Fund Guide 2026-2027: The Cabot Martin Award for Research in Regional Policy and Development

Award Overview

Deadline: November 30, 2026
Amount: Up to $20,000
Timeframe: Up to one year, no extensions allowed
Eligibility: Memorial University faculty, staff, postdocs, and graduate students
Priority Areas: Any area of public policy, governance and regional development addressing challenges, opportunities, and knowledge gaps in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Special Notes: In addition to the project's final report, recipients must deliver a public Award Lecture about their project and its findings.

About Cabot Martin

Cabot Martin was a lawyer, public policy advisor, and one of Newfoundland and Labrador's (NL) most influential thinkers on natural resources, governance, and economic development. Born in Channel–Port aux Basques, he devoted much of his life to advancing policies that emphasized responsible stewardship of the province's natural resources, democratic accountability.

Martin studied geology at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Memorial), with an interest in the relationship between natural resources, public policy, and economic development. He later earned a law degree from Queen's University and pursued further studies in marine law at the University of Miami. His interdisciplinary background informed a career that bridged law, environmental governance, and resource management.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Martin served as a legal advisor to the provincial government and later as senior policy advisor to Premier Brian Peckford. He played a central role in shaping NL's position on offshore resource ownership and management during a pivotal period in the province's history. Martin was among the chief architects of the legal and policy arguments asserting NL's rights over offshore oil and gas resources and helped assemble an international team of experts to support the province's case. Martin was instrumental in the negotiations that led to the 1985 Atlantic Accord, which established joint federal-provincial management of offshore resources and secured royalty revenues for NL. His work helped lay the foundation for the modern offshore energy industry and reflected his enduring commitment to ensuring that the province's resources benefited its people.

His commitment to Newfoundland and Labrador's natural resources extended well beyond offshore oil and gas. Martin was deeply engaged in the future of the province's fisheries and coastal communities. In the early 1990s, he served as president of the Newfoundland Inshore Fisheries Association (NIFA), where he was at the forefront of advocacy and legal efforts to protect Northern Cod stocks and support inshore fishermen in the years leading up to the devastating 1992 Northern Cod moratorium.

Martin also played a key role in the development of Sea Forest Plantation Ltd., an aquaculture venture founded in Newfoundland in 1986 to pioneer Atlantic cod farming and grow-out techniques. He conceived a model in which cod caught in the local trap fishery could be grown to a larger market size and increased value by feeding them forage fish such as capelin. Following the 1992 Northern Cod moratorium and the resulting loss of wild small-fish supplies, Sea Forest Plantation evolved toward operating a dedicated cod hatchery and achieved commercial juvenile production by 1996. The venture reflected Martin's broader interest in finding innovative, sustainable approaches to the province's natural-resource economy.

Throughout his career, Martin applied his expertise across a wide range of public policy issues, including fisheries management, environmental assessment, rural development, and energy policy. He was widely respected for his intellectual rigour, analytical insight, and willingness to challenge prevailing assumptions. He warned early of the collapse of Northern Cod stocks, drew attention to environmental and geological risks associated with the Muskrat Falls project, and consistently advocated for transparent, evidence-based decision-making and meaningful public engagement.

Martin's interests and influence also extended beyond Newfoundland and Labrador. He was a key participant in the Laurentic Forum, an international gathering focused on the long-term sustainability and cooperation of North Atlantic coastal communities. The forum brought together perspectives from regions including Newfoundland and Labrador, Iceland, Norway, and Ireland to consider the shared challenges facing peripheral and coastal communities and to explore opportunities for cooperation and sustainable development.

Martin remained an active public commentator throughout his life, contributing essays and analysis on resource development, environmental governance, and economic policy. He authored two books, *No Fish and Our Lives: Some Survival Notes for Newfoundland* (1992) and *Muskrat Madness* (2014), and continued writing and publishing commentary until shortly before his death.
While Martin was known for his strong convictions and willingness to challenge established thinking, those who knew him also remembered the importance he placed on friendship, personal relationships, and the opinions of others. His values shaped not only his public work but also the way he engaged with colleagues, collaborators, and members of the broader community.

