Preface

The purpose of the How Ottawa Spends series is to provide informed analysis and to stimulate debate about federal government policies and practices. In this fifteenth edition, we address the factors that facilitate and frustrate the process of innovation in government. The authors explore the role and sources of ideas, the extent to which institutions and organized interests help or hinder change in public policy and the potential for innovation in a variety of policy fields. Collectively, we address the issue of whether the new Liberal government is likely to be able to make real change in policy direction and the governing process, as we were promised during the election campaign.

How Ottawa Spends is produced by the School of Public Administration at Carleton University. It is truly a collaborative effort that depends on the co-operation and contributions of many people. The pressure to meet our tight production deadlines is onerous and I thank all the authors for their good cheer and scholarly integrity in doing so. On behalf of the authors, I would like to thank the many government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations who have given generously of their time and their knowledge. As a peer-reviewed publication, How Ottawa Spends relies on the assistance of many academic colleagues who provide comments, criticism and advice to the editor. This year, special thanks are due to Bruce Doern, Katherine Graham, Rianne Mahon, Allan Maslove, Leslie Pal, Saul Schwartz and Gene Swimmer, as well as to the many individuals who provided comments directly to the contributors. Carolyn Chisholm, Aideen Nabigon, Ted Reed and Eric Robinson worked diligently as research assistants. Under the direction of Allan Maslove, Eric Robinson also produced the tables and charts that appear in the appendix, Fiscal Facts and Trends.

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