

CANSSI Call for Letters of Intent

To: The Canadian statistical sciences research community

From: Mary Thompson, Scientific Director, CANSSI

Date: May 3, 2013

Subject: Letters of Intent for Collaborative Research Team projects

Letters of Intent are invited for Collaborative Research Team (CRT) projects, to be funded under the auspices of CANSSI beginning in April 2014. Please note that this is the first annual CRT competition. It is expected that three or four CRT projects will be funded in this first competition.

The Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee of CANSSI, of which the membership can be seen at www.canssi.ca. It is not a requirement to have submitted a Notification of Interest previously.

The Letters of Intent must be sent by July 5, 2013. No extension of this deadline will be granted. Teams will be notified by September 3, 2013 whether or not they may proceed to a full application. Full applications will be due October 7, 2013.

Please send the Letters of Intent to me at methomps@uwaterloo.ca

A proposed project should have a significant component which is NSERC-fundable in the sense of developing new statistical science methodology, or applying methods in an innovative way to an NSERC funded discipline. It should be suitable for a three-year agenda, where the first and third years would feature organizational and dissemination workshops respectively. There should be roles for interns and/or student trainees in each of the project years, and a project could include support for postdoctoral fellows.

The funding from CANSSI for a Collaborative Research Team Project would be approximately \$200,000 over the three years. This would provide partial support for trainees, travel for collaboration, and workshops. It is expected that at least 60% of the CANSSI portion of the project funding would support trainees at the undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral levels.

Projects in application areas and in the core of the statistical sciences will be considered. The evaluation criteria will be the strength of the proposal, the importance of the research to science and the public interest, the excellence of the researchers, the potential for leverage of CANSSI funds, the sustainability of the collaboration, the national scope of the project, the potential for development of international collaboration, and the likely effectiveness of the team structure.

Applicants are advised that the Letter of Intent is a critical stage in the application process. Only teams with Letters of Intent demonstrating clear potential for eventual success in the competition will be invited to submit a full application in this competition. Hence, the novelty and impact of the proposed research must be abundantly clear to reviewers in the Letter of Intent.

At the full application stage, applicants will be expected to address the concerns of reviewers of the LOI with respect to the scientific aims, and add budgetary and organizational details which will again be subject to review. Further instructions will be provided at the beginning of September 2013.

A Letter of Intent should contain the following items.

Title of the project

Name(s) and affiliation(s) of lead investigator(s)

Proposed collaborators

Collaborators would be individual researchers in universities or in partner organizations, in the statistical sciences or other disciplines. The team should include statistical scientists from more than one region (ideally, several regions) of the country. (The regions are here understood to be Alberta-British Columbia-Yukon, Manitoba-Saskatchewan-N.W.T.-Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Atlantic Region.) Collaborators may be situated in other countries, provided they are bringing their own funding to the project. Agreement should have been obtained from all proposed team members.

Potential partner organizations

Please list organizations, in Canada and elsewhere, which would have an interest in and assist in sponsoring the research. Sponsorship could entail financial support, cash or in-kind or both; collaboration; provision of hosting and co-supervision of trainees; or opportunities for access to data. Letters of support from these organizations must be appended, specifying their interest in the research and the type and level of support they are willing to provide.

Other funding

Please describe other major funding for the project, including funding held, applied for, or to be applied for.

Anticipated roles of trainees (students and postdoctoral fellows)

Please indicate where a postdoctoral fellow or fellows might be situated, how graduate or undergraduate students might be involved in the project, and how they could contribute to the cohesion of the team (e.g. in joint supervision arrangements).

Anticipated organization of collaboration

Please indicate how members of the team would communicate, and how frequently; how they would organize the research and applications for further funding; how the results would be disseminated.

Suggested reviewers

Please suggest three potential reviewers of the project. The Scientific Advisory Committee may select other reviewers, and the opinions of both statistical science and application area reviewers will be sought. It is permissible to indicate names of individuals who should not be asked to review the project.

Research aims

Please describe the research aims, anticipated outcomes, and their potential impact, in up to 5 pages, including references. Use 8.5" x 11" paper with margins set at a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ " (1.87 cm) and 12 pt Times New Roman font. Additional pages will be discarded.

CVs

Please append up to 5 short CVs (2 pages each) of the lead investigator(s) and collaborators. (There will typically be more than 5 members on a team.) A short CV should include degrees, current position(s), selected peer-reviewed publications (last 6 years), other evidence of impact and contributions (last 6 years), and numbers of undergraduate, master's level, PhD level and postdoctoral trainees (last 6 years).