

What is the IMNP funding opportunity?

The Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health (IAPH) is looking to support innovative mentoring proposals from researchers and leaders with a distinguished track record in successfully mentoring First Nations, Inuit and Métis trainees and New Investigators, and experience in community-based research. The participation of international Indigenous scholars and mentors in the **Indigenous Mentorship Network Program (IMNP)** is encouraged.

Through the initiative IAPH is looking to support 7 provincial nodes and one National/International Coordinating node each representing their respective First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis communities.

Leveraging the success of other effective mentoring initiatives, either in Canada or abroad, IAPH will fund transformative and paradigm-shifting IMNP proposals. The **goal** of the proposed network aims to increase the support to Undergraduate, Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral trainees, as well as New Investigators, (collectively referred to as mentees), thus increasing the number and competitiveness of First Nations, Inuit and Métis researchers through innovative mentoring activities.

It is important that the IMNP program meets the needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis mentees. By their very nature, Two-eyed Seeing¹ and similar concepts can be seen as the fabric of mentorship, and in particular, the basis for the IMNP. Implicit in a Two-eyed Seeing approach to mentoring is the involvement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mentors working collaboratively and synergistically to provide a rich training environment for First Nations, Inuit and Métis mentees. Non-Indigenous mentors must understand the factors impeding trainees from achieving their full potential; these include colonization and its various consequences, such as the generational impacts of residential schools. The IMNP has two unique features; it will offer distinctive cohort learning opportunities and supplemental tailored mentoring activities that are not available in any other forum or location.

The tailored activities of the mentorship networks must complement core course work/degree programs and early career responsibilities in research design, methodology, and other core content areas, which might be available within participating institutions. The mentoring activities must also complement the trainee-specific research project(s), which will continue to be developed, either independently (in the case of New Investigators), or in conjunction with local research supervisors (in the case of up-and-coming investigators).

It is also expected that the IMNPs will implement a program outreach able to maximize the diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations amongst mentees while accommodating their contextual needs. Please review the "[Additional Information](#)" section for examples of activities to be covered by the IMNPs.

Why did the IMNP change?

The rationale for this change in the funding call came from the direction of our community stakeholders. CIHR-IAPH had heard during our five summer Strategic Plan community gatherings that primarily, our funding opportunities in general, needed to have better, more appropriate representation of Indigenous communities across Canada, and more funding needed to be put aside for mentorship of Indigenous scholars across the educational journey. Hearing that, we requested to increase the overall budget of the funding call (almost doubling it) and had discussions with CIHR as to how best to ensure representation from across Canada.

By creating opportunities for provincial networks to be created, we had hoped that this would allow for more substantial, representative, and impactful mentorship opportunities, across all Canadian jurisdictions. Furthermore, at the LOI stage, unfortunately, there were also no successful Northern teams, where mentorship opportunities are in significant need. As such, we have made it a requirement in the new iteration of this funding opportunity, to include Northern partners on each successful team. It is important to continue to support and create opportunities with our Northern partners through all of our CIHR initiatives.

As it stands, there is now opportunity for eight (8) successful teams, based in the following jurisdictions:

- British Columbia;
- Alberta;
- Manitoba;
- Saskatchewan;
- Ontario;
- Quebec;
- Atlantic and Maritime region; and
- National/International Coordinating Centre.

How has the IMNP funding opportunity changed?

The following table outlines operational changes to the IMNP funding opportunity:

	Previous iteration	Current iteration
Number of successful nodes	4	8 (BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, PQ, Maritimes, National/International Coordinating)
LOI requirement	Yes	No; you do not have to have been successful in the previous LOI stage to apply now
Funding	• The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$4,700,000, enough to fund up to 8 development grants and up to 4 grants at full application. This amount may increase if additional funding partners participate.	• The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$8,000,000, enough to fund up to 8 grants at full application. This amount may increase if additional funding partners participate.

