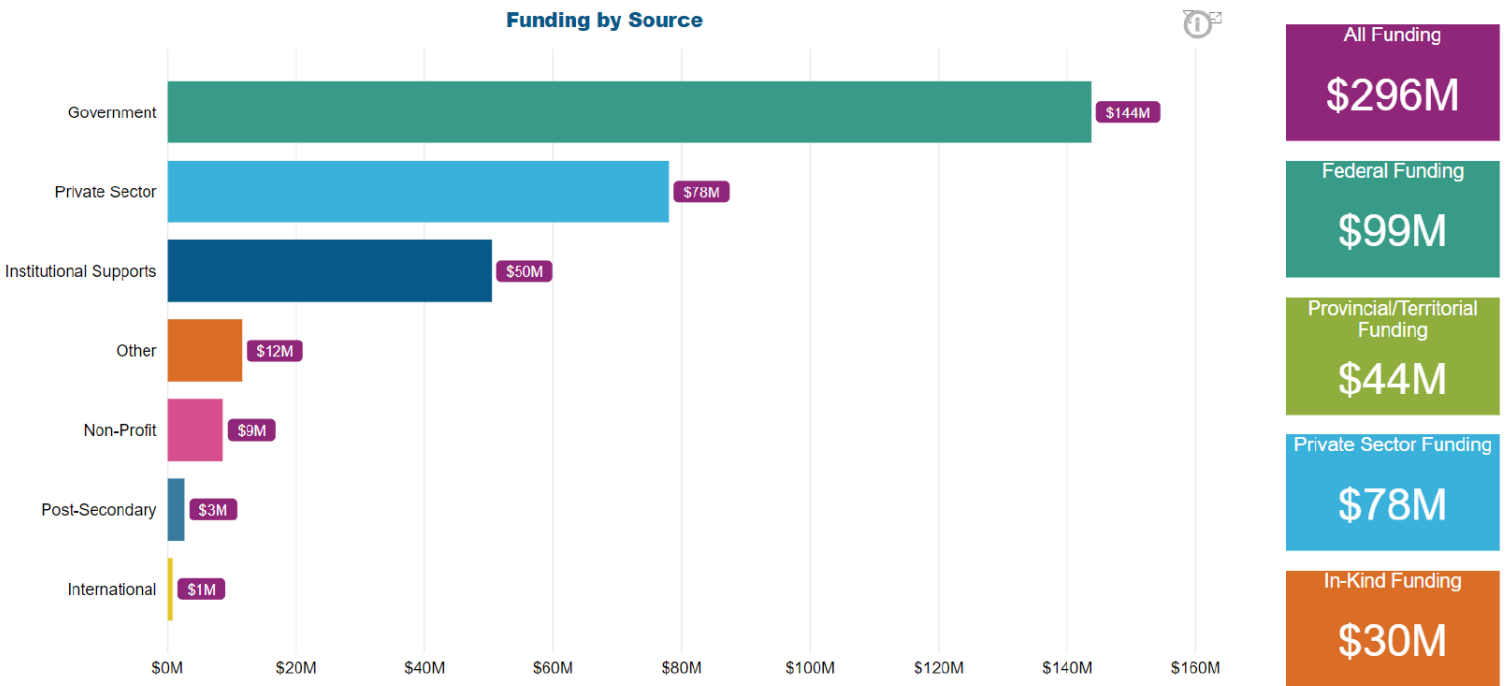


The federal research funding environment in Canada

In Canada, research is funded either publicly (by various levels of government) or privately (by industry or not-for profit groups). In 2017 – 2018, Canadian Colleges and Research Institutes received over **\$296 million** to fund their applied research projects. Over \$144 million of that came from the government¹ (figure 1).



¹ Figure 1: 2017 – 2018 Applied Research Funding in Canada, by source. (Colleges and Institutes Canada, 2019)

¹ Colleges and Institutes Canada. *CICan's 2017-2018 applied research survey* (2019). Accessed 2020-08-15 from <https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/arsurvey/>




Federal government research money is available through various funding agencies, the largest being the Tri-Council. The tri-council agencies are the **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)**, the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**, and the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**.

The Research CA\$H workshop series will prepare you to submit a funding proposal to any of the tri-council funding agencies in Canada.

