

## ITEM FOR INFORMATION

**Committee Name:** Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee, University Council

**Date:** June 11, 2026

**Presented by:** Eric Lamb, Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

### **Subject: Vice-President Research Annual Report**

#### **SUMMARY**

At its May 21, 2026 meeting, RSAW members received the annual report from the Vice-President Research, Baljit Singh. In summary, Dr. Singh noted a continually strong and increasingly strategic research environment at USask, with growing emphasis on impact and community engagement. At the national level, the research and innovation landscape remains supportive, with new federal investments in infrastructure and defence-related research that are additive and integrated across facilities, personnel, and trainees. Provincially, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to provide stable and consistent support for research.

USask is strengthening its focus on community-connected research, positioning its activities at serving local, rural, northern, and Indigenous communities while maintaining global relevance. This approach aligns with the emerging University Plan centred on “local connections for global impact,” and is reflected in initiatives such as community-based research partnerships, outreach programming, and major engagement infrastructure projects.

In 2025–26, USask recorded \$272M in research revenue and \$164M in awarded funding, with steady growth in recent years. Success rates in federal tri-agency competitions are at or above national averages, supported by institutional grant development and mentorship. The university continues to secure major national and international funding and maintain an expanding global research footprint, with partnerships spanning more than 55 countries.

USask is building on established strengths in agriculture, health, energy, and social sciences, while expanding into emerging areas such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and defence-related research. Innovation and commercialization are also growing, supported by increased patenting activity and startup development initiatives. Looking ahead, priorities include strengthening faculty capacity, expanding health research leadership, enhancing graduate and undergraduate research opportunities, and preparing for increased engagement in defence-related research framed around community resilience.

Overall, USask is well-positioned within a favourable funding and policy environment, demonstrating strong research performance, an expanding global presence, and a clear shift toward community-focused impact as it develops its next institutional plan.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2025-2026 Annual Report- Office of the Vice-President Research



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

# 2025 - 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of the Vice-President Research

**BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS**

*'Capturing the Radiance of USask's Beloved Airplane Room' by Dr. Ian Stavness (PhD), Department of Computer Science, College of Arts and Science.*



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Saskatchewan is on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

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# VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

## BALJIT SINGH

Once again, it is my honour to provide members of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) community the 2025-26 Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) report on behalf of the Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR).

The role of RSAW has never been more important.

Our world is changing rapidly at a speed we never thought imaginable. Areas of great importance and impact are advancing seemingly overnight. These include the literature we read, cars we drive, phones we use to connect, the energy that powers our homes and the way we appreciate and consume art and culture.

Many areas of our lives are undergoing monumental shifts, and we have just begun to scratch the surface of what these changes can do for us, as a society, and how they may impact our life as individuals.

Behind all these advancements and our abilities to respond to them remains one constant. And that, of course, is the RSAW that drives the innovation. None of these advancements in technology, artificial intelligence, energy or social sciences could be possible without the research behind these inventions, and the dedicated individuals behind the research.

I'm proud to say that USask is home to some of the best, brightest and most efficient researchers, scholars and artists in the country and we are positively contributing to this moment in history.

USask is an economic driver for the province with longstanding research and teaching collaborations in various parts of the world. The depth and strength of our international engagement is indicated by our international partnerships and growing funding opportunities. These international engagements support Saskatchewan's economic connections with the world.

We continue to excel in areas that have great importance to this province and the world; agrifood, water security, energy, health and social sciences are just a few examples.



The OVPR, our partners across our campus, and our dedicated cluster of world-leading research centres have found new ways to push the envelope and have continued to advance our RSAW footprint in ways that we've never seen before.

We are here to serve our local and global communities. What we do greatly matters to the people of Saskatchewan and the world, and USask's RSAW impact shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

Throughout the pages of this annual report, you'll find stories that showcase our commitment to accelerating RSAW in Saskatchewan and beyond. Through internationalization, entrepreneurialism, community engagement, funding successes, storytelling, and dependable research services, we are building momentum and greatly supporting our RSAW ecosystem.