	• The maximum amount per development grant is \$25,000. • The maximum amount per Training grant is \$225,000 per year for up to 5 years. • Of the \$4,700,000, a minimum of: ◦ \$200,000 is available for up to 8 development LOI grants; ◦ \$1,125,000 is available to fund 1 full application from the Western region; ◦ \$1,125,000 is available to fund 1 full application from the Central region; ◦ \$1,125,000 is available to fund 1 full application from the Eastern region; ◦ \$1,125,000 is available to fund 1 full application from the Northern region. • A minimum of 1 fundable grant in each funding pool will be funded at full application. If there is no fundable application in a particular pool, remaining applications in the competition will be funded in rank order as far as the remaining budget will allow.	• There are no longer any development grants. There is no requirement to submit an LOI to be considered for the full application. • The maximum amount per Training grant is \$200,000 per year for up to 5 years. • Of the \$8,000,000, a minimum of: ◦ \$1,000,000 is available to fund one team from each of the following jurisdictions: British Columbia; Alberta; Saskatchewan; Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; Atlantic and Maritimes region; and the National /International Coordinating node • A minimum of 1 fundable grant in each funding pool will be funded at full application. If there is no fundable application in a particular pool, remaining applications in the competition will be funded in rank order as far as the remaining budget will allow.
Objectives	The IMNP is expected to: • Increase mentorship opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis trainees and New Investigators through networking; • Increase mentorship opportunities and collaborations with regions across Canada's North; • Address recruitment, retention and representation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis trainees and New Investigators; • Create mechanisms within Mentorship Networks that support trainees and New Investigators throughout the different stages of their training and career;	The objectives have remained the same with the exception of the following: Additional objectives specific to the successful National/International Coordinating mentorship network team are to: • Identify, develop, maintain international Mentorship Networks that support the relationship between Canadian Indigenous mentees and International Indigenous mentors; • Lead, coordinate, and organize national events to help promote networking activities among the

	• Inclusion of cultural practices and attention to the psychosocial needs of trainees in IMNPs; • Identify systemic and individual barriers hindering First Nations, Inuit and Métis trainees and New Investigators from becoming full-tenured faculty members or Nominated Principal Investigators driving the Indigenous health research agenda, for example, and develop strategies for overcoming barriers.	successful provincial mentorship teams.
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How does this impact any important dates?

The new dates are as follows:

- **Application deadline:** January 31 , 2017
- **Funding Start Date:** April 1 , 2017
- **Notice of decision:** April 19 , 2017

What does this mean for the previously successful LOI teams?

There is no need to reorganize existing teams, as long as the NPA is located in the jurisdiction from which the application originates, which is a new requirement. Current PIs from the previously successful LOI teams can offer existing team members to join other teams, which may happen to have a better geographic fit. There is, however, no requirement that the networks are limited to team members who are in the jurisdiction of the NPA.

Do all successful IMNP nodes require an international connection?

There is no international requirement of the provincial IMNP nodes.

Do all successful IMNP nodes require a Northern connection in Canada?

Yes, there is a requirement of provincial teams to include Northern partners.

How will the peer review process take place for this funding opportunity?

Peer review for this funding opportunity will be conducted in the traditional, in-person process as this is a strategic grant. There is no protocol to change the scoring system (i.e. scoring 3.5 on 4.9 as fundable). Applications will be reviewed for scientific excellence, evaluated on the criteria as described in the funding opportunity. For more information on the peer review process, please contact the **CIHR Contact Centre**:

Telephone: 613-954-1968

Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178

Email: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Can the Principal Investigator (PI) on the grant hold an administrative appointment (as opposed to an academic appointment)?

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11012 Blusson Hall, 8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Tel : (778) 782-9590
Fax : (778) 782-9627 www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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Fax : (778) 782-9627 www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

The Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) is required to hold an academic appointment but the other team members do not.

Can a PI on the grant also be a trainee?

Yes, PIs can be trainees at the time of application.

Is there a requirement that trainees be graduate students or New Investigators? Can support be offered to undergraduate students who demonstrate an interest in moving onto graduate health research?

There is no requirement that the trainees be graduate students or new investigators - you can certainly support other students not yet at these stages.

Do the activities we are proposing have to be limited to Indigenous students, or can we focus on supporting Indigenous students, with an eye to also offering some of these same activities to non-Indigenous students?

No, you do not need to limit mentorship support to Indigenous students. In fact we see value in having both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students supported through this opportunity. It creates the space and opportunity for the Two-Eyed Seeing and co-learning concepts to be operationalized.

Who can I contact for more information on the IMNP funding opportunity?

Please contact Maya Nakajima, Acting Associate Director at IAPH (maya_nakajima@sfu.ca).

Who can I contact for more general information on how to submit an application to CIHR?

Please contact the **CIHR Contact Centre**:

Telephone: 613-954-1968

Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178

Email: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca