OFFICE OF RESEARCH
NEWSLETTER

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities

August 8, 2025

'In Canmore - the smoke lifted for a few minutes' by M. E. Sanseverino is used under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Funding and Award Opportunities

2025 Horizon Europe Work Programme Calls

Application deadlines: Various. See information for each call.

Value and duration: Various. See information for each call.

Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation collaboration program with a budget of $140 billion (€95.5b, 2021 to 2027). Canada is a "member" (associated country) to Horizon Europe Pillar II (2024 to 2027). There are roughly $10 billion worth of Pillar II project calls each year. These are based on global challenges where a group of chosen partners (consortium) of Europeans, associated countries and others, work together to co-innovate on projects.

The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat is excited to share that the 2025 Horizon Europe Work Programmes have been officially published! Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation funding program and is administered by the European Commission. With Canada's association to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, Canadian entities taking part in international consortia are eligible to receive funding for calls published under the six thematic clusters of Pillar 2, European Missions, and Horizon Europe partnerships.

The European Commission has also recognized Canadian excellence in the areas of artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, quantum and space! Canada has been granted access to restricted topics or "sensitive calls" under the 2025 Work Programme.

These calls can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#) where proposals are electronically submitted. To support your application, please check out the following applicant resources:

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Webinar Recording: [Tips and Tricks for A Successful Application](#)
- ISED Horizon Europe: [Applicant Resources Page](#)
- Delegation of the European Union to Canada: [Cluster Specific Info Sessions](#)
- European Commission: [Info Days Recording](#)

For more information: See the links above, and visit the [Horizon Europe website](#).

Connect with the [national contact points](#)

[Sign up for the Horizon Europe newsletter](#).

Call for Proposals: SSHRC - 2025 Policy Innovation Partnership Grants

Proposal deadline: **September 10, 2025**

Value: Up to $400,000 per year over 15 years, up to a total of $6 million

Duration: Up to 15 years (An impact review will be conducted every five years to assess the relevance of the partnership and determine whether funding will continue.

The goal of this pilot funding opportunity is to support a partnership between a postsecondary research entity and one or more federal government departments to establish a long-term research program focusing on specific topics in an area of importance to Canada and public decision-makers.

If the pilot is deemed successful, the funding opportunity will be offered periodically, subject to availability of funds. Each competition will focus on a new target area in which research in the social sciences and humanities is well positioned to make an impact. Only one partnership will be funded per competition.

The successful partnership is expected to advance research, capacity, and policy development in the target area by:

- engaging one or more federal government departments to identify and address public policy needs;
- conducting long-term research that generates knowledge with the potential to inform federal policy-making;
- working with, adapting and/or developing comprehensive datasets relevant to the needs of the public policy community and future researchers;
- improving access and use of research knowledge within Canada's policy-making communities; and
- supporting high-quality training experiences for students and/or postdoctoral researchers.

The partnership is expected to be based within an established research entity at a Canadian postsecondary institution that has a demonstrated track record in the target area. The successful partnership will have significant flexibility in the scope, priorities and activities of the program of research to adapt to new developments and changing circumstances, as needed, over the duration of the grant. As the partnership is expected to strengthen Canadian policy-making in the target area, applicants must partner with at least one Canadian federal government department.

Target area 2025: Improving Canada's Productivity

Productivity is foundational to a country's long-term economic growth and prosperity. When productivity is growing rapidly, it benefits businesses, workers and consumers alike. However, according to the Bank of Canada's Senior Deputy Governor in March 2024, "Canada has seen no productivity growth in recent years," and there are "clear areas for improvement" in the factors driving productivity.

To address this timely issue, this pilot funding opportunity targets research that supports and informs public policy aimed at boosting Canada's productivity.

Applicants are invited to propose a long-term research program with high potential to inform policy-making in this area. A range of research topics directly related to policies driving efficiency gains for Canadian companies is welcome, including, for example, technology adoption, innovation and commercialization, firm investment decisions, workforce skills gaps, competitive intensity, the regulatory environment, supply chain management, scalability, monetary and fiscal policy, and managing through economic disruptions, among others.

