



Awards Guide

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Introduction of the 2021 Call for Project Proposals

The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc. (Fedoruk Centre) was established in 2011 as a not-for-profit corporation, with an independent Board of Directors (the Board), a single Member, the University of Saskatchewan, and baseline funding from the province through an Agreement with Innovation Saskatchewan. Our founding stakeholders set out to stimulate new research, development, training and open discourse so that citizens of Saskatchewan could participate in the application of nuclear science and technology to target impact areas.

The Fedoruk Centre has invested in a partnership with Innovation Saskatchewan and the federal department Western Economic Diversification, to build a world-class facility for radiopharmaceutical production and innovation in nuclear imaging – the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences (SCCS). The SCCS has helped to attract research leaders to the province, to develop new radiochemicals, imaging agents, and applications of nuclear imaging in life sciences (agricultural, veterinary, and human).

The Fedoruk Centre has also invested in partnerships with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina to establish Programs in (1) nuclear imaging, and (2) public engagement and policy development for nuclear science and innovation. To date, the Fedoruk Centre has also awarded more than \$6.5M in grants supporting 43 research Projects that have enabled Saskatchewan scientists to contribute to a broad spectrum of subjects in the nuclear domain.

For 2021, the Fedoruk Centre is issuing a Call for Proposals of Projects that align with the Fedoruk Centre's purpose and target impact areas. The budget for the Call is up to \$500K for cash contributions from the Fedoruk Centre, envisioning support for about five (5) projects.

Purpose of the Fedoruk Centre

The Fedoruk Centre was established to help place Saskatchewan among global leaders in nuclear research, development and training through investment in partnerships with academia and industry, for maximum societal and economic benefit.

Target Impact Areas

The Fedoruk Centre's key stakeholders (the province, the University of Saskatchewan) and the Board are especially interested to see our investments deliver impacts in three areas:

1. Nuclear imaging tools and methods to advance life sciences, agriculture and medicine;
2. Material sciences, through nuclear techniques, to improve energy, health, transportation...; and
3. Understanding the practical and social aspects of nuclear energy, to inform decision-making towards a clean, sustainable future.

Importance of Partner Contributions

To be considered for ranking, proposals must identify one or more partners whose contributions to the Project (cash or in-kind) will add value to the contribution requested from the Fedoruk Centre.

Partners are associated with the Project and the Project Leader, as opposed to being partners of the Fedoruk Centre. Partners are organizations from any knowledge sector (e.g. industry, government agencies, regulatory boards or research institutions) within Saskatchewan, elsewhere in Canada or abroad. Industry partners could include any private-sector, for-profit company, preferably linked to the

nuclear sector, for example, uranium mining, fuel processing, special-alloy component manufacturing, radiation detectors, instrumentation and control, safety engineering, computer modelling, design, training services, suppliers of nuclear medical equipment or radiopharmaceuticals, etc. Other partners could be provincial or federal research funders (e.g. NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, CFI, Mitacs¹), research organizations (e.g. NRC, SRC, ARC, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Canadian Light Source, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories), philanthropic foundations, or regulatory agencies (e.g. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Health Canada, Environment Canada). The objective is to maximize the impact of a Fedoruk Centre investment by leveraging contributions from sources beyond the Fedoruk Centre and Innovation Saskatchewan.

Commitment to Support Conversations about Nuclear Science and Technology

Funded Project Leaders are expected to participate in *nuclearFACTS* – an annual meeting with the Project Advisory Committee, other Project Leaders, and interested observers from academia, industry and government. In this meeting, Project Leaders will provide updates on the status of their research and progress towards target outcomes, for feedback and discussion of challenges, successes, and opportunities for economic and societal benefit to the people of Saskatchewan.

Project Leaders are also expected to help the Fedoruk Centre communicate their work with people in the broader Saskatchewan community, for example: why their project is important; what they are learning; and how their insights could improve quality of life, safety or security, whether locally, nationally or globally. Communication opportunities will arise from time to time and could include web-site articles, media interviews and public meetings, for example.

Eligible Institutions

The University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Canadian Light Source are currently recognized as meeting the criteria for eligibility as Lead Institutions:

- Must be Saskatchewan based;
- Must be publicly funded and required to submit audited financial statements to their funder;
- Must have a research mandate; and
- Must have a training mandate leading to a provincially recognized designation, or provide access to facilities and/or resources to augment the training of persons who are registered in a program of study leading to a provincially recognized designation.

