

## **CANSSI Call for Letters of Intent**

To: The Canadian statistical sciences research community

From: Mary Thompson, Scientific Director, CANSSI

Date: March 12, 2014

Subject: Letters of Intent for Collaborative Research Team projects

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are invited for Collaborative Research Team (CRT) projects, to be funded under the auspices of CANSSI beginning in April 2015. This is the second annual CRT competition, and we expect to be able to fund three CRT projects in this second competition.

Applicants are invited to send draft LOIs for comments and suggestions at any time in the next few months. There was an online information session in January 2014. Please write to [info@canssi.ca](mailto:info@canssi.ca) if you have any questions.

The final LOIs must be sent by April 30, 2014. No extension of this deadline can be granted. These LOIs will be reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee of CANSSI; the membership of the committee is available at [www.canssi.ca](http://www.canssi.ca). Teams will be notified whether or not they may proceed to a full application by August 1, 2014. Full applications will be due October 6, 2014.

Please send the LOIs to CANSSI's Scientific Director at [methomps@uwaterloo.ca](mailto: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 designed for a three-year agenda, with the first and third years featuring 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 will be approximately \$200,000 over the three years. This is to 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.

The evaluation criteria are 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. Projects in application areas and in the core of the statistical sciences are encouraged.

Applicants are advised that the LOI is a critical stage in the application process. Only teams with LOIs demonstrating clear potential for eventual success in the competition will be invited to submit a full application in this competition. It is important that the novelty and impact of the proposed research be abundantly clear to reviewers in the LOI.

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 August 2014.

An LOI 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. Agreement should have been obtained from all proposed collaborators. The team of collaborators 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 and their travel to Canada could be supported. Stipends to trainees outside the country would be an ineligible expense.

**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).