

## New Measures to enhance Research Security

Dear Colleagues,

The Government of Canada takes its responsibility to protect Canadian research very seriously. Canada's advanced research ecosystem is at the forefront of global discovery, but it can also be an attractive target for foreign state actors that pose a risk to our national security.

Recognizing the constantly evolving threat environment, in February 2023, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety issued the [statement on protecting Canada's research](#). In accordance with this statement, Canada's federal research funding agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)—and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) will work with government partners to develop and implement the measures to enhance research security.

The Government of Canada, including the federal research funding agencies, and the research community have a shared responsibility to protect the integrity of our research ecosystem and to safeguard it from activities that undermine its foundational principles of openness, transparency, merit, academic freedom, and reciprocity. We are committed to ensuring that the open and collaborative research we fund does not contribute to advancements in military, security, and intelligence capabilities of foreign state actors that pose a threat to Canada. Canadian researchers are encouraged to exercise due diligence when managing their research and establishing and/or continuing international partnerships and collaborations.

Further guidance on research security will be provided by the Government of Canada, in the coming months, regarding sensitive research areas and affiliations with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence, and state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to Canada's national security. This enhanced policy will apply to future grant applications and builds on the efforts already underway to strengthen Canada's research security, while continuing to support an open and collaborative research environment.

While exercising vigilance in protecting Canadian research, we must guard against any conscious and unconscious biases that could result in discriminatory behaviors. It is paramount that the research security measures implemented by the Government of Canada not lead to discrimination against, or profiling of, any member of the research community. Freedom from discrimination is a fundamental and internationally recognized human right, and an equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment

is essential for the production of ground-breaking, high-quality research that generates impact.

The Government of Canada, including the federal research funding agencies, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, will continue to support and to work with the research community, to safeguard Canada's research alongside our continued commitments to open science, to international collaboration, and to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Together, we can cultivate a strong, globally competitive research and innovation system in Canada, such that the fruits of Canadian research and development are realized by those that conduct it and for the benefit of Canadians.

