Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Futures – Research Funding Program

2019 Notice of Intent Instructions

General Information

The submission deadline for the Notice of Intent is **January 28, 2019**. Only complete applications will be eligible. The Notice of Intent (NOI) is the first step in the application process. It allows OHS Futures staff to evaluate the relevance of a proposed project (in relation to OHS Futures priorities) prior to having you write the detailed research application. Success at this stage will result in an invitation to submit an application. The invitation to submit a full application form does not guarantee funding. A completed application is required, and will be reviewed accordingly. Please read the Grant Agreement template, which includes the terms and conditions you will be subject to if you are awarded a grant. As part of the full application, you will be asked to recommend two peer- reviewers. Prior to beginning this work, please note that conflicts of interest and breaches of confidentiality will not be tolerated.

The information you provide in this application is being collected by the Ministry of Labour to determine eligibility for grants. The information you provide is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and is managed in accordance with Part 2 of the (FOIP) Act. Information about successful projects, including name, institutional affiliation of researcher, and grant amount will be posted on the alberta.ca website. If you have any questions about the collection of personal information, you may contact the OHS Futures program at OHSFutures@gov.ab.ca.

Note: Adhere to character limits. Spaces are included in the character count.

Submit the application by clicking the 'submit' button at the top of the application form. This will automatically email the pdf to our office. If you are unable to use the 'submit' button, save the application with the file name "Lastname-Firstname-Application" and send to ohsfutures@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your interest in the OHS Futures – Research Funding Program.

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Principal Applicant Information

The Principal Applicant is the person who is responsible for the intellectual direction of the proposed research, assumes the administrative duties related to the grant and acts as the contact person with OHS Futures staff

Do You Have A Co-Applicant?

If you have a co-applicant, select 'yes'. This will bring up a table to enter their details. You can add additional co-applicants using the (+) bottom at the bottom of the table.

We use the following to define a co-applicant: An individual, participating in a grant application, who makes a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, who plays a significant role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity, and who may also have some responsibility for financial aspects of the research[1].

Have you identified collaborators and partners?

If you have identified collaborators and partners, select 'yes'. This will bring up a table to enter their details. You can add additional collaborators and partners using the (+) bottom at the bottom of the table.

We use the following to define collaborators and partners:

Collaborator[2]: Individuals who are not the principal or co-applicant, participating in a grant application, who may make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research or research-related activity, and who may play a significant role in the conduct of the research or research-related activity

Partner[34]: A formalized working relationship between two or more organizations with separate identities and independent accountabilities, and is based on mutual benefit and a clear understanding or agreement that sets out the shared goal and objectives and the terms of the

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[1] Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Definitions of Terms: http://www.sshrc- crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a13

[2] Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Glossary of Funding-Related Terms: http://www.cihr- irsc.gc.ca/e/34190.html#p

[3] Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Glossary of Funding-Related Terms: http://www.cihr- irsc.gc.ca/e/34190.html#p

[4] Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Definitions of Terms: http://www.sshrc- crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx#a13

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arrangement. The formality of these relationships may vary but they must be grounded in trust, mutual respect, and effective communication. These collaborations may range from open, working relationships through committee work or meetings to the more formal, documented collaborations for funding opportunities.

Research Priorities

Please check all that the priority area(s) that closely align(s) with the proposed research

Policy Statements	Examples of Policy Questions
1. Physical hazards	
A significant proportion of occupational injuries and disease are due to musculoskeletal disorders due to repetitive use, overexertion and heavy lifting; slips, trips and falls; and motor vehicle incidents.	▪ What workplace policies or programs are effective at addressing these hazards? ▪ What effective resources are available to vulnerable workers or small businesses regarding these hazards? ▪ What tools can employers use to prevent these physical hazards?
2. New and emerging occupational diseases	
Workers are potentially exposed to new chemicals in the workplace that may be linked to disease. There is a need for the identification of emerging occupational diseases, new notifiable diseases, novel occupational exposures that have been associated with disease, and historical exposures that are now being associated with diseases, particularly cancers.	▪ What new workplace exposures may result in disease and how can those exposures be reduced or avoided? ▪ Are there industries or occupations where chemical and radiation exposures need to be better controlled? What controls would be effective in mitigating exposures? ▪ Are there historical workplace exposures that are now being associated with latent disease?
3. OHS implications of emerging technologies and industries	
Alberta's workplaces are encountering new technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, robotics, drones, virtual reality, 'green' energy sources, nanomaterials, new ergonomic tools) and emerging industries (e.g.	▪ What chemical exposures or physical hazards may result from "green" construction materials and techniques and how can these be mitigated? ▪ What are the potential implications of artificial intelligence technologies in the workplace and how can these be mitigated? How can OHS values/standards be incorporated into artificial intelligence programming? ▪ What are the potential regulatory uses of new technology? (e.g. mobile sensors and measurement

