



CCAC Annual Report 2021-2022

Ethical animal care and use through
commitment and collaboration



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Message from the CCAC

This was another year filled with ups and downs, uncertainty, and lockdowns. However, it was also a year of resilience, dedication, and collaboration. As we gradually move forward from the unexpected and unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic, we would like to highlight the outstanding work and commitment of certified institutions and volunteers within the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and thank them for maintaining high standards of ethical practice in the care and use of animals in science. Over the past two years, CCAC program participants have worked tirelessly to put processes and plans in place to help mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on both their staff and on the animals in their charge, and we are grateful for their caring and professional contribution.

We are pleased to present this first annual report for our [2021-2026 strategic plan](#). We have designed this report to be more readable with more dynamic content, highlighting the contributions of [our volunteers](#), without whom we could not carry out our mandate. Thanks to your support and active engagement, we have made substantial progress in the past year towards the goals laid out in our new strategic plan. From helping us to develop new guidelines, to conducting virtual assessments, to launching our new online national workshops, CCAC volunteer experts have continuously and reliably given their time, support, and advice to help us make our strategic plan a reality.

Our highly dedicated and talented Secretariat team has also gone beyond the call of duty to meet the challenges of the last year. We are grateful to all of our team members, and we are confident that our collaboration with volunteers and program participants alike will continue to grow and evolve in the coming year, to the benefit of ensuring the ethical care and use of animals in Canadian science.



Dr. Michael Czubryt
Chair



Mr. Pierre Verreault
Executive Director

Who We Are

The CCAC works to improve the ethical treatment of animals used in Canadian science. Since 1968, we have provided national oversight of animal-based research, teaching, and testing in Canada through a collaborative process of assessment, certification, training, and standards development.

The CCAC relies on the support of our staff and more than 2,000 volunteer experts, serving on nearly 200 local animal care committees and other subcommittees and task forces. Together, we share a common goal of enhancing the ethical care and use of animals in science and work diligently to deliver our programs in institutions across Canada. The CCAC's work would not be possible without this vibrant community.



Visit our website to learn more about our vision, mission, and mandate

Programs

ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

- assists in the implementation of CCAC standards across Canada
- provides independent, third-party oversight
- collaborates with over 190 animal care committees and a strong network of volunteer experts
- promotes good animal practices, including Three Rs principles

STANDARDS

- develops ethical principles and guidelines for animal use and care in Canada
- ensures that standards development is based on evidence and includes input from the public, scientists, veterinarians, and other relevant experts
- incorporates the Three Rs into CCAC standards

TRAINING AND NETWORKING

- provides training and networking activities and resources
- creates online training tools, webinars, and modules
- hosts the annual CCAC national workshop

Corporate Services

GOVERNANCE

- provides support for the overarching governance structure of the CCAC
- supports strategic planning, performance measurement, and impacts assessment functions

OPERATIONS

- manages the human, financial, administrative, and material resources of the CCAC
- ensures and supports seamless and effective organizational performance and delivery of the CCAC's programs

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- creates and implements an organizational communication strategy aligned with the CCAC's strategic plan, mission, and mandate
- supports the CCAC regarding communications, graphic design, copy-editing, translation, and revisions
- continually improves the efficiency of its engagement with CCAC stakeholders, including certified institutions, member organizations, the media, and the public



The Importance of Ethical Animal Care and Use



We are proud of the essential role the CCAC plays in Canada. The country's scientific community relies on us to develop and oversee the ethical animal practices upon which their scientific findings are built. At the same time, the Canadian people count on us to ensure that animal-based science is ethical, and that the Three Rs principles of replacement, reduction, and refinement are respected and applied according to high quality, evidence-informed standards.

At the core of the CCAC is the fundamental ethical requirement to treat animals used for research, teaching, and testing with the highest standards of care. It is well established that ensuring animal health and welfare leads to an improvement in the rigour, reproducibility, and translatability of scientific results. Together with our group of volunteers, which include scientists, animal welfare experts, animal health professionals, administrators, animal care committee members, and community representatives, the CCAC is creating new guidance materials with the intention to go beyond the traditional focus of ensuring animal health and reducing the impact of scientific procedures performed on animals.

Our Top Five



1

Welcomed Animal Health Canada to our membership



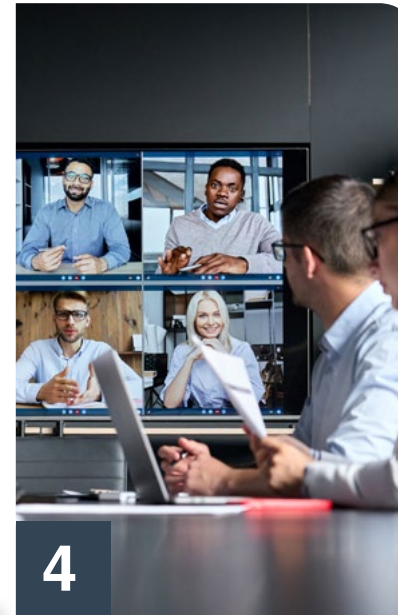
2

Hosted two virtual national workshops, each attended by approximately 500 participants



3

Introduced the CCAC reportable animal welfare incidents system



4

CCAC volunteers supported strategic activities



5

Task Force on Transparency and Confidentiality submitted their recommendations



Welcome Animal Health Canada

We are very pleased to welcome Animal Health Canada, who joined as the CCAC's 23rd member organization in September 2021. Animal Health Canada is a non-profit organization that engages experts among industry, federal, provincial, and territorial partners to address topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of "one welfare."



Virtual National Workshops a Success

We hosted our first two virtual workshops this year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Secretariat staff and volunteer experts. Due to the virtual setting, we were able to reach more stakeholders across the country, with approximately 500 attendees per session. We are planning more virtual offerings in the coming year, including our national workshop. Stay tuned for news on other training opportunities!



CCAC Reportable Animal Welfare Incidents

Together with volunteers from the Assessment and Certification Committee, we revised the [*CCAC policy: Certification of ethical animal care and use programs*](#), and its requirement to notify the CCAC of reportable animal welfare incidents within two weeks of occurrence. The updated policy is accompanied by supporting documents and an introductory webinar that guides CCAC-certified institutions in its implementation.

We are seeking animal welfare organizations to join the CCAC membership, so if you work with, contribute to, or support an animal welfare organization that may have an interest in becoming a member of the CCAC, please contact us!



Learn more about joining the CCAC membership



The Power of Volunteers

The past year saw 17 active subcommittees and task forces hold 63 meetings, and our five standing committees meet 26 times. We were also fortunate to have the assistance of 31 experts to present at our national workshops and 65 volunteers on assessment panels. All told, hundreds of volunteers worked directly with the Secretariat staff in 2021-2022, which allowed us to make great inroads on a number of large projects. Across the country, volunteers also continued to serve on more than 190 local animal care committees within their certified institutions.



Transparency and Confidentiality

Thanks to work by the Transparency and Confidentiality Task Force, the CCAC Board of Directors approved recommendations to improve the level of transparency within our processes, messaging, and interactions with certified institutions, stakeholders, and the Canadian public. A project plan is in development that will include continuous communication and discussions with all stakeholders and a gradual implementation of the recommendations over the next several years. We look forward to working with you as this plan develops.



Interested in lending your expertise to the CCAC? Contact us today!





Our Goals

We are one of Canada’s most important advocates for the ethical treatment and use of animals in science and are dedicated to collaborating with our partners and volunteers to continue working on our core activities. As we look to the future of animal-based science in Canada, the following four goals will guide our operations until 2026.

