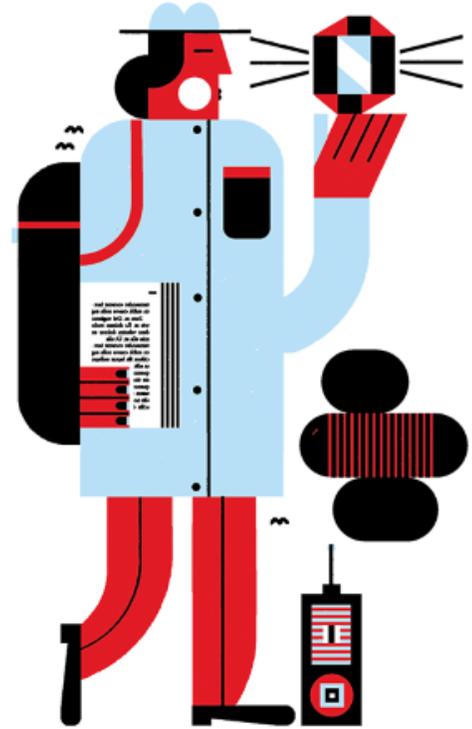




# NSERC Presentation 2021

# 1. NSERC News



## NSERC News

# NSERC 2030 Strategic Plan

- In early 2021, NSERC launched engagement activities for its next strategic plan, *NSERC 2030*
- The plan will be released in Spring 2022
- There will be a number of opportunities for dialogue with NSERC – the process is as important as the plan itself
- The new plan replaces the previous NSERC Strategic Plan (2015-2020)



[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/NSERC2030-CRSNG2030/index\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/NSERC2030-CRSNG2030/index_eng.asp)

# Timeline

## Phase 1 | Intelligence Gathering

### 2021

February – March	Survey / questionnaire
April	Targeted Interviews
April	Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) assessment results

## Phase 2 | Analysis and Discussions

May – August	Develop discussion papers
September	Make briefs/ discussion papers public
September – October	Workshops/ roundtables

## Phase 3 | Key findings and validation

December	Draft plan
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### 2022

January – February	Validation
March	Finalize plan
April	Editing/ translation
May	Release



Send us your questions, comments and ideas at:  
[nserc2030crsng@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:nserc2030crsng@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

NSERC News

## Research Excellence Highlights

- [Tri-agency Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Action Plan](#) to address systemic barriers and increase equity, diversity and inclusion in the postsecondary research ecosystem
- Indigenous strategic plan, [Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada](#)
- [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA) signatory
- Consult our web site and social media for all of NSERC's activities

[www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

 [@nserc\\_crsng](https://twitter.com/nserc_crsng) / [@crsng\\_nserc](https://twitter.com/crsng_nserc)

 [facebook.com/nserccanada](https://facebook.com/nserccanada) / [facebook.com/crsngcanada](https://facebook.com/crsngcanada)

## Collection of Self-Identification Data

### Why is self-identification data collection important?

- Driven by the Government of Canada's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the federal research enterprise.
- Also guided by:
  - Canada Research Coordinating Committee's work plan includes "removing barriers faced by under-represented groups to ensure equitable access across the granting agencies and establish Canada as a world leader in equity, diversity and inclusion in research";
  - Budget 2018 which requires the granting agencies "to publish an annual report for Canadians on progress in addressing challenges in the research system, including equity and diversity, and support for researchers at various career stages"; and
  - Canada's Fundamental Science Review's recommendation that federal funding agencies "should collaborate to improve data collection and analysis".

# Tri-agency Self-Identification Questionnaires

## Tri-agency questions (2018 Questionnaire):

- Age
- Gender
- Indigenous Identity
- Person with a disability
- Visible Minority

## Updated Questionnaire (to be implemented: summer 2021)

- Age
- **Gender** (updated to include more gender options)
- **Sexual orientation** (new question)
- Indigenous Identity
- **Person with a disability** (updated to also ask about type(s) of disability)
- **Visible minorities** (updated to include “white” as a response option)
- **Languages** (new question)

## Tri-agency Self-Identification Questionnaires

- Form is mandatory, but for each category there is an option for “I prefer not to answer”
- Applicants are encouraged to self-identify if they feel comfortable doing so
- This information is used to inform NSERC policies
- Self-identification data **is never shared with reviewers**

# NSERC Leave Policies

## Primary Caregivers (Pilot)

- Researchers who become primary caregivers following the birth or adoption of a child and who are eligible for maternity or parental leave through the institution but decline the leave, may be eligible to receive a one-year grant extension with funds.