Q: Who pays for research in Canada?

A: Most research funding comes from the **federal government** (public tax dollars). A small amount comes from the territorial/provincial government. The rest comes from industry, post-secondary institutions, or not-for-profit organizations.

Table 1: Research area and intended outcomes for each Tri-Council agency

Tri-Council Funding Agency	Research Area	Intended Outcomes/Objectives
 NSERC CRSNG Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council	Natural sciences and engineering	Research must advance knowledge in either natural sciences or engineering ²
 SSHRC CRSH Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	Social science and humanities	Research must try and help us understand how individuals, groups, and societies work ³
 CIHR IRSC Canadian Institutes of Health Research	Health sciences	Research must impact or improve on individuals' health, health services, or the Canadian health care system ⁴

² *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada*. Accessed 2020-18-15 from https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp

³ *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*. Accessed 2020-08-15 from <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

⁴ *Canadian Institutes of Health Research*. Accessed 2020-08-15 from <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html>

Tri-Council Funding Programs

In addition to their own mandates, the Tri-Council agencies support other major research funding programs: the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program, the Research Support Fund (RSF), and the College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program.

Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program

The CRC Program aims to attract top scientists across the world to work and conduct research in Canada by creating highly funded research professorships in institutions across Canada.

For more information: <https://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

Research Support Fund (RSF)

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian post-secondary institutions with the in-direct costs of research. Indirect costs include things such as maintenance of labs and equipment, research management and administrative support, maintaining regulatory or ethical standards, and knowledge transfer. Only institutions that have previously received tri-council funding are eligible for the RSF program.

For more information: <https://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>

College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program

The CCI Program is designed to support collaboration between colleges and institutions and small and medium sized enterprises, larger companies, public policy makers, and other sectors.

For more Information: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/professors-professeurs/rpp-pp/info-info_eng.asp

Q: What is the Tri-Council and what kind of research do they fund?

A: The Tri-Council is made up of three research funding agencies: the **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)**, the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**, and the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**:

- NSERC funds research in the natural sciences and engineering field;
- SSHRC funds social science and humanities research; and
- CIHR funds research related to health, health services, and the Canadian health care system.

Together the Tri-Council agencies administer 3 joint programs:

- The Canada Research Chair (CRC) Program
- The Research Support Fund (RSF) Program
- The College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program

The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

In addition to the Tri-Council agencies and program, the government of Canada established the Canadian Foundation for Innovation in 1997 to make large investments into Canadian science by funding state of the art research infrastructure.

The goal of CFI is to increase Canada's capability to carry out important world-class scientific research and technology development. CFI provides funding for Canadian researchers to acquire the cutting-edge labs, facilities and equipment needed across all disciplines.

For more information: <https://www.innovation.ca/>

Other Federal Funding Sources

Other federal departments can sometimes help provide funding for research projects that match their departmental priorities. Some examples of federal agencies that have funded projects in the NWT include:

- The Agricultural Clean Technology Program through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- The Program of Energy Research and Development through or Oil and Gas Clean Technology Program through Natural Resources Canada
- The Northern Contaminants Program, Nutrition North Canada, or Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- The Increasing Knowledge on Plastic Pollution Initiative or Great Lakes Protection Initiative through Environment Canada
- The Coastal Restoration Fund through Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- The CubeSAT program through Canadian Space Agency

To find out more about federally funded research opportunities, you can visit the website of the specific department or visit the Government of Canada Research Funding and award page:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/science/researchfunding.html>



What type of grants are available through the Tri-Council agencies?

Federal research funding can be used to support ongoing research through standard grants, to develop and maintain partnerships with industry through partnerships grants, to share information through knowledge mobilization grants, or to support research through the purchase of research equipment. Examples of each type of grant are shown below.

Standard Operations	Partnerships	Knowledge Mobilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports ongoing programs of research • Long term objectives • Open to all disciplines • <i>Examples: Discovery Grant, Operating Grant, Insight Grant</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to specific problems from non-academic partners • Short-term objectives with goal of long-term collaboration • <i>Examples: Innovation Links Grant, Partnership Engage Grant</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing research to knowledge users • Short-term objectives • Commercialization, knowledge translation, knowledge mobilization • <i>Example: Connections Grant</i>
<h3>Research Equipment</h3>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the purchase of specialized research and / or laboratory equipment necessary to undertake research and innovation • <i>Examples: Applied Research Tools and Instruments Grant, Innovation Fund</i> 		

Q: What kinds of grants are available through the Tri-Council agencies?