Applicants must demonstrate how their proposed program of research would contribute substantially to development of actionable public policies that strengthen Canada's productivity.

Eligibility

Proposals can involve any disciplines, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding, but must be aligned with the theme of the target area described in this funding opportunity. See the guidelines on subject matter eligibility for more information.

Applications must be submitted by an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution. The project director must be affiliated with the host institution (the applicant), and prepare the application on behalf of the host institution and the formal partnership.

Postdoctoral researchers and students enrolled in a program of study are not eligible to apply as project directors.

For more information: Visit the Policy Innovation Partnership Grants 2025 web page

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants

Proposal deadline: **September 15, and December 15, 2025**

Value: $7,000 to $25,000

Duration: 1 year

Partnership Engage Grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships supported through Partnership Engage Grants are meant to respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors. In addressing an organization-specific need,

challenge and/or opportunity, these partnerships let non-academic organizations and postsecondary researchers access each other's unique knowledge, expertise and capabilities on topics of mutual interest.

Partnership Engage Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#). SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Indigenous research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

SSHRC [Partnerships Tool-Kit](#)

This [tool-kit](#) includes useful tools and resources to help researchers and partners plan and implement a partnership—from preparing an application for partnership funding to knowledge mobilization activities.

Types of partnerships

Following are some possible [formal partnership](#) approaches. Applicants are in no way limited to these approaches and are welcome to combine some of the features described below.

- **Cross-sector co-creation of knowledge and understanding:** Partnerships to foster innovative research, training and the co-creation of new knowledge on critical issues of intellectual, social, economic and cultural significance.
- **Partnered knowledge mobilization:** Partnerships designed to synthesize, apply and mobilize new and existing social sciences and humanities research knowledge in accessible ways to build institutional capacity and to increase the national and international impact and stature of Canadian research.

Only one Canadian or international organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector can be involved as a partner organization. Postsecondary institutions and scholarly associations are not eligible as partner organizations. Organizations collaborating with postsecondary institutions can be considered eligible as long as they are a separate entity from the postsecondary institution. The partner organization must be at arm's length (independent) from the academic institution and the applicant.

Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review [Imagining Canada's Future's](#) 16 future global challenges and to consider addressing one or more of these areas in their research proposal. This is not an evaluation criterion for merit review and does not offer additional or dedicated research funds for this funding opportunity.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants web page](#).

Call for proposals: SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants

Proposal deadline: **September 22, 2025**

Value: Up to $15,000
Duration: 1 year

Destination Horizon Grants support researchers affiliated with eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions to build capacity, foster existing partnerships, and further develop networks and/or consortia with European Union and other "associated countries" researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to [Horizon Europe](#)—Pillar II calls for proposals.

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation, with a budget of €95.5 billion. It offers significant opportunities to access new knowledge, partners, markets, customers and suppliers. In November 2023, the Government of Canada closed substantive negotiations with the European Commission to join Horizon Europe as an

associated country under Pillar II: Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness. While Canadians could previously participate in all Horizon Europe calls that were open to international partners, they would have had to largely secure their own funding to participate in a given project. With associated country status, Canadians can now access funding directly from the EU.

Destination Horizon Grants proposals are expected to respond to the objectives of the Research Partnerships program.

Destination Horizon Grants are not intended to support implementation of Horizon Europe projects. Instead, the grants support activities between researchers that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges;
- scholarly exchanges;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions and researchers, students and non-academic partners from the EU and other associated countries.

Matching funds

SSHRC will not fund the full cost of any Destination Horizon Grant. Additional support in the form of eligible cash contributions equivalent to 100% of the amount requested from SSHRC must come from the host institution. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to secure at least the minimum matching funding. Applicants must do so by including a letter of support from the host institution that clearly confirms the amounts and types of contributions the host is providing.

