

Dalhousie University

Arthur B. McDonald Chair of Research Excellence

Terms of Reference

The Arthur B. McDonald Chair program was created in 2016 to recognize and retain professors of high calibre at Dalhousie University. Three (3) inaugural McDonald Chairs were created in the first call for nominations.

A Chair carries with it a \$50k/year cash award and extends for a period of up to seven years (or retirement). The funding may be used entirely for the awardee's program of research or a portion (no greater than half) may be used as a salary stipend with the remainder being used for research support. Faculties are expected to provide partial teaching release to allow awardees increased time to focus on their research efforts.

The McDonald Chair is a non-renewable award, although the title alone may be held for an additional seven-year term upon written recommendation by the Dean and approval of the Provost and the VP Research and Innovation.

The primary purpose of the McDonald Chairs is retention of outstanding researchers; however, if a Chair becomes vacant and no retention issues are pending, the committee may decide to conduct a call for nominations for Chairs.

Nominees are expected to:

- Hold the title of full Professor;
- Be at the level of an exceptional Tier 1 CRC;
- Be actively involved in world-class research of demonstrably significant impact on the field;
- Have achieved international prominence in their field;
- Demonstrate strong commitments to successful initiative(s) contributing to equity, diversity and inclusiveness (EDI);
- Be noteworthy leaders in attracting and training the best and brightest students – offering a rich environment for trainees to gain the skills they need to become future research leaders;
- Undertake an innovative program of research that is strategically aligned with Dalhousie's Research and Innovation Strategic Direction for 2018-2023 and, in so doing, play a significant role in building the institution's strength and renown.

Deans will nominate candidates in their respective faculties. Nominations submitted by others will not be accepted. The Arthur B. McDonald Chair program was created in 2016 to recognize and retain professors of high calibre at Dalhousie University. Nomination packages, submitted in response to either an immediate retention issue or an open call, must include:

- A letter of nomination from the Dean (no more than four pages in length) outlining why the nominee is of this calibre and highlighting how the nominee meets all award criteria;

- A two-page description of the proposed program of research that outlines outcomes and impacts that advance Dalhousie's Research and Innovation Strategic Direction;
- A current version of the nominee's CV.

Please note: Any additional materials will be removed before the nomination package is presented to the review committee.

Dalhousie University is committed to fostering a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness and principle of inclusive excellence. In support of this, the university will prioritize nominations made on behalf of Indigenous persons, persons with a disability, racially visible persons, women, persons of a minority sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of those in our community with special recognition of their research excellence.

Nominees cannot hold any other significant Chair (such as a Canada Research Chair or a Killam Chair) and a McDonald Chair concurrently.

A panel of senior administrators – Provost and VPA, VPRI, two appropriately representative Deans (*not in conflict*), and the Chair of Senate – will review all nominations and render final decisions for this award.