



## **Western Research Centre – 2014-15 Call for Proposals**

### **UAKN Context**

The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) seeks to bring attention to the research deficit and knowledge disparity of the urban Aboriginal environment by focusing attention on the research, policy and programming needs of the urban Aboriginal community.

The goal of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) is to be a durable research network that focuses attention on urban Aboriginal concerns and contributes to a better quality of life for Aboriginal peoples living in cities and towns by:

- Funding high-quality, policy-relevant research undertaken by research centres that bring together urban Aboriginal community, academic and government perspectives; and,
- Engaging government, academic and Aboriginal community stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue on policy priorities and research needs.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has awarded a Partnership Grant to the UAKN initiative for five years (2012 - 2017) to fund a number of research projects under the following broad research themes:

- 1) Human development: needs and outcomes of individuals and families
- 2) Social cohesion: community well-being, education, justice
- 3) Economic development: economic participation, employment, entrepreneurship, income
- 4) Civic engagement: urban Aboriginal councils and/or urban Aboriginal community organizations role in the city and with other local organizations.

The Western Research Centre (BC/AB) has \$90,000 in the 2014-15 budget to fund a number of research projects under the following regionally identified more specific research themes:

- 1) Child Welfare and the Strengthening of Families
- 2) Homelessness and Housing
- 3) Urban Self-Government

Urban Aboriginal communities (as represented by Friendship Centres and other urban Aboriginal organizations) will identify which theme is most relevant for their community. Respecting the community based participatory action research process, other community recognized themes will be considered, if they are not included within these broad research themes.

**Research teams must be comprised of at least one representative of an urban Aboriginal organization in BC or Alberta and at least one academic researcher who is affiliated with a post-secondary institution in BC or Alberta. We encourage teams to also involve representatives from government departments.**

### **Call for Proposals**

The Western Research Centre of the UAKN is seeking proposals for urban Aboriginal community based research projects. Candidates are invited to submit a research proposal detailing their anticipated research project on or before **Nov. 28, 2014**.

The successful research proposals will be funded based on the following funding criteria:

- 1) Pilot projects or literature synthesis projects with a 6 month timeframe will be funded to a maximum of \$5000.00
- 2) Standard research grants with a 12 month timeframe will be funded in two distinct categories:  
(a) To a maximum of \$15,000.00 and (b) To a maximum of \$30,000.00

Research proposals need to contain the following information:

- 1) Proposed topic or title.
- 2) Body of research proposal (4 pg. max., 12 font size, 1" margins) Please consider the following merit criteria in your submission:
  - a. Does the anticipated project include at least one urban Aboriginal community based organization such as a Friendship Centre? State how they are involved in all aspects of the research project.
  - b. Does the proposal include at least one academic researcher from a post-secondary institution in BC or Alberta?
  - c. Will the project use community based participatory action research methods?
  - d. Does the research theme reflect one of the identified UAKN research themes? If not, please explain the importance of your research theme.
  - e. Are other community partners identified? If so, please append a letter of support providing evidence of the partnership.
  - f. How will the research contribute to urban Aboriginal policy, community development and well-being as well as scholarly knowledge?
  - g. Does the research project align with the UAKN Guiding Ethical Principles?  
<http://uakn.org/uakn-guiding-ethical-principles/>

- h. Will the project include the training of new scholars? How will the new scholars be involved, mentored, or trained?

*Note: The participation of Aboriginal students is considered an asset and this aspect will be weighted heavily.*

- 3) Intended audience (e.g. urban Aboriginal peoples, academics, researchers, general public, government, other, etc.)
- 4) Researcher(s) full name(s), professional title, full contact information, and a short C.V (4 – 6 pgs. max.)
- 5) A budget with justification.
- 6) A strong application will show the applicants' ability to leverage other funds and/or have funds already committed.

### **Project Deliverables**

All funded projects are required to provide a written report upon completion of the research. Author(s) may be invited to present the results of the research project at regional and/or national UAKN conferences. Additionally, a summary statement of the research will be needed to use in press releases and for posting on the UAKN website. Other methods of reporting may also apply as projects align with community based participatory research processes.

### **Submission**

**Please submit the research proposal by the Nov. 28, 2014 deadline to: [Gina.MacDonald@unbc.ca](mailto:Gina.MacDonald@unbc.ca)**

All research proposals will undergo an adjudication process led by the Western Research Centre Executive Committee and applicants will be notified of the final decision by Dec. 6, 2013. Please note that the merit criteria to be evaluated will consist of community, academic and policy based criteria. All questions and enquiries can be directed to the Co-Directors of the Western Region:

Dr. Paul Bowles, Economics Department, University of Northern BC: [Paul.Bowles@unbc.ca](mailto:Paul.Bowles@unbc.ca)

Dr. Ross Hoffman, First Nations Studies Dept., University of Northern BC: [Ross.Hoffman@unbc.ca](mailto:Ross.Hoffman@unbc.ca)

The titles and short descriptions of projects funded in the last competition round can be found at: <http://uakn.org/research-centres/western-research-centre>

All successful research projects must obtain the approval of their respective university research ethics board and comply with any indigenous research ethics board, where they exist, before funds will be released.