UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

TO: Deans, Directors of Schools, Associate/Vice Deans (Research, Associate/Vice Deans (Faculty Relations) and Department Heads

FROM: A. Potter and K. Wilson; Co-chairs, CRC Advisory Committee

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Call for Theme Area(s) for Canada Research Chair Nominations

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The University of Saskatchewan's Canada Research Chairs Advisory Committee is inviting colleges and schools to submit proposals for CRC theme areas. The University is positioned to award: three Tier 2 CIHR chairs and two Tier 2 NSERC chairs. Theme area proposals therefore must fit with one of these two Tri-Agencies.

Colleges and schools are encouraged to initiate a consultative process within their departments/units and with other colleges, schools and centres to identify theme area recommendations. Please see attached the *Call for CRC Theme Areas*.

In developing their submission, units are asked to remember:
- USask is committed to using its CRC positions to recruit exceptional scholars. Only under exceptional circumstances will the Oversight Committee consider internal candidates to address retention of excellent scholars and researchers.
- USask is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion as critical to discovery and learning excellence, and is committed to using the chairs program to advance this commitment. To meet equity targets set by the Secretariat proposals submitted to this call must commit to recruiting candidates who self-identify as a member of one of the equity group.

CRCs are investments by colleges, schools, centres and the university broadly in the research, scholarly and artistic work environment and success. Strategies to resource the chairs program are currently underway, but will involve a cooperative approach between college and central offices.

Proposals may be submitted to Doreen Canillas (doreen.canillas@usask.ca) by **17 January 2022.** Proposals will only be accepted from the College's/School's Dean/Executive Director or Vice/Associate Dean Research. Units submitting multiple proposals are asked to rank their proposals.

Following submission, theme areas will be reviewed by the CRC Advisory Committee. A recommendation will be provided to the CRC Oversight Committee for final selection and approval.

Please do not hesitate to consult with us or Laura Zink (laura.zink@usask.ca) if you require further information or have any questions on this process.

cc: CRC Advisory Committee; L. Zink, Director, Research Acceleration & Strategic Initiatives

CALL FOR CRC THEME AREAS

Proposals for theme areas should be brief – using 12-point font, please address the following topics, respecting page length restrictions *(maximum of 1 page per topic)*:

1. **Title and brief description of proposed theme area**.
   - Theme area proposal should be innovative and compelling and focus on area of strategic importance to one or more units.
   - Your proposal should describe how the theme area is at the cutting edge of research and will address the following key CRC goals:
     - improve our depth of knowledge and quality of life;
     - strengthen Canada's international competitiveness; and
     - help train the next generation of highly skilled people.

2. **Description of how a CRC in this area would enhance and accelerate college/school performance through collaborative and synergistic activity**.
   - How will this theme area relate to college/school/centre research, scholarly or artistic work priorities?
   - What existing infrastructure, faculty, and/or research groups will this chairholder work with (please be specific)?
   - What will be the value add of this chairholder to the college/school?

3. **Description of how a CRC in this area would nurture cross-unit research or scholarly activity**.
   - Which other colleges/schools, centres and their researchers (be specific about individuals and/or clusters) will benefit from this CRC?
   - Please indicate the college's/school's external partners that this chairholder may work with.
   - What will be the value add of this chairholder in building cross-unit collaboration?
   - Please briefly outline who has been included in consultations about this theme area.

4. **Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)**.
   USask is committed to EDI as critical to excellence in discovery and learning. The Tri-Agencies, through which the CRC program is funded, are similarly committed to inclusive excellence and have set institutional targets related to representation of the four designated groups (women, racialized minorities, Indigenous peoples, and persons with a disability) among chairholders. By 2029, the University needs to meet the EDI targets as required by the CERC Program (50.9% women; 22% visible minorities; 7.5% persons with disabilities; and 4.9% Indigenous people).
   - Please describe the strategies that your unit will employ to ensure a diverse pool of candidates (e.g. members of the four designated groups).
   - Please describe the potential of the CRC theme to recruit individuals who self-identify as a member of one of the four designated groups.

5. **College commitment to the CRC.**
    Please enclose a signed letter from the Dean/Executive Director committing:
   - that the Dean, A/V-DR or senior member of the College/School Executive Team will actively participate in the search; and
   - college/school resources to support the CRC as outlined in the enclosed *Canada Research Chair (CRC) Nominations and Renewals – Institutional Support.*

Canada Research Chair (CRC) Nominations and Renewals – Institutional Support

Institutional support is critical for ensuring the success of CRC nominations/renewals. Colleges/Schools/Departments have administrative responsibility and financial authority for CRC positions, and must provide **financial support** for CRC nominations/renewals which illustrates the importance of the CRC research program to the institution. These Chairholder commitments are <u>in addition</u> to support available to regular faculty members.

The '➡️*College/School/Dept support - minimum commitments* in the table below details the <u>minimum</u> levels of institutional support to be provided to nominations/renewals. Where possible, additional research and/or infrastructure funding is also encouraged to support the Chairholder's proposed research program. Non-financial support (e.g. space for trainees, laboratory space, and administrative support) should also be considered when compiling an institutional support package.

Tier 2 CRC	Tier 1 CRC
New Nomination	**New Nomination**
External funding – to College/School:	**External funding** – to College/School:
• $100,000/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary/stipend/benefits	• $200,000/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary /stipend/benefits
External funding – to Chairholder:	**External funding** - to Chairholder:
• $20,000/year CRC operating fund from Federal for new T2 CRCs	• Eligible to apply for up to $175,000 from Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI); matching funds to be sourced by Chairholder from In-kinds, ISF, and research funds
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➡️ **Central support**	• Research funds to support start-up: up to $100 K
• Research funds to support start-up: up to $100 K	• A guaranteed matching funds of up to $175K if ISF is unsuccessful
• A guaranteed matching funds of up to $175K if ISF is unsuccessful	➡️ **College/School/Dept support -** <u>minimum</u> commitments:
➡️ **College/School/Dept support** - <u>minimum</u> commitments**:**	• Full cost of salary plus benefits
• Full cost of salary plus benefits	• $15,000 - $20,000/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits ($25,000 in exceptional circumstances)
• $5,000 - $10,000/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits ($15,000 in exceptional circumstances)	• Research funds to support start-up: up to $200 K cost-shared with Vice-Provost Office *(see Central Support)*
• Research funds to support start-up: up to $200 K cost-shared with Vice-Provost Office *(see Central Support)*	• HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD and PDF trainees for the Chairholder $40,000/year for Y1-Y2, declining to $20,000 for Y3, $0 for Y4-Y7[1]
• HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD and PDF trainees for the Chairholder $40,000/year for Y1-Y3, declining to $20,000 for Y4, $0 for Y5[1]	• Protected time for research
• Protected time for research	

[1]College/Schools/Departments are encouraged to require a matching component for HQP funding, with preference that matching funding for HQP be sourced externally. HQP funding must be utilized in the year that it is awarded (i.e. unused HQP funding is not eligible for carryforward). HQP support is essential for ensuring Chairholders can develop both their research program and their HQP training record quickly. A solid HQP training record is highly regarded by reviewers when Chairholders seek a renewal term.