The following are ineligible as Lead Institutions:

- For-profit organizations and agencies or subsidiaries of for-profit entities;
- Federal departments, departmental corporations, Crown corporations or wholly -owned subsidiaries of Crown corporations;
- Not-for-profit corporations that have been established by either of the above.

¹ Applicants working with Canadian or international businesses or eligible Canadian not-for-profit organizations may be eligible for co-funding through a Mitacs program. See <https://www.mitacs.ca/en/saskatchewan>

Eligible Project Leaders & Co-Applicants

Applications must demonstrate that the Project Leader currently holds:

- A tenured, or tenure-track position at the University of Regina or the University of Saskatchewan; or
- A permanent position at an eligible institution; or
- A term or contract position at an eligible institution, which extends at least to the end of the proposed research project term.

The appointment must permit the Project Leader to engage in self-directed research and must authorize the Project Leader to supervise or co-supervise the research of postdoctoral fellows or students registered in a program towards a provincially recognized designation.

A maximum of five co-applicants may be included if needed to ensure that sufficient expertise is available for the Project. Co-applicants can be from any sector (e.g. government, academia, Partner organization) within or outside Saskatchewan and must be qualified to undertake research independent of direction by others.

Eligible Project Costs

Eligible direct research costs

- Portion of stipends for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows attributed to the Project;
- Portion of salaries and nondiscretionary benefits (federal, provincial, institutional) for research technicians and professional research personnel (i.e. persons who conduct research under the direction of another individual) attributed to the Project;
- Portion of salaries and nondiscretionary benefits (federal, provincial, institutional) for other trainees (for example, student research assistants) attributed to the Project;
- Fees for access to research facilities, including the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences (SCCS), at documented rates that are applicable to the Project Leader;
- Materials and supplies essential to the Project and not normally provided by the Institution, which could include radiopharmaceuticals or radiochemicals produced by the SCCS;
- Equipment of value less than \$25,000 per item;
- Travel and engagement costs for field work, collaborative work, technical or public consultation;
- Dissemination of research results (publication costs, conferences and public presentations);
- Required services and technical contracts; and
- Specialized training courses required by the Project.

Indirect costs of research

The Fedoruk Centre will contribute a maximum of 15% of its cash contribution towards recovery of indirect costs of research by the Lead Institution.

Ineligible costs

- Anything not directly related to the achievement of the Project goals;
- Any part of the salary or consulting fee of a Project Leader, Co-Applicant or any person whose status makes them eligible as a Project Leader;

- Anything normally provided by the institution, such as laboratory spaces assigned to Project Leaders or co-applicants, non-specialized facilities (e.g. office space, furnishings), basic utilities, basic office equipment and supplies, administration fees, insurance, basic communications devices, regulatory compliance, patenting;
- Education-related costs leading up to a degree or other provincially recognized designation, such as thesis preparation, tuition and course fees;
- Professional training or development costs such as computer or language training; and
- Entertainment costs, hospitality and gifts, associated with regular interactions with colleagues from the institution.

Partner Contributions and Obligations

Eligible Partners

Project Partners are organizations from any knowledge sector, including industry, government agencies, or research institutions, whether in Saskatchewan, elsewhere in Canada or abroad. However, the Fedoruk Centre cannot appear as a Project Partner.

Eligible Partner Contributions

Contributions are eligible to claim if specifically attributed to the proposed project by the Partner.

In-kind contributions are eligible to claim if expressed as dollar values that could be verified, in principle, through accounting records, such as receipts, valuation statements, published fees or approved time records with established rates. Eligible in-kind contributions include:

- Personnel (professional researchers, technicians, research assistants, etc.) required for the Project which would otherwise have to be hired by project funds. The dollar value of this contribution is direct salary cost, pay plus non-discretionary benefits.
- New stipends or other training awards;
- Access to research facilities or equipment essential to the Project which would otherwise have to be purchased from the project funds.
- Contribution of required consumables or equipment, which would otherwise have to be purchased from the project funds.

In-kind contributions ineligible to be acknowledged include:

- Anything not directly related to the achievement of the Project goals;
- Personnel time of Project Leaders, or persons whose status makes them eligible as a Project Leader, Co-applicants, or Partners;
- Anything normally provided by the institution, such as: office space, laboratory space, furnishings, basic utilities, basic office equipment and supplies, administration fees, insurance, basic communications devices, regulatory compliance, patenting;
- Education-related costs leading to a degree, such as thesis preparation, tuition and course fees;
- Professional training or development costs such as computer or language training; and
- Entertainment costs, hospitality and gifts, associated with regular interactions with colleagues from the institution.

