

2025 Call for Applications

UArctic, Yukon University, and Memorial University's Global Arctic Leadership Project Call for Indigenous and Northern Relationships Development Fund

BACKGROUND:

Global Affairs Canada's Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI) is a partnership between the [University of the Arctic](#) (UArctic), [Yukon University](#), and [Memorial University](#).

UArctic operates through a distributed leadership and orientation model focusing on enhancing capacity in Northern institutions throughout the circumpolar North. GALI funding is a key component of UArctic's engagement in Canada, with a focus on supporting capacity building across Northern Canada. Over the life of the project, UArctic, Yukon University and Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador will implement a range of initiatives within the larger project including supporting engagement and research in the circumpolar region. Learn more about the program at <https://mun.ca/uarctic/>

Indigenous and Northern Relationship Development Fund

In keeping with the Memorial University's [Policy on Research Impacting Indigenous Groups](#) and recognizing our obligation to ensure that researchers engage with Indigenous and Northern people in a respectful, ethical, and deeply collaborative way, we are pleased to launch the Indigenous and Northern Research and Relationship Development Fund.

The purpose of this fund is to help build new relationships or strengthen existing ones for research between Canadian UArctic member institutions - in the North and South - and Northern or Indigenous partners. Two goals of the project include: 1) supporting researchers and partners in developing collaborative, co-created research projects based on mutual respect and acknowledgment of the deep understanding and knowledge Indigenous and Northern people bring to such projects, and 2) ensuring that the academic research and engagement projects meet the needs of the people and the regions where such research takes place. North to North and North to South relationship building projects are both eligible and encouraged.

Memorial University's [Policy on Research Impacting Indigenous Groups](#) is the main guiding document for this Relationship Development Fund. It is crucial that the researchers applying to this fund are familiar with the policy.

Project applications to this fund must be focused on relationship building. The form that process takes is entirely up to the academic researchers, both in the North and the South, and their potential Indigenous and community partners. The researchers and their partners are encouraged to explore a range of collaboration and research activities, but are under no obligation to proceed with some form of research or maintain a working relationship if either side determines that for, whatever reason, the partnership on any future projects is not suitable.

Who can apply?

UARctic and Memorial University encourage engagement between Canadian UARctic member institutions, other Canadian members, and other UARctic member institutions for collaborative, co-created research and education initiative. The lead applicant must come from a Canadian UARctic member institution. A complete and updated [list of member institutions](#) can be found on the UARctic website. We encourage researchers from the institutions based in the North and the South to apply and particularly welcome Indigenous researchers and scholars.

For help building relationships with other Canadian UARctic members, feel free to reach out the Lisa Goulet, Membership Engagement Coordinator at lgoulet@mun.ca.

Applicants may only hold one Indigenous and Northern Relationship Development Fund award at a time.

How you can use this fund

We envision this fund as a catalyst for building better and deeper relationships with Northern and Indigenous groups and communities. For example, a seasoned scholar with years of research experience in the North may want to use this fund to help a new graduate student establish their own relationships that will help them develop a research program in collaboration with Northern and Indigenous partners; an emerging Indigenous scholar in the North may use this fund to expand their relationships and partnerships to the Northern and Indigenous communities so they better understand the needs and desires of the Northern people when it comes to research and what they, as a Northern researcher, can bring to those discussions; experienced researchers may use this funding to enlarge and deepen their Northern and Indigenous relationships and networks through knowledge sharing activities. Don't let our imagination limit your activities.

Amount of funding

The funding is targeted to support relationship building projects in the Arctic and Northern regions of North America. Projects may be funded with a maximum total of \$15,000. Funding cannot be applied retroactively for activities already carried out.