GOAL 1

Advance the Integration of Three Rs Practices in the Ethical Care and Use of Animals

GOAL 2

Ensure a High Level of Animal Care and Ethical Practices Through Leading, Science-Informed Standards

GOAL 3

Adapt the CCAC to an Evolving Environment

GOAL 4

Work in Partnership with the CCAC Community

More information about our strategic plan is available on our website

Goal 1

Advance the Integration of Three Rs Practices in the Ethical Care and Use of Animals



IDENTIFIED EXTERNAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THREE RS INITIATIVES



HELD FIVE CCAC NATIONAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS, AND TWO SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AT THE CALAS SYMPOSIUM ON THREE RS AND EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN



ADVANCED DISCUSSIONS WITH POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS



The principles of the Three Rs, which promote ethical science through the implementation of replacement, reduction, and refinement strategies, is foundational to our programs. Over the years, we have had great success in integrating the principle of refinement into our standards; however, full implementation of the Three Rs requires the collaboration of many stakeholders within the scientific community. The CCAC looks forward to working with certified institutions, volunteer experts, and partners to tackle these gaps and improve the care and ethical use of animals in Canadian science.

Our Objectives

- Enhance Reproducibility to Increase Translation
- Improve Experimental Design
- Enhance and Strengthen Partnerships



Goal 2

Ensure a High Level of Animal Care and Ethical Practices Through Leading, Science-Informed Standards



When it comes to standards, the CCAC and our many volunteer experts work together to develop guidelines that are based on scientific evidence, with input from members of our community, such as the public, scientists, and veterinarians. CCAC guidelines set the standard for the ethical care and use of animals in Canadian science, incorporating peer advice, refinement initiatives, and the values of Canadians. As we work with our stakeholders in developing these standards, we are also committed to supporting institutions in their implementation.

Our Objectives

- Remain a Leader in the Ethical Care and Use of Animals
- Enhance the Impact of Guidelines by Supporting Adoption and Implementation by the Scientific Community

3

GUIDELINES DOCUMENTS
PUBLISHED

animal welfare assessment,
amphibians, and scientific
endpoints

6
12

GUIDELINES DOCUMENTS
IN PUBLIC/EXPERT REVIEW

GUIDELINES DOCUMENTS
IN DEVELOPMENT

147
21
68

VOLUNTEER
SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBERS

VOLUNTEER
EXPERT
REVIEWERS

VOLUNTEER
PUBLIC
REVIEWERS



Goal 3

Adapt the CCAC to an Evolving Environment



201
72
66
11
1

CERTIFIED
INSTITUTIONS

ASSESSMENT
VISITS CONDUCTED

CERTIFICATIONS
RENEWED

INSTITUTIONS
IN PROBATION

NEW INSTITUTION JOINED
THE PROGRAM

The key to the CCAC's unique assessment and certification program is our collaborative approach. We will continue to refine program requirements related to animal-based activities within certified institutions while keeping ethics and welfare top of mind, striking a balance between maintaining a rigorous assessment and certification process and reducing the cost of compliance for institutions. One of these refinements focuses on [CCAC Reportable Animal Welfare Incidents](#). By redefining the parameters around the reporting of animal welfare incidents, we will be able to gather more information and provide specific guidance to institutions to help prevent similar incidents.

Our Objectives

- Support Institutions in Achieving Compliance
- Adapt the Program Participation Structure



Goal 4

Work in Partnership with the CCAC Community



The CCAC is committed to working collaboratively with our volunteers and stakeholders to increase engagement and provide the tools and training opportunities necessary to continuously improve the welfare of animals in science. After examining the responses to our 2021 communication survey, we are working to refine our communications, including this new annual report format, a website reorganization, and the beginnings of a social media strategy. New training opportunities, including virtual national workshops, have reached and engaged more people across the country than ever before. Working together, we can continue to strengthen our community and highlight the importance of the CCAC's role through increased and clear communications, transparency, training, and responsiveness.

