2010-2011
Research Funding Program
Institute for Nonprofit Studies Research Funding Program
2010 - 2011

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies is dedicated to developing an active research program. Designated activities as outlined in the Institute for Nonprofit Studies Charter:

- encourage a culture of research within Mount Royal University;
- fund internal and external nonprofit research;
- conduct internal and externally funded nonprofit research;
- disseminate funded research to the academic and practitioner community;
- foster a progressive nonprofit studies undergraduate program;
- engage with the nonprofit community to apply nonprofit research;
- support a national scholarly nonprofit and social economy research community.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to outline a strategic research direction for the Institute for Nonprofit Studies and to provide the basis on which research priorities will be implemented.

Purpose of Research at the Institute for Nonprofit Studies

The purpose of the applied research program at the Institute for Nonprofit Studies is threefold:

- To build community
- To engage the nonprofit community in the application of research
- To fund and conduct applicable community-based research

Build Community

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies will take the following steps to build community:

- Advocate for the advancement of nonprofit research within Mount Royal University;
- Engage, as active participants and leaders, in networks of nonprofit researchers at a provincial, national, and international level;
- Disseminate research through the Institute website, publication of academic articles, presentation of findings, and hosting of symposia;
- Invite the nonprofit sector to address strategic issues which concern its long-term direction;
- Build new research agendas in areas which complement new academic programs, such as social entrepreneurship.
Engage the nonprofit community in the application of research

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies will engage the nonprofit community in the application of research through the following actions:

- Transfer research to faculty for use in courses and extension programs;
- Provide a research perspective to strategic network discussions;
- Advocate for the role of research in policy planning and development;
- Support funding which is built on community participation and relevance;
- Solicit community engagement in research activities.

Fund and conduct applicable community-based research

Purpose

Limited research funds will be available in 2010-2011 from the Institute for Nonprofit Studies at Mount Royal University. The purpose of these research funds is to support applied research efforts which will be of direct benefit to nonprofit organizations and to the nonprofit sector in Canada. This new research funding opportunity is a lead initiative in the implementation of the Institute's strategic research priorities which are designed to foster applied research in Canada in the areas of policy, governance and sustainability.

Research Themes

There are three streams of research the Institute for Nonprofit Studies will support:

- Governance within the nonprofit sector
- Sustainability of the nonprofit sector/ nonprofit organizations
- Policy analysis, design, critique
Governance within the nonprofit sector

Governance is the act of providing visionary, strategic, and fiduciary oversight in the fulfillment of the mission of a nonprofit organization. In this context the board of a nonprofit organization acts as one of the primary intermediaries between organizational mission and the community it serves.

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies will be particularly interested in supporting research which addresses:

- Governance issues in small and rural charities and nonprofits
- Governance issues particular to the province of Alberta
- Interagency, network, and co-governance issues

Sustainability within the nonprofit sector/nonprofit organizations

Sustainability is the capacity of an organization or sector to support its continuation, transformation, and adaptation to a changing external environment. This can lead to adapting or redefining the mission of an organization; the continuation or termination of an existing organization; or the transformation to a new organizational type.

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies will be particularly interested in supporting research which addresses:

- Sustainability issues in small and rural charities and nonprofits
- Sustainability issues particular to the province of Alberta
- Network, interagency, and merger/co-governance sustainability issues

Policy analysis, design, and critique

Policy analysis, design, and critique address the broad policy environment in which nonprofit organizations operate. Policies at a municipal, provincial/territorial and/or federal level each have different impacts on the governance and sustainability of nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit sector. Nonprofit sector policies may impact government funding and program priorities.

The Institute for Nonprofit Studies will be particularly interested in supporting research which addresses:

- Nonprofit/government policies for small and rural charities and nonprofits
- Nonprofit/government policies which are particular to the province of Alberta
- Provincial and National nonprofit/government policies
One award and two research funding streams have been developed for 2010-2011:

1) **ANSER Graduate Student Research Award** to support emerging nonprofit researchers;
2) **Applied Research Fund** to support short-term research projects; and
3) **Strategic Partnership Fund** to support longer-term and collaborative research projects.

