

2026 Enhancements and program updates to the Canada Research Chairs Program

On behalf of the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), we are pleased to provide updates on the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) enhancements as well as additional updates.

Program Enhancements

1. Implementation of the Tri-agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation

In Fall 2026, and following the December 2025 engagement sessions with institutions, the CRCP will be implementing the [Tri-agency Policy \(and directive\) on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation](#). 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. If a nominee self-identifies as Indigenous, (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis), they will be required to complete the [secure form](#) as part of the nomination process.

2. Continuous intake of nominations and renewals

As previously communicated, the CRCP will operate under a continuous intake model, following the April 2026 deadline. Institutions may submit nominations on an ongoing basis, and the program will make every effort to provide expedited decisions where possible.

Renewal nominations will continue to be required in accordance with the end dates of existing Chair terms, and no later than 6 months before the end date. Institutions should ensure that renewal files are submitted in alignment with the timelines associated with each Chair's term end date, to ensure there is no break in funding. If an institution does not submit a renewal nomination within the final eligible renewal period, it will no longer be permitted to submit a renewal for that Chair, however, if the nominee is eligible, the institution may submit a new nomination for the chair in question. Note that if the new nomination is successful, it would not be eligible for renewal.

3. Change to CV Updates

As of April 2026, and as part of the implementation of the continuous intake model, the CRCP will no longer accept CV updates to nominations under review. Nominations that are recommended to the [Deferred Recommendation Process](#) by the [Interdisciplinary Adjudication Committee](#) will have the opportunity to submit updates at that stage.

4. Change to Tier 2 Justifications

To better reflect the realities of academic and research career paths of nominees, the CRCP is updating the calculation start date reference point for Tier 2 Chair eligibility from highest degree to first independent academic research-related appointment. This change will be in place as of the April 2026 deadline, and the time frame of ten years and eligible interruptions would remain the same.

In recognition of the length of recruitment processes, there will be a 12-month transition period. During this period, if a nominee would have been eligible under the previous guidelines, but not the new ones, institutions may submit a Tier 2 Justification.

5. Monitoring recruitment and nomination processes

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

The CRCP will carry out regular monitoring exercises to ensure that 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 the program 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.

Program Updates

1. 2025 Reallocation Results

[The reallocation of Chairs](#) to institutions is an integral part of the program. It includes both regular and special Chairs, including [Budget 2018 Chairs](#), and is based on the [research grant funding](#) received by researchers at institutions from the three granting agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—in the three years prior to the year of the allocation.

Results will be available on the [CRCP SharePoint site](#) in the next week.

2. Canada Research Chair profiles

A reminder that the CRCP website is undergoing updates to the online Chairholder database. While the database will be maintained, and key information about each active Chairholder (as per the table seen on the [website](#)) will continue to be published, the individual research summary/profile pages will be removed, and the Chairholder's name will no longer be hyperlinked to a sub-page featuring the research summary or Chairholder profile.

These changes will be implemented on **April 1, 2026**. As of this date, the profile pages will no longer be publicly available on the CRCP website, and they will no longer be produced for the upcoming CRCP announcement cycles.

Chairholders and institutions **have until March 31, 2026**, to retrieve the bilingual content on these profile pages from the CRCP website before they are removed on April 1st, 2026. This content may be added to the relevant websites of the chairholders/institutions.

3. December 2027 equity targets

[Institutional equity targets](#) for the December 2027 deadline will be sent in April 2026. Note that the equity target setting tool provided on [this page](#) will also be updated at that time to allow institutions to plan for upcoming equity target deadlines accordingly. The program also sends institutions an update on the representation of their chairs twice a year, in February and August in order to help them manage their allocation of chairs. The [following web page](#) which communicates the equity targets of all institutions will also be updated.

Updates to the CRCP website, Convergence modules, and related procedures will follow shortly.