

Canada Research Coordinating Committee

# STRENGTHENING CANADIAN RESEARCH

PROGRESS REPORT 2018-19



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

**THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF  
CANADA'S RESEARCH LANDSCAPE IS  
A BOLD, WORLD-LEADING AND HIGHLY  
COORDINATED SYSTEM OF FEDERAL  
SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE—A SYSTEM THAT  
FOSTERS RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND  
CONTRIBUTES TO THE SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF CANADIANS.**

---

CANADA RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Ministers.....	4
Message from the Chair .....	5
Executive Summary .....	7
<b>A New Research Environment .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Leadership .....	13
Coordination .....	16
Engagement .....	18
Priority: Interdisciplinary, International, High-Risk/ High-Reward, Rapid-Response Research .....	19
Actions .....	19
Priority: Key Emerging Research Areas .....	21
Actions .....	21
Priority: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion .....	22
Actions .....	22
Priority: Indigenous Research .....	25
Actions .....	25
Priority: Early Career Researchers .....	27
Actions .....	27
<b>“Be Bold”—The Year Ahead .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Annex I: Self-Identification Data Collection in Support of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Annex II: Engagement with Indigenous Communities .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Annex III: Historical ECR Data for Flagship Investigator-Initiated Research Grant Competitions .....</b>	<b>37</b>

## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERS

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport  
The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health

---

On behalf of the Government of Canada, we would like to thank the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) for its ongoing work to improve the delivery of federal support for research and to position Canada as a global leader in research excellence.

In the short time since it was established, the committee has played a leading role in our government's efforts to revitalize the federal research funding system. It has already taken important steps to harness the energy of our early career researchers, mobilize Indigenous research and knowledge, and improve equity, diversity and inclusion in academia.

Establishing the CRCC was a key element in the government's plan to reinvigorate the science and

research landscape in this country. We have a vision of Canadian science and research that is bold and forward looking.

We want our researchers to take risks and be innovative. We want our scientists and students to have access to state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment. We want the halls of academia to better reflect the diversity of Canada itself. Collaboration is key to achieving these goals and much more.

We appreciate the expertise and wisdom of the members of the CRCC and look forward to continuing our work together to continuously improve Canada's research ecosystem.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

---

Transformational changes have taken root in the Canadian science funding system in 2018-19. With the creation of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC), major strategic investments and the engagement of Canadians, we have begun revitalizing our programs and policies. Our goal is to create a research environment that is integrated and agile, more international, interdisciplinary and inclusive, that supports young innovators and encourages risk-taking—a truly Canadian research enterprise.

In reflecting on our efforts, three things stand out for me.

First, we have taken important steps in the way we are working together—between agencies, across government, with institutions, communities and researchers in all disciplines.

Second, we are truly building on the promise of Canadian research. We are encouraging researchers to take risks, innovate and work with partners nationally and internationally. We are building new and

meaningful relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. And we are implementing policies that support young scholars and make equity, diversity and inclusion hallmarks of research excellence.

Third, I am struck by the scale and the scope of our task. It will take time for the roots of such transformational changes to spread. But inspired by the vision, investments, engagement and innovations of the past year, Canadian researchers have urged us to be bold.

On behalf of the CRCC, I want to thank Minister of Science and Sport Kirsty Duncan and Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor for placing their faith in us and giving us the mandate and resources to succeed. I want to thank staff throughout our agencies who have worked so hard this year. Most of all, I want to thank the Canadian researchers and administrators, Indigenous leaders and scholars, and postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who have shared their experience and insights with us.

I look forward to seeing the roots of change take hold across the research landscape in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Ted Hewitt, PhD  
CHAIR, CANADA RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE





Members of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee include, from left: Ted Hewitt, Roseann O'Reilly Runte, Michael Strong, Mona Nemer, Simon Kennedy, David McGovern (delegate, associate deputy minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development) and Iain Stewart. Missing from the photo are John Knubley and Digvir Jayas.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

The Minister of Science and Sport and the Minister of Health established the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) in October 2017 to revitalize the federal research funding system in Canada and better meet the needs of Canadian researchers. They asked the committee to increase the harmonization and coordination of policies and programs and address five national priorities:

- interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward, rapid-response research;
- key emerging research areas;
- equity, diversity and inclusion in research;
- Indigenous research; and
- the needs of early career researchers.

The February 2018 federal budget invested significant funding to help address these priorities.

### Leadership

The committee brings together the executive heads of Canada's three funding agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), as well as Health Canada (HC), Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the National Research Council (NRC) and the Office of the Chief Science Advisor.

### Coordination

The committee established a work plan that set out a common vision, core principles, desired outcomes, actions and deliverables to address the five priorities. Each funding agency nominated a senior executive to champion each priority and struck working groups, with staff from the three agencies and CFI to implement change.

### Engagement

The CRCC sought the advice of Canadians in national consultations, engaging with more than 1,500 people through regional roundtables, online questionnaires and submissions from agencies, associations and institutions across the country. The advice received is helping to shape transformative policies and programs addressing each priority. The starting points and complexity of the required measures vary from one priority to another. Yet, with support from the highest levels, work has advanced in every area.

## Key accomplishments in 2018-19

---

### **Priority: Interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward, rapid-response research**

- Launched the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) to support three streams of research: Exploration, Transformation and International in December 2018.
- Launched the inaugural Exploration call for early career researchers doing innovative, high-risk/high-reward interdisciplinary research in December 2018.

### **Priority: Key emerging research areas**

- Started designing a methodology to analyze Canadian and international research funding and publications data to identify key emerging research areas and Canada's place in them in December 2018.
- Prepared consultations with policy leaders in government and stakeholder organizations to identify research areas with the greatest potential to transform science, have significant societal impacts, or both in January 2019.

### **Priority: Equity, diversity and inclusion**

- Harmonized tri-agency collection of self-identification data from all applicants from May to September 2018.
- Developed a tri-agency Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan for fair access, equitable participation and evidence-based decision-making in September 2018.
- Provided mandatory Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training for all tri-agency staff; it was completed by all CRCC members and secretariat staff in December 2018.
- Launched pilot EDI Institutional Capacity-Building Grant program in February 2019.
- Minister Duncan launched a draft "Made-in-Canada" Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter in February 2019.

### **Priority: Indigenous research**

- Launched Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants in June 2018. Awarded 116 grants in November 2018.
- Started engaging with Indigenous communities across Canada in July 2018.
- Held National Dialogue in March 2019.

### **Priority: Early career researchers**

- Adopted tri-agency working definition of early career researcher (ECR) in June 2018.
- Developed a tri-agency ECR Action Plan for fair access, equitable participation and evidence-based decision-making in September 2018.
- Harmonized tri-agency performance indicators to enable the monitoring of success of ECR initiatives in December 2018.
- Allocated 250 new Tier 2 awards for early career/emerging researchers in the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program in December 2018.
- Added a research stipend of \$20,000 per year for first-term Tier 2 CRC chair holders in December 2018.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing safety glasses and a white lab coat, is smiling. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. At the bottom, there are several diagonal stripes in various shades of purple and red. The text "A NEW RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT" is centered in white, uppercase letters.

