Memo – New Funding Program for Immediate Release

Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders 2026 competitions

January 9, 2026 **Revised**

Overview of the Canada Impact+ Call

Competition Announcement	The Government of Canada introduces new programs for international researchers - Canada.ca (published Dec. 9, 2025)
Competition Frequency	One time only (2026)
RIS Deadline (REVISED)	January 14, 2026, by 5:00 pm (Newfoundland time)
Registration deadlines	Intake one: March 10, 2026, 8:00 p.m. (eastern) Intake two: June 15, 2026, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)
Application deadlines	Intake one: March 24, 2026, 8:00 p.m. (eastern) Intake two: June 29, 2026, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)
Value	Impact+ Research Chairs: Two maximum award values: $1 million per year, or $500,000 per year. Impact+ Emerging Leaders: One maximum award value of $100,000 per year. NOTE: Institutions submitting a nomination for an Impact+ Research Chair may request an additional $100,000 per year over six years to recruit an Early Career Researcher under this program. Memorial's envelope for Impact+ Research Chairs: **$4M maximum dollar value per year**
Applicant eligibility	Only candidates who are internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) at the time of the first intake application deadline are eligible to apply. (NOTE: *It is the responsibility of the Faculty/School to obtain confirmation from the Provost that they have the ability to access a position*.)
Duration	Impact+ Research Chairs: Eight years, with a possibility for a four-year funded extension, at 50% of the original award value. Impact+ Emerging Leaders: Six years, with a possibility for a six-year funded extension, at the same yearly award value.
Competition budget	Impact+ Research Chairs: Approximately $1B (i.e., NSERC: up to $530M; CIHR: up to $340M; SSHRC: up to $198.5M.) Impact+ Emerging Leaders: up to $120M.
Results Announced	Intake one: June 2026 Intake two: September 2026
Canada Impact+ website	Canada Impact+ Research Chairs - Canada.ca

Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+) program

Introduction

The Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+) program is a one-time only initiative designed to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers whose work addresses critical national and global challenges. The program emphasizes both research excellence and tangible impact. Impact+ Chairs will receive long-term funding and institutional support to advance ambitious and transformative projects in Canada's strategic priority areas, build and maintain exceptional research teams, and collaborate with partners across sectors and borders. Impact+ Chairholders are expected to drive the translation of discoveries into applications, commercialization and social and economic benefits for Canada and the world, while also developing the next generation of highly qualified personnel.

Program Objectives

The Impact+ program is a tri-agency initiative of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The key objectives of the Impact+ program are to support institutions to:

- attract world-leading researchers to strengthen Canada's global competitiveness and innovation leadership;
- transform bold discoveries into innovative products, ideas, policies and solutions that benefit Canadians and the world;
- help Canada grow and sustain a critical mass of expertise in priority areas identified by the Government of Canada through the development of high-impact research teams, and;
- incentivize strategic partnerships across sectors, such as industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations, to accelerate the translation of research into practice and enhance long-term adoption and impact.

These objectives will guide the initial multidisciplinary review when awarding Chairs, as well as the subsequent external review of a potential funding extension of four additional years.

Strategic Priorities

Impact+ Chairs are awarded in strategic priority areas established by the Government of Canada to address pressing global and domestic challenges, strengthen Canada's contribution to international research and innovation, and generate lasting social and economic benefits.

Chairs are expected to build significant new partnerships and collaborations with both Canadian and international entities (industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations), as well as by and with Indigenous Peoples and communities, where appropriate.

A core expectation is that Chairs, and their research teams, will actively translate and mobilize research outcomes into practice, policy, and commercialization pathways that deliver measurable social and economic benefits for Canada and the world.

Applications must explain how the Chair will advance one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity);
- health, including biotechnology;
- clean technology and resource value chains;
- environment, climate resilience and the Arctic;
- food and water security;
- democratic and community resilience;
- manufacturing and advanced materials; and/or
- defence and dual-use technologies.

