



Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

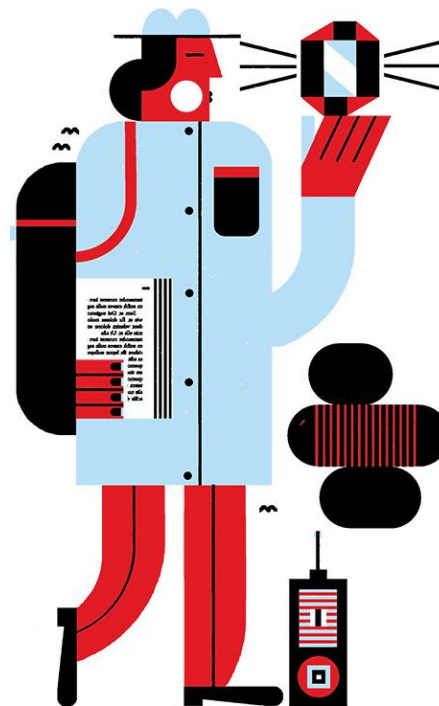
Presentation for 3rd International Summit on the Future of Double Beta Decay

Anne-Marie Thompson

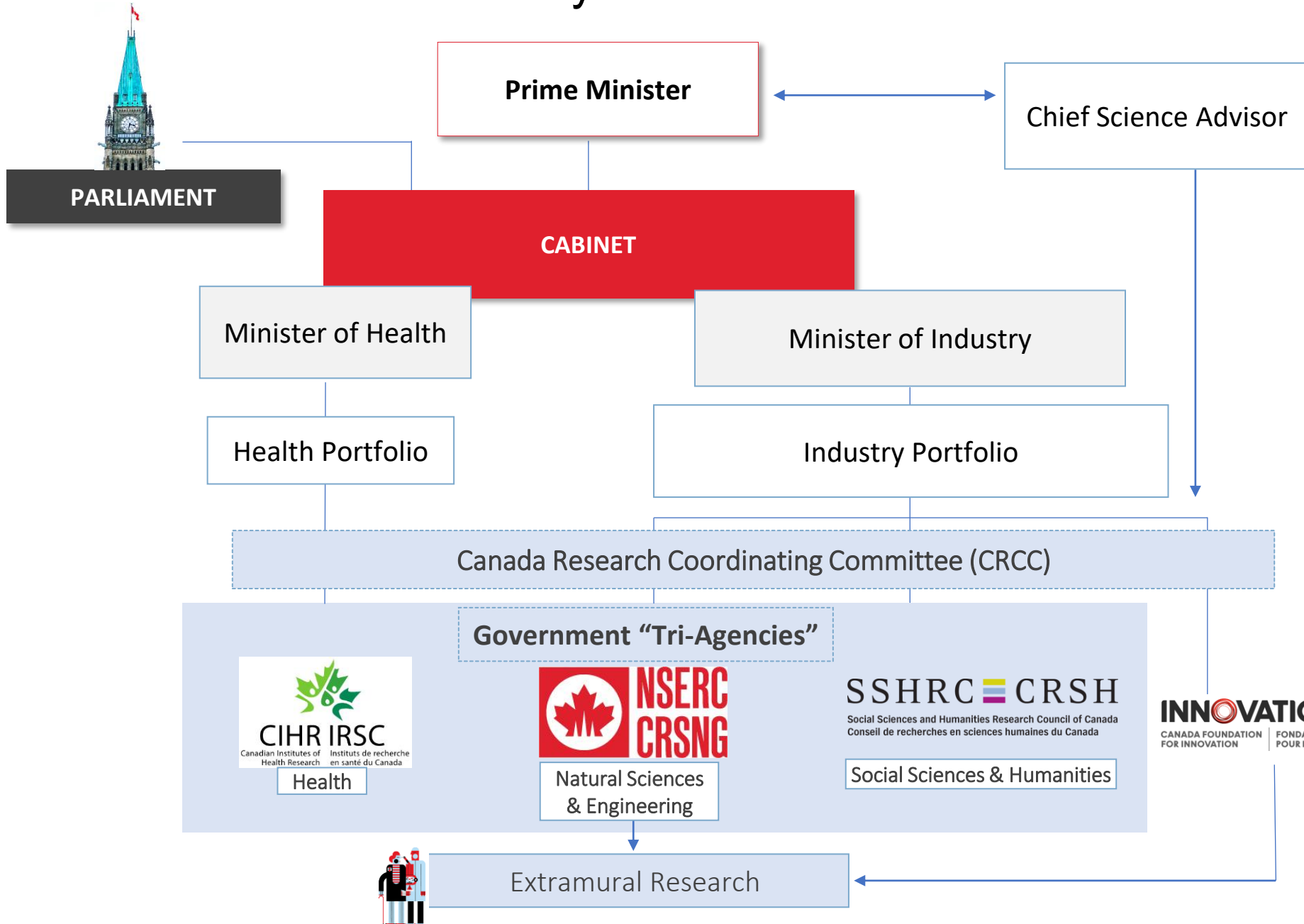
Vice-President (acting), Research Grants and Scholarships