Applicants can draw on complementary funding from SSHRC research grants and/or from other research funding agencies, but must make clear in their budget proposal there is no duplication of financial support for the same budget expenses. While such funds can be used in this complementary way, these funds cannot be counted toward the requirement for matching funds.

See SSHRC's Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions for more details.

Subject-Matter Eligibility

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions. Proposals can involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. See the guidelines on subject matter eligibility for more information.

Projects whose primary objective is to conduct research activities (e.g., literature reviews, field work, data collection, interviews) are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity.

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must demonstrate:

- their eligible affiliation and primary affiliation in the social sciences or humanities;
- their readiness to further develop networks and/or consortia with EU and other associated countries' researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to a Horizon Europe—Pillar II call;
- eligible budget requests; and
- 100% matching cash contributions from the host institution.

For more information: Visit the SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants web page

Proposal deadline: **September 23, 2025**

Value: Up to $50,000
Duration: 1 year

The Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research (ICLR) Connection Grants will contribute to Indigenous leadership and self-determination in research. The events and activities funded represent opportunities to engage and exchange knowledge on successful ways of conducting Indigenous research that are transformative and contribute to Indigenous-led research, including wholistic and distinctions-based approaches.

This funding opportunity aligns with the tri-agency *Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada* strategic plan and Indigenous communities' aspirations to provide support for transformative research and training that contributes to innovation and reconciliation.

More specifically, it aims to:

- support the research priorities of Indigenous Peoples;
- champion Indigenous leadership, self-determination and capacity in research, to the benefit of Indigenous communities;
- increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous researchers, students and communities;
- recognize Indigenous ways of knowing as an integral part of valid and authoritative research;
- support Indigenous-led strategies and structures that address respectful and mutually beneficial data management and intellectual property rights in Indigenous research; and
- decolonize Indigenous research through the development of clear structures and resources for Indigenous Peoples to grow research capacity, including creating greater accessibility to granting agency program funding.

All of the grants for this funding opportunity are reserved for First Nations or Métis not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous not-for-profit organizations serving more than one distinction, or Indigenous postsecondary institutions. The portion of the federal budget commitment dedicated to the Inuit Peoples will be allocated through a separate funding mechanism.

In the case of an application to an individual grant, the project director must be affiliated with one of these eligible organizations/institutions. (See Applicants and Institutions details for more information on institutional and individual grant eligibility.)

Expected outcomes

ICLR Connection Grants support a wide range of events and outreach activities geared toward initiatives that contribute to and support wholistic research strategies, capacity growth, self-determination and leadership for First Nations and Métis communities to conduct research by:

- supporting knowledge mobilization and translation by Métis and First Nations researchers and community members at Indigenous not-for-profit organizations and postsecondary institutions;
- strengthening knowledge and understanding by leveraging perspectives from across multiple disciplines, sectors and ways of knowing;
- supporting First Nations and Métis leadership and capacity-building;
- strengthening Métis and First Nations research capacities by supporting training activities within their communities, at Indigenous postsecondary institutions and at Indigenous not-for-profit organizations;
- supporting development and growth of First Nations and Métis-led strategies and structures aligned with research data management practices and intellectual property rights in Indigenous research;

- generating research outputs by communities, nations, institutions and organizations that address Métis and First Nations' needs; and
- integrating reciprocity as essential to research methodology, planning and outcomes.

Subject matter eligibility

Proposals are intended to be wholistic, involving any discipline, thematic area, approach or subject area. They should be guided by strategic themes that have emerged from the three federal research granting agencies' ongoing engagement with First Nations and/or Métis communities, as well as with communities that include more than one distinction, and the priorities of those communities.

Applicants to the ICLR Connection Grants are encouraged to organize wholistic events, outreach activities, or a combination of both, that address one or more of the following interrelated themes in a distinctions-based context:

1. Supporting Indigenous Talent and Research Careers
2. Engaging Indigenous Knowledge
3. Strengthening Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research
4. Fostering Mutually Respectful Relationships

For more information: Visit the Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research Connection Grants web page.

