
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: September 4, 2020

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

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 up to six Tier 2 and two Tier 1 CRC (or an equivalent combination thereof). Theme area proposals may fit within any of the three federal research granting agencies.

Colleges and schools are encouraged to initiate a consultative process within their departments/units and with other colleges and schools 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, a minimum of 6 of the CRCs will be reserved for scholars who identify as a member of one of the four equity groups (women, visible minorities, Indigenous, persons with a disability)

CRCs are investments by colleges in the research, scholarly and artistic work environment and success. Units will receive funding from the Secretariat (\$100K/\$200K Tier 2/Tier 1 per year). 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 November **4, 2020**. 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
Laura Zink, Director, Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives

**University of Saskatchewan
Canada Research Chairs Program**

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 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 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).

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion 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, visible 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 current EDI environment in this theme area.
- Please describe your department's/college's commitment to EDI principles.
- How will the proposed CRC contribute to the university's EDI goals. Please be specific.
- What strategies will your unit employ to ensure a diverse pool of candidates? What challenges do you anticipate?