A NEW RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENT

## A NEW RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

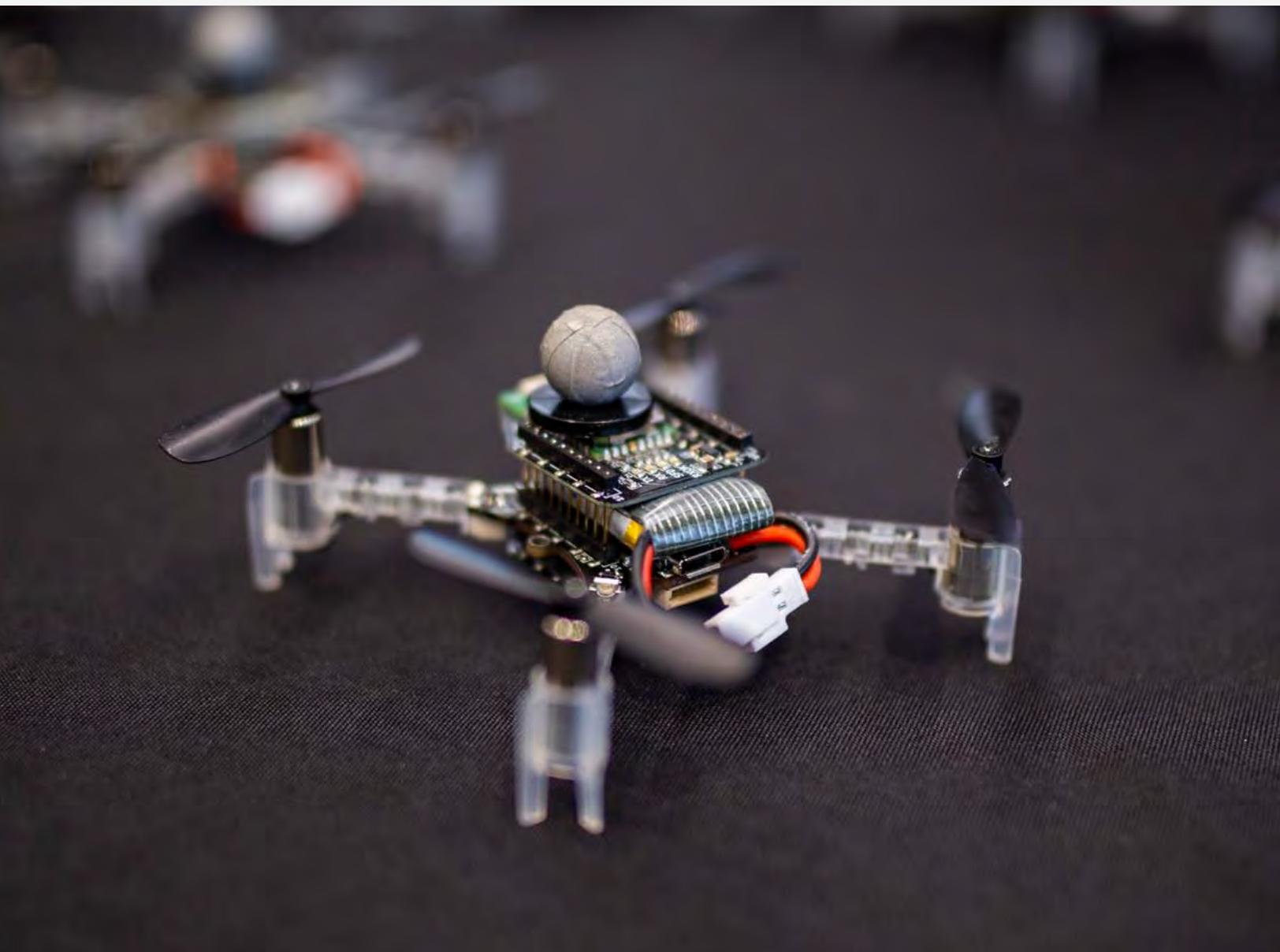
---

Researchers developing new insights, building fundamental knowledge and creating cutting-edge technologies are at the heart of scientific discovery, social change and business creation in Canada. Their innovation and insights reshape our society and increasingly focus on issues and opportunities that can emerge rapidly and spread quickly across national and disciplinary boundaries.

The Government of Canada established the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) and made investments in Budget 2018 to help Canadian researchers play leading roles in this new economic, social and research environment. The government called on the committee to invigorate the Canadian research enterprise by harmonizing policies and programs; facilitating interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward, fast-breaking research; and ensuring that all Canadians have a fair chance to participate, contribute and succeed.

This progress report summarizes the committee's accomplishments in its first year (2018-19). As an inaugural report, it highlights government leadership in establishing the committee's mandate and membership, setting national priorities and providing essential support. It highlights the steps the committee and agency officials have taken to coordinate their work, engage the research community and start the process of change in five priority areas.

The starting points, challenges and measures introduced to address each priority are not the same, yet consistent progress has been made. Committee members look forward to closer cooperation, deeper engagement and transformational changes in the year ahead.



As Canada Research Chair in Machine Learning for Robotics and Control, Angela Schoellig's research focuses on coordinating strategies for aerial vehicle swarms.

PHOTO CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



# LEADERSHIP



## LEADERSHIP

---

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, minister of Science and Sport, and the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, minister of Health, established the CRCC on October 27, 2017, to reinvigorate the federal research funding system to better meet the current and future needs of Canada’s scientists, scholars and students.

The ministers mandated the committee to achieve greater harmonization, integration, collaboration and coordination of programs and policies. The committee would address issues of common concern to Canada’s research funding agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

At the same time, they asked the committee to address five national priorities.