Knowledge mobilization, translation and commercialization

The Government of Canada values knowledge mobilization, translation and commercialization as critical pathways to ensuring research delivers tangible benefits at both national and global levels. Impact+ Chairs are expected to move beyond discovery to generate social, economic and policy impacts, working in close collaboration with partners across various sectors.

In their nomination package, institutions must show how research results could be shared and applied in practices, policies, products and/or services. High-level plans should identify end users and outline engagement mechanisms and potential partnerships, including with Indigenous communities, if applicable. Pathways for commercialization, intellectual property management, and expected benefits to Canada should be described. Institutions should also demonstrate how the Chair will train highly qualified personnel with skills to support these objectives.

Sustainability

The Impact+ program expects host institutions to contribute their own cash and/or in-kind resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Chair. While the Impact+ program does not require institutions to secure matching funds from external partners, a key program expectation is that institutions will support the program's knowledge translation objectives by leveraging additional contributions (cash and/or in-kind) through partnerships with the private and public sector, research institutions, academic institutions, and/or not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations, both in Canada and abroad.

Host institutions will also be expected to leverage additional resources through partners, other funders and other institutional initiatives to sustain the research advantages created by the Chairholder beyond the initial eight-year duration of the award, including

the retention of the Chairholder and support for knowledge translation, including commercialization (if applicable) of research.

The Chairholder's salary is an eligible cost for the Impact+ program. Nominating institutions are encouraged to pay their Chairholders using their own funds and count this towards their contributions to the Chairholder's research program.

Selection criteria

All applications submitted to the competition, regardless of award value and/or the career stage of the nominee, will be evaluated using the program's evaluation criteria:

1. Research/academic merit and leadership skills of the nominee
2. Quality of the institutional support
3. Quality of the research program
4. Potential contribution to the excellence of the Canadian and international research ecosystem
5. Potential for knowledge translation, mobilization and application of research results.

Infrastructure support request – CFI

Institutions awarded a Chair are eligible for infrastructure support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). The infrastructure may support the research program of Chairholders and, if applicable, early career researchers (ECRs) under Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders.

This is a distinct funding request that is separate from the budget for the Chair. Through the new Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund, the CFI will invest up to $400 million to support the infrastructure needs of the Chairholders and complementary ECRs (as applicable), including both capital and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs. The share of the costs for capital expenditures and O&M is left to the discretion of the applicants based on their needs; however, the maximum total project cost covered by the CFI is $6 million. The CFI reserves the right to limit the maximum amount requested by an institution to ensure funding is available for both intakes of chairs and ECRs.

Nominating institutions must submit the application for these infrastructure support requests directly to the CFI. Infrastructure requests must be submitted within three months of the Chairholder accepting the award. The CFI portion must be submitted via the CFI's awards management system (CAMS).

The CFI's Board of Directors is responsible for the funding decisions related to the requests for infrastructure support for successful Chair applications. Following its review process, the CFI will communicate the decisions directly to the nominating institutions.

Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+) program

Memorial University

Memorial is currently seeking proposals for areas of research from its academic units as a first step towards initiating external Canada Impact+ nominee searches. Please note that it is the responsibility of the Faculty/School to obtain confirmation from the Provost that they have the ability to access a position.

Institutional allocation

For this competition, Memorial's maximum dollar value per year is $4M per year for a total of $32M over 8 years. Based on this allocation, Memorial will be eligible to submit either:

- FOUR Impact+ Research Chair proposals at $1M per year (i.e., a total of $32M over 8 years), or
- EIGHT Impact+ Research Chair proposals at $500,000 per year (i.e., a total of $32M over 8 years), or
- Any combination of Impact+ Research Chair proposals that does not exceed Memorial's $4M maximum dollar value per year.

