



CANADA RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL PROGRESS SUMMARY

ABOUT THE CANADA RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) advances federal research priorities and the coordination of policies and programs of Canada's federal research funding agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). It provides a senior strategic forum for building consensus, and providing advice, direction and oversight on forward-looking initiatives that strengthen Canada's research enterprise.

Established by the ministers of Science and Health in late 2017, the committee includes the presidents of the CFI, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the National Research Council (NRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), as well as the deputy ministers of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Health Canada, and Canada's Chief Science Advisor.

ANNUAL PROGRESS SUMMARY

CRCC member organizations work together to strengthen Canada's ability to grow in the rapidly evolving global research landscape while focusing on key priority areas.

For more information about the CRCC's priorities and the actions taken by member agencies and departments, [consult the progress reports](#).



INTERDISCIPLINARY, INTERNATIONAL, HIGH-RISK / HIGH-REWARD, RAPID-RESPONSE RESEARCH

2018-19

Launched NFRF to support world-leading interdisciplinary, international, high-risk / high-reward, transformative and rapid-response Canadian-led research through three streams: Exploration, Transformation and International. It also has the flexibility to launch special calls.

Launched the inaugural Exploration call for early career researchers (ECRs) doing innovative, high-risk / high-reward interdisciplinary research in December 2018; 157 ECRs received funding for an investment of \$38 million.

2019-20

Awarded the [2019 Exploration grants](#): 186 research projects received funding, for an investment of \$46.3 million.

Launched the inaugural, 2020 Transformation competition to support large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects that address a major challenge, with the potential to realize real and lasting change (high-reward).

Launched the International stream's 2020 Horizon Global Platform competition to support international collaborations and position Canada-based researchers as strategic partners at the international level.

Top-up grants and one-year extensions were offered to 2018 Exploration stream grant holders due to the pandemic.

2020-21

Awarded the NFRF [2020 Exploration grants](#) (117 research projects, \$29 million), and the [special call addressing COVID-19 challenges](#) (15 research projects, \$7 million).

Launched the 2022 Transformation competition and the Innovative Approaches to Research in the Pandemic Context special call.

Due to the pandemic, top-up grants and one-year extensions were offered to 2019 Exploration stream projects.

Launched an [interactive dashboard](#) of NFRF competition information, in line with the federal government's commitment to transparency and active communication.

2021-22

Awarded the NFRF [2020 Transformation grants](#) (seven research teams, \$144 million).

Awarded the NFRF [2021 Exploration grants](#) (102 research projects, \$25 million).

Since 2018, more than 500 Exploration grants have been awarded—with more than 300 going to ECRs to help launch their careers.

2022-23

Awarded the NFRF [2022 Transformation grants](#) (six research teams, \$142 million).

Awarded the NFRF [2022 Exploration grants](#) (128 research projects, \$31 million).

Launched the [International Initiative for Research on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#), with a budget of more than C\$90 million, including over C\$30 million from agencies in seven other countries.

Launched the 2022 Horizon Global Platform competition.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2018-19

Initiated development of the [*International Framework: Statement of Objectives and Principles*](#).

2019-20

Released the [*International Framework: Statement of Objectives and Principles*](#) to inform agency decisions in areas of mutual interest and help guide the design of interagency initiatives.

2020-21

Members contributed to the development of the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery.

Engaged with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to reinforce the longstanding science and technology relationship between Canada and the United Kingdom and explore areas of mutual interest for future collaborations, including pandemic preparedness and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research.

Developed guidelines for a consistent and replicable “Team Canada” approach to the organization of future meetings with international research funding organizations.

2021-22

The CRCC continued its efforts to broaden Canada’s global research and innovation networks by meeting with the chief executives of France’s Centre national de la recherche scientifique, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) and the U.S. National Science Foundation.

Following a meeting between the CRCC and UK Research and Innovation in 2020, member organizations in both countries joined forces to plan a professional workshop on EDI, to be held in 2022-23.