This success was not created in a day. Instead, it has been built through the hard work of many employees over many years. Each of my predecessors, Dr. Corcoran, Dr. Franklin and Dr. Chad, and their teams had a major role in developing the foundation that my team and colleagues across our campus are benefiting from and strengthening further. There is an invisible thread that ties each one of us together, as we passed the baton from one hand to the next to create ever growing RSAW enterprise at USask.

On January 31, 2026, I also completed five years of service as your Vice-President, Research. It has been a journey of personal and professional growth, a huge joy in working with and learning from so many of you and to experience many triumphs, celebrations and transformations.

I am so proud of the team in OVPR and the collaboration with members of President's Executive, Deans and other leaders from across the campus.

As we reflect on the progress we've made, we also welcome a new chapter for RSAW at USask. I warmly welcome Vince Bruni-Bossio to his role as our new president and know that under his leadership we will continue to build, together.

There is still a lot to be done. We are looking ahead into 2027 and the development of a new *University Plan* to carry forward the momentum of our past and build a bright future for years to come.

Baljit Singh  
Vice-President Research  
University of Saskatchewan

# THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH

The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) provides key services and supports to researchers, fostering connections between USask's Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work (RSAW) endeavours and communities worldwide. Together, the units of OVPR facilitate the development of local, national, and international partnerships, manage grant and contract submissions, support knowledge mobilization, ensure compliance, and highlight the university's impact and achievements.

**International Office (IO):** supports the USask community to engage in international research and partnerships, by identifying funding opportunities, and bringing teams and global partners together to work on international projects. The IO's work supports and coordinates international initiatives highlighted in the university's *International Blueprint for Action 2025 – a vision for a globally significant university*.

**Innovation Mobilization and Partnerships (IMP):** builds strong ecosystems and research partnerships to support mobilizing USask innovations with the goal of creating external value for society, the economy, and the environment. IMP teams conduct technology transfer, research contracting, intellectual property management, venture creation, and innovation ecosystem engagement activities. IMP is the organizational home of Opus, USask's pre-accelerator program for founders with research-backed innovations for which they want to build new companies.

**Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASI):** supports the university research community in the incubation and development of research grants, infrastructure projects and initiatives, and management of the federal research chairs programs. Key goals of RASI are to provide researchers and the university with services and programs that create a competitive edge when applying for external research funding, ensure alignment with granting agency and national research security requirements, and support good management of external funding. RASI supports the development of a robust research culture through targeted programs and initiatives, including the Undergraduate Research Initiative and Discovery, Achievement and Research Excellence (DARE) program.



A photo of the OVPR leadership team, 2025/2026.

**Research, Profile and Impact (RPI):** tells the university's research story to the world – through strategic communications involving print, video, newsletters, media releases, web, social media, advertisements and events. It plays a critical role in building USask's reputation as a U15 institution, which in turn helps bolster our placement in university rankings and attracting top talent, public and private investment, as well as support from alumni and partners. As the university's liaison with federal and provincial granting agencies, RPI ensures compliance with communication requirements and leading high-profile events to showcase our research funding successes. Working in coordination with University Relations and a network of USask college and research centre communicators, RPI is here to help researchers celebrate their success, effectively tell their stories, and demonstrate their impact to the world.

**Research Ethics and Infrastructure:** upholds the approved ethical standards and guidelines for research conducted on campus. Services include reviewing and approving submissions, developing policies, providing education and training.

**Tri-Agency Research Support:** provides support to researchers applying for funding from the federal Tri-Agency granting councils, Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through the development of research grants. The goal of the Tri-Agency Support team is to support researchers through the initial phases of development of their grants through targeted workshops, mentorship, peer review, resources, and providing information around funding opportunities and deadlines.