Partner Obligations

- **Partner Commitment Letter:** At the application stage, Partners are required to provide a letter of commitment to the specific Project, outlining their eligible contributions (type, quantity, and dollar value); anticipated timelines of the contribution; and an indication of willingness to cooperate with Lead Institutions and Project Leaders in their efforts to conduct Projects in compliance with relevant policies, standards, and legal requirements. We provide a template for Partners to consider in providing evidence to assist the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) in ranking the Partnership commitment to the Project. The letter should be signed by an officer of the Partner organization with the authority to commit resources of the organization.

In the event that a Project Leader has secured funds from a granting agency, which could be applied to Project costs, an authorized officer of the lead institution can provide the Partnership commitment letter, acknowledging the granting agency as the ultimate source of the contribution. The lead institution would then serve as a Project Partner.

- **Paying Cash Contributions:** After the Fedoruk Centre funding decision, Partners are expected to pay their cash contributions to the Lead Institution, according to the Project schedule. Project Leaders and Partners are required to respect the Lead Institution's administrative requirements and policies associated with research grants and contracts (e.g. grant letter template, funding agreement, etc).

Management and Administration

Reports and Disbursement of Funds

Once any terms and conditions of the award have been addressed and after the Lead Institution and Project Leader have signed a notice of acceptance (NOA), the Fedoruk Centre will release the first payment to the Lead Institution. Interim payments will be released by March 31, following receipt and approval of a Progress Report and Financial Statement, which includes actual Partner contributions during the reporting period. Progress reports and financial statements are provided on a Fedoruk Centre form. These reports are due February 28.

The greater of 5% of the Fedoruk Centre contribution or \$5,000 will be held back pending acceptance by Fedoruk Centre of the final financial statement and report of outcomes. Please include an explanation if a variance between the actual expenditure and budget for an item exceeds 20%.

Project Schedule

Start and end dates will be as agreed in the notice of acceptance (NOA) for a funded Project. The start date can be between the date of executing the NOA and up to four months later. The maximum project duration is 36 months. The Fedoruk Centre will fund actual eligible costs of Projects up to the maximum approved Fedoruk Centre funding, incurred between the agreed start and end dates. Residuals will be returned to the Fedoruk Centre.

Changes to the Project Plan

Project Leaders are expected to adhere to the plan approved by the Fedoruk Centre review process. Requests for changes to the Project plan should be submitted in advance to the Fedoruk Centre for consideration of budget adjustments. Changes to a Project should be described in the Progress Report. Lead Institutions and Project Leaders must notify the Fedoruk Centre immediately in a situation where the Project Leader is unable to complete the Project, for example by departing the Lead Institution.

Monitoring

The Fedoruk Centre reserves the right to make the final determination of eligible costs and valuation of in-kind contributions. Fedoruk Centre may request additional documentation (e.g. copies of time sheets, invoices) to support the eligibility of an expenditure or the valuation of an in-kind contribution.

The Fedoruk Centre and/or its funders may request safe and convenient access to the Project site or sites and relevant personnel to evaluate progress of the Project, and learn about highlights or issues.

Compliance

For continued funding, Projects must be conducted in compliance with normal ethical and legal standards as well as policies and practices of the Lead Institution and the Fedoruk Centre, governing:

- Management and conduct of research, including ethics, safety, regulations, procurements, etc;
- The financial management of research; and
- The management of research personnel and students involved in research.

Intellectual Property

For projects performed outside the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences, the Fedoruk Centre does not keep or claim any ownership of, or exploitation rights to, any intellectual property arising from the Project. The Fedoruk Centre expects the Lead Institution to determine these rights in accordance with its institutional policies. Notwithstanding this principle, the Fedoruk Centre requires that Project Leaders participate in *nuclearFACTS* where they can discuss their research and results in a way that does not jeopardize any intellectual property rights and agreements.

For projects conducted within the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences (SCCS), there is the possibility for know-how to be developed by Fedoruk Centre employees in the course of the Work, which could strengthen the facility as a resource for access by researchers in general (i.e. improvements in the public domain). An Agreement for SCCS User Access will be established between the Fedoruk Centre and the Lead Institution and include terms for managing intellectual property.

Ownership of Equipment

The Lead Institution will retain ownership of equipment purchased as part of a Fedoruk Centre Project.

Privacy

All applications are received by the Fedoruk Centre in confidence with personal and proprietary information used only for the purposes for which it is originally gathered, plus related activities necessary to fulfill the Fedoruk Centre's mandate.

