

The Special Meeting of Environment Faculty Council, May 31st, 2024

**Rob de Loë
Associate Dean, Research**

Research Activities

Reporting Period: April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024

Purpose

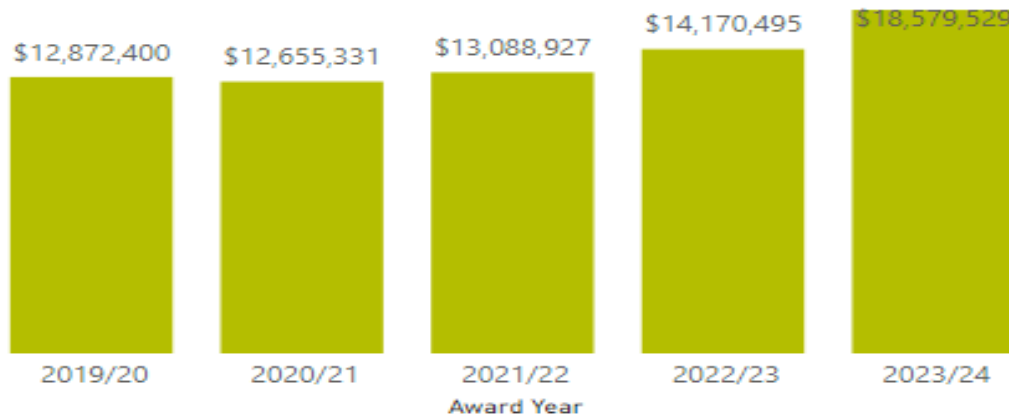
The activities of the Associate Dean Research (ADR), including the ADR’s office, are directed towards advancing and supporting research in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. This report offers an overview of the research funding that was secured by professors in the Faculty of Environment during the award reporting period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Some highlights from the past year and an overview of the key research activities of the ADR and ADR’s office are also mentioned.

Faculty Research Funding

The number of proposals submitted during the reporting period is 187, which indicates an increase of 39 proposals. Per capita, this averages 1.97 submissions per research-stream faculty member. Per capita, the 95 Faculty of Environment professors (based on Assistant, Associate and Full Professors, but not Lecturers) were awarded an average of \$195,574 for the reporting period.

Research funding is critical for supporting our research costs, graduate students, and infrastructure needs, and continues to increase over the last 3 fiscal years. Total funding for 2023/24 was \$18,579,529, which shows an increase of \$4,409,034 compared to the previous year, 2022/23) - **(Figure 1)**.

Figure 1: Faculty of Environment Overall Funding (Last Five Years)



Funding sources were diverse, with the Federal and Tri-Agencies comprising the largest source. The total for the period was \$18,579,529, broken down as follows:

- Federal, excluding Tri-Agency: \$8,998,540
- Tri-Agency: \$4,806,716
- Provincial: \$613,505
- Industry: \$774,470
- Non-Profit & Other (e.g., NGOs, local government, NCE, MITACs, other universities): \$3,386,298.

The proportion of funding in 2023/24 derived from Federal government and Tri-Agency sources was larger than in the previous four years (**Figures 2 & 3**). This growth is derived from success in winning funds from programs such as the NFRF-International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (Brent Doberstein \$1.5m); Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)-Climate Change Adaptation Program 2023 (Sarah Burch \$0.9m).

Figure 2: Funding by Source Type (Last Five Years)

