



Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat

TO: All eligible CRCP institutions
Subject: Enhancements and program updates to the Canada Research Chairs Program

Hello,

On behalf of the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), it is a pleasure to inform you today that the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) will proceed with a [suite of enhancements](#) starting in 2025-26 which will bring design, delivery, and policy changes forward to maintain the program's leadership within the Canadian research landscape. In addition, several [program updates](#) are being rolled out to support alignment with program objectives and tri-agency policies.

This message contains a substantial amount of information and is organized into the following linked sections to help navigate its content:

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Program Enhancements

Since the Government of Canada announced its intention to modernize the CRCP in the federal budget 2022, potential changes to support the program's modernization have been explored.



The CRCP recognizes the need to innovate to remain at the forefront of Canada's research and science ecosystem. This recognition resulted from consultations, working groups, advisory panels and reports, direct engagement with institutions, various key stakeholders, and from the TIPS governance committees. The federal research funding agencies (the agencies) and CRCP eligible institutions have worked together for over twenty-five years to keep this momentum moving forward.

In the Fall, TIPS will provide institutions with updates on the implementation of these enhancements and will organize various engagement and information sessions to share further details. Required updates to the CRCP website, Convergence modules, and related procedures will be communicated in advance of implementation.

1. Continuous application and nomination intake

The CRCP has received regular feedback from institutions over concerns about the length of time it takes to recruit a nominee. Based on the current process, approval of nominations may take up to eight months depending on various factors which contribute to delays such as the need for additional peer review through the Interdisciplinary Adjudication Committee (IAC) and the Deferred Recommendation Process (DRP).

The CRCP is moving forward with a change to a continuous intake model for the nomination submission to better support institutions by providing more flexibility in the nomination process and faster decision-making timelines which allow for more responsive recruitment. In addition, it would enhance an institution's ability to attract and retain world-class researchers while maintaining the integrity and fairness of the adjudication process. This change will apply following the April 2026 cycle. Should institutions wish to do so, they can continue to submit their nominations at fixed dates.

The framework for implementing a continuous intake model for the program includes:

- ***Nomination submission***
 - Institutions will have the opportunity to submit nominations at any time throughout the year with no fixed deadline, similar to the current off-cycle nomination option.
 - A standardized processing time would be established and published to ensure timely adjudication of files and rapid response where possible.
- ***Adjudication process***
 - Nominations would be reviewed on an ongoing basis by external reviewers.
 - Institutions would receive notifications of decisions on a rolling basis, improving hiring and recruitment flexibility.
 - Nominations that require a further review would be evaluated by IAC at regular intervals to ensure continued consistency in assessment.
- ***Renewal***
 - Renewal nominations would also transition to continuous intake, with institutions submitting renewal nominations before the end of the current chairholder's term.
 - Assessment timelines will ensure chairholders and institutions receive a decision with sufficient time to plan for continuity, and to prevent gaps or overlaps in funding.



2. Implementation of the Tri-agency CV and embedding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the nomination and peer review process

The peer review process of the CRCP is currently being reviewed with the goal of supporting and promoting a more inclusive view of research excellence. As examples, this includes: 1) adding requirements for nominees to address EDI in the composition and management of their research teams, 2) having institutions address equity considerations in the level of support being provided to candidates, 3) implementing the [Tri-agency narrative CV](#) and 4) reviewing the instructions to peer reviewers to ensure their alignment with Declaration of Research Assessment ([DORA](#)). Consultations on these changes will be undertaken beginning in the fall of 2025, with the integration of the revised processes into the program planned for the 2026-2027 fiscal year with consideration for nominations that may already be in the process of development.

3. Implementation of the *Tri-agency Policy (and directive) on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation*

As previously communicated, the CRCP will be implementing the *Tri-agency Policy (and directive) on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation*. The [policy](#) and [directive](#) have now been updated and are available online. Following feedback received from institutions, the CRCP will be scheduling engagement sessions in the fall to further discuss the implementation for the program. The objective is to establish a process focused on the affirmation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis applicants, that will provide reasonable assurance that CRCP awards intended for Indigenous people are held by Indigenous Peoples.

4. Monitoring recruitment and nomination processes

As part of its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan, the CRCP committed to increasing the number of recipient institutions who are subject to a yearly monitoring review related to their recruitment processes, which is a requirement of the 2006 Canadian Human Rights Settlement Agreement and the [2019 Addendum to the 2006 Canadian Human Rights Agreement](#). All Canada Research Chair positions must meet the minimum requirements for recruitment and nomination, which are based on the principles of openness, transparency and accountability, when filling a chair allocation.

Starting in 2026, the CRCP will carry out regular monitoring exercises to ensure that recipient institutions fully meet the CRCP's recruitment requirements. This will include a randomized review of the recruitment processes of a subset of nominations submitted to each year. Based on the results of its monitoring exercises, as was already the case, the CRCP may refuse a nomination and require that the institution re-advertise the chair position and conduct a new recruitment and nomination process. Details on the monitoring framework and process will be made available on our website in the Fall 2025.