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Insight Grants

Proposal deadline: October 1, 2025

Value: $10,000 to $500,000
Duration: 2 to 5 years

Stable support for long-term research initiatives is central to advancing knowledge. It enables scholars to address complex issues about individuals and societies, and to further our collective understanding.

Insight Grants support research proposed by scholars and judged worthy of funding by their peers and/or other experts. Insight Grant research initiatives can be undertaken by an individual researcher or a team of researchers working in collaboration.

Insight Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the emerging scholars and established scholars for research initiatives of two to five years. Applicants choose from one of two streams, depending on the amount of funding required. Both streams will be adjudicated by the same committees, and will receive the same rigorous level of merit review. The deadlines and application process are identical for both; however, the targeted success rate for Stream A is higher than for Stream B.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation.

Joint initiatives

SSHRC collaborates with organizations from across the not-for-profit, private and public sectors to support and promote training, research and connection activities in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC's joint initiatives are designed to reflect its strategic objectives and mandate, inform decision-makers, and, in certain cases, address specific needs of its partners.

The following joint initiatives are available for this funding opportunity:

- [Belmont Forum](#)
- [John R. Evans Leaders Fund](#)
- [Department of National Defence Research Initiative](#)
- [Mitacs Accelerate](#)
- [Sport Participation Research Initiative](#)

Webinars

SSHRC will be holding two webinars for the Insight competition via MS Teams. They will outline what is new this year and will include a question period. <mark>Registration is required for these webinars</mark>.

Date	Time	Language	Meeting link
21 août 2025	De 10 h à 12 h HE	Français	[Lien pour s'inscrire et rejoindre la réunion](#)
August 21, 2025	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Eastern 11:00 am – Noon Pacific	Engish	[Registration and Meeting Link](#)

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Insight Grants web page](#)

Pre-announcement: Artificial Intelligence Humanities Sandpits: Canada, UK and US

Timeline

Expressions of interest opening date	August 2025
Expressions of Interest closing date	October 31, 2025
Expressions of interest results announced and sandpit invitations issued	December 2025
In-person three-day workshop in Canada	February 2026
Virtual workshop	April 2026
Project applications submitted and assessed	May 2026
Project funding decisions announced	July 2026
Project start date	October 1, 2026
Latest project end date	March 31, 2028

Value: **Up to $200,000**

Duration: **18 months**

SSHRC and UK Research and Innovation's Arts and Humanities Research Council plan to invite researchers to submit expressions of interest to participate in a humanities-led, interdisciplinary research "sandpit" (a facilitated, collaborative process through which new research teams and project ideas are developed and selected for funding) to put humanities insights and methodologies at the heart of artificial intelligence tech design.

Through a series of workshops, teams would develop project ideas for further funding. Up to four grants would ultimately be awarded. Travel and subsistence costs to attend an in-person workshop will be covered by the funders.

This funding opportunity will be open to researchers based in the UK, Canada, and the US, pending final funder approvals.

As this is an interdisciplinary opportunity, we welcome researchers from outside the humanities to apply. As projects will require development of AI-related tools, we particularly encourage individuals with relevant technical expertise to apply.

We welcome applicants from any career stage.

About the Sandpit

A sandpit is a facilitated workshop process through which new project teams and research propositions will be co-developed and funded. Participants apply as individuals, and applications are generated during the workshops, not in advance. We are looking for attendees without preconceived project ideas or teams.

The Doing AI Differently White Paper will be the primary reference document for this sandpit.

Thematic Focus

We are at a pivotal moment in AI design. Contemporary AI systems increasingly produce cultural outputs, such as text, images and multimedia that resemble human cultural artefacts in unprecedented ways. This represents AI's 'qualitative turn': a fundamental shift toward systems whose inputs and outputs are deeply embedded in human cultural contexts.

This transformation creates an urgent need for humanities and arts perspectives to shape AI's foundational design, training, and evaluation, not merely analyse its outputs. The interpretive technologies theme addresses this need by supporting research that integrates humanistic methodologies directly into AI system design.