- 
- Interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward, rapid-response research

---

  - Key emerging research areas

---

  - Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research

---

  - Indigenous research

---

  - The needs of early career researchers (ECRs)

---

They appointed the presidents of CFI, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC and the National Research Council (NRC), as well as the deputy ministers of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and Health Canada (HC), and the chief science advisor to serve on the committee. Members as of March 31, 2019, are:

- 
- Ted Hewitt, president of SSHRC and chair of the CRCC

---

  - Digvir S. Jayas, interim president of NSERC

---

  - Simon Kennedy, deputy minister of HC

---

  - John Knubley, deputy minister of ISED

---

  - Mona Nemer, chief science advisor

---

  - Roseann O’Reilly Runte, president and CEO of CFI

---

  - Iain Stewart, president of the NRC

---

  - Michael J. Strong, president of CIHR

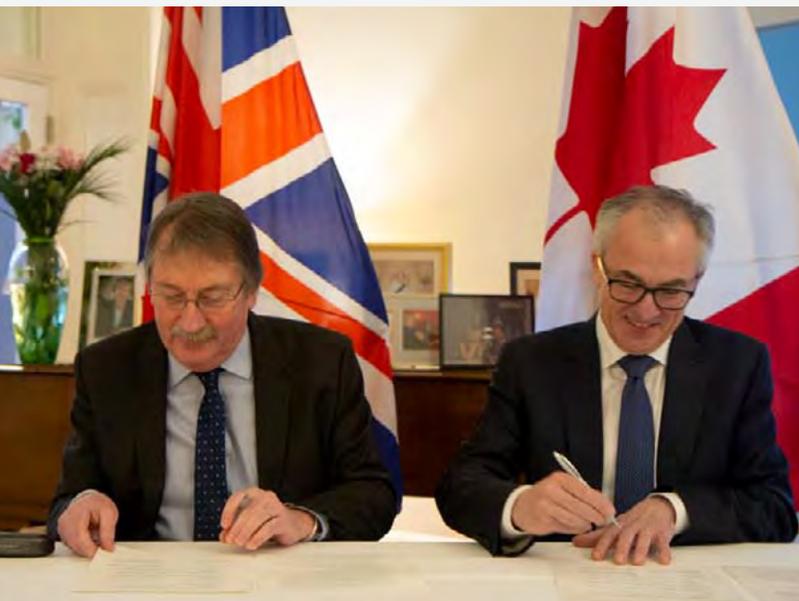
---

The ministers appointed Hewitt to serve as the committee's first chair. The position will rotate among the presidents of the three granting agencies.

At its first meeting, the committee nominated B. Mario Pinto, then president of NSERC, to serve as vice-chair. Strong assumed that position in October 2018. Others who served on the committee during its first year include:

- Roderick McInnes, acting president of CIHR (October 2017 to June 2018)
- Michel Perron, acting president of CIHR (July to September 2018)
- B. Mario Pinto, president of NSERC (October 2017 to October 2018)

The 2018 federal budget invested significant funding to help the committee address national priorities. It allocated \$275 million over five years for a new fund to support international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking, high-risk research and advance efforts in key emerging areas. It set aside \$6 million over five years to improve data collection and \$15 million over five years for programs to improve EDI in research at postsecondary institutions. It invested \$3.8 million in 2018-19 to co-develop, with Indigenous partners, a strategic plan that identifies new ways of doing research by and with Indigenous communities. Finally, the budget allocated \$210 million over five years for the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program to attract and retain leading ECRs at postsecondary institutions while increasing diversity among nominated researchers.



From left: Ted Hewitt and Mark Thomson (executive chair of the Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK Research and Innovation) signed a letter of understanding between the Canada Research Coordinating Committee and UK Research and Innovation.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC



Iain Stewart welcomed Donna Strickland, the 2018 Nobel Laureate in Physics, to the NRC on January 18, 2019.

PHOTO CREDIT: NRC

# COORDINATION



## COORDINATION

---

Committee members established a foundation for sustained coordination, drawing on the agencies' experience of shared corporate services (SSHRC and NSERC) and cooperative management of policies and programs such as the *Tri-council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, the Networks of Centres of Excellence and the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat. They adopted terms of reference that established an open and collaborative working culture and prepared a work plan that set out a common vision, core principles, desired outcomes, actions and deliverables to meet the five priorities.

Each funding agency nominated an executive to champion each priority and struck working groups with staff from the three agencies and CFI to implement change. Following the 2018 federal budget, the committee strengthened its capacity for inter-agency coordination by establishing a committee of assistant deputy ministers and executive vice-presidents. The existing Inter-Agency Executive Vice-Presidents' Forum coordinated CRCC activities with other agency initiatives. As CRCC initiatives moved closer to implementation, an inter-agency forum bringing together vice-presidents responsible for agency programs was organized along with a growing number of inter-agency project teams.

The committee is supported by a secretariat that has adapted over the past year to meet organizational needs, manage national consultations and facilitate inter-agency coordination.

An integral part of the committee's efforts to work in an open and collaborative manner is a determination to share its plans and progress with the research community, invite dialogue with stakeholders and consult widely with researchers, administrators and Indigenous communities on the development and implementation of its initiatives. With that in mind, the CRCC established a web presence on the ISED Science and Innovation website to centralize public communications and announce major initiatives. The chair also gave several interviews in research publications. Finally, committee members actively engaged with Canadian and international stakeholders and community leaders to raise awareness and receive feedback on their plans and progress.

For more information, see:

[www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/127.nsf/eng/home](http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/127.nsf/eng/home)



# ENGAGEMENT

## ENGAGEMENT

---

The committee met with Minister Duncan on June 8, 2018, to present draft proposals for initiatives to encourage EDI; support ECRs; and fund international, interdisciplinary and high-risk, rapid-response research. With the minister's support, they proposed consulting with researchers and research administrators across the country to test and refine the proposals before launching initiatives.

To engage a wide-ranging and thoughtful national discussion, Canadian researchers, administrators and stakeholders were invited to contribute in a number of ways.

- 
- More than 240 people from 47 universities and four colleges participated in eight half-day regional roundtables at institutions across the country.
- 
- More than 925 people contributed through online consultations promoted on websites and social media by CRCC members, universities, colleges and associations.
- 
- More than 20 associations and institutions engaged their members in preparing stakeholder submissions and many others met with CRCC members.
- 
- The diverse researchers, administrators and representatives from other sectors of society serving on the governing bodies of CRCC member agencies were engaged at their June meetings.
- 

In all, more than 1,500 people helped shape better policies and programs. For a summary of their advice, see the *CRCC Summary Report on Proposed Measures to Strengthen Science in Canada* at [www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/CRCC-CCRC/report-rapport-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/CRCC-CCRC/report-rapport-eng.aspx).

## Priority: Interdisciplinary, International, High-Risk/High-Reward, Rapid-Response Research

---

World-leading research is increasingly international and interdisciplinary in scope as researchers cross academic and geographic boundaries to solve emerging challenges. It can involve significant risk, require a rapid response and produce paradigm-shifting results. However, while the research landscape is continuously evolving, the mechanisms through which research proposals are evaluated and funded have remained relatively static. This has created barriers to funding for research that involves one or more components of interdisciplinary, international, high-risk/high-reward and rapid-response research.

As a result, there was a need to establish a space in the Canadian research ecosystem to explore innovative review mechanisms that can overcome some of the limitations of traditional peer review processes.

✓ Launched New Frontiers in Research Fund to support three streams of research: Exploration, Transformation and International on December 6, 2018.

✓ Launched inaugural Exploration call for early career researchers doing innovative high-risk/high-reward interdisciplinary research on December 6, 2018.