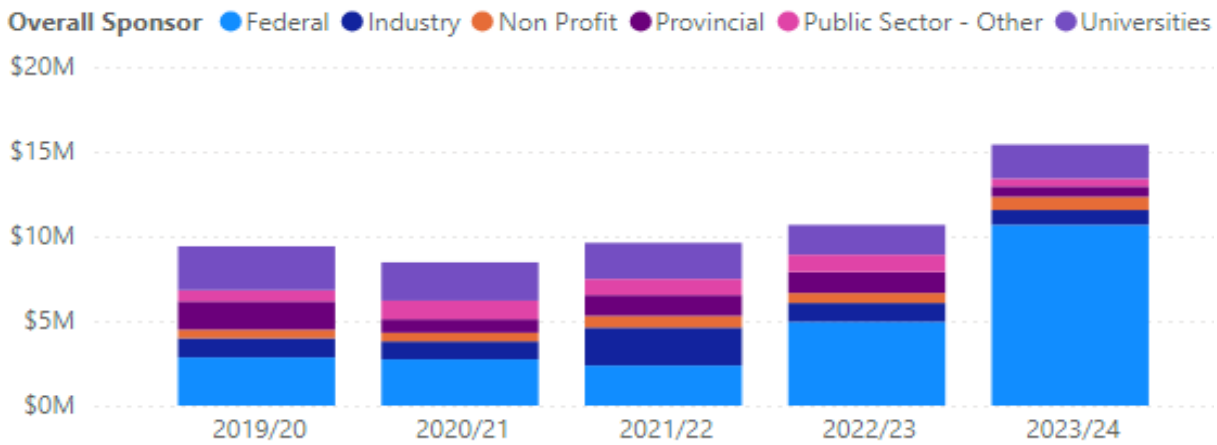
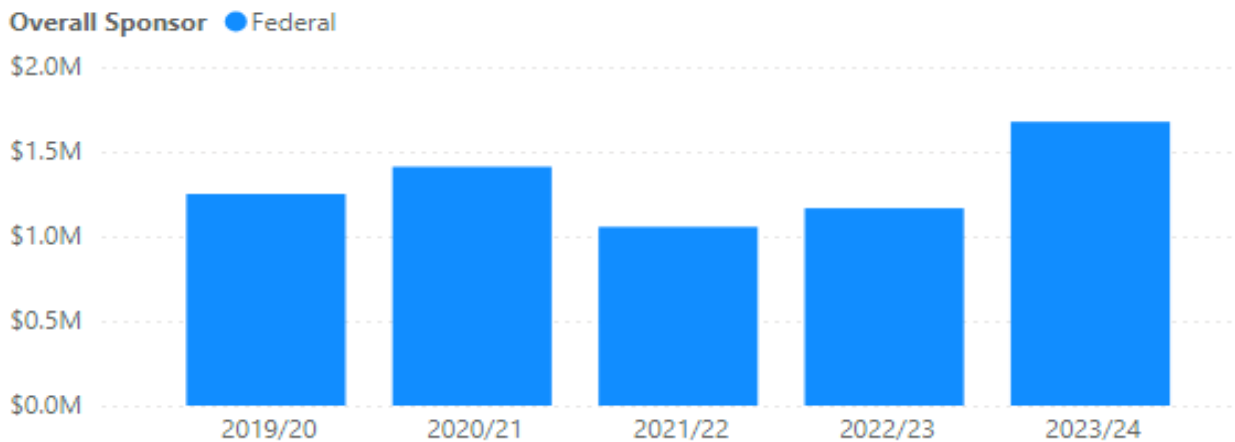


Figure 3: Federal Tri-Agency Funds (Last Five Years)



Selected Funding highlights

Currently, there are seven Canada Research Chairs (Sarah Burch, Jennifer Clapp, Juan Moreno-Cruz, Christine Dow, Kelsey Leonard, Michelle Ruddy, Maria Strack), and four University Research Chairs (Dustin Garrick, Susan Elliott, Daniel Scott, and Simron Singh) in the Faculty of Environment. We also have one University Professor (Jennifer Clapp). Two recruitment processes to identify a total of three Tier 1 CRCs focused on women and gender minorities were completed or launched during the year. Two faculty members became Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, Jonathan Li and Daniel Scott.

Faculty of Environment researchers are applying for and winning major grants from the Tri-Councils, governments, non-government organizations and industry. Space does not permit identifying all successful projects and project leaders. Therefore, only selected major examples are noted here:

- As noted previously, several faculty-led multi-million-dollar projects secured funding from federal government agencies. Many other Faculty of Environment researchers are involved in these projects as co-investigators.
- During the reporting period, ENV faculty members led large projects that secured funds from a host of government and non-government sources, including the Tri-Councils, provincial and federal government agencies, and international governments and organizations.
- We have had continued success in major individual Tri-Council Awards with new funding being granted across NSERC and SSHRC base funding programs (Discovery Grants for NSERC, and Insight and Insight Development grants for SSHRC).

