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## \$1.9 Million Canadian Wine Research

Government and Industry will fund new positions, outreach at Brock University

## by Hudson Cattell



CCOVI's teaching wine lab.

St. Catharines, Ontario -- Canada's federal government announced on Wednesday that Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) will receive CA\$1.9 million to fund new research that will support Canada's grape and wine industry. \$1.425 million will come from the Developing Innovative Agri-Products Program, and \$475,000 from the Ontario industry.

The funds will cover three areas. The first will be to hire two full-time senior scientists to be located at CCOVI. One position will be for a viticulturist specialized in grapevine cold hardiness, and the other for an enologist whose specialty is grape and wine flavor chemistry. Their time will be split half and half between applied research that addresses industry priorities and outreach activities to promote technology and transfer knowledge of research at CCOVI.

A second funding goal will be to develop outreach programs for the industry in consultation with grapegrowers and winemakers, targeted at their priority needs. This would include lab services using infrastructure at CCOVI that was built in partnership with the industry as well as working collaboratively with extension specialists or consultants to provide expertise in areas not currently covered.

Debra Inglis, director of CCOVI, looks at this as a turning point for both Brock and the Ontario grape and wine industry. "Working with wineries and growers, we will develop outreach programs based on industry priorities. If sudden issues occur, CCOVI will now have the resources to work with them as soon as these issues arise, and work toward solutions at an accelerated pace. We have been working with our industry partners to bring these resources to the sector, and I am thrilled we now have a mechanism to do so," she said.

The third area will be an overall winter hardiness project that will include operational costs and funding for three graduate students and technician support. This project has already been approved on the federal level by Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada and by Ontario Grape and Wine Research, Inc., of which the Grape Growers of Ontario and the Wine Council of Ontario are both members.



Debra Inglis

One of the conditions for federal funding is that the work done must have relevance nationally. Inglis told *Wines & Vines* that "Grapevine winter hardiness and grape/wine flavor chemistry are of national importance to the Canadian grape and wine industry from west to east, and outreach programs to transfer research outputs and technology will assist the growth and sustainability of the entire Canadian industry."

A search for candidates to fill the two senior scientist positions will begin immediately. The search committee will include Brock and industry representatives.