## Actions

---

### New Frontiers in Research Fund

To achieve this goal, the CRCC created a new fund to support international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking and high-risk/high-reward research. In designing the fund, the CRCC drew on insights from the national consultations, the Fundamental Science Review and lessons learned from Canadian and international funding agencies.

On December 6, 2018, Minister Duncan launched the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) with \$275 million over the next five years and \$65 million ongoing. It is composed of three streams.

- **Exploration** generates opportunities for Canada to build strength in high-risk/high-reward and interdisciplinary research.
  - **Transformation** provides large-scale support for Canada to build strength and leadership in interdisciplinary and transformative research.
  - **International** enhances opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners.
-

The first Exploration call was designed specifically to provide opportunities for ECRs to conduct innovative high-risk/high-reward interdisciplinary research not eligible for existing agency programs. It encouraged them to defy current paradigms, propose unique directions, bridge disciplines and tackle fundamental problems from new perspectives. Projects must be interdisciplinary, take sex- and gender-based analysis into account (if applicable) and support EDI in their team and training environment. Grants valued at up to \$125,000 a year for two years will be awarded in spring 2019.

With multiple streams and a staged roll out, the fund makes it possible for the CRCC to address diverse objectives, explore innovative merit review processes and learn as each phase is introduced. To facilitate the high level of collaboration between agencies needed to manage a truly interdisciplinary program, the CRCC serves as the fund's steering committee, responsible for program direction and oversight.

For more information on the NFRE, please see:

[www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/nfrf-fnfr-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/nfrf-fnfr-eng.aspx)



From left, Tara Janzen, development manager and acting chief executive officer of Wanuskewin Heritage Park, gives a tour of the facility to Ted Hewitt and the Honourable Kirsty Duncan.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC



The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor toured a lab at St. Justine Hospital in Montréal.

PHOTO CREDIT: CIHR

## Priority: Key Emerging Research Areas

---

In an age marked by the rapid evolution of technology and dramatic environmental, social and economic change, researchers are addressing new challenges and pursuing new opportunities with the potential to significantly change the way we live. Canada has played a leading role in such transformative research in the past. Yet the breadth and speed of change today make it increasingly important for the federal funding system to adopt a more systematic and coordinated approach toward identifying, supporting and sustaining Canadian research in key emerging areas.

In this context, the CRCC has pursued strategies to identify and support Canadian research in key emerging areas and plays a coordinating role on the international stage.

✓ Started designing a methodology to analyze research funding and publications data to identify key emerging research areas in December 2018.

✓ Prepared consultations with policy leaders in government and stakeholder organizations in January 2019.

## Actions

---

The NFRF will provide an investigator-driven mechanism for identifying key areas with the potential to transform science, have significant societal impacts, or both.

To complement this approach, the CRCC has begun developing strategic mechanisms to identify transformative research areas. These include:

- reviewing international and domestic efforts to identify and prioritize key areas (for example, SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future and the U.S. National Science Foundation's "10 Big Ideas" initiatives);
- developing a process for systematic and repeatable analysis of Canadian and international research funding and publications data to identify key emerging areas and Canada's place in them; and
- consulting policy leaders in government and stakeholder organizations about the identification of research areas with the potential to transform science, have significant societal impacts, or both.

These initiatives will continue to inform and reflect evolving government and CRCC priorities in the year ahead.

## Priority: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

---

A more inclusive research enterprise makes for better research, a stronger society and a more innovative economy. That is why Canada's funding agencies promote EDI throughout the federal funding system. Still, significant inequities remain in both the research funding and higher education systems.

- ✓ Harmonized tri-agency collection of applicant self-identification data from May to September 2018.
- ✓ Developed tri-agency EDI Action Plan in September 2018.
- ✓ Provided mandatory GBA+ training to all tri-agency staff; it was completed by all CRCC members and secretariat in December 2018.
- ✓ Launched pilot EDI Institutional Capacity-Building Grant program in February 2019.
- ✓ Minister launched a draft "Made-in-Canada" Athena SWAN Charter in February 2019.

## Actions

---

### Tri-agency EDI Action Plan

To advance EDI throughout the research enterprise, the CRCC consulted researchers and research administrators. Discussions focused on measures to ensure fair access to research support and equitable participation and treatment in the research system for researchers from underrepresented groups, as well as the kinds of data collection necessary for evidence-informed decision-making.

The committee received recommendations that the three funding agencies integrated into a harmonized tri-agency EDI Action Plan, which will be released in the coming months. In preparation, staff began work on each of the plan's three pillars, taking the following first steps toward implementation.

1. To ensure fair access to research support, the agencies introduced unconscious bias training for all reviewers and made Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training mandatory for all policy and program staff.
  2. To increase equitable participation in the research system, the agencies started to collect baseline data on the number of researchers from underrepresented groups participating in agency programs. See Annex I.
  3. To build comprehensive data for evidence-informed decision-making, in summer 2018, the agencies began to ask all applicants to indicate their gender identity and whether they identify as Indigenous, as a visible minority, or a person with a disability. They invested in system upgrades, staff training and coordination to ensure data security and confidentiality throughout this process.
-

### “Made-in-Canada” Athena SWAN Charter

The UK Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Charter is an internationally recognized initiative that provides a framework for institutions to voluntarily improve the access and participation of underrepresented groups in higher education and research. It is an effective lever for change, helping attract scholars and enrich research in the UK, Australia, Ireland and the United States. With support provided in Budget 2018, Minister Duncan led development of a unique “made-in-Canada” version.

To ensure the future Canadian charter addresses Canadian realities, the minister held consultations in the summer and fall of 2018. She unveiled a draft “made-in-Canada” charter, giving underrepresented groups and institutions an opportunity to provide feedback, on February 11, 2019, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

For more information, see:

[www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Athena-SWAN\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Athena-SWAN_eng.asp)

### Pilot EDI Institutional Capacity-Building Grants Program

The CRCC recognized that Canadian postsecondary institutions, particularly smaller institutions, will face challenges in aligning with tri-agency EDI requirements and a Canadian Athena SWAN Charter. Significant efforts are needed to identify and eliminate systemic barriers to the inclusion and advancement of underrepresented groups within institutional policies, practices and cultures. Such efforts require time for self-assessment, allocating resources, adjusting job descriptions and promotion processes, reviewing research policies, collecting data and producing benchmarks and analyses.

To support Canadian institutions as they take on these challenges, Minister Duncan launched the first call for a pilot tri-agency EDI Institutional Capacity-Building Grant program on February 11, 2019. The program will provide small institutions and colleges with up to \$200,000 per year for up to two years for projects to develop and implement EDI policies, plans and training.



Taking part in the New Frontiers in Research Fund launch was the Honourable Kirsty Duncan (front centre), Ted Hewitt (middle centre), Benoit-Antoine Bacon (president of Carleton University, back centre), Jeremy Kerr (professor of biology at University of Ottawa, far right) and some of his student research team.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC

## Priority: Indigenous Research

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission called on the federal government—in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, postsecondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions—to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation (Call to Action 65). The commission also called on the Government of Canada to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing and reconciliation (Call to Action 78).

