

Funding Panel: Foundations

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Summary

- Private Foundations in Canada
 - What they are/are not
 - Strategic Priorities
- The Lupina Foundation
 - What business we are in
 - Funding out of the box

Private Foundations

- Canada-USA
 - PFC-Council on Foundations
 - Scale: 1:70
 - Different political culture, role of government
 - Different tax regime
 - Changing from 2007 Federal Budget changes

Different Perspectives

- Foundations are not Granting Agencies
- Risk Taking
 - Bigger, longer terms bets than government
 - Whether on current public policy radar screens or not
- Primary target: Public Policy
 - Policy-based research

Strategic Priorities

- PFC Consultation process:
 - Following 2007-8 Budget: New Game
 - Priorities for next 10 years
- Private Foundation Strategic Priorities
 - Convening Critical Conversations
 - Knowledge Transfer: researchers, community, stakeholders
 - Innovation: new knowledge, new applications

The Lupina Foundation

- Background
 - Incorporated April 2000
 - Venture Foundation
 - High Tolerance for risk
 - Grants as social venture capital investments
 - Funding research as HR bets

Current Situation

- Financial Crisis
 - 2009 holding the line, 2010 is the problem
 - Lupina 2010 + 50% in grants
 - Looking for impact
 - Take the risk on asset side
 - In return: Blow our socks off
- Strategic Positioning
 - Can't compete with NIH, CIHR
 - Take risks that they can't

Support for Modelling

- Critical Conversation: Dynamic Modelling and System Science in Health
 - 5 years
 - Engage research and policy communities
 - Engage other foundations and funders

Lupina Grantmaking

- Research out of the box
 - What is the cool thing you want to do that you can't get funding for?
- Granting as HR bet
 - Identifying young talent (Montreal Expos)
 - Young researchers who don't yet have cv's for NIH/CIHR prime time
 - Early stage funding \$25-50K will leverage future
- Playing System Inefficiencies: Post-Docs

Conclusions

- Lupina: Innovation with an edge
- Engaged Philanthropists:
 - We show up, sometimes get in your face
- Not just grantmakers, but strategic partners