

## **X-ray Crystallography at a Small Canadian University – A Personal Perspective**

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Brock University with a population of ca. 19,000 students is formally classed as a medium sized "fully comprehensive" University within Canada, but it offers just nine PhD programs to-date, one of which is chemistry. As an inorganic chemist working at the interface of coordination chemistry and molecular magnetism, elucidating the structures of molecules is fundamental to the advancement of my NSERC funded research program. Furthermore, having hands-on access to an X-ray diffractometer is crucial to nurture the next generation of Canadian crystallographers and facilitate collaborations both within Canada and abroad, opening up new avenues for collaborative research. With a large teaching load, maintaining an active research group in inorganic chemistry, as well as providing crystallographic support and training to students and colleagues at Brock is not without its challenges. Within the spirit of this meeting the various issues involved with running a small Canadian crystallographic facility, together with a discussion of the funding mechanisms available to Canadian researchers to secure funding for X-ray crystallography research will be presented.