Progress on the Faculty of Environment's Environment 2035 Change Initiative

During the reporting period the Dean launched Environment 2035, a change initiative designed to position the Faculty of Environment to meet future challenges and take advantage of opportunities. Rob de Loë led Team 3, which focused on research priorities. Members of Team 3 identified Environment's core strengths and future priorities, and organized consultation processes to identify research priorities. Core areas of strength include climate change, natural resources and the environment, cities of the future, and sustainable transitions.

Research Centres and Institutes

Research-focused centres and institutes are important vehicles for focusing research capacity, strengthening cross-campus collaboration, and building our interdisciplinary strength. The Faculty of Environment *leads* key University of Waterloo centres and institutes, including the Waterloo Climate Institute, the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, and the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Aeronautics. At the same time, Faculty of Environment researchers are key participants and leaders in major research centres and institutes such as the Water Institute and the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy (WISE). Environment faculty have also created research groups that, while not Senate-approved, are foci for research collaboration. Examples include the Environmental Change and Governance Group, the Waterloo Food Issues Group, Geographies of Health in Place, and the Canadian Cryospheric Information Network/Polar Data Catalogue.

Key Activities of the Associate Dean of Research (ADR) and the Faculty Research & Awards Officer (FRAO)

Some of the main activities of the ADR and FRAO are briefly described below:

Review and Process Electronic Coversheet: The FRAO continues to support researchers, assisting with the EC requirements and process flow to ensure continued efficiency, while adhering to the University's guidelines and policies.

Support and approve research grant applications: The ADR and the FRAO ensure research proposals are compliant with respect to academic content and financial budgeting. All applications and funding received are tracked in a database. The FRAO supports proposal submissions by faculty members and facilitates discussions with the Office of Research when necessary. Requests for in-kind or cash support for proposals, and related letters of support, are also handled by the FRAO and the ADR.

Support for the Research Proposal Process: The FRAO supports the research proposal process by providing information to researchers about new funding opportunities through weekly notices. The FRAO serves as the key contact for all faculty members, responding to research-related questions, and facilitating the research process between the Office of Research and the Faculty. The FRAO also manages the Research Funding section on the Faculty's webpage, ensuring guidelines and procedures, research related information, forms, and relevant web links are always up to date. In addition, the FRAO tracks and maintains several research related data spreadsheets to enable monitoring and reporting.

New formalized WAC Responsibilities: The FRAO attends the Waterloo Awards Committee (WAC) monthly meetings, prepares, and presents monthly/ongoing updates re: Env's successful awards and potential nominees. The FRAO Maintains a data base of up-to-date CVs from faculty members, and ensures that Env's researchers are aware of awards announcements provided by the Waterloo Awards Committee

Representation on University governance committees: The ADR represents the Faculty of Environment on the Associate Deans-Research Council, the Senate Graduate and Research Council, the Research Leaders Council, the Research Operations Committee, and the REDI Council. The FRAO is the staff representative on the University's Waterloo Awards Committee (WAC).

Representation on the Faculty of Environment governance committees: The ADR participates in the Faculty Council, the Faculty's Administrative Committee, and the Faculty Leadership Information Exchange. In the last fiscal year, the ADR also chaired the FACA process for the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) nomination and served on the Ad Hoc EDI-J Committee.

Acknowledgements

The ADR would like to thank Sandra Ramautarsingh, the Faculty Research & Awards Officer, who continues to provide valuable and excellent administrative and communication support to the ADR and all Faculty of Environment faculty members. The ADR would also like to acknowledge all professors and other researchers in the Faculty of Environment and thank them for another successful year. Their ongoing efforts enable the Faculty to engage in impactful research, support meaningful sustainability progress and strengthen the Faculty's overall performance.

Sincere appreciation is also extended to those who have participated in research-related committees. These include Merrin Macrae, Andrea Collins, and our staff representative, Sandra Ramautarsingh who serves on the University's Waterloo Awards Committee (WAC). Also included are those who served on ad hoc committees for CFI, CFREF, CERC, etc.