**ANSER Graduate Student Research Award** is designed to support excellence in graduate student research projects being conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified researcher. This award is administered through ANSER. For more information go to www.anser-ares.ca.

**Applied Research Fund** projects support short-term research projects that may entail new knowledge creation and applications of existing knowledge, but address clearly defined problems (usually of nonprofit organizations or a specific sub-sector, e.g. rural nonprofits, faith organizations) that lead to concrete applications for those organizations/ sub-sectors.

**Strategic Partnership Fund** research projects will address applied research queries at a provincial/ national/ international level and may involve the application of a completed pilot research project and multiple research partners. These funds are intended to provide the means to secure additional research funds or match, or complement existing research funds.

**Value**

1) The **ANSER Graduate Student Research Award** ........... $7,500
2) The **Applied Research Fund**................................. $15,000 *available*
3) The **Strategic Partnership Fund**............................... $25,000 *available*

**Eligibility**

Awards are open to any full-time student or faculty member of a Canadian Post-Secondary Institution.
Fund and conduct applicable community-based research

**Letter of Intent**

At least 30 days prior to the application deadline, applicants to the Applied Research and Strategic Partnership Fund are encouraged to submit a one-page letter of research intent. Feedback concerning the nature of the intended research will be provided. This feedback will not determine any subsequent funding decision. An outline for the letter of intent is available on request. Deadlines for letters of intent are April 9, 2010 and October 15, 2010.

**Application deadlines**

Applied Research Fund: There will be two applied research proposal deadlines in 2010. The first deadline is May 10, 2010 and the second deadline is November 15, 2010. Results will be announced within one month of each deadline.

Strategic Partnership fund: There will be one Strategic Partnership Fund deadline of November 15, 2010.

**Selection Criteria**

Recommendation for fund approval will be based on the following criteria:

1. Extent to which the applicant clearly address one of the three research themes: Governance, Sustainability, or Policy?

2. Extent to which the application include other sources of research funds or active community partners?

3. Strength of the research base (e.g. literature review/ body of research/ research methodology) on which this application is based?

4. How applicable is the research across a wide range of organizations?

5. How widely and how well will the applied research be disseminated?

**Duration of Award**

The term of the award is one year from the announcement date of the award. Should successful candidates not be able to complete the research within one year, they may request a one-year extension with justification. This request for extension must be filed prior to the termination date of the award. There will be no further extensions. Any unused grant monies will be reclaimed by the Institute for Nonprofit Studies.
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Post-Award Project Changes
Once awarded, any significant changes to the proposed project in terms of subject matter and budget expense categories must be discussed with the Senior Research Associate and may require approval by the Research Awards Committee.

Follow-up
Recipients of funds will be expected to submit a short written abstract to the Research Awards Committee within two months of research completion date. This abstract will be posted on the research grants section of the Institute for Nonprofit Studies Website along with a link to the full research report. Interim reports are to be submitted as required.

Application submission
Proposals are to be submitted by e-mail to:

Peter Elson PhD, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Nonprofit Studies
pelson@mtroyal.ca
Institute for Nonprofit Studies Research

2009-2010 Applied Research Program Fund recipients

Harvy Frankel and Sid Frankel, University of Manitoba (sustainability);
Identifying Determinants of Implementation Success in a Program Adoption-Based
Sustainability Strategy: A case of a small Alberta-based international development
organization.

Travis Gleidt and Paul Parker, University of Waterloo (sustainability);
organizations.

Agnes Meinhard, Ryerson University (governance);
Diverse Nonprofit Organizations for Diverse Communities.

Clifford L. Spyker, Mount Royal University (sustainability);
Cluster Analysis of Descriptive Statistics and Performance Metrics for Registered Charities
in Canada.

2009-2010 Graduate Student Research Awards

Suzanne Cook, PhD Candidate (OISE/University of Toronto) is being funded to continue her
work to research the link between work skills and volunteering choices by new retirees;

Gina Grosenick, PhD Candidate (Communications/Carleton University) is being supported to
examine the strategic communication practices of nonprofit organizations who advocate on
issues of poverty, affordable housing, and homelessness.

For more information on this research go to the Applied Research page on the Institute’s web site
www.mtroyal.ca/nonprofit.

Contact

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