

The Special Meeting of Environment Faculty Council, May 29th, 2024

Report on Research Activities Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025

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Associate Dean, Research

Purpose

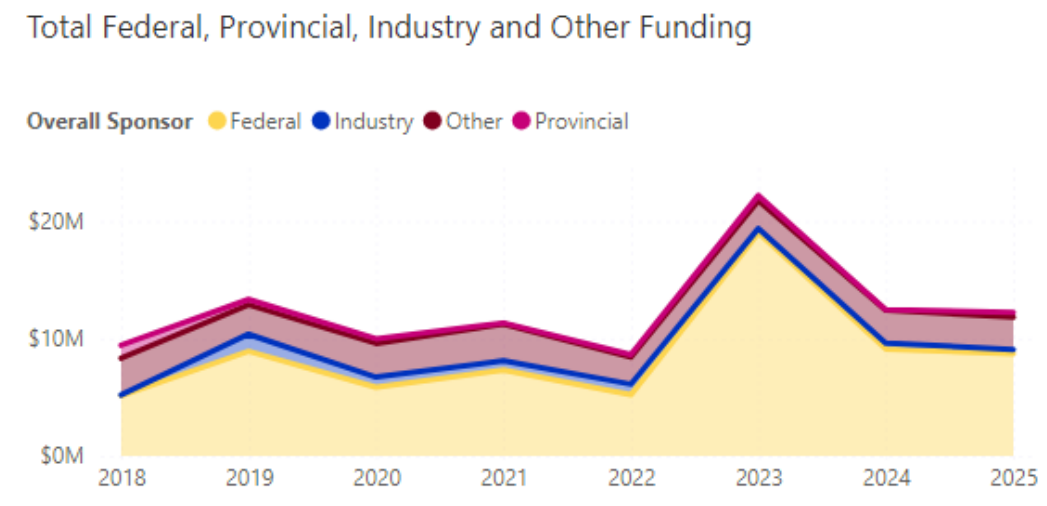
The activities of the Associate Dean Research (ADR), including the ADR's office, are directed towards advancing and supporting research in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. This report offers an overview of the research funding that was secured by professors in the Faculty of 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 172, of which 80 have been successfully awarded, and 40 are still pending notification or under review. Per capita, this averages 1.97 submissions and \$140,424 per research-stream faculty member over the reporting period.

Research funding is critical for supporting our research costs, graduate students, and infrastructure needs. Total funding for 2024/25 was \$12,216,960, consistent with the average amount of research funding the faculty of Environment has been awarded over the past seven years. (Figure 1). This is remarkable when we consider staffing constraints that have become more prevalent over the past year.

Figure 1: Faculty of Environment Total Yearly Funding by Source Type



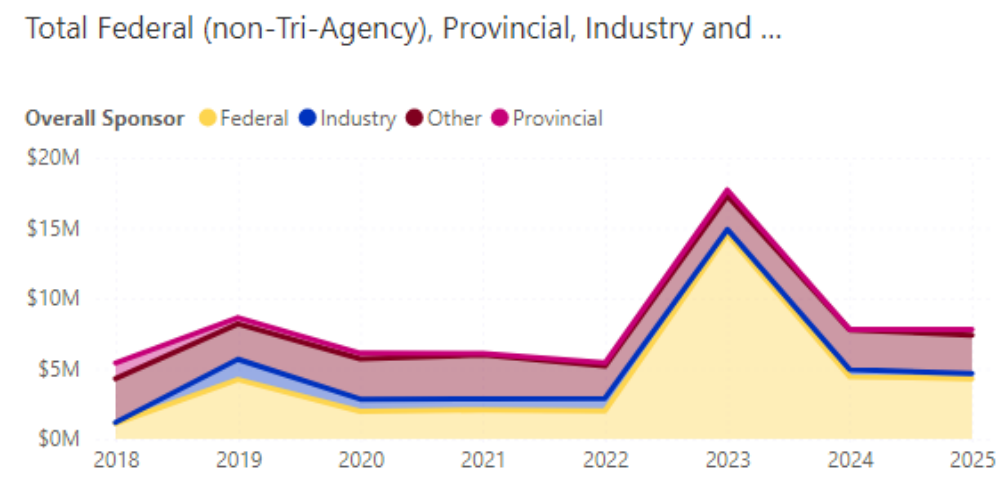
Research-Related Activity Data as of 5/8/25, 6:43 AM from Power BI/Unit 4

Of this total, the amounts by source type are as follows:

- Federal, excluding Tri-Agency: \$4,273,987
- Tri-Agency: \$4,432,028
- Provincial: \$400,178
- Industry: \$371,169
- Non-Profit & Other (e.g., NGOs, local government, NCE, MITACs, other universities): \$2,739,598

