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

DATE: March 27, 2023

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

The University of Saskatchewan's Research Chairs Oversight Committee is inviting colleges and schools to submit proposals for CRC theme areas.

The University is positioned to nominate: **eight Tier 1 chairs and three Tier 2 chairs**. Tier 1 CRCs are for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields. Tier 2 CRCs are for exceptional emerging researchers. **Theme area proposals may fit within any of the three federal research granting agencies – SSHRC, CIHR or NSERC.**

Please see attached the guidelines for the *Call for CRC Theme Areas*.

Colleges and schools are encouraged to initiate a consultative process within their departments/units and with other colleges/schools, centres and signature area leads to identify theme area recommendations. Theme areas are expected to advance one of the University's signature areas. (Please see <https://research.usask.ca/about/signature-areas-of-research.php>)

In developing their submissions, units are asked to remember:

- 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. Proposals **which advance USask efforts to recruit Indigenous scholars or scholars who identify as a member of a racialized minority are particularly encouraged.**
- 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 current members of faculty.
- New to this theme call, colleges/schools are asked to complete the enclosed financial template. This template provides details on how the CRC and ongoing faculty position will be resourced by the college. The university has established a Research Chairs Fund which covers 50% of CRC costs for the first 3 years. (Please see enclosed: financial template)

Proposals may be submitted to Doreen Canillas (doreen.canillas@usask.ca) by **June 1, 2023**. Proposals will only be accepted from the Dean/Executive Director or Vice/Associate Dean Research. Units submitting multiple proposals are asked to rank their proposals.

The enclosed CRC approval flowchart outlines the process by which theme areas will be assessed and the Provost's authorization for faculty searches secured (see Appendix 1: CRC approval process).

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

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 does theme area relate to college/school/centre research, scholarly or artistic work priorities?
- With which existing faculty, and/or research groups will this chairholder work? (Please be specific)
- Does the college/school/centre have the necessary research infrastructure to support the chair? What additional investments will be necessary?

3. **Description of how a CRC in this area will advance one of USask's signature areas**

- With which signature area(s) will this chair be associated?
- How will the chair contribute to the development of the signature area?
- How will the chair contribute to cross-unit collaborations?
- Which other colleges/schools, centres and their researchers (be specific about individuals and/or clusters) will benefit from this CRC? Please briefly outline which units have been consulted during development of this theme area.

4. **Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).**

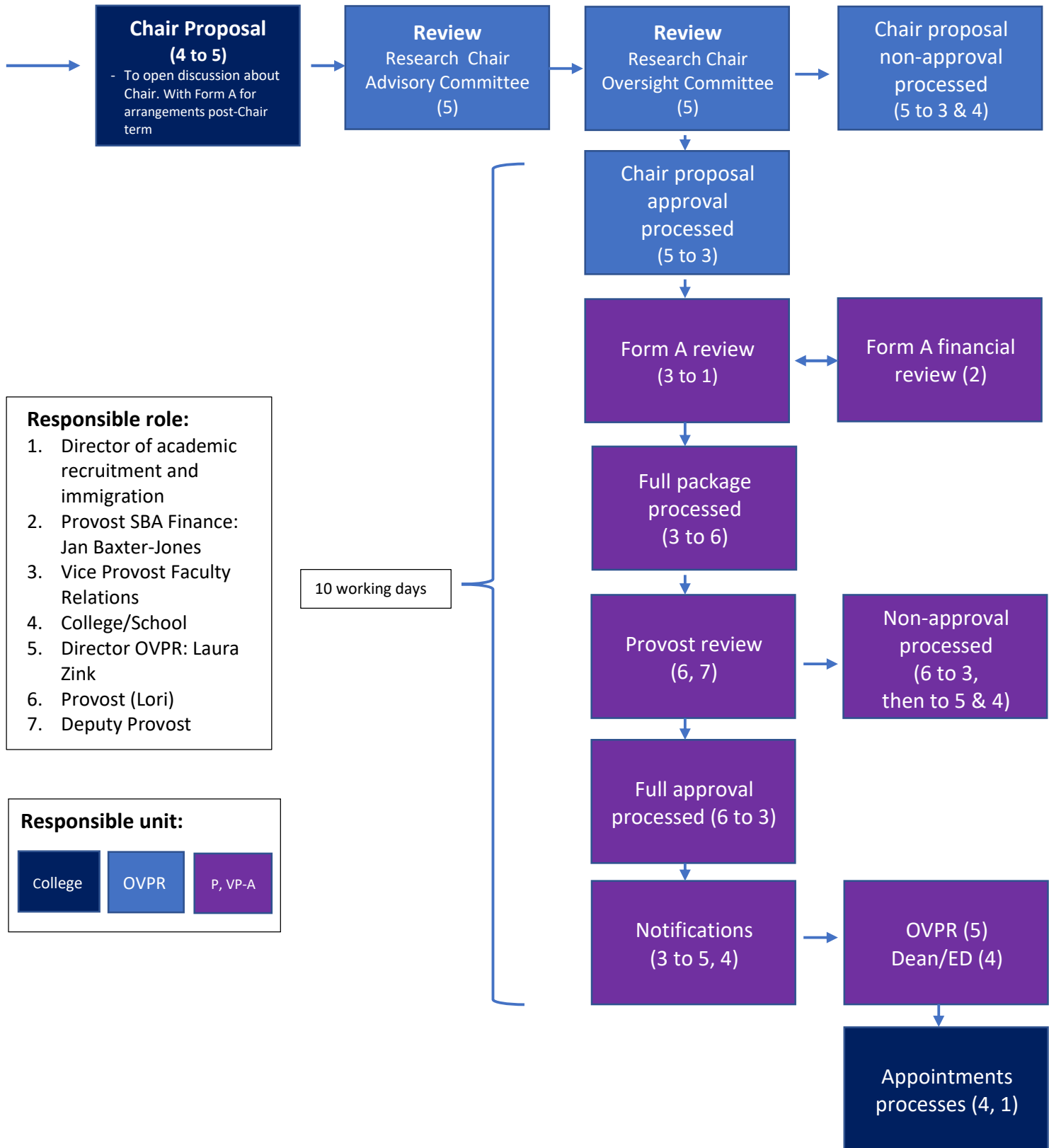
USask is committed to EDI as critical to excellence in discovery and learning. The Tri-Agencies, through which the CRC program is funded, are similarly committed to inclusive excellence and have set institutional targets related to representation of the four designated groups (women and gender minorities, 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 CRC Program (50.9% women and gender minorities; 22% racialized minorities; 7.5% persons with disabilities; and 4.9% Indigenous people).