## Family and Medical Leave

- Grant holders who plan to take family-related leave or medical leave may be eligible for a grant extension with funds for up to two years.

## Paid Maternity / Parental Leave for Students and Postdoctoral Fellows paid from Grants

- Students and Postdoctoral fellows who are paid out of an NSERC grant, and those receiving awards directly from NSERC, are eligible to receive up to 12 months of paid maternity / parental leave.
- The leave supplement will be paid by NSERC.

## Research Security



- Espionage and foreign interference activities pose real threats to Canadian research integrity, intellectual property and business interests.
- Since 2018, the federal granting agencies have been working with the **Government of Canada - Universities Working group** to ensure the security and integrity of publicly funded research in Canada.
- In September 2020, the Working Group published the **Safeguarding your Research** portal – [https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_97955.html](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97955.html)
- The Government of Canada has tasked the Working Group with developing specific risk guidelines to integrate national security considerations into the evaluation and funding of research partnerships. Contact: [RPP@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA](mailto:RPP@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA)
- The granting agencies are also reviewing their security policies and procedures, following national and international best practices.

## Research Security



All researchers and administrators are encouraged to consult the following resources for more information on how to safeguard research and innovation:

- [Safeguarding Your Research Portal](#): guidance, information, and tools, and case studies.
- [Who Do You Contact Page](#): for questions related to security risks.
- [Safeguarding Science](#): Interactive workshop from Public Safety Canada
- [Canadian Centre for Cyber Security](#): Hosts resources on the cyber threat environment, including interactive content, publications, alerts, and advisories
- [Canadian Cyber Security Tool](#): Voluntary self-assessment survey
- [La cybersécurité en milieu universitaire](#), a free online course offered by SERENE-RISC and the University of Montreal from April 28 – November 30, 2021 (French only)

Other Updates

# Research Data Management

## Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy

Launched March 2021: [https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_97610.html](https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97610.html)

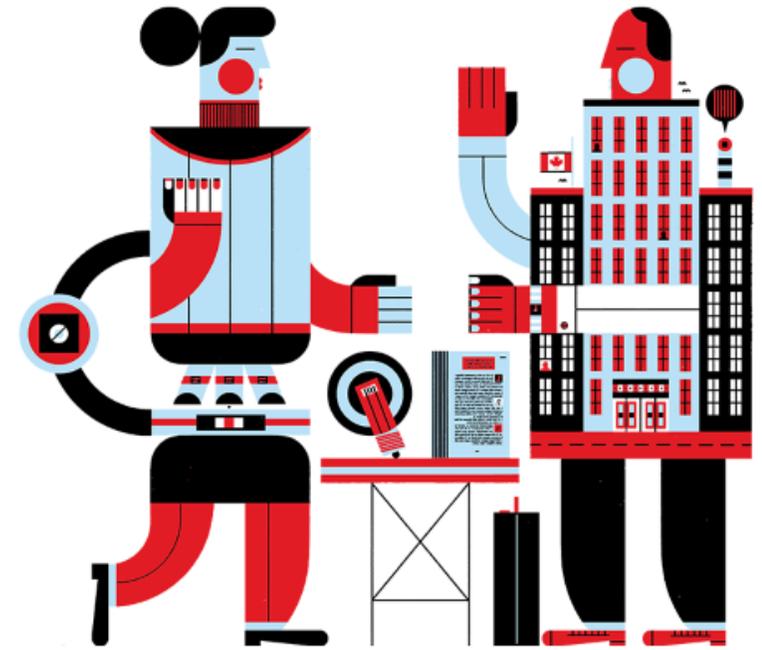
### Policy Requirements

- 1. Institutional strategies:** By **March 1, 2023**, research institutions subject to this requirement must post their RDM strategies and notify the agencies when they have been completed.
- 2. Data management plans:** By **spring 2022**, the agencies will identify the initial set of funding opportunities subject to the DMP requirement. The agencies will pilot the DMP requirement in targeted funding opportunities before this date.
- 3. Data deposit:** After reviewing the institutional strategies and in line with the readiness of the Canadian research community, the agencies will phase in the deposit requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions: [http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_97609.html](http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97609.html)

Contact: [ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

# 2. Research Grants and Scholarships (RGS) Program Updates



RGS Program Updates

# Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee

- One-year pilot, for proposals that would significantly benefit from peer review with a tri-agency scope
- Part of response to the *Fundamental Science Review* (Naylor Report)
- Applications received through SSHRC Insight Grants, CIHR Project Grants and NSERC Discovery Horizons Grants
- Researchers submit via the agency responsible for the project’s dominant research area
- Single peer review committee assesses relevant applications from all three agencies

