

Notes from CANSSI Scientific Planning Meeting

May 24, 2014 at the Fields Institute

3:00 – 4:30 pm ET

Chair: Mary Thompson, Scientific Director, CANSSI

Present: Hugh Chipman (CANSSI Associate Director, Atlantic Region); Alexandre Leblanc (CANSSI Associate Director, Manitoba and Saskatchewan); Nancy Reid (CANSSI Associate Director, Ontario); Walter Craig (Director, Fields Institute); Charmaine Dean, Western University; Hanna Jankowski, York University; Karen Kopciuk, University of Calgary; Christian Léger, Université de Montréal; Jixun Liu, University of Saskatchewan; Wendy Lou, University of Toronto (DLSPH); Sudhir Paul, University of Windsor; Jamie Stafford, University of Toronto (Statistical Science); Stefan Steiner, University of Waterloo; Ed Susko, Dalhousie University.

1. Discussion with Madeleine Bastien of NSERC

Madeleine Bastien described the array of NSERC programs briefly, and gave statistics on the extent to which the mathematics and statistics communities access the programs, and their success rates. She promised to make her slides available. Much of the discussion was about the Discovery Grant success rates and low average grants with statisticians and mathematicians being in the same evaluation group.

Wendy Lou noted that CIHR had consulted widely about a similar problem, resulting in a separate budget for epidemiology.

Madeleine spoke also about the issue of the low funding for many applications in statistics related to health. There is a professoriate-level committee talking about this issue, and its meetings are still ongoing.

Madeleine said that she expected that the NSERC CTRMS decisions could be released as early as mid-June.

2. The role of CANSSI in supporting researchers in the statistical sciences community

There was a brief discussion of the possibilities, including:

- assistance to relatively junior researchers applying for grants and developing their careers
- acting as a clearing house for information on collaborative opportunities
- working to increase the number of postdoctoral positions available
- supporting research meetings; supporting travel to thematic programs
- advocating for interdisciplinary research that crosses granting councils