

News Release

For Immediate Release

Michael McLeod highlights four recipients of new Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants in the Northwest Territories

Grants will support projects to identify new ways of doing research with Indigenous communities

January 17, 2019 – Yellowknife, NWT – Government of Canada

The Government of Canada is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples—one based on the recognition of rights, respect, collaboration and partnership. When we recognize Indigenous rights and traditional knowledge, we are helping close the gaps in social, health, environmental and economic outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Today, Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for NWT, on behalf of the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport, highlighted four recipients given grants for projects to identify new ways of doing research with Indigenous communities. This announcement of the first round of Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants demonstrates the Government's commitment to supporting interdisciplinary Indigenous research that helps advance our understanding of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Michael McLeod congratulates grant recipients at Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning (3 grants/ \$150,000 total), Aurora College, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (1 grant/ \$50,000 each). These institutions are some of the several institutions across Canada to benefit from the [investment Minister Duncan announced on January 14, 2019](#).

Quotes

"These grants are designed to support community gatherings, workshops and activities that make use of traditional ways and encourage dialogue and knowledge sharing. What is learned will then be shared at a national dialogue later this year. We need sound research to make sound policy choices and incorporating and sharing traditional knowledge also keeps us moving forward on the path of reconciliation."

– Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories

"Dechinta is excited to begin our work with our partners from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in the areas of artistic and creative practice, storytelling and solidarity, and we are looking forward to assisting SSHRC in strengthening its capacity to work with Indigenous communities and our brilliant Indigenous community-based researchers.

This is an important opportunity for Indigenous organizations to lead and control critical research that is important to Indigenous communities. Dechinta is excited to be deepening our relationships with local partnerships, while creating new national and international collaborations that support Indigenous self-determination and building northern research capacity.

These grants can lead to long term capacity building and support Indigenous communities to control and direct their own research in critical fields such as Indigenous language and governance."

– Dr. Glen Coulthard, Dr. Leanne Simpson and Dr. Kelsey Wrightson, Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning.

“As a result of this new funding initiative, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and Joint Secretariat (JS) will co-host a regional Inuvialuit Research Self-Determination Workshop this year to build research capacity in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR), as per Section 14 of our Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA, 1984). By utilizing our existing resources and the best available knowledge in science and traditional knowledge, we can improve the environmental, social, economic, cultural and health outcomes of Inuvialuit through evidence-based decision making and policy development.

By working together to create an Inuvialuit Research Agenda that supports and feeds into Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami’s (ITK’s) National Inuit Strategy on Research (NISR, 2018), we are increasing regional self-determination and contributing to reconciliation with Canada,”

- Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Chair and CEO of IRC

“The knowledge gained through participation in this project will provide students with valuable skillsets that they can carry into their careers or future studies. The balance of Indigenous and Western research methodologies will facilitate the repatriation of Indigenous knowledge and further reconciliation efforts in northern post-secondary education.”

- Jeff O’Keefe, Interim President, Aurora College

“First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada have been kept on the sidelines of Canadian research too long. That’s why we are working to ensure that Canada’s research funding and policies benefit everyone, including Indigenous peoples, as full participants. Our government understands the value of Indigenous research and respects all the dimensions of knowledge about the connections between people, places and the natural environment.”

– The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport

“We were extremely pleased to see incredible interest in this new initiative as demonstrated by the high quantity and quality of grant proposals from Indigenous organizations and researchers. The federal granting agencies are proud to be at the forefront of the mission to increase the capacity of Indigenous communities to conduct research and partner with the broader research enterprise.”

–Ted Hewitt, Chair of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee and President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Quick facts

- The new Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants were open to researchers at Indigenous and non-Indigenous not-for-profit organizations and at post-secondary institutions.
- The grants are designed to support the [Canada Research Coordinating Committee](#)’s resolve to drive a national dialogue to co-develop—with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities—an interdisciplinary, Indigenous training model that contributes to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
- The [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#) (SSHRC) is administering this initiative in collaboration with the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#) and the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#).
- Over the past year, SSHRC has been engaging with Indigenous organizations and researchers at roundtables, at workshops and online.
- These grants support the engagement activities of those Indigenous organizations and the development of position papers that will be shared at a national dialogue event in spring 2019.

Associated links

- [Recipients of Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation—Connection Grants](#)
- [Canada’s Science Vision](#)

Follow Canada's three granting agencies on Twitter: [@CIHR_IRSC](#), [@NSERC_CRSNG](#), [@SSHRC_CRSH](#)

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