ArcticNet
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ArcticNet Cycle III (2019-2024)

Call for Letters of Intent to submit a Research Proposal

Background

Since 2004, the ArcticNet Network of Centres of Excellence of Canada (NCE) has brought together scientists and experts in the natural, human health and social sciences with their partners in Inuit organizations, northern communities, governments and the private and public sectors to further our understanding of and help prepare for the impacts and opportunities brought by climate change and modernization in the Arctic. Further details on ArcticNet's current mandate, objectives and research program are available on our website.

In order to provide the best possible information to address this challenge, a renewed ArcticNet will broaden its scope to include not only the coastal and marine Arctic, but also the Territorial Arctic and Subarctic regions. The proposed vision for a renewed ArcticNet can be found here.

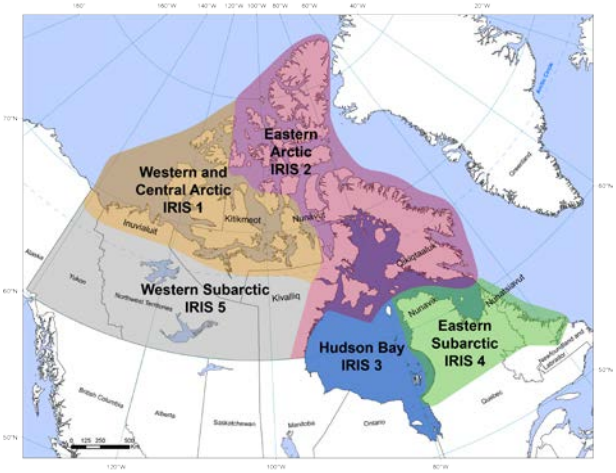
Call for Letters of Intent (LOI)

This Call for LOIs aims to define the range of projects, of up to 3 years in duration, for a renewed ArcticNet academic-led research program. Retained LOIs will demonstrate the potential breadth and depth of the science program in a renewed ArcticNet Research Strategy. The Call is open to ArcticNet Network Investigators wishing to renew their research during Cycle III (2019-2024), as well as to all other eligible northern-focused Canadian researchers (see eligibility criteria below). New applicants and collaborators from Centres of Excellence in northern research and not previously engaged in ArcticNet are strongly encouraged to apply.

Scope

In addition to research excellence, successful projects must contribute to ArcticNet's Integrated Regional Impact Studies (IRIS) framework and focus on knowledge mobilization, formulation of projections and the identification of strengths, vulnerabilities, risks and capacities to inform the development of policies and adaptation strategies.

Geographically, ArcticNet includes the four maritime IRIS regions corresponding to the Inuit Nunangat, and now extends to a new fifth continental IRIS region that includes the Yukon, the continental NWT and the Kivalliq region of Nunavut (see map, right).



Northern and Indigenous Partners

The direct involvement of Northern and/or Indigenous partners in the co-design and conduct of the research to ensure comprehensive use of academic, northern and Indigenous expertise is strongly recommended. Projects taking place in the Inuit Nunangat must take into account the new National Inuit Strategy on Research. Communication with ArcticNet Inuit Research Advisors in proposed study region(s) is highly recommended. Further, applicants are encouraged to consult relevant resource documents such as the Territorial Premier's 'A Pan-Northern Approach to Science', the Yukon Science Strategy, the Northwest Territories Knowledge Agenda, and the Nunavut Research Agenda. Finally, projects, especially those in health and socio-economic disciplines, should consider or examine historical and contemporary impacts of colonization and modernization in Northern communities as part of their research objectives.

The Canadian North in a Global Context - Research projects are encouraged which link to international circum-polar initiatives including international Indigenous organizations or contribute to global Northern policy development. ArcticNet focuses on issues facing the Canadian Arctic however many of these are global in origin and require international partners and perspective. Additionally, NCE university-level training should include global learning opportunities.

The **Research Priorities** for this LOI Call build on existing ArcticNet research strengths and time-series data collections while targeting emerging issues & novel methods for understanding or action on current concerns:

Cryosphere, Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems

1. Cryosphere sensitivity including permafrost, tidewater glaciers, sea ice, and land-ocean-ice continuum;
2. Marine and terrestrial processes and cycling of key elements, nutrients, and contaminants;
3. Trends in significant marine and terrestrial species, ecosystems, and ecosystem services;
4. Sustainable harvest and management of important animal species;
5. Informing the Canadian Arctic Ocean Protection Plan and marine conservation planning;

Monitoring, Prediction and Impacts

6. Research on Situational Awareness Systems (SAS) for civilian/environmental security;
7. Regional operational weather forecasting, coupled climate prediction systems and re-analyses;
8. Extreme events: impacts and solutions for infrastructure and the bio-cryosphere;

Health and Sustainable Communities

9. Environment and health: water and food security/sovereignty; evolving zoonotic risks;
10. Individual and community health & wellness: mental & physical health; existing & emerging diseases;
11. Health Systems: approaches to improve systems, policies and interventions;
12. Resilience/Adaptation: novel methods including Implementation Science, Models and Scenarios;
13. Energy Security: new and renewable sources; improved efficiency of existing and new infrastructure;

Governance and Sustainable Development

14. Rethinking governance: legal and political structures in a changing circum-polar North;
15. Geopolitics, security, navigation and tourism issues;
16. Emerging economic opportunities, sustainable development, and risk-based assessments;