Duration of the project

Project activities must occur within the timeframe May 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Application criteria

1. The application should have a minimum of two UARctic members, with a project lead from a Canadian member institution (there is no limit to the maximum number of partners)

2. The application must clearly establish how proposed activities will strengthen existing or build new relationships between researchers based at academic institutions and Northern and Indigenous people and communities that may lead to new research and learning opportunities
3. The applications must have a local Indigenous and/or community partner clearly supporting this initial and exploratory engagement (focused on relationship building) that may result in future research or other kinds of projects. That support must be provided clearly and unambiguously, either through a letter of support for the application, or some other appropriate indication of willingness to engage with the academic researchers in establishing and building a working relationship (for example, correspondence, or an email exchange)
4. The application must demonstrate how proposed activities will strengthen relationships among UArctic members
5. The main applicant's CV (max two pages)
6. The applicants must outline how they are going to share their experience with other UArctic members to help them understand the role of Indigenous and Northern communities as equal partners in research development and co-creation process. This applies to researchers at the academic institutions based in the North and the South with the understanding that their experiences may be different depending on how connected and embedded they are in the circumpolar region

Eligible costs

Recognizing that different partners and Indigenous groups may have different requirements and preferences on how they would like to explore potential relationship with academic researchers, the fund will allow for a broad interpretation of eligible costs on part of the evaluation committee. In general, the fund can cover:

- Meetings and workshop expenses (e.g. venue, meals, accommodation and travel of the participants);
- Fees or payments and per diems. Please note that you cannot cover the permanent salaries for scientific/academic or technical/administrative staff;
- Costs for online conference platforms and tools;
- Honoraria to artists, performers or knowledge holders in keeping with established rates (CARFAC or other appropriate sanctioned body);
- Applicants should document funding of at least 25% of the total budget from in kind and or other sources.

Application deadline and procedures

Applications must be completed and submitted through [Memorial University's Public Engagement application portal](#) by **February 15 2025 by 23.59 (CEST)**. **Applications received after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be evaluated.** The funding decisions will be

made by April 30, 2025, and the grants must be accepted by successful candidates by May 31, 2025.

Application portal will require you to enter the following information:

- Personal details
- A project plan
 - The purpose and overall goal of the project
 - Description of the project activities
 - Description of how the project will help the applicant strengthen and develop relationships with Indigenous and/or Northern communities and partners
 - Description of how the project will help the applicant strengthen and develop relationships with other UArctic member institutions
- A detailed budget including the funding from other sources
- The applying institution must provide an endorsement letter from the appropriate leadership level
- A letter of support or other form of clear indication from an Indigenous and/or Northern community or group indicating their willingness to engage in a relationship building process that may lead to future research, teaching, or engagement opportunities

Proposal Evaluation procedure

UArctic evaluation focuses on three dimensions of excellence;

- UArctic values: relevance to the North as expressed through six UArctic values and Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy; how the project contributes to circumpolar cooperation, its inclusiveness and openness and diversity of partners and relevance to Northern communities and peoples
- Excellence and feasibility of the proposed activities
- Project's management: internal and external risk management, sustainability plans for the activity, long-term impacts and internal evaluation. Budget must reflect the project activities in a realistic manner

UArctic and Memorial University expect that all research projects are conducted with research integrity and, where applicable, follow Indigenization strategies.

The project grants will be managed and administered by Memorial University's Harris Centre on behalf of UArctic and in accordance with the terms of a Global Arctic Leadership agreement with Global Affairs, Canada.

Helpful resources as you consider your application

Indigenous Research at Memorial University:

<https://www.mun.ca/research/Indigenous/index.php>

Memorial University Policy on Research Impacting Indigenous Groups:

<https://www.mun.ca/research/Indigenous/consent.php>

Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1560523306861/1560523330587>

UArctic Values:

<https://www.uarctic.org/about-us/>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action:

https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

National Inuit Strategy on Research:

<https://www.itk.ca/projects/national-inuit-strategy-on-research/>

Universities Canada principles on Indigenous education:

<https://www.univcan.ca/media-room/media-releases/universities-canada-principles-on-indigenous-education/>

Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North:

<http://acuns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/EthicsEnglishmarch2003.pdf>