Remembered as principled, intellectually curious, and deeply committed to NL, Cabot Martin leaves a legacy of public service grounded in the belief that strong institutions, informed public debate, and responsible stewardship are essential to shaping the province's future.

About the Cabot Martin Award
The Cabot Martin Award for Research in Regional Policy and Development was established through generous donations from friends and family of Martin to honour the major impact he made in his home province. The award seeks to continue his life's work by supporting practical, applied research that helps build a bright future for NL, and is intended to span a wide compass, directed toward the governance and policy issues central to Martin's thinking, writings, and public commentary. It will be awarded annually to a student, faculty, or staff member of Memorial for applied research projects of modest scale. It may also be used to seed larger projects requiring supplementary funding from other sources.

The objective of the Cabot Martin Award for Research in Regional Policy and Development is to fund practical, applied research that responds to real-world problems, challenges, and knowledge gaps in Newfoundland and Labrador public policy.

About this Guide
This Guide contains the information you need to enter the 2026/2027 competition for the Cabot Martin Award for Research in Regional Policy and Development (the Award), administered by Memorial's Faculty of Humanities and Social Science (HSS). The Guide also contains information for the Award recipient (the Awardee). Please read this Guide carefully before preparing your application. If you have any questions about the Award, its purpose, or the application process, please contact your faculty's Grants Facilitation Officer (GFO).

The Faculty of HSS administers the Award on behalf of Memorial, through agreement with the donors for the Award. Any questions regarding the Award or its governance are the responsibility of the Faculty of HSS in consultation with Memorial's Office of Development & Alumni Engagement.

Applicant Eligibility

An Applicant must be:

- Memorial faculty members, including Adjunct Professors, Honorary Research Professors, Professors Emeriti, and teaching term appointments;
- Memorial staff;
- Postdoctoral fellows (honorary or employees); or
- Memorial graduate students (with a Memorial academic supervisor).

The Applicant must be affiliated with Memorial at the time of the application, and the Awardee must maintain a *continuous* Memorial affiliation for the duration of the Award.

If the Applicant is working with community partner organizations, you may include them in the proposal narrative to explain their role in the project.

Project Eligibility, Activities and Priorities

Eligible Topics and Research Priorities

The objective of the Cabot Martin Award is to fund practical, applied research that responds to real-world problems, challenges, and knowledge gaps in NL public policy. Public policy is defined broadly for this fund, and includes:

- health
- society
- economics
- education
- climate change
- regional development
- manufacturing and
- the environment
- cultural heritage

Projects related to Indigenous communities within the above categories of public policy are also welcome. Please consult Indigenous Research at Memorial for information and resources that focus on research with, by, and for Indigenous peoples that emphasizes engagement based on understanding and respect.

To be competitive, the proposal must clearly demonstrate how the project aligns with the objective of the Award and how it can assist in an applied way policy and decision-makers in addressing regional economic and social issues. Details regarding how the proposals will be assessed are outlined below.

Seed Activities for Larger Projects

If the Award activities will be used to seed larger projects which might require supplementary funding from other sources, please distinguish activities and costs that will be covered by this Award and those supported by other funding opportunities. Explain in detail the plan for securing those funds and/or confirmation that the funds have been secured (and the sources) and, if applicable, how the Award activities and funding will catalyze and increase chances of success for future grant applications.

Knowledge Mobilization

Knowledge Mobilization (KM) describes processes that build communication between researchers and the broader public and specific academic and non-academic audiences or groups, providing avenues to share knowledge for the betterment of society. For the Award, emphasis is on precise articulation of public-policy solutions and knowledge that can be readily applied within the focus-area of the project through public engagement activities.

In designing the KM plan, the following questions are useful to consider:

- Who is/are the non-academic audience(s) for this research?
- What is the best way to reach them?
- What will I do to ensure that my research results are available to those who can use them in their day-to-day work?

The Award Lecture and Final Report are a mandatory part of your KM plan and both must be made free and publicly available.

