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**Abstract**

This paper analyzes a significant but virtually unexplored recent development within Canadian higher education, namely the growing importance of research grants to universities and academics. It addresses three main questions. First, the paper examines why and how research grants are becoming more important to Canadian universities and academics, focusing in particular on the role played by federal higher education policy. Next, it explores how the growing importance of research grants is transforming relations between and among the key players in Canadian higher education and academic research, including university administrators, academics, government, and the broader community. The paper's final section takes up some of the actual and potential implications of these changes and raises concerns about detrimental effects on Canada's universities and citizens. Prospects and possibilities for reform are also addressed. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Polster, Claire, E-Mail: [claire.polster@uregina.ca](mailto:claire.polster@uregina.ca)