For more information: Visit the SSHRC Pre-Announcement web page

Visit the UK Research and Innovation pre-announcement web page

Call for proposals: SSHRC Connection Grants

Application deadline: November 1, 2025

| **Value:** | Events: | $7,000 to $25,000 |
| | Outreach activities: | $7,000 to $50,000 |

Duration: 1 year

Connection Grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and to engage with participants on research issues of value to them. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects. Connection Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the Research Partnerships program.

Connection Grants support workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes, or other events or outreach activities that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges in the social sciences and humanities;

- scholarly exchanges between those working in the social sciences and humanities and those working in other research fields;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges with researchers, students and non-academic partners from other countries.

Proposed events and outreach activities

- All activities must take place within 12 months of the start date indicated on the notice of award (see decision dates in the funding cycle schedule).
- Proposed events and outreach activities must produce timely and concrete deliverables, such as conference proceedings or other knowledge products developed for traditional formats and/or employing digital and/or multimedia formats (unless specifically intended to create new, longer-term linkages or to initiate collaboration).
- Proposed events and outreach activities can be one-time encounters or catalysts designed to lead to longer-term partnerships and/or sustained programs of scholarly research.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation. To this regard, for Connection Grants support **events and outreach activities** related to research-creation and Indigenous research.

Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative

Through this initiative, SSHRC is committed to funding at least 10 meritorious Connection Grant proposals per competition to help the social sciences and humanities research community develop and adopt research data management standards, tools and skills. Learn more about the Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative.

Research data management supports the effective and responsible conduct of research, and increases the ability to store, find and reuse research data. A strong culture of data management will serve Canadian research excellence and support the development of social sciences and humanities insights. It will also benefit Canadian researchers working in international partnerships and collaborations as funders around the globe implement and strengthen data management requirements.

Unless otherwise indicated, there is no separate application process for most initiatives and supplements. However, candidates must select this initiative on the first page of the application to indicate they wish to be considered for an initiative or a supplement. They also need to explain why they wish to be considered in their application form.

Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review Imagining Canada's Future's 16 future global challenges and to consider addressing one or more of these areas in their research proposal. This is not an evaluation criterion for merit review and does not offer additional or dedicated research funds for this funding opportunity.

For more information: Visit the SSHRC Connection Grants web page

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Partnership Development Grants

Proposal deadline: **November 17, 2025**

Value: $75,000 to $200,000
Duration: 1 to 3 years

Partnership Development Grants provide support over one to three years to teams/partnerships, led by a project director, to:

- develop research and/or related activities in the social sciences and humanities—these can include knowledge mobilization and the meaningful involvement of students and emerging scholars—by fostering new partnerships with existing and/or potential partners; or
- design and test new partnership approaches for research and/or related activities that can result in best practices or models—these can either be adapted by others or have the potential to be scaled up to a regional, national or international level.

These grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the Research Partnerships program.

Partnership funding is intended for formal partnerships between postsecondary institutions and/or organizations of various types. For more information, see the definitions for formal partnership and partner organization.

The quality of training, mentoring and employability plans for students and emerging scholars will be evaluated as an important part of the proposed initiative. SSHRC's Guidelines for Effective Research Training explain how students and emerging scholars can meaningfully participate in proposed initiatives.

The intellectual leadership and governance for the creation of a formal partnership can come from the research community and/or from partner organizations from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. For more information related to Partnership Development Grants, see the Eligibility section.

SSHRC invites applicants and their partner organizations who wish to propose formal disciplinary, interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, international and/or cross-sector partnership arrangements to apply for support through this funding opportunity. Funds are available to support a variety of formal partnership development initiatives in all the disciplines and themes that meet SSHRC's subject matter eligibility guidelines.

SSHRC's Partnerships Tool-Kit offers tools and resources to assist with the planning and implementation of your partnership.

For more information: Visit the SSHRC Partnership Development Grants web page.

