

# CREAIT Network, v2.0: 10 years of successes, challenges, and lessons learned

“How to Fund and Sustain Scientific Platforms?” Panel Discussion

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# FUNDING AND SUSTAINING FACILITIES

**How do we define what makes a core facility “successful”?**



# THERE IS NO TEMPLATE

Is your service:

Routine, or Niche?

Purchase price: Affordable, or Expensive?

Analysis price: Affordable, or Expensive?

Technically simple, or Technically complex?

Scientifically simple, or Scientifically complex?

Analysis-focused, or Research-focused?

Locally unavailable, or Locally available?

Broad appeal, or Focused/Limited appeal?

# CORE RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENT TRAINING (CREAIT) NETWORK

~\$50M of research assets

22 researchers (8 Ph.D., 14 M.Sc.)

28 laboratories, 7 research nodes

700 users (500 students)

Earth Sciences, Chemistry, Ocean Sciences,  
Genomics/Proteomics, High Performance  
Computing, Research Computing/IT  
Support



# INCEPTION OF CREAT

~\$40M, 7 year long research partnership  
with province, industry

Significant instrument procurement via major  
funding opportunity

~10 staff members, 4 nodes

Scientific Advisory Committees

45% cost recovery goal



# PERILS OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

## Successes:

Grew to 45 researchers, 35 labs, 11 nodes

Catalog of instrumentation greatly expanded

Considerable use of and participation in CREAT

Memorial research funding growing every year

# PERILS OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

## Challenges:

Focus on growth management = No plan for end of funding

Loss of focus: "Lost Puppy Foundation"

Communication with faculty members insufficient in face of focus on growth management

# PERILS OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

## How we fixed CREAT:

Secured support of VPR, Senior Administration

- What we did: Reimagining, right-sizing; close unsuccessful nodes
- What we proposed: Realistic cost recovery based on revenue trends
- What we got: Renewed core funding of research staff salaries

Renewed focus on our strengths

Sustainable instrumentation capacity

Transparency

Reengaged our faculty members