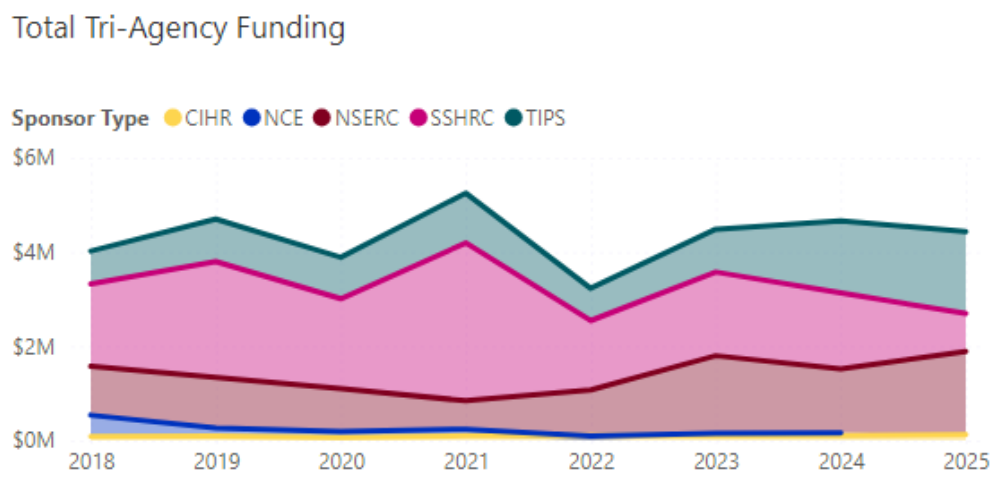
Federal and Tri-Agency funding continues to be the primary source of research funding for Faculty of Environment researchers. There was a visible spike in funding for 2023/24 can be attributed to the Federal Economic Development Agency (FedDev) award for WISA in 2023/24 (Suzanne Kearns \$10m). The proportion of funding in 2024/25 derived from Federal government and Tri-Agency sources was in line with our average over past seven years (Figures 2 & 3).

Figure 2: Total Yearly Funding by Source Type excluding Tri-Agency



Research-Related Activity Data as of 5/8/25, 6:43 AM from Power BI

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



Research-Related Activity Data as of 5/8/25, 6:43 AM from Power BI

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 five University Research Chairs (Susan Elliott, Dustin Garrick, Helen Jarvie, Daniel Scott, and Simron Singh) in the Faculty of Environment. We also now have two University Professors (Jennifer Clapp and Daniel Scott).

Faculty of Environment researchers are applying for and winning major grants from the Tri-Councils, governments, non-government organizations and industry. We've continued to have 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), including those led by Goretti Dias (\$343K); Peter Crank (\$390K); Christine Dow (\$449K); and Richard Petrone (\$487K). We have also received some larger grants from other sources, for example ArcticNet (Andrew Trant, \$381K) and the JAXA Earth Observation Research Program (Richard Kelly, \$297K), and Natural Resources Canada (Jose DiBella, \$300K). In addition, we can expect to see \$1.4m from Maria Strack's successful Tier 1 CRC over the next seven years.

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

During the previous reporting period the Dean launched Environment 2035. In this reporting period, a Faculty Research Council was proposed and established informally in anticipation of formal approval at Senate. Members were identified representing the units and including at large faculty, research staff, a graduate student, and ENV staff leaders. The inaugural meeting of this council took place in April, 2025, with meetings in May and June to prioritize short-term, strategic, and long-term actions. The purpose of the council is to

- a. advise the Associate Dean, Research, on policy directions and strategic challenges and opportunities;
- b. undertake initiatives that help to build the Faculty of Environment's research strengths, and enhance its research successes and impacts; and
- c. provide a forum where research-related concerns of key stakeholders in the Faculty can be raised and addressed.

New Overhead Procedure

A new procedure for returned overhead was implemented at the end of the reporting period. Historically, a portion of overhead charged on non-Tri-Council research grants was returned to faculty members. Under the new procedure created in March, 2025, all overhead from new and existing grants is retained at the Faculty level starting May 1, 2026.

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, Waterloo Institute for Complexity and Innovation, 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 & Administration Coordinator (FRAC)

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

Review and process Electronic Coversheets: The FRAC 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 FRAC ensure research proposals are compliant with respect to academic content and financial budgeting. All applications and funding received are tracked in a database. The FRAC 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 FRAC and the ADR.

Support for the research proposal process: The FRAC supports the research proposal process by providing information to researchers about new funding opportunities through weekly notices. The FRAC 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 FRAC 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 FRAC tracks and maintains several research related data spreadsheets to enable monitoring and reporting.

Support for Awards: The FRAC attends the Waterloo Awards Committee (WAC) monthly meetings, prepares, and presents ongoing updates re: Env's successful awards and potential nominees. The FRAC maintains a database 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. The new Faculty Awards Committee, which the FRAC supports, has been established to improve awareness and access to awards for Environment faculty.

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 FRAC 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, and the newly established Faculty Research Council, which the FRAC also supports.

Acknowledgements

The ADR would like to thank Sandra Ramautarsingh, the previous Faculty Research & Awards Officer, for her years of valuable and excellent administrative and communication support to the ADR and all

Faculty of Environment faculty members, and Tara Charlton for providing interim support to the role. Brenda Panasiak has joined as of February to assume the research portfolio in addition to providing administrative support in the Dean's Office.

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 Faculty who have continued supporting the Waterloo Awards Committee (Andrea Collins, Merrin McRae, Sue Elliott) and those who have recently come forward to represent their peers on the Faculty of Environment Awards Committee and the Faculty of Environment Research Council, as well as those who have served on ad hoc committees for CFI, CFREF, CERC, USRA, etc.