Call for Proposals: Knowledge Synthesis Grants: The Arts Transformed

Proposal deadline: **December 2, 2025**

Value: Up to $30,000
Duration: 1 year

This Knowledge Synthesis Grants competition is to mobilize, examine and synthesize social sciences and humanities research on The Arts Transformed. The resulting syntheses will identify roles the academic, public, private and not-for-profit sectors could play in promoting more inclusive and equitable societies, and could inform development of effective

tools and technologies, robust policies and sustainable practices needed to support the path toward a diverse and inclusive future for all.

The Arts Transformed is one of the 16 global future challenges identified through SSHRC's [Imagining Canada's Future](#) initiative. These complex issues, identified in 2018 following an extensive foresight exercise, reflect key challenges Canada and the world are likely to face over the coming decades. All the challenges cross multiple sectors, jurisdictions and research disciplines, and require broad collaboration to address. This Knowledge Synthesis Grants funding opportunity is informed and shaped by cross-sectoral and diverse perspectives, including from subject matter experts, policy leaders and community leaders.

From an underwater public sculpture park to a multisensory, immersive live performance using body sensors and virtual reality, the arts world is blooming with new artworks that use cutting-edge technologies and explore novel venues for artistic expression. In parallel, the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, as well as mounting sustainability concerns, have accelerated adoption of new digital tools and practices. This includes using online platforms to manage art collections, and integrating virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies, with applications ranging from museum exhibits to the fashion industry. The arts are now more readily accessible to anyone with internet access, although further effort is needed to support equitable distribution of benefits from these innovations, particularly in the Global South.

Digital platforms, such as YouTube, Spotify and TikTok, offer both established and emerging artists new avenues for producing, distributing and monetizing their work, as well as new opportunities to engage and expand their audiences. They can give visibility and voice to new, previously excluded creatives. While new forms of artistic expression continue to evolve, digital technology has not displaced the predominant models of production and distribution in the cultural sector. Platform algorithms can also increase competition among artists and reinforce existing inequities by undermining unconventional art forms / artistic expression in favour of mainstream content, leading to increasingly homogenous art. Francophone and Indigenous content in Canada are likely to be disproportionately impacted by this issue.

As generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems continue to evolve at an exponential rate, complex legal, ethical and philosophical questions have surfaced as to how we define art and the role of the human artist in the creative process. In response to the multiplication of artwork generated by AI systems, future art lovers may seek out more authentic, human-made artworks for their intrinsic artistic value. The proliferation of deepfakes has also brought to light the shortcomings in existing legislative and regulatory frameworks designed to protect artists and copyright holders. Future reforms to copyright laws present an opportunity to remove barriers preventing adequate protection of Indigenous data sovereignty and copyright protection on Indigenous art, culture and knowledge. In addition, studies have revealed deep flaws in generative AI models and their algorithms, leading to racial and gender biases that exacerbate disparities in the real world, disproportionately impacting the representation of Black individuals and Black history and culture in image and text. To combat these issues, concerted efforts will be needed by the AI industry and cross-sectoral stakeholders impacted by its systems, with support from artists and activists. Against the backdrop of the climate crisis, it is also imperative to consider the environmental impact of new technologies, and repercussions for future generations.

The issues mentioned above, as well as shifts in private and public funding, add to the precarity in the arts and culture sector. Slow adoption of digital technology in many arts organizations; low data literacy rates; declining attendance at live venues, museums and galleries; and declining philanthropic investment pose existential threats to the sector. Rising inflation in recent years has been detrimental to a creative industry already hard hit by the pandemic. The current housing crisis in Canada and the process of gentrification, extending beyond residential areas to local venues and art spaces, add to these challenges. The loss of affordable arts spaces has a ripple effect on cities and communities, which can no longer benefit from the cultural and economic advantages the arts provide. The impact of these crises will be particularly felt by marginalized communities that possess fewer resources. Even so, these challenges create an opportunity to rethink policies as well as funding criteria and funding streams in the arts and culture sector, with a view to broadening their scope to include cultural spaces and art activities not reflected in the current narrative.