**The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS):** **Dr. Dean Debby Burshtyn** (PhD) and VPR **Dr. Baljit Singh** (PhD), continue to incorporate CGPS strategy into RSAW planning to deepen graduate student and postdoctoral scholar experience. Leadership has been working closely with deans, centre directors and department heads on the alignment of graduate student programming. OVPR and CGPS continue to work collaboratively to find more graduate student funding and international opportunities.

*CGPS prepares an annual report for University Council. For further information on the college's priorities and activities, please refer to CGPS's report.*

# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

**Saskatchewan's Research in Action:** On March 10, Innovation Saskatchewan hosted teams from USask, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina at the legislature for an event that showcased Saskatchewan led research. The research on display highlighted the undeniable role RSAW plays in the fabric of Saskatchewan. **President Vincent Bruni-Bossio** was on hand to bring greetings, where he emphasized USask's strong history of innovation in Saskatchewan. USask researchers representing many areas, including agriculture, life sciences, energy, and critical minerals, were at the reception to speak to Members of the Legislative Assembly and many others about USask's RSAW and its role in innovating Saskatchewan.

**Senate presentation:** USask's RSAW elevates what this province is already known for – agriculture, energy, social sciences, health and many other disciplines. This was the message that VPR **Dr. Baljit Singh** (PhD) delivered during his presentation to the USask Senate, earlier this spring. The presentation underpinned how USask's discoveries and made-in Saskatchewan solutions are keeping us competitive on the global stage.



**Campus Conversations:** Throughout the year, the OVPR hosts Campus Conversations, which is an event that fosters constructive discussions with members of the campus community and OVPR leadership to support RSAW at USask. All faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows and students are welcome.

**Station 20 West:** USask continues to be a co-locator with the OVPR overseeing the lease and this important relationship. The Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR) has been the primary presence in this space. In 2026, the space is being opened to other researchers and groups who wish to have a community presence working with neighbourhoods in the area.

**RSAW Intersections – The Power of Story: Led by Dr. Kokum Linda Young and Elder Roland Duquette,** a panel that included Governor General’s Award winners **Tara Beagan** and **Cheryl L’Hirondelle**, as well as Canada Research Chair **Kristina Bidwell**, explored the meaning and purpose of story in their lives and work. **Elder Joseph Naytowhow** helped the group close the evening that was hosted by **Drs. Dawn Wallin (PhD)** and **Andrew Denton (PhD)** in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts, Remai Modern and USask.





**Digital Equity work with City of Saskatoon:** The OVPR is collaborating with the City of Saskatoon on a project that will support the City in its efforts to provide greater equity in access to digital technologies, programming and services.



**SSHRC Matters Series:** Throughout 2025-2026, the series explored topics related to community needs and interests, including: *Beyond Borders: Community-Driven Research in Africa and Lessons for Living Well: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Flourishing.*



**Research Junction:** In collaboration with the City of Saskatoon and the OVPR, the Research Junction program supports the development of joint research projects that address contemporary urban issues for the benefit of Saskatoon residents. To enhance research connections and support the development of large-scale, multi-year opportunities, Research Junction offers seed and development grants. These grants fund projects that are co-led and co-developed by a City of Saskatoon staff member and a USask researcher. In 2025-26, Research Junction funded four development grants and two seed grants for a total awarded funding of \$129K.



**Outreach/Media Events:** The OVPR, along with partners in USask's Government Relations and University Relations, welcomed community members and members of the media to campus to announce that USask will be home to Canada's first university-owned-and-operated, vendor-supported, full-stack, open-architecture quantum computer. Led by **Dr. Steven Rayan** (PhD), the new computer is a first in Canada and will allow researchers a unique opportunity to access new research avenues never before available.

