



Subject: Expressions of Interest: Tier 2 SSHRC Canada Research Chair (Internal)

Dear Colleagues,

Mount Allison University invites expressions of interest from internal tenured or tenure-track faculty members for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in any SSHRC-eligible discipline. The anticipated start date for this Chair is May 1, 2027.

This internal search is part of Mount Allison's ongoing commitment to strengthening research excellence, supporting emerging scholars, and aligning CRC nominations with institutional priorities.

About Tier 2 Chairs

Tier 2 Chairs are tenable for five years and are renewable once. They are intended for exceptional emerging researchers who have demonstrated the potential to achieve international recognition in their fields within the next five to ten years. Nominees should:

- be excellent emerging researchers with demonstrated research creativity;
- have the potential to attract, develop, and retain excellent trainees and students; and
- propose an original, innovative, and high-quality research program.

Recent updates to the CRC program have expanded eligibility. The 10-year eligibility window is now calculated from the date of first independent academic appointment (rather than highest degree), with allowances for career interruptions. Faculty who may not have previously considered themselves eligible are encouraged to inquire.

Faculty members with confirmed tenure-track appointments commencing July 1, 2026 are also welcome to express interest and are encouraged to contact the Office of Research Services to discuss eligibility and timing.

Institutional research context

Mount Allison's [Strategic Research Plan](#) frames areas of research intensity and emphasis broadly in terms of quality of life and human endeavour. Consistent with the University's recent [Strategic Plan](#) (*Broad Minds. Bold Futures. Lifelong Connections*), these areas are understood expansively to include research and creative activity that:

- advances knowledge and creativity across the liberal arts and sciences;
- contributes to individual and collective well-being;
- engages critically with complex social, cultural, and global challenges, including through interdisciplinary and collaborative research; and
- enhances the student experience through meaningful integration of research, teaching, and mentorship.

Applicants are encouraged to interpret these areas broadly and to articulate how their research program contributes to Mount Allison's evolving strengths as a future-focused, student-centred research and teaching environment.

Institutional supports

Consistent with Mount Allison's CRC commitments:

- Chairholders receive a reduced teaching load (approximately 50%);
- are not required to undertake service commitments (unless they choose to do so); and
- benefit from strong institutional research support.

In addition, Tier 2 CRCs receive a research stipend from the CRC program (\$20,000 annually during the first term), which is matched by Mount Allison to support the development of the Chairholder's research program.

CRC nominees may be eligible to apply for infrastructure funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). For SSHRC-aligned projects, the CFI allows proposals requesting up to \$75,000; where total project costs do not exceed \$75,000, up to 100% of eligible infrastructure costs may be funded.

Application materials

Expressions of interest should include:

1. **Statement of research program** (2–3 pages)

Applicants are encouraged to frame their program in relation to Tier 2 criteria (see the [Canada Research Chairs Program nomination requirements](#) for full details) and to articulate its originality, significance, and feasibility. Statements should clearly describe the proposed research program, its trajectory over the term of the Chair, and its potential contribution to the field.

Applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate how their record and proposed program align with expectations for Tier 2 Chairs, including evidence of emerging research excellence, the potential to achieve international recognition, the capacity to attract external research funding, and a strong commitment to the training and mentorship of students.

2. **Departmental endorsement** (1 page, signed by Head/Director)

The endorsement should confirm the department or program's support for the proposed nomination and its alignment with unit priorities, as well as the feasibility of the proposed research program within the department or program context.

Consistent with Mount Allison's CRC commitments, Chairholders receive a reduced teaching load (approximately 50%). For internally nominated Chairholders, departments/programs that experience a net teaching reduction are supported through institutional teaching stipends, which may be used to offset this impact.

In cases where the applicant is a Department Head or Program Director, the endorsement should be provided by the Dean.

3. **Alignment statement** (1 page)

Applicants should demonstrate how their proposed research program aligns with Mount Allison's Strategic Research Plan and the University's Strategic Plan. This should include consideration of both the intellectual contribution of the work (e.g., within "quality of life" and/or "human endeavour") and its broader relevance to Mount Allison's evolving priorities as a future-focused, student-centred institution.

4. **Curriculum vitae**

Applicants must submit a current traditional curriculum vitae that reflects their research contributions, funding, and training/mentorship activities. There is no strict page limit; however, applicants are encouraged to present a focused and clearly organized record of their most relevant achievements.

Applicants may also submit a narrative CV (up to 5 pages) as a supplement to provide additional context on the significance, impact, and trajectory of their contributions, particularly where traditional formats may not fully capture their work. Guidance on preparing a narrative CV is available through the [Tri-Agency CV instructions](#).

Process and review

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by members of the Senate Research and Creative Activities Committee, with input from additional faculty members with relevant disciplinary expertise, including those with recent SSHRC funding and/or experience as Canada Research Chairholders.

This approach is intended to ensure a rigorous, fair, and transparent assessment process that is informed by current standards of research excellence and aligned with the expectations of the Canada Research Chairs Program. Reviewers will consider the quality, originality, and feasibility of the proposed research program, as well as its alignment with CRC Tier 2 criteria and institutional priorities.

The selected nominee will be supported through development of a full CRC nomination for submission to the CRC program.

Process and timeline

While the CRC program has moved to a continuous intake model, Mount Allison anticipates targeting the October 2026 intake cycle to support a May 2027 start date.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion

Mount Allison University is committed to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and equitable research environment. We recognize that life circumstances—such as illness, disability, maternity or parental leave, caregiving responsibilities, or other career interruptions—may affect a candidate's record of research achievement. These legitimate impacts will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.

We strongly encourage applications from all qualified candidates, particularly those from groups underrepresented in research, including women and gender minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of racialized communities.

Applicants will be invited to complete a short, voluntary self-identification questionnaire as part of their application. This information will be collected and held confidentially by the University, will not be shared with the selection committee or used in the evaluation of applications, and will be used only in aggregate to support institutional equity objectives and reporting obligations under the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Accommodations

Mount Allison University is committed to providing an inclusive and barrier-free recruitment process. Accommodations are available for applicants at all stages of the application and selection process. Candidates who require accommodations are encouraged to make their request in confidence. To arrange accommodations, please contact Sabine Beisser, Director of People and Culture, at sbeisser@mta.ca. All requests will be handled respectfully, confidentially, and in a timely manner.

Further information

The Office of Research Services will offer information sessions is available for one-on-one consultations to support prospective applicants.

Information sessions:

Friday, May 8 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Microsoft Teams)

Join meeting: [Microsoft Teams link](#)

Meeting ID: 296 741 138 911 711

Passcode: kH32NT6m

Tuesday, May 19 | 2:00–3:00 p.m. (Microsoft Teams)

Join meeting: [Microsoft Teams link](#)

Meeting ID: 267 870 600 472 169

Passcode: S2me6Hr2

Deadline

Expressions of interest should be submitted to provost@mta.ca by **4:30 p.m. Atlantic Time on Friday, June 19, 2026**. Applicants can expect to be notified of the outcome by early summer 2026.

Questions about eligibility or the process may be directed to Maria Thistle or Greg Sandala in the research office at research@mta.ca.

Sincerely,
Richard Isnor, D.Phil.
Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research