Canada Impact+ Strategic Priority Areas

Academic units are invited to submit proposals from a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities; natural sciences and engineering; and health and related sciences. Applications must explain how the Chair will advance one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity);
- health, including biotechnology;
- clean technology and resource value chains;
- environment, climate resilience and the Arctic;
- food and water security;
- democratic and community resilience;
- manufacturing and advanced materials; and/or
- defence and dual-use technologies.

Memorial's Research Priorities

In support of the Canada Impact+ Strategic priority areas, Memorial recently identified the following seven institutional research priorities based on our existing strengths and in keeping with our *Research Strategy 2023-28*:

- AI, quantum
- Critical Minerals
- Cybersecurity
- Democracy
- Health
- Oceans
- Security/Defense.

Submissions for this internal Call must propose a Canada Impact+ research program that aligns with one or more of the seven identified institutional research priorities. Please note that in keeping with the goals of Memorial's *Research Strategy 2023-28*, joint proposals from Faculties / Schools will be considered.

Proposal Format

All submitted proposals are to be a maximum of 2 pages in length, with margins of 1 inch around each page, and 12-point font with single line spacing. Proposals must conform to the following format:

1. An introduction including confirmation of the requested Chair type and award value, and an overview of the planned focus of the proposed Chair within the Canada Impact+ Strategic Priority Areas.

2. A brief description of how the proposed Chair will align with Memorial's *Research Strategy 2023-28*, the institutional strategic plan *Transforming Our Horizons*, and the strategic research plan (or equivalent) of the applicable Faculty/School/Campus.

3. A description of the academic unit's vision and plans for a successful Chair, including:
   a. the proposed research area, including the implementation of the highest EDI standards;
   b. existing research excellence to complement and support a Chair in the proposed research area,
   c. planned support (i.e., financial and non-financial) for the Chair;
   d. the opportunity to build significant research capacity in the proposed area;
   e. faculty/school and institutional expectations for research leadership;
   f. potential/perceived impact of the proposed Chair on Memorial's capacity for and international reputation in research;
   g. sustainability of the Chair after it ends.

4. A completed Approval Form is also required, and is included at the end of the Call.

Please note that any additional information provided beyond that requested above will not be considered during the internal assessment process.

Review Process

As per the outlined bullets in the ***Proposal Format*** section, each proposal received will be assessed by an internal Selection Committee, chaired by the Vice-President (Research). For those proposals selected, units will work with Memorial's Research Initiatives & Services (RIS) to search for an external nominee. Please note that job ads must be open for a minimum of 30 days prior to candidate selection, and the nominee must be identified for either the March 10, 2026, OR the June 15, 2026, registration deadline.

Recruitment

Nominees must be full professors or associate professors or, if recruited from outside the academic sector, must possess the necessary qualifications to be appointed at these levels. Once a successful nominee takes up their chairholder appointment, the host institution will be expected to appoint them as a full professor, or as an associate professor with a promotion to full professor within two years of starting their appointment.

Once the nominee has been identified, the unit and the nominee will work with RIS to complete the application that will be submitted to either the March 24, 2026, or the June 29, 2026 application deadline. Please note that nominees only become Canada Impact+ Chairholders once their application has been successfully awarded.

Deadline

All proposals are to be submitted via email to RIS (ris@mun.ca), and must be received by **5 pm (Newfoundland time) on January 14, 2026**. Results of this competition will be announced as soon as possible after the internal deadline has passed.

Contact

If you have any questions about this competition, please do not hesitate to contact RIS (ris@mun.ca)

Canada Impact+ Research Chairs Program
Proposal Approval Form

Project Title:

Academic Unit(s):

Intake Date:

We have prepared the attached proposal, and understand that if chosen by the internal Selection Committee, we will work with Memorial's Research Initiatives and Services (RIS) to conduct an open, external search for a nominee who is internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) at the time of the first intake application deadline. Once the nominee is confirmed, RIS will work with the nominee and the unit to complete and submit an application for the deadline date.

Signature of Department Head or designate Date

Signature of Dean or designate Date

Signature of Department Head or designate Date

Signature of Dean or designate Date