A: Different Tri-Council grants are available for:

- Supporting long term research projects
- Developing and maintaining partnerships
- Sharing information / knowledge mobilization
- Purchase of research equipment

How do I receive Tri-Council funding for research?

If you would like to receive funding from the Tri-Council, you will need to be **affiliated with an eligible Canadian institution**. Being 'affiliated' with a research institution means that you, as an individual, officially partner with the institution to do your work; you do not need to be employed by the institution. The partnership is beneficial to both you as a researcher, and the institution.

Benefits of being affiliated with an eligible research institution include:

- Access to laboratories, field equipment, and research support office
- Access to information about upcoming funding and grant opportunities and deadlines
- Ability to apply for tri-council research funding (funds will be administered by the host institution)
- Opportunities for collaboration and networking
- Administrative support for new projects and proposal development
- The opportunity for research to be featured on institution website, social media, and other promotional materials

For more information about the Research Associate Program at Aurora College:

<https://www.auroracollege.nt.ca/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/I07-Research-Associate-Program-July-2018.pdf>



Tri-Council eligible institutions

In the Northwest Territories, we already have a handful of institutions that are eligible for Tri-Council funding. More may become eligible in the future. Below you can find a list of eligible NWT institutions (*Table 3*).

Table 3: Tri-Council Eligible Institutions in Canada & Northwest Territories

Council	List of Eligible Canadian Institutions	NWT eligible institutions
NSERC	https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/listeligibleinstitutions-listetablisementsadmissible_eng.asp	Aurora College
SSHRC	https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/statements-enonces/list_eligible_institutions-liste_etablisements-admissibles-eng.aspx	Aurora College Dechinta Center for Research and Learning Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
CIHR	https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html	Institute for Circumpolar Health Research



How to find out about research funding opportunities

If you are already part of a university or college, the simplest option is to connect with the research services office. They maintain a database of current funding opportunities and often send out newsletters to faculty, staff, and research associates advertising available grants. You can also check out their websites, as many have an up-to-date list of available funding opportunities.

Aurora College: Please email research@auroracollege.nt.ca for more information.

Yukon University: <https://www.yukonu.ca/research/how-we-work/funding>

University of Alberta: <https://www.ualberta.ca/research-services-office/funding-opportunities/index.html>

To receive funding opportunities by e-mail, you can subscribe to each of the tri-council agencies e-mailing lists.

NSERC: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Contact-Contact_eng.asp

SSHRC: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/dialogue-eng.aspx

CIHR: e-mail access-acces@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

In addition to e-mail notification, follow the tri-council agencies on social media (Facebook and twitter) to learn of upcoming funding opportunities as they are announced. Other accounts to follow include: the Canadian Association Research Administrators (CARA)



Canadian Institutes of Health Research ✓

Government Organization

Ottawa, ON, Canada



NSERC / CRSNG

Page

350 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 1H5
32 people checked in here



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada...

Page

350 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P 6G4
30 people checked in here



Canadian Association of Research Admn - CARA/ACAAR

@cara_acaar

CARA is a national voice for research Administrators in Canada.
L'ACAAR est une voix nationale pour les administrateurs de la recherche au Canada.

cara-acaar.ca/home Joined May 2011

789 Following 1,115 Followers

Followed by The Conversation Canada, RESEARCH Money, and 5 others you follow

Q: How do I find out what research funding is available?

A: Connect with the research services office at your home institution, subscribe to the mailing list of NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR, and follow the Tri-Council agencies on social media.

Federal Research Funding in Canada



The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

INNOVATION.CA
CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION | FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR L'INNOVATION

Provides funds for **research infrastructure** (cutting-edge laboratories, facilities, instrumentation, and equipment) across all disciplines to allow Canadian's to carry out world-class scientific research

Other Federal Agencies

Support research **specific to their individual mandate** through rigorous research funding competitions

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agricultural Clean Technology Program
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Coastal Restoration Fund
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
Increasing Knowledge on Plastic Pollution Initiative
- Natural Resources Canada
Program of Energy Research and Development