

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

RESEARCH MANITOBA TEAMS UP WITH MITACS TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE PROJECTS



Research Manitoba has a mandate to promote, support and co-ordinate the funding of scientific inquiry in the areas of health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities.

In order to fulfill its mission, the provincial funding body often partners with government and non-government agencies and groups dedicated to promoting research in these fields.

One of Research Manitoba's key partners is Mitacs, a national, not-for-profit organization with a backstory that is almost as impressive as its record of achievement. Originally launched 17 years ago, Mitacs began life with the goals of promoting mathematics as a tool for industrial development and providing opportunities for graduate students. The organization's initial budget was \$3.2 million.

Since then, Mitacs (the name was originally an acronym for The Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems when it was formed in 1998, but is now simply known as Mitacs) has developed into an important supporter of Canadian research. Over the years, it has expanded into all academic disciplines, working with 60 universities, thousands of companies, and both federal and provincial governments. In doing so, it has established itself as a leader in forging relationships to support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

One of Mitacs' most important achievements was the creation in 2003 of a research internship program to facilitate the deployment of graduate students into the private sector. Over the past 15 years, Mitacs has supported more than 10,000 research internships, trained more than 19,000 student and post-doctoral



career-skills participants, and supported more than 1,300 international research collaborations.

In 2012, the Manitoba government provided Mitacs with \$1 million in funding over three years to support research in a variety of ways. Recently, Research Manitoba announced it would invest an additional \$1.4 million for Mitacs programs over the next three years. The funding agreement will bring hundreds of research and training opportunities to Manitoba students, post-doctoral students and faculty members through the following three Mitacs programs:

- **Accelerate:** This program pairs graduate students and post-doctoral fellows with businesses and not-for-profit organizations to undertake research projects of mutual interest.
- **Elevate:** This program supports customized research management training for post-doctoral fellows as they undertake two-year research projects with partner organizations.
- **Globalink:** This program offers two-way mobility initiatives between universities and undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to build and strengthen international research networks.

This special report, sponsored by Research Manitoba, highlights some of innovative research projects currently underway, thanks to the support of these programs.