The Award Lecture
The public Award Lecture is a requirement of accepting the Award, as it is integral to the intent of the donors. The Award Lecture must be held within three months following the end date of the Award.

The free event should be publicized widely so that the audience consists of a healthy variety of populations from the public; hosting an academic event designed for researchers and specialists does not satisfy the intent of the Award.

Budget Guidelines

Eligible Costs
Applicants must provide a detailed project budget up to $18,000 in direct research costs and up to $2,000 for costs associated with the required Award Lecture. All budget amendments must be approved by HSS.

All direct costs of research consistent with the Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration and this Cabot Martin Award Guide are eligible, excepting those noted as ineligible below. The following activities, for example, are considered direct costs of research:

- Undergraduate or graduate student Research Assistant (RA) wages are eligible for faculty, postdoc, and staff Applicants
- Relationship building costs
- Travel costs for consultation meetings or field work
- Honoraria for research participants, Indigenous elders and community knowledge keepers
- Travel within the province for research activities
- Article Processing Charges (APC) for open access publications, as long as the costs are explained in the Budget Justification and take into account any discounts that might be available from MUN libraries, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, etc.
- Equipment, tools, instruments, external services, and software must be well-justified and central to the research endeavour. All equipment will belong to Memorial after the project is completed
- Outreach and other community knowledge mobilization events that may return results to communities

Ineligible Costs

- Travel, fees, accommodation, and any associated costs for academic conferences
- Payment of overhead or administrative costs to external organizations
- Cost recovery or replacement salaries for employees of external organizations
- Student stipends or fellowships
- Undergraduate or graduate student Research Assistant (RA) wages are *not* permitted for student Applicants
- Salaries or other compensation for Memorial faculty and staff, including postdoctoral fellows and contractual or sessional instructors
- Award Lecture funds cannot be used for the direct costs of research.

Application Process

All applications consist of a single PDF containing all components (listed below) submitted through, and approved in, Memorial's ROMEO Researcher Portal (RP) system by the deadline. See RP submission details below.

Applicants are responsible for:

- understanding and following their unit/department's internal application processes and requirements;
- ensuring their applications are submitted in accordance with any internal review and approval deadlines set by their home academic units.

They are encouraged to consult with their Grant Facilitation Officer if they have any questions regarding internal unit-level deadlines, requirements, or submission processes.

Application Components

A complete application consists of a single .pdf file, in English, containing the following, labelled, sections:

1. **Applicant Information**:
    a. Applicant name, Memorial email, department/faculty, and role/position at Memorial, including dates, if applicable
    b. For graduate student Applicants, their degree program and the contact information of their primary supervisor and the supervisor's Memorial affiliation
2. **Project abstract** (250 words)
3. **Scope and objective(s)** of the project (500 words)
4. **Relevance and practical importance** of your project to NL public policy and/or regional development issue(s) (500 words)
5. **Scholarly context** and literature review (400 words)
6. **Theoretical approach** (400 words)
7. **Methodological approach**, including research plans, activities, and timelines within a maximum of 1-year (800 words)
8. **Knowledge Mobilization plans**, including brief outline of the Award Lecture approximately 3 months after end of project, and Final Report approximately 6 months after end of project (400 words)
9. **Applicant's competencies** and relevant experience (500 words)
10. **Budget Justification** (1 page, $20,000 maximum budget) separating direct costs from the Award Lecture budget:
    a. $18,000 direct research costs breakdown
    b. $2,000 Award Lecture breakdown
    c. If this project is part of a larger research project, the Award activities and costs must be clearly distinguished from other funding sources, current or potential. There can be no duplication of costs. A table would be useful.
    d. If applicable, list other sources of funding for any of the proposal's research activities and/or dissemination activities
11. **List of References** or works cited, maximum 5 pages
12. **Applicant CV**, any format, maximum 6 pages

*Note that other relevant documentation or appendices are *not* permitted

Submission through ROMEO

All application materials must be submitted through Memorial's ROMEO Researcher Portal (RP) system. *Check with your unit to see if there are earlier internal unit deadlines*. If you do not yet have a Researcher Portal account, you must first request one here.

