

Together for Wildlife - Interior Universities Research Coalition Student Research Grant Call for Proposals

Together for Wildlife Strategy

Wildlife is of upmost importance to British Columbians, providing social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits. B.C.'s rich natural diversity is closely linked to our way of life. It is important to ensure that wildlife and their habitats are resilient in the face of challenges like climate change.

[Together for Wildlife](#) (T4W) is the new provincial strategy to improve wildlife and habitat stewardship across British Columbia. The T4W strategy includes additional funding, proactive objectives, and improved data and knowledge, - all supported by new policies, strong partnerships, and dedicated resources.

The T4W strategy commits to 5 goals and 24 actions to achieve the following vision: “Wildlife¹ and their habitats thrive, are resilient, and support and enrich the lives of all British Columbians”.

Under T4W Goal 2 - Data, information and knowledge drive better decisions, Action 5 identifies improving support for scientific research, building stronger partnerships within research communities and sharing results with British Columbians as key priorities.

The Opportunity

The BC T4W Program and Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) have established a *BC T4W Research Grant Fund*. This fund aims to encourage inter-institutional research on identified wildlife and habitat stewardship priorities and foster collaboration with provincial government staff on research-related program areas.

This call for proposals is focused on research relating to the following themes and aligning with T4W Vision, Goals, Actions and eligible species¹:

- Ecosystem restoration and habitat enhancement (including cultural and prescribed burning)
- Roads, recreational trails, and disturbance from human access to areas (impacts and management)
- Predator management
- Citizen/community science
- Connecting stewardship and management objectives for wildlife populations and wildlife habitat
- Effects of consumptive use (e.g., hunting) and non-consumptive use (e.g., bird watching), on wildlife and the regulation of these activities
- Indigenous knowledge in relation to wildlife and habitat
- Wildlife-human conflict
- Impacts of natural disturbance (e.g., wildfires) and climate change
- Impacts of resource use (e.g., mineral exploration) on wildlife and habitats
- Effectiveness of management actions (e.g., Ungulate Winter Range designations, best practices or guidelines for industries)
- Wildlife diseases and health
- Cumulative effects
- Stewardship and management of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors
- Invasive species

¹ The focus of the Together for Wildlife strategy is terrestrial wildlife species that are not “at risk”, i.e., not red-listed, and their habitats. Although this strategy focuses on terrestrial, not “at risk” wildlife, the actions identified will, in many situations, also benefit aquatic species and species at risk. Strong linkages with the programs responsible for these species will help to ensure coordinated delivery.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: June 27, 2022

Results Announced: August 19, 2022

Interim report: March 15, 2023

Final report: October 1, 2023

Value and Duration

Six one-year research grants of \$25,000 are available. A minimum of \$20,000 of each grant must go towards student stipends. The remaining \$5,000 can also be applied to a student stipend or be used for research support. Eligible expenses for research support are outlined below in the *Eligible and Ineligible Expenses* section.

Adjudication

Funds are awarded based on the merit of the proposal and team members' research excellence. The funds will be adjudicated by an IURC-led committee comprised of representatives from western academic, provincial government and Indigenous perspectives.

Eligibility

Eligibility is restricted to currently enrolled graduate students or those starting their research programs in September 2022 or January 2023, with a preference for students that identify as Indigenous. The student's supervisor must also be the Principal Investigator (PI) who will administer the funds and the PI must submit a letter of support.

Proposals will be accepted from any BC post-secondary institution however preference will be given to proposals where there is a partnership involving at least one of the three IURC institutions. Research partners can be part of the IURC, a non-IURC institution in BC, an adjunct professor that is not a faculty member, an Indigenous community representative (e.g., Chief or council member, designated Elder) or staff of a First Nation government, or an NGO/private sector partner. Express support from these partners is required (see below). Teams representing students and researchers from under-represented groups, are encouraged to apply (see https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Innovate-Innover/CCI/EDI-ICC/EDI_eng.asp). Resources for incorporating EDI within different areas of research focus can be found here: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/EDI-EDI/Resources_Ressources_eng.asp

Preference will be given to projects that support Indigenous governments or take place in rural/remote areas of BC (e.g., Interior, north). Projects co-created with Indigenous communities are strongly encouraged and preferred. In the absence of co-creation, meaningful and respectful collaboration with Indigenous communities and other partners is strongly encouraged, as well as alignment with (and ability to leverage) other funding opportunities and/or other research funding support. See NSERC's *Guide for research involving Indigenous Peoples and communities* for best practice principles https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/CCSIF-indigenous-FISCC-autochtones_eng.asp, as well as the First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession – more commonly known as OCAP® (<https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/>). Because of the partnering requirement, a strong student application is one in which the supervisor/PI is actively involved in developing relationships with non-IURC partners and shows ongoing support of the research project. Where a project is partnering with an Indigenous community, we encourage all non-Indigenous project partners to complete cultural safety training.

Awarded projects will have a single administrative lead Principal Investigator who will be responsible for managing financial oversight and will provide mid-term and final reports to the Director of the IURC Partnership Office.

Reporting

Transparency and accountability are key T4W principles. Accordingly, each proposal must contain a description of how the project and its results will be communicated and shared with British Columbians. All data collected during the research process must be submitted to a BC provincial government data system, Indigenous government data system, open data repositories or Community Science platform, whichever is appropriate for the project. If an exception to open data must be applied, please describe why in your proposal.

