relation to stated project objectives;
- review institutional commitments towards operations and maintenance and assess the need for corrective actions;
- require candidates' signatures on future applications to the LOF beginning in 2008 to reflect their involvement in the application process;
- explore opportunities to collaborate with other funding agencies to address factors contributing to the low number of applicants taking advantage of new co-application procedures with SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC under the LOF;
- continue and encourage communications activities related to NOF projects.