Both calls were echoed by the minister of Science and Sport and the minister of Health in charging the CRCC to co-develop a strategic plan with Indigenous partners to increase the capacity of Indigenous communities to conduct research and partner with the broader research community.

- ✓ Launched Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants in June 2018.
- ✓ Awarded 116 Grants in November 2018.
- ✓ Started engaging with Indigenous communities in July 2018.
- ✓ Held National Dialogue in March 2019.

## Actions

Budget 2018 allocated \$3.8 million for that purpose. As a result, the committee launched two engagement streams to facilitate discussions directly with Indigenous organizations and create opportunities, through grants, for Indigenous not-for-profit organizations and the academic community to lead independent engagement activities.

Initial plans called for up to six regional events and 50 grants. In the end, 14 events organized in partnership with Indigenous organizations were held across Canada, convening about 500 participants, including Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, researchers, students and youth. These events provided CRCC members and senior tri-agency staff important opportunities to listen, learn and think deeply about the breadth of issues affecting Indigenous perception, interest, participation and leadership in research.

For a list of events and community partners, see Annex II.

## Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants

To complement discussion with Indigenous communities, the CRCC launched a special call for Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation Connection Grants on National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, 2018. The call invited proposals for targeted interdisciplinary events, outreach activities and position papers to help guide new ways of engaging in research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Open to Indigenous and other not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, the call offered grants of up to \$50,000 for six months with the possibility of a six-month extension.

The number of applications received and recommended for funding following merit review far exceeded the original budget allocation. In response, all three granting agencies sought additional resources and succeeded in funding 116 projects. That represented a success rate of 85 per cent for projects led by Indigenous not-for-profit organizations and 40 per cent for those led by academic institutions and non-Indigenous not-for-profit organizations. Award holders joined community leaders from across Canada and CRCC members in Ottawa on March 12 and 13, 2019, for a National Dialogue.

For more information on the Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants, see: [www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/indigenous\\_research-recherche\\_autochtone-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/indigenous_research-recherche_autochtone-eng.aspx)



Bentwood box carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



Senator Murray Sinclair addressed the National Dialogue on Research and Reconciliation in March 2019.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC

## Priority: Early Career Researchers

Canada aims to be a world leader in the development of talent throughout the research career life cycle. However, over the past 10 years, the academic career prospects for early career researchers (ECRs) have been adversely affected by an increased number of doctoral graduates and slow growth in full-time faculty positions. ECRs have also faced difficulties getting research support. Some of the causes are temporary, and some contributing factors are beyond federal influence. However, the Government of Canada can play a constructive role in addressing these concerns through its support for research, scholarships and fellowships and the CRC program.

- ✓ Adopted tri-agency working definition for early career researcher in June 2018.
- ✓ Developed tri-agency ECR Action Plan in September 2018.
- ✓ Harmonized tri-agency ECR performance indicators in December 2018.
- ✓ Allocated 250 new Tier 2 awards for early career or emerging researchers in the CRC program in December 2018.
- ✓ Added a \$20,000/year research stipend for first term Tier 2 chairholders in December 2018.

## Actions

### Tri-agency ECR Action Plan

Through the national consultation process, the CRCC received numerous comments and recommendations that helped the three granting agencies develop a strategy for addressing the concerns of ECRs.

A critical first step in June 2018 was the funding agencies' decision to adopt a common working definition of an ECR as a researcher within five years of their first research appointment, not including any eligible leaves. For these researchers, the tri-agency ECR Action Plan includes initiatives to ensure fair access to research support and equitable participation in the funding system, as well as measures to harmonize relevant data collection across the three agencies.

To establish a baseline for future comparisons and drive continuous improvement, the agencies began to harmonize their data collection, tracking and reporting procedures. They gathered existing data on ECRs and identified gaps and differences between agencies in the data available and the way it was collected. They agreed on the type of information needed to understand the experience of researchers at different career stages and the use of unique identifiers to track researchers as they move across agencies and through career stages. See Annex III for historical ECR data from flagship investigator-initiated research grant competitions.

### Canada Research Chair ECR-EDI Initiative

To attract and retain leading ECRs to postsecondary institutions across the country, Budget 2018 added \$210 million over five years, with \$50 million per year ongoing, to the CRC program. This investment also aims to increase the diversity of chairholders from four designated groups: women, people with disabilities, Indigenous people and visible minorities.

As a result, the program established 285 new awards and allocated 250 of these for Tier 2 (early career or emerging researcher) positions. A research stipend of \$20,000 per year for first-term Tier 2 chair holders was added to the program's design.



Regan Mandryk (right) was awarded an E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship to enhance the career development of outstanding and highly promising scientists and engineers.

PHOTO CREDIT: NSERC



Catherine Mah (left) conducts research into where, how and why we buy food, as well as what we buy and eat, and why it has a big influence on our health.

PHOTO CREDIT: CIHR

A photograph of a person in a white lab coat examining a molecular model in a laboratory. The model consists of a complex network of white rods and spheres. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple and red gradient. The text "BE BOLD" — THE YEAR AHEAD is centered in white.

“BE BOLD” — THE YEAR AHEAD

## “BE BOLD”—THE YEAR AHEAD

---

An important transformation is taking place in this country. The CRCC is strengthening the national research enterprise to engage the talents of all Canadians, to mobilize Indigenous knowledge and harness the energy of young innovators. It is creating opportunities for all researchers to take risks, transcend disciplinary boundaries and work with colleagues around the world on the most urgent and promising ideas of our time. Creating the CRCC—with its focus on closer collaboration, less paperwork and quicker response time—and making a more nimble, coherent and capable funding system is no less transformative. The promise for Canada and Canadian research is inspiring.

To realize that promise in the years ahead, the CRCC will build on the policies and programs introduced in 2018-19. The coming months will see calls for transformative interdisciplinary and international research launched within the New Frontiers in Research Fund. It will see the publication and implementation of the tri-agency EDI and ECR Action Plans and a “made-in-Canada” Athena SWAN Charter. It will also see the co-development, in collaboration with Indigenous communities, of new models to support

Indigenous research and research training that contributes to reconciliation. And certainly, 2019-20 will see increasing levels of coordination across the federal funding system and engagement with the research community.

It will take time for the roots of such changes to spread. But the work has begun, and researchers are already looking ahead, invigorated by the vision, coordination and engagement of the past year. They are urging the CRCC to be bold.



From left: Ted Hewitt, Dominique Bérubé (vice-president, Research Programs at SSHRC) and the Honourable Kirsty Duncan toured various labs at Invest Ottawa and Bayview Yards. Erin Kennedy showed them one of the robots she created that is designed to clean up shorelines.