May 2025

1. NSERC overview

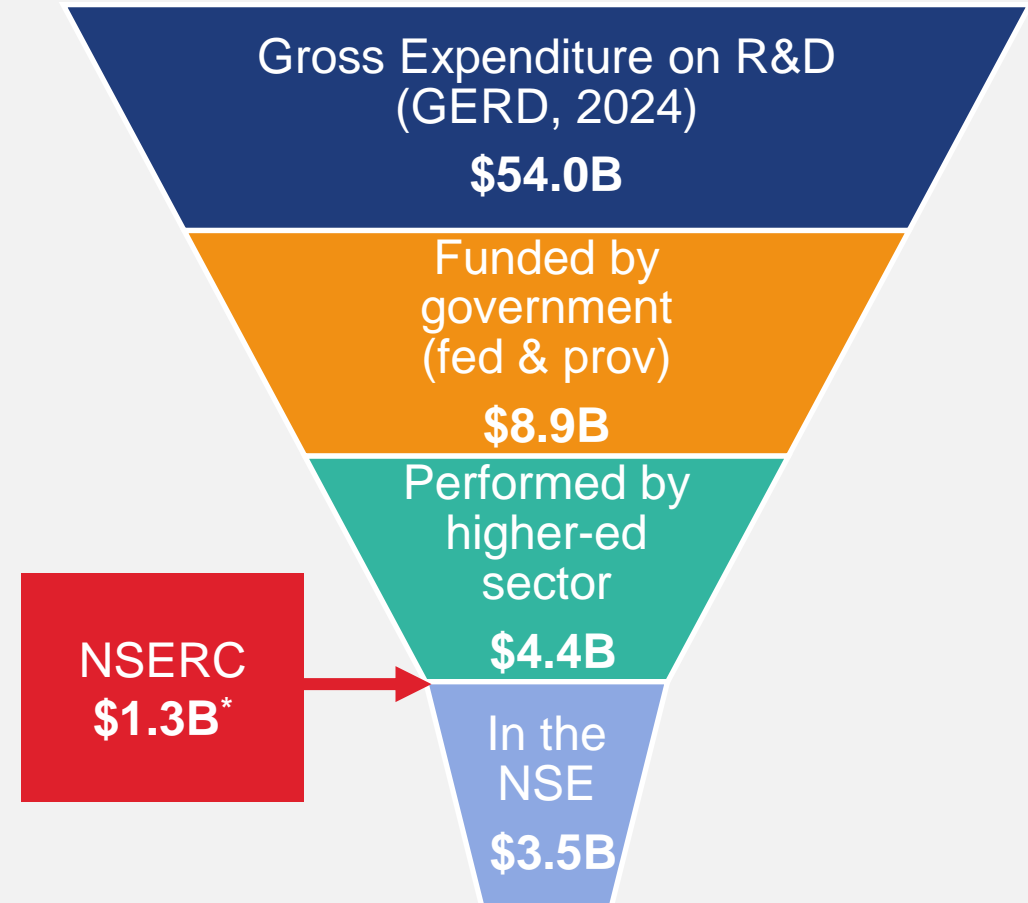


Federal 'extramural' research ecosystem



Supporting natural sciences and engineering in Canada

- **Building a national knowledge base** in the natural sciences and engineering through broad-based **discovery-oriented research**
- **Catalyzing the development of highly-qualified research professionals** to create talent that innovative organizations need
- **Powering industry partnerships with universities and colleges** to create a culture of academic entrepreneurialism
- **Investing in research to deliver impact locally, nationally, and globally**




NSERC is Canada's largest provider of grants and scholarships for Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSE) research