SSHRC Insight Grants	CIHR Fall Project Grants	NSERC Discovery Horizons
Application: October 1, 2021	Registration: August 2021	Letter of Intent: June 15, 2021
	Application: September 2021	Application: October 18, 2021

Jointly administered by



## RGS Program Updates

# NSERC's Discovery Horizons Program

- Supports individual and team-based investigator-initiated projects, for up to 5 years (\$50,000 to \$100,000k per year)
- Total Discovery Horizons budget \$5M over 5 years (10-20 awards)
- Eligible proposals must meet **both following criteria**:
  - Have a primary objective to advance knowledge in the natural sciences or engineering
  - Integrate or transcend disciplines in ways that would significantly benefit from peer review with a tri-agency scope
- LOIs, due June 15<sup>th</sup>, will be rated by peer-reviewers for program fit (*NSERC process*)
- Limited number of full applications will be invited and reviewed by joint interdisciplinary peer review committee (*tri-agency process*)

**Contact:** [horizons@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:horizons@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

RGS Program Updates

## 2022 Discovery Grants Competition

In light of the continuing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure effective and timely delivery of the 2022 Discovery Grants competition, the peer review of applications will take place by videoconference.

NSERC is committed to maintaining a peer review process of the highest quality, including fairness and consistency between evaluating committees and across competition years.

**Contact:** [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

## RGS Program Updates

# New Guidelines: delays due to COVID-19

- NSERC recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting researchers' and students' capacity to conduct their regular research and training activities
- NSERC has developed general [guidelines for the consideration of COVID-19-related impacts on research](#) aiming to provide direction on how to describe these impacts in an application
- Implemented in the most recent Discovery Grant Competition

## RGS Program Updates

# Discovery Grant Application Delays in Research - Leaves Attachment

- Applicants who report an eligible leave of absence are entitled to list additional contributions beyond the last six years, for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave
- Contributions prior to the last six years can be recorded in:
  - A new 2-page attachment
  - *Past contributions to the training of HQP* section
  - *Most significant contributions to research* section
  - *Samples of research contributions* section

***Eligible leaves of absence include delays due to COVID-19***

## RGS Program Updates

# Support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

- Early Career Researchers are applicants who have held an independent academic position for 5 years or less.
  - Five year window adjusted for any eligible delay in research
  - All eligible leaves taken (e.g. parental, bereavement, illness of applicant or family) are now credited as twice the amount of time taken (*started Fall 2020*)
- NSERC devotes additional funds to support ECRs through
  - Increases to Discovery Grants
  - Discovery Launch Supplement
- ECRs re-applying for the first time have the option of extending their DG by one year with funds in addition to the Discovery Grants one-year extension with funds due to COVID-19.

## RGS Program Updates

# RTI Program Update

- Application deadline date is **October 25**; Research Portal opens in August
- **Recent changes:**
  - Changes to selection criteria (names have been shortened, and 2<sup>nd</sup> criterion no longer assesses the excellence of the researcher)
  - Clarified instructions in Budget Justification section and added a template budget table applicants are to use to show tax and currency exchange rates and totals
  - Confirmation of Financial Contribution documents are no longer required and should not be submitted
- **Upcoming changes:**
  - Successful applicants and co-applicants will be ineligible to apply to the following year's RTI competition (i.e. a successful applicant/co-applicant in this year's competition – Application deadline October 25, 2021, will be ineligible to apply to next year's competition – Application deadline October 25, 2022)

## RGS Program Updates

# Discovery Development Grant (DDG)

- Small Universities only
- No separate application is required → offered according to DG results
- \$15K/year for 2 years
- May hold twice throughout career
- Need letter of support from their university, indicating what additional measures will be taken to support the individual's research program

**Contact:** [ddg-sdd@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:ddg-sdd@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

## RGS Program Updates

# DND\*/NSERC Discovery Grant Supplements

- Supports unclassified university-based research dedicated to the development of non-weapon specific technologies with dual-use applications in defence and security target areas.
- Each supplement valued at \$120,000 over 3 years (\$40,000 per year)
- Eligibility
  - Researchers applying to current DG competition
  - Proposed research must fit within DND defence and security target areas
- Internal DND committee will select recipients

**Contact:** [dndsuppmdn@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:dndsuppmdn@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