Lead Institutions and Project Leaders who receive monetary or in-kind contributions from Partners agree via acceptance of the Fedoruk Centre funding to allow Fedoruk Centre to share any Project reports with the Partner.

Publicity and Media Releases

Prior to any publicity releases, Project Leaders, Partners, and/or Co-applicants are requested to provide advanced notice to allow the Fedoruk Centre and stakeholders to participate in the announcement.

Contact: Niki Schrie, Human Resources and Operations Manager
Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc.
Email: niki.schrie@fedorukcentre.ca

Project Leaders, Partners, and/or Co-applicants are expected to respond to periodic calls from the Fedoruk Centre for complete references to publications or patents that arise from funded Projects.

Project Leaders, Partners, and/or Co-applicants are expected to alert the Fedoruk Centre as soon as an article has been accepted for publication, or a patent application has been accepted, to explore and coordinate opportunities for publicity.

The participation of Project Leaders in *nuclearFACTS* will be publicized by the Fedoruk Centre.

Project Leaders, Partners, and/or Co-applicants are expected to respond to occasional requests for comment or testimonials (e.g. research highlights, anecdotes) by the Fedoruk Centre or communication departments of Lead Institutions, during or after a Project.

Acknowledging Fedoruk Centre Funding

Project Leaders are expected to acknowledge Fedoruk Centre support in all resulting publications, abstracts, posters, presentations, other dissemination avenues, and applications of their research, citing our legal corporate name or trade name, either:

- (1) “This research was supported by the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc. and Innovation Saskatchewan.”; or
- (2) “This research was supported by the Fedoruk Centre and Innovation Saskatchewan.”

Review Process for the 2021 Call for Proposals

Timeline

Deadline	Deliverable
2021 Oct 1	Fedoruk Centre issues Call for Proposals
2021 Oct 7	Fedoruk Centre offers a briefing session on proposal submission
2021 Dec 3	Project Leaders submit Proposals
2022 Jan 7	Project Advisory Committee ranks compliant proposals
2022 Jan 28	Fedoruk Centre issues funding decisions
2022 Mar 4	Project Leader and Institution sign Notice of Acceptance (Funding is released)

The Fedoruk Centre will not consider proposals or revisions received after the deadline.

Proposal Preparation and Submission

For the Fedoruk Centre to consider a Proposal, the Project Leader must submit a complete package of information, by the deadline, to Niki Schrie (Niki.Schrie@fedorukcentre.ca).

Please send a single PDF attachment with a message title that includes the Project Leader’s family name, as follows: “Fedoruk Centre 2021 Call for Proposals – Project Leader: FAMILY NAME”. In addition to the single PDF package, please also attach original spreadsheets for the Project budget (item 4) and, if applicable, the SCCS workstation occupancy estimator (item 5).

The single PDF attachment should include:

1. Institutional signatures (Fedoruk Centre form);
2. Proposal cover page (Fedoruk Centre form):
 - a. Contact information for the Project Leader and any Co-applicants
 - b. Project title
 - c. Plain language abstract to assist with expert reviewer selection, suitable for inclusion in a media release (up to 200 words). The abstract should describe the research project and target outcomes towards advancing nuclear research, development and training in Saskatchewan; and
 - d. Contact information and brief justification for up to three suggested subject-matter-expert reviewers.
3. Project Description, following the format and page limits described in the following section;
4. Fedoruk Centre Project budget spreadsheet (Fedoruk Centre form, version 2021);
5. SCCS workstation occupancy estimator, when appropriate (Fedoruk Centre worksheet);
6. Partner commitment letter(s) (template suggested by Fedoruk Centre); and
7. CVs for the Project Leader and Co-applicants.

Forms are available at the website <https://fedorukcentre.ca/funding/researcher-funding.php>

Fedoruk Centre staff cannot advise Project Leaders on the contents of their proposals or compliance with terms in this Awards Guide, prior to the release of decision letters. Questions about the Awards Guide or submission procedure may be directed to Niki Schrie: Niki.Schrie@fedorukcentre.ca

Project Description

The Project Description is the primary source of information for the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to understand how your proposal addresses four Review Criteria, and thus determine its rank among other proposals for funding. In the layout described below, each Review Criterion is accompanied by bullet statements that the PAC will consider. Suggestions of what the Project Leader might include in the Project Description, are shown in blue italics. For legibility and ease of review, please use Font 11 or 12-point Calibri, Arial or similar, and 1" margins.