NSERC overview

NSERC funding

- Promotes and supports post-secondary research and training in the natural sciences and engineering
- Engages **78 universities** and **89 colleges & polytechnics** every year through various programs
- Empowers:
 - 13,200 researchers
 - 2,500 partners
 - 6,800 students and fellows through scholarships and fellowships

Fiscal year 2023–24



\$1.37B
Total budget

2. NSERC Support for Subatomic Physics (SAP) Research



Long-Range Plan (LRP) for Subatomic Physics

- The Canadian SAP community establishes its scientific and funding priorities through periodic LRPs.
 - Most recent plan covers 2022-2026 with an outlook to 2036
 - nEXO is identified as a high-priority initiative
 - 2027-2034 LRP process has begun with a final report expected in fall 2026

- Key Objectives:
 - Identify and prioritize critical scientific questions
 - Align national and international research projects
 - Guide funding, infrastructure, and resource allocations
 - Support training, equity, diversity, and outreach initiatives



NSERC Funding for Subatomic Physics (SAP) Research

- Funding envelope \$30.6M/yr
- Grants based on Subatomic Physics Evaluation Section recommendations

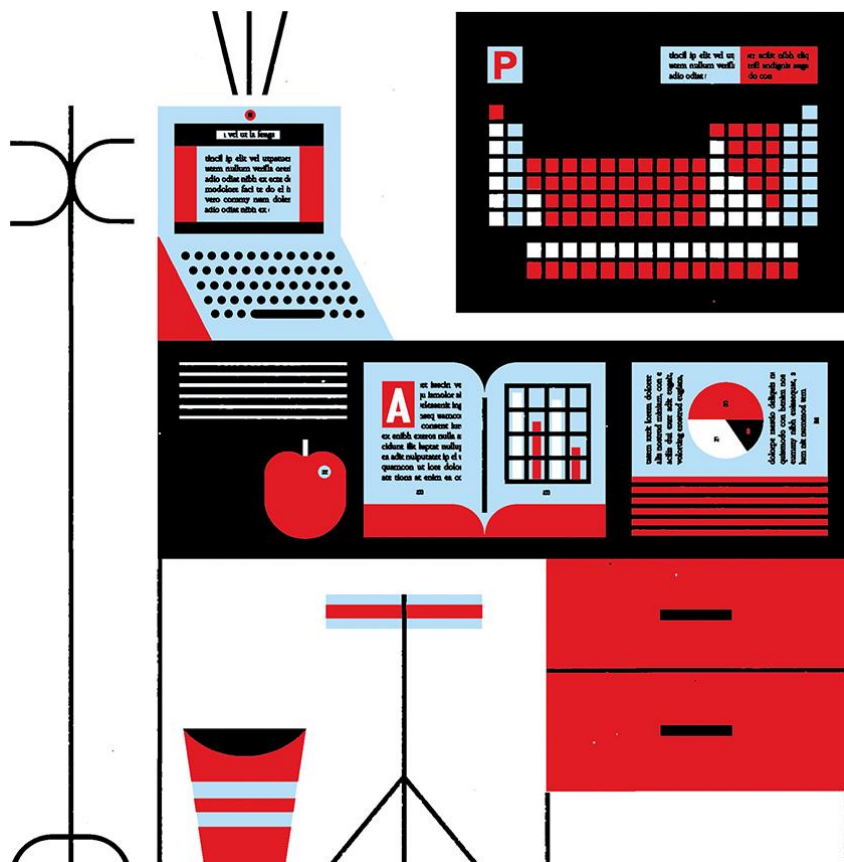
- Recognizes unique aspects of SAP research
 - Complexity and inter-dependency of many proposals
 - Country-wide collaborations among individuals, groups, universities, and national research organizations
 - Long-term and large-scale international projects and commitments

- New funding for the Arthur B. McDonald Canadian Astroparticle Physics Research Institute: \$9.1M per year for 5 years starting in 2024






NSERC Funding for $0\nu\beta\beta$ Over the Past Decade

- NSERC supports the operating and personnel costs for projects, including small equipment
- CFI funds capital investments such as infrastructure and major equipment
- SNOLAB
 - Excluding $0\nu\beta\beta$ research, NSERC has invested \$36M over the past 10 years to support research activities at SNOLAB
- $0\nu\beta\beta$ Research
 - NSERC has invested \$9.4M over the past 10 years
 - Majority of this funding was in support of EXO-200 and nEXO



Questions?

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