All successful applicants will be required to attend a facilitated session, organized and led by the provincial T4W manager, to present their research to T4W program staff, First Nations, and stakeholders. This research presentation session will occur within 6 months of the end of the grant term, with further details regarding the session to be provided by the T4W manager at the end of the grant term.

In addition to participation in the facilitated session, both an interim and a final report, including a final accounting of grant funding expenditures, will be required. This information will be made publicly available on the T4W website.

Proposal Submission Requirements

A full application as a single PDF document must be prepared according to the following guidelines and must be submitted electronically to Janice.Larson@ubc.ca by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on **June 27, 2022**.

Applications will include the following (in order):

1. Cover page
 - A descriptive title
 - Abstract of proposed collaborative project
 - Name of student and Principal Investigator
2. Project Description [maximum 2 pages, 0.75" margin, single space, size 12 font, times new roman]

The project description will be a free form detailed proposal, written in language suitable for the field of study, addressing the evaluation criteria such that reviewers can evaluate the goals and approach of your proposed research. The proposal should address:

- background information needed to understand the scope of the management problem being addressed,
- hypothesis/predictions or objectives,
- the proposed methods, including a timeline of key activities and data sources,
- an outline of the team's data management plan,
- identification of potential risks to completion, and mitigation strategies,
- the significance of this research with respect to the T4W mandate, and
- a knowledge mobilization plan describing how you will meet the intent and requirements of open data and public engagement such that research results are shared with British Columbians. If you will be working with a First Nations community, identify how you will

share results and data back with the community in a manner that is appropriate and considers OCAP®.

3. Itemized budget and justification [maximum 1 page]
 - Budget should include breakdown for student stipends, site and project costs
 - Budgets may be supplemented through cash and in-kind support from participating faculties and partners, but this is not a requirement for the application.
 - Identify any leveraged funding or in-kind support and whether it is confirmed or unconfirmed.
 - In-kind contributions are goods or services that are provided by other organizations/ agencies which are needed to conduct the project. The contributed goods or services are valued in monetary terms (\$).
4. Project Team
 - Current 2-page CV for the applying student: listing education, recent relevant publications, prior scholarly activity and any long-term research collaborations.
 - Unofficial academic transcripts for applying student.
 - A description [maximum 2 pages] of the roles and responsibilities of the student and research partners involved in the project, including the degree to which the research is co-produced, and a description of previous experience with Indigenous knowledge systems and methodologies and Indigenous community partnerships.
 - Signed letter from the PI(s) verifying their support for the project and acknowledging and committing to the roles and responsibilities as defined in the proposal.
 - Signed letter from each project partner (e.g., adjunct professors, First Nation government, NGO) verifying their support for the project and committing to the roles and responsibilities as described in the Project Team section.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Research Grant Eligible Expenses

A minimum of \$20,000 of each grant must go towards student stipend. The remaining \$5,000 can also be applied to a student stipend or be used for research support of the project. All expenses must comply with the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#). Expenses directly related to the research are eligible. Funding may be used to pay for direct support to Graduate student research that fulfils degree requirements; research assistants, direct cost of the research including data procurement and analysis, travel (or virtual technology) for field work, research team activities such as meetings or workshops for the development of the partnerships and knowledge mobilization activities.

Research Support Eligible Expenses

Office supplies; equipment purchases; research supplies directly required for completion of the project, transcription services, technical services, etc.).

Ineligible expenses

Release time for faculty; salary and benefits for a Post-Doctoral Researcher; funding for publication; retroactive expenses, and indirect costs of research/overhead and administrative fees.

Evaluation Criteria

Alignment with Together for Wildlife (30%)

- Degree to which proposal supports the development of strong relationships among post-secondary and government researchers, First Nations, BC government staff and policy makers.
- Degree to which proposal addresses the need to share research results and data with all British Columbians in an open and transparent manner. If an exception to open data must be applied a clear justification and rationale is provided.
- Degree to which the research project supports Indigenous knowledge systems and methodologies and Indigenous research or Indigenous led priorities, as appropriate.
- Degree to which project will strength relationships and reciprocal capacity and expertise with project partners.
- Development and enhancement wildlife science research capacity by including, where appropriate, early career researchers, women, people of colour, and Indigenous faculty as part of the collaboration and an emphasis on including EDI in the research design and team composition.

Implementation (15%)

- Ability to produce tangible/recognised research outcomes that will have a positive impact on stewardship, management, policy or decision making.
- Likelihood that the proposed objectives will be met, given the scope, budget, timelines and the research track record of the student and team.
- Identification of any potential risks that may occur during implementation and strategies that will be used to manage them (where possible) for a successful outcome.
- Leveraged funding or in-kind contributions have been secured or requested for delivery of project, as relevant.
- Appropriateness of the proposed budget and justification of resources.

Capability of the Student (35%)

- Academic excellence as demonstrated by the applicant's past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.
- Research credentials as demonstrated by the applicant's research experience and achievements, relative to expectations of someone with similar academic experience, and relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research.
- The applicant's scientific and community leadership and collaborations, and past relevant professional and extracurricular activities.

Capability of the Team (20%)

- Evidence of adequate quality of expertise to implement the proposed plan.
- Description of previous experience with Indigenous knowledge systems and methodologies and Indigenous community partnerships.
- Clarity of qualifications/capabilities, roles, and responsibilities for the team members identified in the proposal.
- Ability of the proposal to develop new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Strong applications will involve the promise of significant and potential long-term collaboration and sharing of resources among academic institutions, communities and government.
- Project team includes external collaborators (i.e., other BC academic or non-academic partners).