PHOTO CREDIT: SSHRC

## ANNEX I: Self-Identification Data Collection in Support of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The following tables present an initial snapshot of self-identification data collected from applicants to CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC funding opportunities from May to December 2018 and from CFI Awards Management users beginning in March 2017. Consequently, these preliminary figures do not include the full suite of funding opportunities offered by the agencies and may include some applications that were subsequently declared ineligible.

These preliminary figures demonstrate the agencies' implementation of a harmonized self-identification data collection process, which will enable them to monitor the equity performance of programs and to design measures that foster greater equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise. The figures also demonstrate that applicants understand and are willing to provide self-identification information, resulting in a relatively low percentage of applicants who select "prefer not to answer."

### A. Number of self-identification forms completed

From May to December 2018, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC collected self-identification information from applicants and co-applicants to all funding opportunities. In March 2017, the CFI added self-identification questions to its CFI Awards Management system.

**TABLE 1A:** Total self-identification forms completed

Agency/Program	# Forms completed
CIHR	7,364
NSERC	10,467
SSHRC	6,622
Canada Graduate Scholarships–Master's	7,944
Canada Research Chairs Program	191
CFI	6,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,326</b>

**TABLE 1B:** Self-identification data collection response rate per category (all responses combined)

Category	Response provided	Responded prefer not to answer
Gender	95.8%	4.1%
Indigenous	93.2%	6.3%
Disability	93.7%	6.3%
Visible minority	93.9%	6.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Note: Does not include tri-agency programs. Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

## B. Summary of self-identification data collected, per agency

**TABLE 2A:** Gender

Agency	Number of responses	Woman	Man	Gender-fluid, non-binary, and/or two-spirit	Prefer not to answer
CIHR	7,364	47.3%	49.4%	0.5%	2.7%
NSERC	10,467	25.5%	68.2%	0.4%	5.9%
SSHRC	6,622	50.8%	43.5%	0.9%	5.1%
CFI	6,738	33.1%	61.6%	0.2%	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,191</b>	<b>39.2%</b>	<b>55.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

Note: Does not include tri-agency programs (e.g., Canada Graduate Scholarship—Masters and Canada Research Chairs Program). Figures may not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

**TABLE 2B:** Indigenous identity

Agency	Number of responses	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
CIHR	7,364	1.3%	95.5%	3.2%
NSERC	10,467	1.0%	92.2%	6.9%
SSHRC	6,622	2.5%	92.3%	5.2%
CFI	6,173	0.8%	91.2%	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,626</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

Note: CFI asks this question only when applicant's institutional affiliation is in Canada.

**TABLE 2C:** People with a disability

Agency	Number of responses	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
CIHR	7,364	2.6%	93.2%	4.3%
NSERC	10,467	1.7%	90.7%	7.6%
SSHRC	6,622	4.1%	88.4%	7.5%
CFI	6,738	0.9%	91.1%	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,191</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

**TABLE 2D:** Visible minority

Agency	Number of responses	Yes	No	Prefer not to answer
CIHR	7,364	23.8%	71.4%	4.8%
NSERC	10,467	24.9%	65.7%	9.5%
SSHRC	6,622	15.5%	78.0%	6.5%
CFI	6,173	15.0%	75.5%	9.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,626</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

Note: CFI asks this question only when the applicant's institutional affiliation is in Canada.

### C. Summary of applicant self-identification data for tri-agency and agency-specific funding opportunities

**TABLE 3:** Representation of four designated groups among applications to major funding opportunities

Program	Number	Women	Visible minorities	People with disabilities	Indigenous
<b>1. Research</b>					
Canada Research Chairs	191	50.0%	22.5%	7.3%	-
SSHRC Insight Grants	1,379	47.4%	17.6%	4.4%	1.3%
SSHRC Partnership Grants	282	49.6%	16.3%	4.6%	-
NSERC Discovery Grants	3,417	22.2%	23.8%	1.7%	0.6%
NSERC Partnership Grants	606	14.5%	27.4%	-	-
CIHR Foundation Grants	216	27.9%	18.0%	-	-
CIHR Project Grants	2,484	35.8%	21.4%	2.1%	1.0%
John R. Evans Leaders Fund	642	32.8%	20.1%	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,217</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>2. Training</b>					
Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's	7,944	59.9%	21.3%	4.5%	2.5%
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships	517	58.6%	29.0%	5.8%	3.5%
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships	602	47.2%	23.9%	4.2%	-
SSHRC Doctoral Awards	546	55.5%	21.4%	9.2%	3.3%
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	833	53.3%	20.5%	5.2%	-
NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships	506	35.4%	36.0%	-	-
NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (Doctoral)	1,630	38.2%	24.0%	2.6%	1.8%
CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowships	1,043	53.3%	28.7%	1.3%	-
CIHR Doctoral Research Awards	1,172	65.9%	28.3%	3.2%	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,793</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

Note: Percentage value not available where the number of applicants is fewer than 10.

## Annex II: Engagement with Indigenous Communities

---

The CRCC organized 14 events in partnership with Indigenous organizations. Held in every region of the country, they collectively brought together more than 500 Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community leaders, researchers, students and youth.

- 
- Zuguswediwin National Elders Gathering, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Turtle Lodge, Winnipeg, MB (July 21, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous business leaders, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Vancouver, BC (September 26, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous education leaders, Colleges and Institutes Canada, Wendake, QC (October 14, 2018)

---

  - Student and young leaders gathering, Indspire, Halifax Friendship Centre, Halifax, NS (October 18, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous women leaders, Native Women's Association of Canada, Ottawa, ON (October 27, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous community members, University of Northern British Columbia Welcome Centre, Prince George, BC (October 30, 2018)

---

  - La Classe des Sages, INRS-Réseau DIALOG, Wendake, QC (November 2 to 4, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous leaders, Sahtu Regional Government, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Government of Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NWT (November 18, 19 and 21, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous researchers, Inuvik Research Centre, Inuvik, NWT (November 20, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Montréal urban Indigenous community members, Montréal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network, Montréal, QC (November 23, 2018)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous institutes, Blue Quills University, St. Paul, AB (January 29, 2019)

---

  - Roundtable: Indigenous academic, community, business leaders, Songhees Wellness Centre, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC (February 4, 2019)

---

  - Roundtable: Inuit leaders, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Ottawa, ON (February 20, 2019)

---

  - Roundtable: Mi'kmaq organizations, Union of Nova Scotia Indians, Halifax, NS (March 5, 2019)

---

## ANNEX III: Historical ECR Data for Flagship Investigator-Initiated Research Grant Competitions

---

Each agency has provided a baseline from their flagship Investigator-Initiated Research Programs based on grant amounts committed at the time of offer. CIHR has included data from the Open Operating Grant Program (OOGP), which ran from 2000 to 2015, and the Project Grant Program (PJT), which began in 2016. NSERC has included data from the Discovery Grant Program, excluding any associated supplement programs. SSHRC has included data from two funding opportunities separately. The first table includes data for the Insight Development Grants (IDG) program, which began in 2011, and the second table includes data for the Insight Grants (IG) program, which began in 2012.