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Cannabis production). It is necessary to identify potential OHS risks in order to develop mitigation strategies.	devices) ▪ How do the hazards of traditional workplaces compare to the hazards of new and future workplaces? (e.g. taxis versus ridesharing)

4. Violence, psychological hazards and impairment	
There is increasing emphasis on preventing workplace violence and harassment and preventing psychosocial hazards in workplaces. In addition, workers must be fit for work, and impairment arising from numerous possible causes (e.g. fatigue, health conditions, mental health, prescription and non-prescription drugs, etc.) can create a workplace hazard that employers need to control.	▪ What factors contribute to toxic workplace culture, including unwelcome conduct, comment, bullying or action in workplaces, and how can they be mitigated? ▪ How can employers and workers protect mental health and foster resilience and psychological well-being in workplaces? ▪ What is the impact of violence, including domestic and sexual, on Albertan workplaces and what are measures to mitigate those impacts? ▪ What workplace policies are effective at addressing impairment or fitness for work? ▪ What effective resources are available for young workers regarding the health impacts of cannabis, from an OHS perspective? ▪ Have changes in legislation led to impacts in impairment in the workplace? ▪ What tools can employers use to assess impairment and fitness for work?

Overarching considerations	
Sex, gender and health and safety	Preference will be given to studies that incorporate sex and gender considerations into research questions and study design. For more information about integrating sex and gender into research, please refer to the following from CIHR: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50836.html
Priority populations	Research interest exists for these priority populations: Indigenous workers; aging workers; youth and young workers; vulnerable workers such as transient or migrant, immigrant or new workers; pregnant workers; small businesses.

Prevention of Occupational Disease and Injury: Research must inform primary prevention	
Primary prevention	Primary prevention aims to prevent disease or injury before it ever occurs, by preventing exposures to hazards that cause disease or injury, altering unhealthy or unsafe behaviours that can lead to disease or injury, and increasing resistance to disease or injury should exposure occur.
Secondary prevention	Secondary prevention aims to reduce the impact of a

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	disease or injury that has already occurred. This is done by detecting and treating disease or injury as soon as possible to halt or slow its progress, encouraging personal strategies to prevent re-injury or recurrence, and implementing programs to return people to their original health and function to prevent long-term problems.
Tertiary prevention	Tertiary prevention aims to soften the impact of an ongoing illness or injury that has lasting effects. This is done by helping people manage long-term, often-complex health problems and injuries (e.g. chronic diseases, permanent impairments) in order to improve as much as possible their ability to function, their quality of life and their life expectancy.
Proposals on topics different from those listed will be considered. Please contact OHS Futures staff if you have questions: *OHSFutures@gov.ab.ca*	

Preference will be given to studies that incorporate sex and gender considerations into research questions and study design.

Research must inform **primary prevention** of occupational disease or injury. Primary prevention aims to prevent disease or injury before it ever occurs. This is done by preventing exposures to hazards that cause disease or injury, altering unhealthy or unsafe behaviors that can lead to disease or injury, and increasing resistance to disease or injury should exposure occur.

Issue Identification

Briefly explain the central issue, problem or question and how the project will address it. How does the research contribute to the advancement of knowledge in this field and/or addresses the gaps in knowledge, policy, program or practice?
Character limit: 1200

Methodology

Briefly summarize the methodology and explain the rationale behind it.
Character limit: 1200

Expected Outcomes and Impacts

Briefly describe the expected outcomes and impacts on Albertan workers and/or employees.
Character limit: 1200

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Data Sharing for Internal Government of Alberta Usage

The ability to share and improve access to research data is an integral part of the OHS Futures program. After reading the [OHS Futures Grant Agreement](#) and the [Government of Alberta Open Information and Open Data Policy](#), describe what data you anticipate sharing with the Government of Alberta for internal purposes, for example to inform policies and processes. In accordance with the record retention policy, the validated research data submitted to the OHS Futures program will be appropriately managed and retained by the Informatics and Surveillance teams within the Department.
Character limit: 1500

Data Sharing for Open Data Portal

After reading the [OHS Futures Grant Agreement](#) and the [Government of Alberta Open Information and Open Data Policy](#), describe what data you anticipate sharing with the Government of Alberta for publishing on the Open Data Portal. When necessary the data will be appropriately aggregated to maintain privacy and confidentiality. If you anticipate challenges in complying with the Open Information and Open Data Policy, describe how these challenges might be mitigated.
Character limit: 1500

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