Training, Education and Knowledge Mobilization

17. Practical approaches for building research and training capacity in the North;
18. Challenges and solutions in northern education including Indigenous education;
19. Innovative research toward improved knowledge mobilization including Indigenous knowledge;

Evolving Opportunities and Challenges

20. New crosscutting, integrative, solution-driven research addressing emerging issues.

Eligibility

Researchers and organizations (including Colleges) requesting ArcticNet NCE funding must meet the eligibility requirements of the Tri-Council Agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR). Research projects must be relevant to ArcticNet's mandate, objectives and program, and meet the evaluation criteria established by ArcticNet and the NCE Program as stated in Appendix A of the *ArcticNet Research Project Review Guidelines.*

Additionally, ArcticNet is committed to furthering equity, diversity and inclusion as part of its renewal. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the NCE Equity Statement including their online training courses and the NSERC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework.

Successful Letters of Intent

The Proposal Review Committee (PRC), (ArcticNet Research Management Committee with additional expertise as needed) will evaluate LOI using its Criteria for Network Research Projects, NCE Evaluation Criteria, and Network objectives. Priority will be given to LOI proposing projects with multidisciplinary teams with appropriate partners. Researchers belonging to one or more Centres of Excellence, forming a team to work on a specific research priority are encouraged to apply. Example Centres could include research chairs and established research groups focused on the North. ArcticNet does not support projects from isolated researchers or laboratories.

In addition to partnering with northern and Indigenous organizations, collaboration with private and public sector partners or co-supporters and funders of the research is strongly encouraged. Priority will be given to projects able to supplement NCE funding through cash and in-kind contributions. A maximum of two Letters of Support from partners are encouraged to accompany LOI submissions but in-kind or cash commitments are not required at this stage. ArcticNet follows the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide on Use of Grant Funds.

Full Proposals

Decisions on the retention of LOI will be announced by 29 June 2018. Successful teams will be invited to submit Full Proposals by 22 November 2018 allowing up to 4.5 months for preparation. Be aware that Full Proposal preparation will need to be undertaken prior to funding for Cycle III being secured.

Full proposals will be evaluated based on the same criteria as the LOI. Input from the northern regions will be sought as well as written expert reviews. The Proposal Review Committee will evaluate Full Proposals taking into account these additional evaluations. The list of recommended Projects will be submitted to the ArcticNet Board of Directors for final approval.

Budget Envelope, Project Duration and Number of Grants

The expected budget for academic-led research program during Cycle III (2019-2024) is approximately $3.75 million per year. As a result of this Call, ArcticNet expects to fund between 25 to 35 research projects of **up to 3 years duration**, with annual budgets ranging from $30K to $150K depending on size of research team, project scope, and level of co-funding or support from partners.

Logistical Support

Since 2004, ArcticNet has facilitated and coordinated access to the Arctic for its funded research teams. Researchers across disciplines benefited from collective support to access the Canadian research icebreaker CCGS *Amundsen* and aircraft operated by the Polar Continental Shelf Program and other agencies. If renewed, ArcticNet expects to continue to offset the costs of logistical support but at a reduced level.

Access to CCGS *Amundsen* will be maintained until at least 2022 via Amundsen Science Inc. thanks to the Major Science Initiative program of the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

ArcticNet funding for access to the CCGS *Amundsen* or for fieldwork aircraft support (excluding commercial jet/aircraft service to/from the North) should **not** be requested in LOI budgets**.**

Documents

The detailed Call for Letters Of Intent, 2018 LOI Application Form and 2018 Review Guidelines, including Selection Criteria, and proposed renewed ArcticNet vision are available for download on the ArcticNet website at ArcticNet Call for LOI 2018.

Timeline and Important Dates:

10 April	Call for Letters of Intent
5 June	Deadline for receipt of LOI Applications
29 June	Successful LOI applicants announced; Invitation to submit Full Proposal
19 July	ArcticNet Full Application Cycle III submitted to 2018 NCE Competition
August	Site visit ArcticNet Cycle III Full Application
Oct/Nov	Expected NCE Decision on ArcticNet Cycle III funding
22 Nov	Individual Project Full Proposal submission deadline
March 2019	ArcticNet funding decision on Individual Project Full Proposals
1 April 2019	Funding begins for approved Projects

LOI Submission Details

The deadline for submitting the LOI Application Form is **Tuesday June 5, 2018 at 17:00 ET**.

IMPORTANT: YOUR PDF FILES MUST BE NAMED FOLLOWING THIS FORMAT:

- FORM: Project Leader's LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_Project's abbreviated title
- LETTERS OF SUPPORT: Project Leader's LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_project's abbrev title_LoS 1of1 etc.

LOI Application Forms and Letters Of Intent must be submitted in .PDF format **electronically** to the ArcticNet Administrative Centre **via the following Dropbox link**: Submission Link.

Applications will be reviewed for completeness and applicants will receive notification of receipt within two (2) working days. If the Application is incomplete, applicants will have 24 hours after notification to resubmit.

Information:

Please contact the ArcticNet Administrative Centre if you require more information:
Pavillon Alexandre-Vachon, Room 4081, Université Laval, Quebec City, Quebec G1V 0A6, E: arcticnet@arcticnet.ulaval.ca