5. CRCP stipend for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)



The TIPS Steering Committee has approved to make the EDI stipend a permanent component of the program until 2029-30. This is provided to all eligible institutions to support them in meeting their equity targets for the December 2029 deadline. The annual stipend will be dependent on the availability of funds each year. Additional details of this now permanent component of the program and of the application process will be provided in the Fall.

6. Updating Tier 2 eligibility requirements

The CRCP is considering revising the Tier 2 eligibility to the date of a nominee's first independent research-related appointment, rather than from their highest degree, to better reflect the realities of academic and research tracks of nominees, and to align with the agencies. We are asking institutions to share their feedback on this change and potential impacts. Please send your comments (information@chairs-chaire.gc.ca) by August 5, 2025.

Program Updates

1. Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity

The CRCP has launched the 2025 '[Robbins-Ollivier Award for Excellence in Equity](#)' competition, which recognizes the significant and impactful contributions that Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Louise Forsyth, Glenis Joyce, Audrey Kobayashi, Shree Mulay, Susan Prentice, Michèle Ollivier and Wendy Robbins have made to increase the level of equity within the CRCP and Canada's research ecosystem more broadly.

To be eligible, institutions must be meeting all the program's equity requirements. Institutions with consequences being imposed at the time of the deadline date in any given year are not eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 4, 2025.

The decisions for the 2024 competition have now been communicated to institutions, and the recipients will be announced in early Fall 2025.

2. CRCP annual reports

Following feedback received from institutions and to streamline the reporting process, the CRCP is currently working to onboard the new Chairholder Annual Report and Institutional Annual Report to the Convergence platform. It is expected that the reports will be available via the Convergence portal in early Fall 2025. Additional details will follow in late Summer 2025. In the meantime, copies of the new annual reports are being provided by way of attachments to allow institutions and chairholders to plan for the 2024-25 reporting year.

The [Statement of Account \(Form 300\)](#) will still be required for the CRCP Stipend for EDI and for each Canada Research Chairs award.

3. EDI Action Plan Requirements for Institutions with fewer than five allocated Chairs

Following engagement sessions with institutions with fewer than five allocated chairs in June 2024, the CRCP has finalized the documents to support the development of these institutions' EDI Action Plans. This information was shared with institutions in question on June 9, 2025.



4. Reallocation Forecasting Exercise

The CRCP Reallocation Forecasting Exercise aims to simulate potential changes to the allocation of chairs across institutions. It is essential to emphasize that this exercise is purely a simulation, does not reflect actual changes being made at this time, and is intended for institutions to forecast any potential changes to their allocation and understand their potential implications. The results of this exercise will be available in July, and the results of the exercise for your institution will be found in your SharePoint folder <https://influence2.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/sites/200022/004/L013/P001.aspx>.

The next reallocation exercise will be conducted in late 2025, with the results available to institutions in early Winter 2026.

5. Additional space for nominations submitted in French

Additional space has been provided for CRCP nominations submitted in French. This adjustment aims to ensure that nominations submitted in French have an equal opportunity to present comprehensive and detailed information, in alignment with the program's commitment to supporting both of Canada's official languages and reflects ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility and inclusivity within the CRCP. Please see the [instructions page](#) for details.

6. TIPS accessibility inbox

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), including the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), are committed to ensuring accessibility is at the forefront when creating and administering its programs and services within the research ecosystem.

In keeping with [SSHRC's Accessibility Plan](#), the [Accessible Canada Act](#) and the [Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Systemic Ableism](#), TIPS will continue to increase accessibility to its community of researchers and administrators as it strives to reduce the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. To support this initiative, a specific inbox has been created. For any questions related to accessibility, please contact: TIPS-Accessibility-SPIIE-Accessibilite@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

7. Closing of covid extensions

Effective immediately, the current process for COVID grant extensions in-time without funds and COVID extensions to chair end dates is being discontinued. As a reminder, this initiative dates back to 2020 as a response to the COVID 19 pandemic where requests for extension due to pandemic-related research delays were expeditiously approved. We are returning to extension period for use of funds beyond the award period as detailed in the [Chairs Administration Guide](#).

8. Third Term Tier 1 Renewals

Effective immediately, [and as per our policy](#), third-term renewals for Tier 1 CRCs will no longer be permitted even under very exceptional circumstances. This decision aligns with the program's aim to further enhance the allocation of chairs within institutions.



As part of this transition, we encourage institutions to focus on the renewal of Tier 1 Chairs within the established two-term framework, ensuring that all nominations and renewals adhere to the updated guidelines.

These enhancements and program updates will strengthen the program's ability to attract and retain top talent at Canadian universities and support graduate research, advance equity, diversity and inclusion, and reinforce Canada's global leadership across all research disciplines.

We look forward to working with you on the implementation of these enhancements and supporting you in adapting program updates.

Best regards,

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