Our Objectives

- Increase Engagement and Communication
- Diversify Training Opportunities

169
46
63

INSTITUTIONS
REPRESENTED AT OUR WORKSHOPS

PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANTS WHO
ATTENDED OUR WORKSHOPS FOR THE
FIRST TIME

COMMUNIQUÉS SENT TO
OUR COMMUNITY



INTRODUCED CCAC REPORTABLE
ANIMAL WELFARE INCIDENT WEBINARS

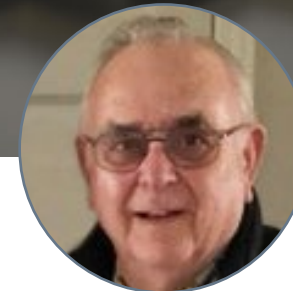


Harry C. Rowsell Award

Dr. Andy Fletch (retired veterinarian, McMaster University) and Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark (veterinarian, Dalhousie University) were chosen as the winners of the 2021 Harry C. Rowsell Award for Outstanding Service to the CCAC.

A student of the late Dr. Harry Rowsell, Dr. Fletch was captivated by Dr. Rowsell's perspective on the welfare of laboratory animals. As a result, Dr. Fletch has made a lasting impact through his volunteer work with the CCAC, creating, assessing, and supporting our programs, and by ensuring that the highest standards of ethical animal care are valued and assured in all animal-based science conducted throughout Canada.

Dr. Harvey-Clark is driven by the belief that good animal welfare leads to good science. As such, he has made invaluable contributions to the ethical care and use of animals in science through the development of animal care and use programs and the promotion of science and natural history as a writer, speaker, and documentary film creator. Dr. Harvey-Clark also contributed to the development of the CCAC's guidelines on fish and has participated on dozens of assessment panels over the years.



Dr. Andy Fletch
Retired veterinarian
McMaster University



Dr. Chris Harvey-Clark
Veterinarian
Dalhousie University

The Harry C. Rowsell Award is our way of highlighting the incredible contributions made by our volunteers over the years. The Award Selection Task Force considered a record number of nominations from across the country this year, all of whom are dedicated individuals who have contributed greatly to the ethical care and use of animals in science, and to the CCAC itself. The CCAC is fortunate to be surrounded by so many knowledgeable professionals, and while we can only award one or two prizes a year, we know that there are so many deserving people who work diligently and collaboratively to realize the CCAC's mandate.



More information about this award
is available on our website

Drs. Gilly Griffin and Michael Baar Retire from the CCAC

This year saw the end of an era with the retirement of two of our long-standing Secretariat members: Drs. Gilly Griffin, Director of Standards, and Michael Baar, Director of Assessment and Certification.



Both Gilly and Michael have left an indelible impression on the CCAC during their 20+ years with the organization.



They have ushered in countless improvements and guided thousands of program participants and volunteers through the development and implementation of standards and the assessment of certified institutions, always keeping animal welfare top of mind.



They are both well-known and well-regarded within the CCAC community, and their expertise, warm and thoughtful approach, and quick banter will be greatly missed by staff and volunteers alike. We wish both Gilly and Michael all the best in their well-deserved retirement.



Get Involved



Volunteer

- ▶ Join a Standards subcommittee
- ▶ Become a member of an assessment panel
- ▶ Review guidelines documents as an expert reviewer
- ▶ Review guidelines as a public reviewer
- ▶ Become a member of the CCAC Board of Directors



Learn about our volunteers



Nominate

- ▶ Nominate someone who has made exceptional contributions to the CCAC, and who upholds the highest standards in the ethical care and use of animals in Canadian science, for the Harry C. Rowsell Award
- ▶ Open to anyone working in the field of animal care and use in science



Nominate a deserving individual



Training Sessions

- ▶ Suggest topics for the CCAC national workshops or other webinars
- ▶ Offer your expertise to present a session at one of our workshops
- ▶ Attend training sessions



Learn about our national workshops



Join

- ▶ Keep updated on all CCAC news by joining our mailing list



Join our mailing list

Board of Directors 2021-2022

The CCAC Board of Directors is elected by our member organizations. As the CCAC's leadership team, members of the board are charged with setting the direction of the organization in accordance with its mandate.