Despite the vulnerability of the creative sector, it is important to acknowledge the role the arts can play in a world facing a looming "polycrisis" precipitated by a convergence of complex crises, such as climate change, fragile health-care systems, political polarization, rising inequalities and more. Greater engagement in creative activities can help mitigate

these crises by strengthening social cohesion, promoting positive health outcomes, reinvigorating local economies, and reducing challenges associated with an aging population.

Finally, complex societal challenges also offer a unique opportunity to reconsider the impact of arts education in equipping students with a set of valuable and transferable skills, including creative thinking, problem solving, persistence and resilience. In the workplace, training based on artistic methods, which frequently involves grappling with the unknown, can be a valuable tool for preparing for an uncertain and unpredictable future. Beyond this, the arts are powerful and can serve to educate and further sensitize the general public to pressing issues, such as racial injustice and global warming, through creative media that have been used to provoke deep reflection and engagement for millennia.

Knowledge Synthesis Grants

Knowledge Synthesis Grants are not intended to support original research. Rather, they are intended to support the synthesis of existing research knowledge and identify knowledge gaps. This call is particularly focused on the state of research produced over the past 10 years.

Knowledge Synthesis Grants support researchers in producing knowledge synthesis reports and evidence briefs that:

- support the use of evidence in decision making and the application of best practices; and
- assist in developing future research agendas.

Applicants must address the following three objectives in their proposals:

- Critical assessment of the state of knowledge; identify strengths and gaps
- Research data – assess quality and rigour of current work in the field; identify gaps in data available
- Knowledge mobilization

SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Indigenous research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

Webinar

SSHRC will be holding a webinar for this competition via MS Teams in fall 2025. ==Registration is required for this webinar.== The webinar will include an overview of the funding opportunity and a question-and-answer period.

Date	Time	Language	Webinar connection information
October 2, 2025	11:00 am – noon Eastern 8:00 am – 9:00 am Pacific	Bilingual (simultaneous interpretation)	The registration link will be added to the [funding opportunity page](#).

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grants web page](#).

Thinking of applying for any of these opportunities?

[Please click here to fill out our Proposal Notice of Intent (NOI) form](#).

Please contact the [Office of Research Services](#) and we will assist you in the development of your proposal. Note that the principal investigator for any grant application submitted through Royal Roads University must be a core faculty member at RRU.

Questions about your author rights, publishing, or promoting your research?
Contact Cassandra Larose, Scholarly Communications Librarian, at 250-391-2600, ext. 4324.

Questions about your data management plan?
Contact Amber Gallant, Data Services Librarian, at 250-391-2600, ext. 4433.

Spotlight

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research:
What is the Tri-Agency Dimensions Program?

Royal Roads University has recently joined the second cohort for application to the Dimensions Program, administered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

In 2019, Royal Roads signed the first **Dimensions Charter**, through which institutions commit to charter principles that are implemented throughout their practices and culture to achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The Dimensions program addresses barriers and discrimination faced by equity-deserving groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis), persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities/racialized groups, and members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, in all disciplines and at postsecondary institutions—CEGEPs, colleges, polytechnics and universities. It provides public recognition for institutions committed to achieving increased EDI. While these five groups are the focus, institutions are encouraged to include other groups relevant to their community (NSERC - Dimensions).

Online Presentation: WorkSafe BC's Research Grants Program

Event date: September 11, 2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 (noon) – 1:00 pm (Pacific)

Stephanie Davidson, Strategic Research Advisor at WorkSafe BC, and members of their team will join us Thursday, September 11 from 12:00 – 1:00 via Zoom to provide a comprehensive overview of WorkSafeBC's Research Grants Program, including a brief history and the program's evolution over time.

They will outline the four distinct funding streams that comprise the program, detailing the available funding amounts, eligibility criteria, application procedures and associated timelines, and finally, expected outcomes from successful applicants. Additionally, they will highlight examples of previously funded projects. There will be an opportunity after the presentation to answer any questions, and the session will be recorded.

To take part in this presentation: Zoom link

Meeting ID: 837 6449 0216
Passcode: 513640

Questions about anything in the Research e-bulletin?   Contact the **Office of Research Services**