- Describe the strategies that your unit will employ to ensure a diverse pool of candidates.
- 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 and capacity to support 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 *CRC Institutional Support for Nominations - Cheat Sheet for Administrators* (Appendix 2).
- Complete the CRC financial sustainability budget template (Appendix 3).

**Research Chair approval process: Provost's flowchart:
February 20, 2023**



Canada Research Chair (CRC) External Nominations– Institutional Support

Institutional support is critical for demonstrating the importance of the CRC research program to the university and ensuring the success of CRC nominations. It is an expectation of the CRC Secretariat that chairholders receive support over and above that of faculty members.

The below table describes the source and *minimum commitments* from the University. Colleges/Schools/Departments may provide additional research, HQP, and infrastructure funding.

Tier 2 CRC

- 1) **External funding** – to the university:
 - \$100K/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary/stipend/benefits and research program.
- 2) **External funding** – to Chairholder:
 - \$20K/year research fund from Federal CRC
 - Eligible to apply for \$175K from Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) via JELF-Partnership program
- 3) **University/ College/School/Department contributions* support for the following:**
 - Remainder of salary and benefits not covered by category 1 above.
 - Remainder of \$5K - \$10K/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits (\$15K in exceptional circumstances) not covered by 1 above.
 - \$200K start-up research funds
 - \$175K match for a CFI-JELF Partnership application
 - HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD, and PDF trainees - \$40K/year for Y1-Y2, declining to \$20K for Y3, \$0 for Y4-Y5

**These costs are shared 50-50 between the OVPR/Provost and the College/School/Department in years 1 – 3, following which the College/School/Department covers all costs*
- 4) **College/School/Department contribution**
 - Protected time for research (valued at ~\$10K)

Tier 1 CRC

- 1) **External funding** – to the university:
 - \$200K/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary /stipend/benefits and research program
- 2) **External funding** - to Chairholder:
 - Eligible to apply for \$175K from Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) via JELF-Partnership program
- 3) **University/ College/School/Department contributions* support for the following:**
 - Remainder of salary and benefits not covered by category 1 above.
 - Remainder of \$15K - \$20K/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits (\$25K in exceptional circumstances) not covered by 1 above.
 - \$200K start-up research funds
 - \$175K match for a CFI-JELF Partnership application
 - HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD, and PDF trainees - \$40K/year for Y1-Y2, declining to \$20K for Y3, \$0 for Y4-Y7

**These costs are shared 50-50 between the OVPR/Provost and the College/School/Department in years 1 – 3, following which the College/School/Department covers all costs*
- 4) **College/School/Department Contribution**
 - Protected time for research (valued at ~\$10K)