### Canadian Institutes of Health Research

---

Project Grants are designed to support researchers at any career stage to build and conduct health-related research and knowledge translation projects. There are two Project Grant competitions per year (spring and fall), and researchers can submit up to two applications per competition. Researchers can serve as the nominated principal investigator on more than one Project Grant at a time as these awards support research projects rather than programs of research. In addition to the nominated principal investigators, other principal investigators, co-applicants and collaborators can participate on a Project Grant. Grant values and durations are proportionate to the requirements of the research proposed and vary depending on the research field, research approach and scope of project activities but are not explicitly capped.

At CIHR, an ECR has historically been one who, at the time of application, has held a full time, independent research appointment, for a period of up to five years (60 months), excluding leaves of absence. ECR status was validated only for project competitions from 2016 to 2017. ECRs in OOGP competitions (2013 to 2015) are estimated as those within five years of the date of their last degree. Within the overall competition budget, there is a specific funding envelope to support ECRs and ensure that success rates for them are equal to those of established researchers. Competition processes and peer review for this cohort are fully integrated within the competition as a whole with no additional steps being required on the part of the applicant.

<b>OOGPs (2013-2015) and Project Grants (2016-2017)</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total	4781	2862	2682	6697	3415
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	789	445	403	1515	821
% of all applications	17%	16%	15%	23%	24%
Success rate - ECRs	15%	12%	10%	14%	15%
Success rate - established researchers	17%	14%	15%	15%	15%
Average grant - ECRs	\$484,560	\$499,585	\$501,453	\$649,423	\$606,909
Average grant - established researchers	\$619,235	\$649,479	\$675,264	\$759,156	\$756,462
Total OOGP/PJT funds awarded to ECRs	\$56,209,004	\$27,477,201	\$21,061,029	\$134,430,504	\$74,649,750
Total OOGP/PJT funds awarded	\$478,527,130	\$251,547,297	\$251,326,181	\$711,389,291	\$368,913,660
% of funds to ECRs	12%	11%	8%	19%	20%
Average grant (per year of grant) - ECRs	\$122,595	\$122,025	\$122,894	\$151,524	\$142,565
Average grant (per year of grant) - established researchers	\$141,520	\$145,307	\$146,186	\$167,376	\$169,043
Total OOGP/PJT funds awarded to ECRs (per year of grant)	\$14,221,059	\$6,711,363	\$5,161,554	\$31,365,461	\$17,535,442
Total OOGP/PJT funds awarded (per year of grant)	\$110,737,735	\$56,842,202	\$55,010,876	\$158,571,008	\$83,293,027
% of funds to ECRs	13%	12%	9%	20%	21%

## Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

---

Discovery Grants (DG) support ongoing programs of research with long-term goals rather than a single short-term project or collection of projects. DGs are awarded to individual researchers only and the duration is normally five years but may also be one year. There is one DG competition held per year. Researchers can apply for and hold only one DG at a time. DG holders cannot reapply for another DG until the last year of their current award.

Applicants are categorized as either early career or established researchers. From 2013 to 2016, early career researchers (ECRs) were defined as applicants who are within two years of the start date of their first eligible

position at a university and who have no prior academic or non-academic independent research experience. From 2017 to 2018, the ECR eligibility window was increased to three years. The window for being considered an ECR can be adjusted to take into account instances where a researcher has had an acceptable delay in research or period of inactivity (illness, parental leave, etc.). While applications from ECRs are evaluated against the same three selection criteria as established researchers, it is recognized that early career applicants may not have had the opportunity to make the same level of contributions to research or training as established researchers. For this reason, NSERC implements a different quality cut-off for funding of ECRs. In addition, ECRs who are awarded a DG receive an annual \$5,000 top-up. NSERC also ensures that the overall success rate for ECRs is at least 50 per cent.

Besides DGs, NSERC also devotes Discovery Research funds to a number of supplement programs for Discovery Grants, many of which provide support to ECRs.

<b>Discovery Grants</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total	3398	3134	3159	3167	3240
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	471	427	489	494	562
% of all applications	14%	13%	15%	16%	17%
Success rate - ECRs	60%	66%	65%	75%	69%
Success rate - established researchers	59%	64%	65%	65%	66%
Average grant - ECRs	\$136,111	\$138,073	\$130,553	\$143,855	\$127,043
Average grant - established researchers	\$163,271	\$168,017	\$157,924	\$179,571	\$169,937
Total DG funds awarded to ECRs	\$38,247,145	\$38,660,539	\$41,385,170	\$53,082,500	\$48,911,515
Total DG funds awarded	\$318,419,710	\$328,489,387	\$316,489,081	\$362,842,820	\$349,530,120
% of funds to ECRs	12%	12%	13%	15%	14%
Average grant (per year of grant) - ECRs	\$27,438	\$27,723	\$26,120	\$28,771	\$25,409
Average grant (per year of grant) - established researchers	\$34,323	\$35,513	\$32,903	\$37,135	\$34,948
Total DG funds awarded to ECRs (first year of grant)	\$7,709,941	\$8,137,508	\$8,280,084	\$10,616,500	\$9,782,303
Total DG funds awarded (first year of grant)	\$67,021,454	\$70,208,877	\$65,870,975	\$74,674,964	\$71,605,024
% of funds to ECRs	12%	12%	13%	14%	14%

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

---

Insight Development Grants (IDG) enable the development of new research in its initial stages. They are project-based: funding is provided for short-term research development projects. IDGs are valued at up to \$75,000 over one to two years. A minimum budget of \$7,000 in at least one of the years is required. The application deadline is set in February.

Within the IDG funding opportunity, funding is available for two distinct categories of scholars:

1. **Emerging scholars:** Applicants identifying themselves as an emerging scholar must demonstrate that they have not successfully applied, as principal investigator or project director, for a grant offered through SSHRC, NSERC, or CIHR. In addition, they must meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - a. have completed their highest degree no more than six years before the competition deadline (SSHRC considers only the date of completion of the first doctorate); or
  - b. have held a tenured or tenure-track postsecondary appointment for less than six years; or
  - c. have held a postsecondary appointment, but never a tenure-track position (in the case of institutions that offer tenure-track positions); or
  - d. have had their careers significantly interrupted or delayed for health or family reasons within the past six years.

Emerging scholar status is validated for IDG and at least 50 per cent of funds are reserved for applications from emerging scholars.

2. **Established scholars:** Someone who has established—or who, since the completion of his or her highest degree, has had the opportunity to establish—a record of research achievement.