2022-23

Held a joint CRCC-UKRI workshop on equity, diversity and inclusion in research, engaging over 100 professionals from 17 organizations in Canada and the UK.

The CRCC and National Research Foundation of South Africa organized a week of meetings in Ottawa and Toronto engaging 27 South African and 39 Canadian organizations to strengthen cooperation in research and higher education.

With the Fonds de recherche du Québec, the CRCC organized international discussions with senior executives on open access publishing.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

2018-19

Harmonized tri-agency collection of self-identification data from all applicants.

Developed the first iteration of the Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan for fair access, equitable participation and evidence-based decision-making.

Provided mandatory gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) training for all tri-agency staff and CRCC members.

Launched the pilot EDI Institutional Capacity-Building Grant program.

Minister Duncan launched the draft “Made-in-Canada” Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Charter.

2019-20

Released the Tri-Agency Statement on [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) and strengthened the Tri-agency EDI Action Plan.

Launched the [Dimensions: equity, diversity and inclusion Canada](#) program.

Awarded [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Capacity-Building Grants](#).

Adopted a harmonized EDI training plan for agency staff.

2020-21

Awarded second round of [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Institutional Capacity-Building Grants](#).

Added new questions to the self-identification questionnaire about sexual orientation and language, to help each agency monitor additional dimensions of diversity in its programs and design new measures to help achieve greater EDI in the research ecosystem.

15 more postsecondary institutions and other research organizations signed the Dimensions charter—bringing the total number of signatories to 125.

Made progress toward realizing EDI objectives for the Canada Research Chairs Program as set out in the 2019 Addendum to the 2006 Canadian Human Rights settlement agreement.

2021-22

Rolled out the revised self-identification questionnaire for agency funding programs.

Released a revised [Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan for 2018-25](#).

Seventeen more postsecondary institutions and other research organizations signed the [Dimensions charter](#).

Established a requirement for institutions that participate in the Canada Research Chairs Program to set population-based equity targets.

Launched the [Robbins-Ollivier Excellence in Equity Award](#).

2022-23

Recognized [10 postsecondary institutions](#) for their work in advancing EDI through the [Dimensions](#) recognition program.

Embedded EDI as a foundational principle in the Canada Excellence Research Chairs and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.

The CFI introduced a new EDI criterion in the 2023 Innovation Fund competition.

The three funding agencies published accessibility plans to start identifying and removing systemic barriers to participation for persons with disabilities.

Expect recipients of grants from the Canada Biomedical Research Fund and the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund to show leadership in supporting ECRs and promoting EDI.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AND RECONCILIATION

2018-19

Launched Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation (IRCR)—Connection Grants and awarded 116 grants.

Engaged directly with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, collectives and organizations across Canada.

Brought together IRCR Connection Grant holders, Indigenous community members and tri-agency representatives for a national dialogue to support the co-development of a strategic plan for an interdisciplinary Indigenous research and research training model geared toward increasing the capacity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to lead their own research and collaborate better with the broader research community.

2019-20

Released [*Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada 2019-2022*](#), a plan co-developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to guide the development of research and research training models that contribute to reconciliation and the building of meaningful new relationships with Indigenous Peoples. The strategic plan is the cornerstone of the Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity initiative.

2020-21

Moved toward implementing the strategic plan co-developed with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples: [*Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada 2019-2022*](#).

Created the external—exclusively First Nations, Inuit and Métis—Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research to evaluate peer review models across Canada's federal research funding agencies and make them more culturally appropriate, inclusive and relevant to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

Initiated the selection process for the creation of the establishment of the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research that will advise CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC and the CFI on the implementation of the strategic plan and matters related to Indigenous

2021-22

Released the first progress report on implementation of the interagency [*strategic plan on Indigenous research and research training*](#).