Chair

Dr. Michael Czubryt | University of Manitoba

Vice-Chair

Ms. Catherine Rushton, CPA, CA

Treasurer

Ms. Adriane Porcin, Adm. A

Directors

Dr. Denna M. Benn | Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Dr. Nitin Bhardwaj | The Hospital for Sick Children
Dr. Shannon Digweed | MacEwan University
Dr. Richard Dyck | University of Calgary
Mr. Shawn Eccles | British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Dr. Alain Giguère | Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Dr. David Hanwell | University of Toronto
Dr. Ovidiu Jumanca | Montreal Clinical Research Institute
Dr. Christopher R.J. Kennedy | University of Ottawa
Dr. Jeffrey Richards | University of British Columbia

Secretary (non-voting)

Mr. Pierre Verreault | Executive Director



More information about our board
is available on our website



The CCAC's membership is comprised of 23 member organizations from across the country, with an interest in science, education, and ethical animal care and use.



More information about our governance structure is available on our website

Member Organizations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Animal Health Canada

Association of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Canadian Bioethics Society

Canadian Cancer Society

Canadian Council of Departments of Psychology

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution

Canadian Society of Zoologists

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

Defence Research and Development Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Health Canada

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

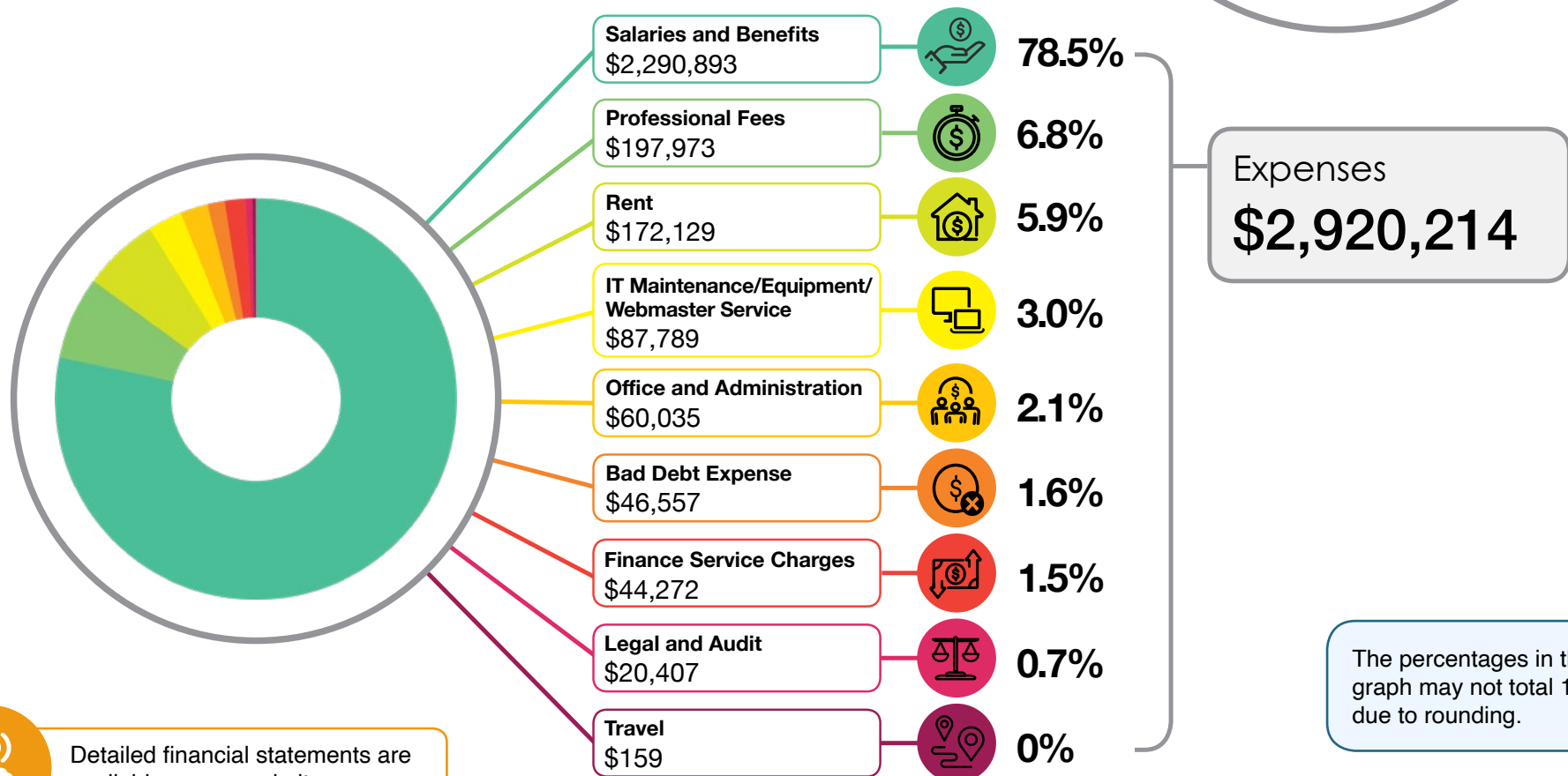
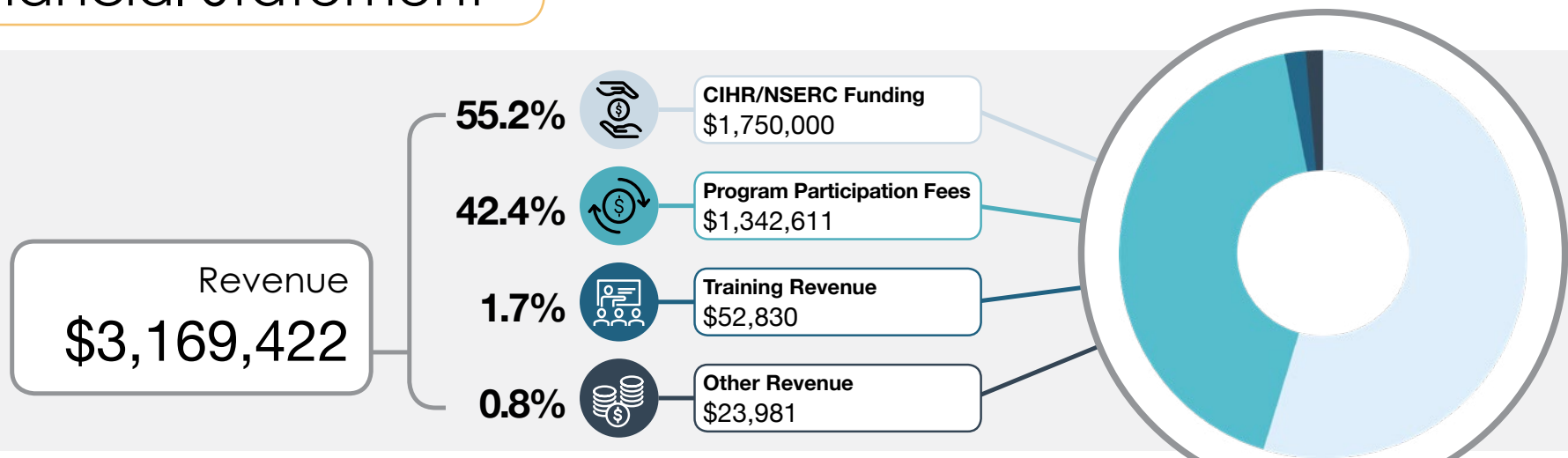
Humane Canada™

Innovative Medicines Canada

National Research Council of Canada

Universities Canada

Financial Statement



The percentages in this graph may not total 100% due to rounding.



Detailed financial statements are available on our website