

Memo

To: Associate Deans Research
Cc: Deans, Research Support Staff
From: Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation
Date: January 18, 2021
Subject: **2021 NSERC Donna Strickland Prize**

Please find below information regarding the 2021 competition for [NSERC Donna Strickland Prize for Societal Impact of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research](#), which recognizes an individual or team whose outstanding research, conducted in Canada in the natural sciences and engineering, has led to exceptional benefits for Canadian society, environment and/or economy. This is the inaugural year for the \$250,000 prize.

This information should be circulated to your respective Faculty Research Office and faculty members.

Eligible candidates may be nominated by any individual or group; however, the nominators must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

Support from the Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives (SIRI) team is available for York University nominees who wish to access the support.

NSERC Donna Strickland Prize for Societal Impact of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research

Launched in 2020, the NSERC Donna Strickland Prize for Societal Impact of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research is awarded annually to an individual or team whose outstanding research, conducted in Canada in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE), has led to exceptional benefits for Canadian society, environment and/or economy.

Exceptional benefits can be demonstrated in one or more interacting spheres of Canadian life. Examples include:

- improvements to specific procedures in society (e.g., laws, regulations, protocols)
- stimulation of new approaches to social issues
- improvements to quality of life
- informing public debate
- improvements to policy making
- reduction of waste and pollution
- protection of species
- reduction of the impact of pollutants on ecosystems and humans
- improvements in the sustainable use of resources
- protection of ecosystems
- reduction in the impacts of climate change
- contributions to economic growth and wealth creation



- introduction of a disruptive technology
- creation of a new industrial sector

The winner (principal nominee) will receive a \$250,000 NSERC research grant paid over a period of up to 5 years.

Nominations are **due April 1, 2021**.

All eligible nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee of distinguished academic, government and industry research representatives from a variety of disciplines.

The committee will review the nomination based on the following criteria:

- **Research (30%):** impact of the research within its field
- **Knowledge mobilization (20%):** involvement of the nominee(s) in the mobilization of research knowledge, resulting in the benefits described in the nomination
- **Societal impact (50%):** significance of the benefits to Canadian society

Additional details can be found at: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Prizes-Prix/Strickland-Strickland/Nomination-Nomination_eng.asp

Eligibility

All researchers in the field of natural sciences and engineering, regardless of career stage, can be nominated. The research must be conducted in Canada, primarily in the field of natural sciences and engineering, and must have been at least in part supported by NSERC. Self-nominations will not be accepted, and current NSERC Council members are not eligible for nomination.

In order to be nominated as an individual, the nominee must hold an NSERC research grant.

In order to be nominated as a team, at least one of the team members must hold an NSERC research grant. The majority of the team members must be employed at a Canadian university, Canadian federal or provincial government lab, or private firm active in Canada.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

NSERC is acting on the evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding, and to respond to local, national and global challenges. This principle informs the commitments described in the [Tri-agency statement on equity, diversity and inclusion](#).

As such, nominators are strongly encouraged to consider equity, diversity and inclusion in their nomination processes.

For more information

Please review the call for nomination at: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Prizes-Prix/Strickland-Strickland/Nomination-Nomination_eng.asp

Submissions and Available support

While nominators submit directly to NSERC, all York nominees for this prize are to notify their Faculty Research Offices and submit the nomination materials along with an ORS checklist for approval prior to submission. Speak with your Faculty Research Office for information regarding available support from those offices. SIRI support is also available and can include a review by the Major Awards Advisory Committee if time allows. Please contact SIRI Specialist Abby Vogus at avogus@yorku.ca to discuss how SIRI could best support your nomination.

Timeline

Date	Milestone
February 24th	Deadline for MAAC review of draft materials (if review is desired)
Noon, March 29	Complete nomination file with ORS checklist due to ORS (email to avogus@yorku.ca)
April 1	NSERC Deadline

Contact: Abby Vogus, Strategic and Institution Research and Award (SIRI) Specialist, Office of Research Services, avogus@yorku.ca.