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Impact of the Canadian Neutron Beam Centre

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The March 31, 2018 closure of the National Research Universal reactor marked the end of over 70 years of materials research using neutron beams at the Chalk River Laboratories in Chalk River, Ontario. This closure will have a major impact on the Canadian materials research community, including researchers in the physics, chemistry, and engineering of materials. We examine the impacts that have arisen from this history in form of benefits to the user community, for example: enhancing scientific excellence (including evidence from bibliometric data, benchmarked against foreign neutron beam facilities), fostering its growth (introducing a community size metric based on papers that use neutron scattering in Canada), boosting university-industry collaborations and training highly qualified people (based on a longitudinal analysis of academic and career paths of the student researchers who used the CNBC from 1984 to 2018).

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