\*DND, Department of National Defence

## RGS Program Updates

# NSERC Prizes

- **Donna Strickland Prize for Societal Impact of NSE Research (NEW!)**
  - an **individual or team** whose outstanding research, conducted in Canada in the NSE, has led to **exceptional benefits** for Canadian society, environment and/or economy
  - up to \$250,000 over up to 5 years to support continued research and knowledge dissemination
- **Arthur B. McDonald Fellowships**
  - Rebranding of the E.W.R. Steacie Fellowship for early-stage academic researchers in the NSE
- **Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal**
- **Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research**
- **John C. Polanyi Award**

# 3. COVID-19 Response



## COVID-19 Response

# Summary of Response

- Offered optional **extensions with and without funds to Discovery Grants** due to COVID-19
- Awarded over **\$19M COVID-19 rapid response funding** grants from Alliance and College and Community Innovation (CCI) programs
- Launched the **Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (\$450M)** in collaboration with SSHRC and CIHR
- Awarded \$55.3M as part of the tri-agency initiative **COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity**
- Provided **\$140M** to support NSERC-funded **graduate students and post-docs**
- **Emerging Infectious Diseases Modelling (EIDM) Initiative**
  - 5 applications recommended for partial funding totaling \$10M over two years
- **Encouraging Vaccine Confidence in Canada Tri-Agency PromoScience Initiative** - April 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 deadline
- Published **guidelines on the impacts of the COVID-19** pandemic on research and training activities

## COVID-19 Response

# Optional Extensions to Discovery Grants due to COVID-19

- **With funds: extensions offered to all active DG holders (2020/21)**
  - 1 year with funds at previous level
  - Offered by NSERC to grantees in the last year of funding

**Contact:** [resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

- **Without funds: extensions for grantees in their automatic 1 year for the residual use of DG funds**
  - 1 year time only
  - Via Research Grants Officers
  - For grantees not receiving additional funds

**Contact:** [grantsadministration@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:grantsadministration@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

# 4. Alliance Grants

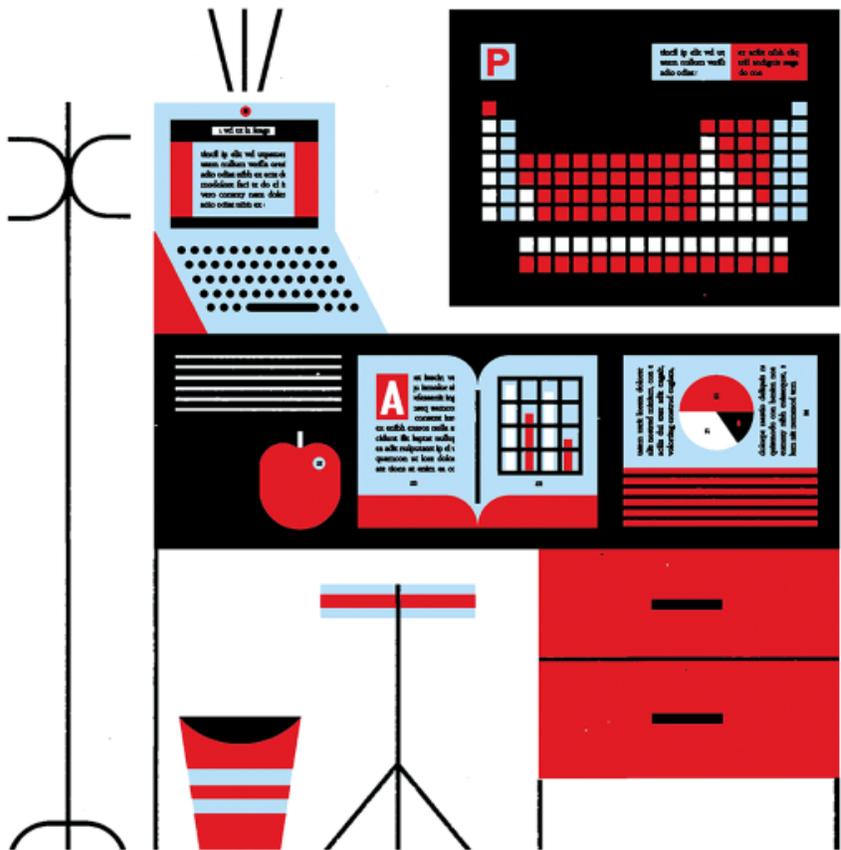


## Alliance Grants

# Overview

- Supports research in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) led by strong, complementary, collaborative teams
- Research partnerships between Universities and partners organizations from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors
- Generate new knowledge - accelerate the applications of results to generate benefits for Canadians
- 1 to 5 years projects – annual funding available from \$20k to \$1M
- Different cost sharing ratios – depending on the size and sectors

**Contact:** [alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)



# Questions?

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