Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) BC Interior Region Seed Grant Research Fund Sixth Call for Proposals

The Opportunity

The Interior Universities Research Coalition (IURC) and the BC Ministry of Health (Ministry) have established a *BC Interior Region Seed Grant Research Fund*, through the Ministry's Research Seed Grant Program. This fund aims to encourage inter- institutional research, in health-related areas, between researchers at Thompson Rivers University, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia (Okanagan) and foster collaboration with Ministry on research-related program areas.

This sixth call for proposals is focused on research relating to the following questions identified by the Ministry:

1. How do First Nations, Métis and Urban Indigenous partners who are in receipt of health, mental health, or social sector funding currently experience requests for progress and financial reporting, and how might health, mental health, and social sector funding agencies incorporate Indigenous-led reporting mechanisms to demonstrate program impact, reflect Indigenous worldviews, ease reporting burden on Indigenous communities and partners, and decolonize reporting processes?

2. Identify the challenges/barriers (negative impacts) and facilitators/enablers (positive impacts) that affect (1) post-secondary institution enrollment into health career programs (including career laddering programs), (2) program completion, and/or (3) health workforce attrition within the first five years of employment post-graduation for Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia.

3. To what extent do Employed Student Nurse (ESN) Programs across BC's Health Authorities optimize opportunities for student nurses to work in health care, and how can they be improved to support practice readiness and enhance intentional recruitment and retention?

Important Dates

Expression of Interest (EOI) Deadline: **December 13, 2024**
EOI proponents' meetings with Ministry program officials: **ongoing**
Full Proposal Submission Deadline: **February 3, 2025**
Adjudication: **February 2025**

Funding Start Date: **March 31, 2025**
Interim report: **six months from date of grant award**
Final Report: **12 months from date of grant award**

Value and Duration

Funding of $40,000 is available for one year, to be disbursed in either 1 or 2 projects that best address the Ministry of Health's three research questions.

Adjudication

Funds are awarded based on merit of the proposal, team members' research excellence and Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) training. The funds will be adjudicated by an IURC adjudication committee, with representation from the Ministry.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty with ongoing or tenure-track appointments are eligible to apply. Those holding sessional or term appointments may contribute to and receive funding from an approved project, but they are not eligible to apply as Principal Applicants.

Joint research proposals can originate from any one of the three IURC institutions and must be led/co- led by IURC researchers. Proposals must include researchers from at least two of the three IURC institutions but can also include researchers from non-IURC institutions. Collaboration with regional health authorities and other partners is strongly encouraged, as well as alignment with (and ability to leverage) other funding opportunities through the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and/or other research funding support. Teams representing early career researchers[1], and members of the four federally designated equity seeking groups are encouraged to apply. Research proposals demonstrating engagement with and/or plans to develop respectful Indigenous partnerships, and addressing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)[2] are encouraged.

Awarded projects will have a single administrative lead Principal Applicant who will be responsible for managing all aspects of the project, including financial oversight, and will provide mid-term and final reports that describes progress to Troy Fuller at tfuller@tru.ca.

Reporting

All successful applicants are required to share their research with the Ministry, and with the IURC pursuant to the above-noted reporting schedule.

Proposal Submission Process and Requirements

The first step in this process is to prepare a brief (150-200 words) **Expression of Interest (EOI)** that identifies the Principal Applicant and their institution, which of the above-noted three research questions they are interested in pursuing, and a brief description of the research project they are proposing. The EOI must be submitted electronically to rcomms@tru.ca by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on **December 13, 2024**.

All eligible EOIs received by the above-noted deadline will then be provided to a member of the Ministry's Research and Technology Branch, who will arrange meetings with each EOI proponent and the Ministry program area who submitted the research question. Meetings will be held in early December through mid-January, to discuss the proponent's EOI in advance of preparation of a full proposal.

Those invited to submit a full proposal are to submit as a single PDF document must be prepared according to the following guidelines and must be submitted electronically to rcomms@tru.ca by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on **February 3, 2025**.

Full proposals will include the followings (in order):
1. Cover page with Principal Applicant and co-applicant(s) signatures (see attached)
2. Project Description (minimum two pages plus one page for bibliography). This should include:

- A descriptive title
- Abstract of proposed collaborative project (100 words)
- A free-form detailed proposal addressing the evaluation criteria such that reviewers can evaluate the goals and approach of your proposed research. The description should address the mandate of this call, make a case for the uniqueness, value and impact of the proposed research, and include a clear rationale for the collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, methodology employed, a work plan including timelines, knowledge mobilization plan, the anticipated research contributions and impacts.

3. Itemized budget and justification (maximum one page): Budgets may be supplemented through cash and in-kind support from participating faculties and partners, but this is not a requirement for the application.

4. Project Team

- Full names, current positions, and role of each team member in the proposed research activity by stating what is to be done, by whom, how and when (maximum one page); and
- Current 2-page CV(s): listing each team member's education, recent relevant publications, prior scholarly activity and any long-term research collaborations. (*CVs not complying to the page limit will not be reviewed*)

Eligible Expenses

All expenses must be in compliance with the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#). Expenses directly related to the research are eligible. Funding may be used to pay for 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 and workshops for the development of the partnerships, knowledge mobilization activities (cannot exceed 20% of the overall budget), and other items necessary for completion of the project (e.g., 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; direct support to Graduate student research that fulfils degree requirements; funding for publication; office supplies; equipment purchases; retroactive expenses and overhead costs. (For this call, the IURC universities will waive overhead costs, ensuring that all funds received are applied to the direct costs of research).

Evaluation Criteria

- Degree to which research project aligns with the above-noted Ministry health research themes
- Degree to which proposals clearly address issues of importance in British Columbia's non-metropolitan regions
- Feasibility, given the scope, timelines and the research track record of the applicants
- Quality of HQP research training, including principles of EDI
- Quality of knowledge mobilization activities
- Ability to produce tangible/recognised research impact
- Potential to secure external funding within two years from the start of the Grant
- Development of new collaborative and interdisciplinary teams. Strong applications will involve the promise of significant and potential long-term collaboration and sharing of resources among faculty members from TRU, UNBC and UBCO
- Ability to develop and enhance the applicants' research and scholarly profile
- Degree to which research project considers sex and gender-based analysis and addresses Indigenous knowledge systems and methodologies, and supports Indigenous research
- Development and enhancement of IURC research capacity by including, where appropriate, early career researchers, women, and Indigenous faculty as part of the collaboration and an emphasis on including EDI in the research design and team composition into consideration.

Contact: Troy Fuller (tfuller@tru.ca)

1. An ECR is defined as individuals who have five years or less experience since their first academic appointment, with the exception of career interruptions (e.g., maternity or parental leave, extended sick leave, clinical training and family care) that occurred after their appointment. Part-time positions are also taken into consideration.

2. Please refer to Best Practices in EDI in Research Practice and Design guide: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx

Principal Applicant Information

IURC/Ministry of Health Partnership Research Fund
APPLICANTS SIGNATURE FORM

Applicant Name:
Institution:
Unit Head or Dean Signature Name and Date:
Institutional Signature Name and Date:

Co-Applicant
Institution:
Co-Applicant Name:
Institutional Signature Name and Date

Co-Applicant:
Institution:
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