Insight Grants (IG) support research excellence. They are project-based. IGs are valued at \$7,000 to \$100,000 per year over two to five years, up to a total of \$400,000. Applicants choose from one of two funding streams, depending on the scale of their project:

- Stream A: \$7,000 to \$100,000
- Stream B: \$100,000 to \$400,000

The application deadline is set in October. There is no reserved budget envelope for emerging scholars as all applicants compete in the same pool. As a result, ECR status is not validated within the scope of the Insight Grants.

The following applies to both IGs and IDGs:

- Applications may be submitted by a principal investigator or a team consisting of one principal investigator and one or more co-investigators, collaborators, or both.
- Applicants may be PhD students or postdoctoral researchers so long as they establish a formal affiliation with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution within three to five months of the grant start date.
- An individual can only apply once as principal investigator in any given IG or IDG competition.
- However there is no limit to the number of times an individual can apply as co-investigator or collaborator for an IG or IDG.
- Applicants may hold an IDG and an IG simultaneously provided that the objectives of the two research projects are significantly different.

Overall	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total	3211	3271	3225	2912	2749
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	1066	1055	1026	970	1013
% of all applications	33%	32%	32%	33%	37%
Total IDG/IG funds awarded to ECRs	\$23,529,427	\$22,633,881	\$19,972,111	\$27,464,866	\$23,579,015
Total IDG/ID funds awarded	\$109,040,307	\$115,651,421	\$98,888,444	\$110,634,127	\$114,577,848
% of funds to ECRs	22%	20%	20%	25%	21%
<b>Insight Development Grants</b>					
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total	1028	1128	1237	1211	1236
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	700	762	799	803	853
% of all applications	68.1%	67.6%	64.6%	66.3%	69.0%
Success rate - ECRs	30.3%	25.7%	23.7%	45.5%	32.6%
Success rate - established researchers	28.7%	24.3%	22.1%	45.1%	31.1%
Average grant - ECRs	\$59,113	\$60,643	\$59,123	\$55,604	\$54,372
Average grant - established researchers	\$61,762	\$62,048	\$60,869	\$55,862	\$56,476
Total funds awarded to ECRs	\$12,532,005	\$11,886,052	\$11,174,264	\$20,295,306	\$15,115,320
Total IDG funds awarded	\$18,337,608	\$17,408,342	\$17,078,587	\$30,573,895	\$21,835,969
% of funds to ECRs	68.3%	68.3%	65.4%	66.4%	69.2%
<b>Insight Development Grants (per year of grant)</b>					
Average grant (per year of grant) - ECRs	\$30,106	\$30,629	\$29,695	\$27,872	\$27,180
Average grant (per year of grant) - established researchers	\$31,212	\$31,649	\$30,592	\$28,101	\$28,599
Total funds awarded to ECRs (per year of grant)	\$6,231,879	\$5,926,653	\$5,538,089	\$10,103,675	\$7,542,462
Total IDG funds awarded (per year of grant)	\$9,168,804	\$8,680,117	\$8,490,250	\$15,232,059	\$10,902,787
% of funds to ECRs	68.0%	68.3%	65.2%	66.3%	69.2%

<b>Insight Grants</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total	2183	2143	1988	1701	1513
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	366	293	227	167	160
% of all applications	16.8%	13.7%	11.4%	9.8%	10.6%
Success rate - ECRs	14.5%	18.4%	20.7%	28.7%	31.3%
Success rate - established researchers	22.9%	23.8%	23.7%	31.4%	40.9%
Average grant - ECRs	\$207,499	\$199,034	\$187,188	\$149,366	\$169,274
Average grant - established researchers	\$191,599	\$198,853	\$174,670	\$151,540	\$152,127
Total funds awarded to ECRs	\$10,997,422	\$10,747,829	\$8,797,847	\$7,169,560	\$8,463,695
Total IG funds awarded	\$90,702,699	\$98,243,079	\$81,809,857	\$80,060,232	\$92,741,879
% of funds to ECRs	12.1%	10.9%	10.8%	9.0%	9.1%
Average grant (per year of grant) - ECRs	\$50,066	\$50,625	\$45,437	\$37,895	\$39,220
Average grant (per year of grant) - established researchers	\$47,252	\$48,947	\$42,830	\$37,925	\$37,349
Total funds awarded to ECRs (per year of grant)	\$2,686,006	\$2,712,069	\$2,164,915	\$1,820,841	\$1,941,214
Total IG funds awarded (per year of grant)	\$22,507,707	\$24,145,314	\$19,969,335	\$19,818,373	\$22,460,343
% of funds to ECRs	11.9%	11.2%	10.8%	9.2%	8.6%

## Canada Foundation for Innovation

The John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) is designed to help institutions attract and retain the best researchers to undertake leading-edge research by providing them with the foundational research infrastructure needed to be or become leaders in their field. The JELF also offers institutions the opportunity to create competitive research support packages in the form of infrastructure and a portion of the operating and maintenance costs, coupled with direct research costs from partner organizations (e.g., CRCs, Canada Excellence Research Chairs, SSHRC, NSERC).

Canadian universities, affiliated research hospitals and research institutions recognized as eligible by the CFI can apply for the JELF if their tri-agency funding has increased by a minimum annual average of \$200,000 over the last three years. The researchers listed on the proposal must be:

- a recognized leader or have demonstrated the potential for excellence in the proposed research field(s);
- engaged in or embarking on research or technology development that is original, internationally competitive and of high quality; and
- a current faculty member with a full-time academic appointment or a candidate that the institution is recruiting to a full-time academic position in an area of strategic importance.

John R. Evans Leaders Fund	2013 <sup>1</sup>	2014	2015	2016	2017
Application pressure (number of applications) - Total <sup>2</sup>	553	377	406	554	406
Application pressure (number of applications) - ECRs	289	209	234	283	228
% of all applications	52%	55%	58%	51%	56%
Success rate - ECRs <sup>3</sup>	83%	78%	88%	80%	76%
Success rate - established researchers	83%	74%	83%	86%	79%
Average grant - ECRs	\$147,633	\$159,585	\$144,099	\$141,435	\$135,923
Average grant - established researchers	\$205,383	\$177,223	\$199,256	\$214,969	\$214,343
<b>Total JELF funds awarded to ECRs</b>					
Total JELF funds awarded to ECRs	\$35,284,225	\$26,171,900	\$29,540,334	\$31,964,247	\$23,514,753
<b>Total JELF funds awarded</b>					
Total JELF funds awarded	\$80,263,086	\$48,147,566	\$57,834,735	\$82,266,949	\$53,750,243
% of funds to ECRs	44%	54%	51%	39%	44%

<sup>1</sup> Year is based on the fiscal year of awards (April 1 to March 31).

<sup>2</sup> Overall, 3.7 per cent of applicants' data did not include information on their PhDs and has been excluded.

<sup>3</sup> Current CFI definition of ECR: Difference from the year of first PhD in their career and the year of proposal submission year is within 10 years.