To be considered for ranking, page limits must be respected.

Layout of Project Description to Address Review Criteria

1. Alignment (Up to 1 page)

- The Project will place Saskatchewan among global leaders in nuclear research, development, and training.
- The Project will lead to demonstrable impacts in one or more of the Fedoruk Centre's Impact Areas.

2. Feasibility (Up to 6 pages)

2.1 Project Context

- The Project builds logically on prior work and established methodology.
Summarize prior work, key references, focus of the Project and general methodology to be applied.

2.2 Project Plan and Milestones

- The Project has a clearly defined plan including milestones that address demonstrable target outcomes.
Describe the Project plan as a series of practical steps towards achieving the target outcomes within a specified timeframe that will serve as a gauge for assessing progress in annual reports. A graphical diagram would be helpful, and could include items such as: recruit and train personnel; acquire equipment and/or supplies; meet special requirements (ethics, biohazards etc.); access facilities; engage collaborators; develop skills; perform the work; disseminate knowledge; engage the community etc.

2.3 Project Team

- The Project Team has the necessary expertise to deliver on the target outcomes.
Describe the expertise, roles and responsibilities of team members affecting the feasibility of the Project. Include a table of previous Fedoruk Centre Projects managed by team members, including project title, funding, and references of publications or patents arising from those Projects.

2.4 Budget Justification

- The Project Budget and overall resource plan are necessary and appropriate for achieving target outcomes.
Describe how the requested Fedoruk Centre funding and Partner contributions will cover the direct Costs of resources needed to complete the Project. Reference the Budget Item numbers in the Fedoruk Centre Budget spreadsheet, which you will complete as part of this application. (e.g. 0.5 x (salary+benefits) of a post-doctoral researcher who will work half time on this project). Note that institutional overheads are calculated automatically; applicants need only propose and justify the direct costs of project resources.

3. Partnerships (up to 1 page)

- The Partners make a significant commitment towards achieving the goals of the project.
Describe the Partners and their interest in the project. Explain how their contributions (cash, equipment, expertise) strengthen project outcomes and how their involvement will advance networks, helping to place Saskatchewan among global leaders in nuclear research, development and training.

4. Impacts (up to 1 page)

- Target outcomes are described and linked to increased capacity for nuclear research, development and training, leading to economic and social benefit for Saskatchewan.
- Plans for impact include commitments to engage users of the research in knowledge exchange and translation to realize social and economic benefits to Saskatchewan.

Ranking, Feedback and Release of Funding

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members are listed on the web page for the Call for Proposals - <https://fedorukcentre.ca/funding/researcher-funding.php>.

PAC members bring general expertise from beyond Saskatchewan in the key impact areas of the Fedoruk Centre. They are free to recruit subject-matter experts for deeper insights, if needed.

In a meeting with Fedoruk Centre management, the PAC will assign ratings to each proposal and provide comments for feedback, with reference to the Review Criteria, as shown in Table 1. The PAC may also advise the Fedoruk Centre Executive Director on matters such as conflicts of interest, intellectual property, partial funding of projects, special conditions, or a cut-off in the ranked list.

Project Leaders will receive comments from the PAC, whether the proposal is funded or unfunded; however, ratings will be confidential. For funded proposals, notification may contain additional terms and conditions specific to the award. The Fedoruk Centre will disburse funds when terms and conditions have been met and the Lead Institution and Project Leader have signed a Notice of Acceptance.

Table 1 – Rating guide for ranking Project Proposals (CONFIDENTIAL)

Review Criterion	Rating	Comments
Alignment		
Feasibility		
Partnerships		
Impacts		

The rating levels are:

9 – 10 Excellent: the proposal addresses this criterion exceptionally well and is expected to advance the purpose of the Fedoruk Centre very effectively.

7 – 8 Very Good: the proposal addresses this criterion well above average and is expected to advance the purpose of the Fedoruk Centre effectively.

5 - 6 Good: the proposal addresses this criterion at a level adequate to advance the purpose of the Fedoruk Centre.

3 – 4 Marginal: the proposal is inadequate in addressing some aspects of this criterion and may be ineffective in advancing the purpose of the Fedoruk Centre.

1 – 2 Unsatisfactory: the proposal does not address this criterion sufficiently to expect significant advancement of the purpose of the Fedoruk Centre.

Questions and Comments

Questions or comments about the Fedoruk Centre project proposal system would be gratefully received. Please feel free to contact Niki Schrie, our Human Resources and Operations Manager: Niki.Schrie@fedorukcentre.ca