We strongly suggest starting the submission process as soon as possible to familiarize yourself with the system and ensure you can meet the application deadline. The ROMEO system allows you to save your progress and return to your file. Once you complete all the ROMEO fields, you must upload the complete Application, and press submit by your unit's internal deadline. Pressing "submit" sends your file to your

unit's approver(s). Most units have Grants Facilitation Officers (GFOs) who will review and can guide, if needed. If changes are required, the GFO or RIS can return the RP file to you.

Assessment Criteria

The application will be scored using the following criteria:

- **Relevance to Newfoundland and Labrador (35%):** How the proposed project addresses policy or development needs that respond to and impact real-world problems, challenges, and knowledge gaps in NL public policy by means of practical, applied research.
- **Methodology and Organization (25%):** How the Applicant proposes to carry out the work, accomplish its objectives, and the appropriateness of the requested budget.
- **Knowledge Mobilization (15%):** How the Applicant will exchange this information with the community and stakeholders and how this research will be put into action in NL.
- **Capacity (25%):** The Applicant's relevant experience, scholarly expertise, and research excellence relative to the stage of their career as demonstration of their ability to successfully carry out the proposed project as described in the timelines allotted.

Results
All applicants will receive the competition results approximately six weeks after the submission deadline.

Notification of Award and Award Details

A Notice of Award package will be sent to the Awardee outlining the total awarded amount, timelines, obligations, and terms of award. The Awardee must sign and return the Notice of Award via the ROMEO Researcher Portal using an RIS Agreement Event as part of the formal acceptance of the Award. Upon receipt of the Event, the funding will be transferred into a new research account to be administered by your unit. For graduate student Awardees, the primary supervisor will act as the account holder in trust.

The project *must* be completed within 12 months of the notification date of the Award. The specific project start and end dates, Award Lecture date, and final report submission date, will be determined in consultation with the Awardee.

Awarded projects are required to:

- deliver a public Award Lecture approximately 3 months after the end date, in consultation with the Faculty of HSS
- submit a Final Report to HSS approximately 6 months after the end date, to be placed on the public record and made publicly available by Memorial (with consideration for intellectual property rights).

Administration of Funds
A Memorial research account will be established through Research Initiatives and Services (RIS) and Financial and Administrative Services (FAS) (Research Accounting) and administered through the researchers' unit in accordance with Memorial's research policies.

No direct costs may be incurred following the end date of the Award. Costs pertaining to the Award Lecture can be incurred up to six months past the end date. Deviations to the original budget for both the direct costs of research and the Award Lecture must be approved by HSS. All research travel must follow Memorial's travel rates, policies and procedures.

Extensions are not allowed except under exceptional and documented circumstances and as approved by HSS.

Should any of the Award funding for direct costs of research or for the Award Lecture remain after the Award end date or after the Award Lecture, they must be returned to the Cabot Martin Fund and cannot be used by the Awardee for any other purpose.

Intellectual Property
Intellectual property rights are retained by the Awardee in accordance with Memorial University's IP policy. For Awardees who are Memorial staff, the University regards the outcomes and research produced by the Award as explicitly intellectual property of the Awardee as if they had academic standing for the purposes of

the research. Technology transfer and monetization of research outcomes must follow Memorial's established norms and should go through the Research Innovation Office.

Required research clearances

All applications must adhere to the Tri-Agency Research Ethics Board and the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2022) as well as Memorial's Research Involving Indigenous Groups policy. Applicable clearance(s) (e.g., animal care/ethics, ICEHR or HREB/biosafety) can either accompany the application submission or be forwarded upon notification of award. Contact Memorial's Research Integrity and Ethics office with questions or to begin an ethics application. A partial release of funds is possible for those activities that do not require clearance; once the clearance has been obtained, the remaining funds will be deposited.

Questions and Contact Information

For questions about the Award or the application process, feel free to contact the Faculty of HSS Grants Facilitation Officers or Associate Dean (Research).