Since its inception in 2020, the [*Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research*](#) has held 12 meetings and laid the groundwork for a review of the agencies' peer assessment models, guided by principles of cultural relevance, cultural safety and respect for Indigenous knowledge systems. It also launched an [*open call for expressions of interest*](#) to engage more closely with Knowledge Keepers and Elders.

The [*Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research*](#), composed of individuals from First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, was established and will begin its mandate in 2022-23. The Leadership Circle will advise the presidents at the three federal research funding agencies and the CFI on implementation of the Indigenous research strategic plan.

2022-23

The [*Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research*](#) met virtually with the CRCC in July and held its first in-person gathering at University nuxethot'jine thaa?ehots'j nistameyimākanak Blue Quills in October.

The Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research held an in-person gathering in Yellowknife, focused on challenges faced by Indigenous researchers in the North.

The Reference Group developed guiding principles for the appropriate review of Indigenous research and recommendations to streamline, within agency application processes, the submission of letters of support from Indigenous organizations.

All three agencies helped fund [*the 2023 National Indigenous Citizenship Forum*](#).

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategic plan was [*extended to 2025-26*](#) to ensure full and engaged implementation with Indigenous partners.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

2018-19

Adopted harmonized tri-agency working definition of ECRs.

Developed the first iteration of the tri-agency ECR Action Plan for fair access, equitable participation and evidence-based decision-making.

Harmonized tri-agency performance indicators to enable the monitoring of success of ECR initiatives.

Allocated 250 new Tier 2 chairs for early career / emerging researchers in the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Added a research stipend of \$20,000 per year for first-term Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs.

2019-20

Updated the tri-agency ECR definition to enhance support for ECRs.

Continued to monitor and report on shared tri-agency performance indicators for ECR initiatives.

Adopted balanced funding for ECR-led projects in appropriate flagship research programs by dedicating a portion of funding to ECR-led projects, relative to the number of ECR-led applications received.

2020-21

Recognizing the unique challenges and importance for researchers to establish a strong track record early in their careers, each agency introduced ways to recognize the disruptions caused by the pandemic when determining ECR status—effectively extending ECRs' access to funding equalization measures in their flagship programs.

2021-22

The three federal research funding agencies and the CFI offered several pathways to provide ECRs with peer review experience.

The three federal research funding agencies offered mechanisms to extend the eligibility window for individuals to be considered ECRs.

2022-23

All three agencies took steps to ensure that unsuccessful first-time ECR applicants receive enhanced feedback from review committees.

In its 2023-28 Strategic Plan, the CFI reiterated its commitment to encourage the training, recruitment and retention of new researchers through programs such as the John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

TRI-AGENCY TRAINING STRATEGY

2018-21

Not applicable in 2018 to 2021.

2021-22

The CRCC asked the three federal research funding agencies to develop a tri-agency talent strategy, to deliver an equitable, accessible and effective suite of scholarships and fellowships that help support and prepare a diverse population of students and postdoctoral fellows for careers requiring strong research skills in all sectors of society.

2022-23

Launched the [Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative](#).

With funding from the 2022 budget, the agencies will increase the number and proportion of [Black research trainees](#) supported through scholarship and fellowship programs in 2023-24.

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

2018-19

Not applicable in 2018-19.

2019-20

Allocated \$7 million from the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) to fund research addressing a wide range of issues related to COVID-19, including diagnostics, disease forecasting, public health, public policy, education, community engagement and global coordination.

Supported and engaged with the CanCOVID network to enhance evidence-based decision-making on pandemic issues.

2020-21

Launched the Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund in May 2020 to help sustain the research enterprise at Canadian universities and health research institutions that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat, delivered \$416 million to approximately 32,000 individuals engaged in research, and helped ensure the continuity of 22,000 projects.

2021-22

Awarded the NFRF special call [Innovative Approaches to Research in the Pandemic Context](#) (90 research projects, \$20 million).

NFRF issued a [special call to support international teams](#) responding to the priorities of the UN's Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery.

2022-23

Awarded the NFRF [special call on research for postpandemic recovery](#) (61 research projects, \$29 million).