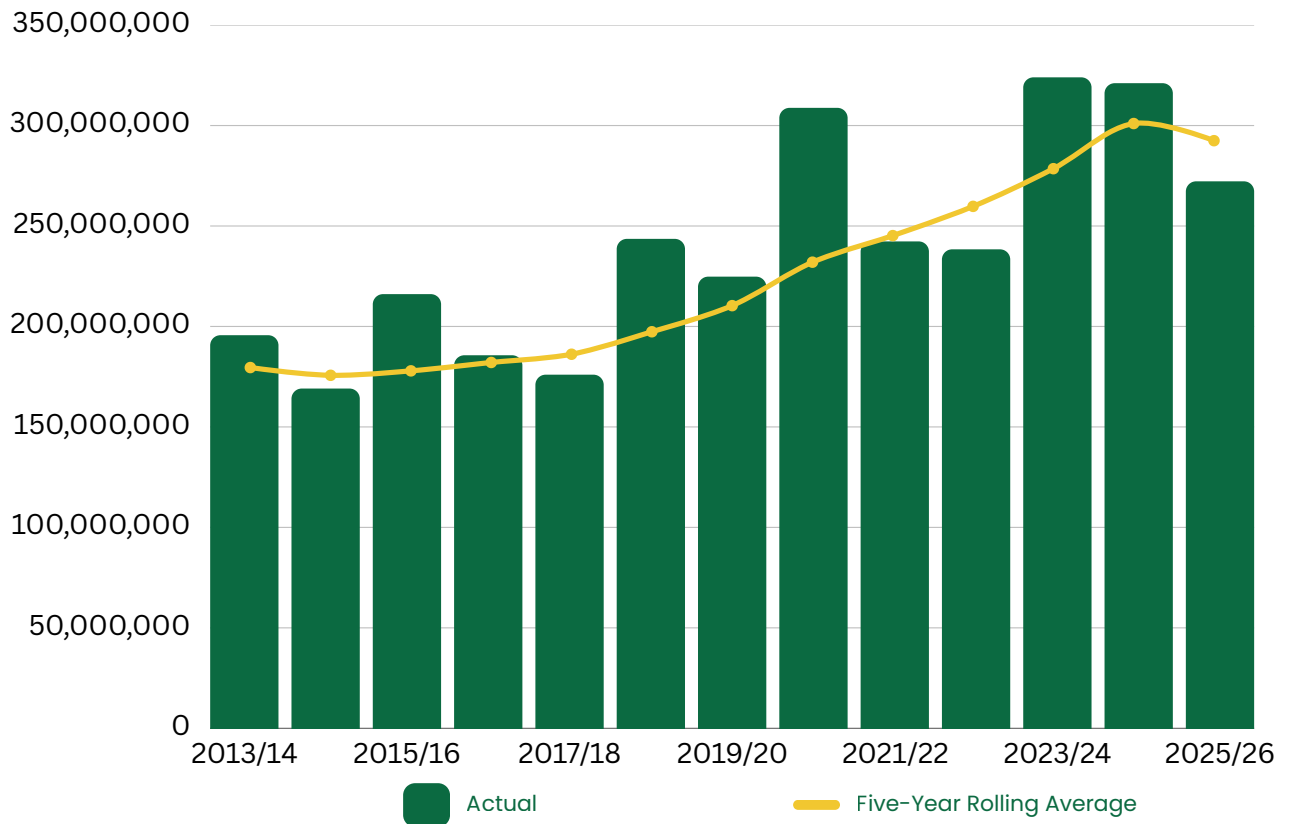
# RSAW FUNDING

## RSAW Revenue

- USask received **\$272 Million** in RSAW revenue recorded for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- The current five-year rolling average (2021-22 to 2025-26) **\$280 Million (17 per cent increase since 2021-22).**

*\*RSAW revenue amounts are shown as and when the money is received. Amounts are shown under each year the installment is received. \*\*Data is incomplete for 2025-2026 until July 2026.*

Annual RSAW Revenue\* and Five-Year Rolling Average

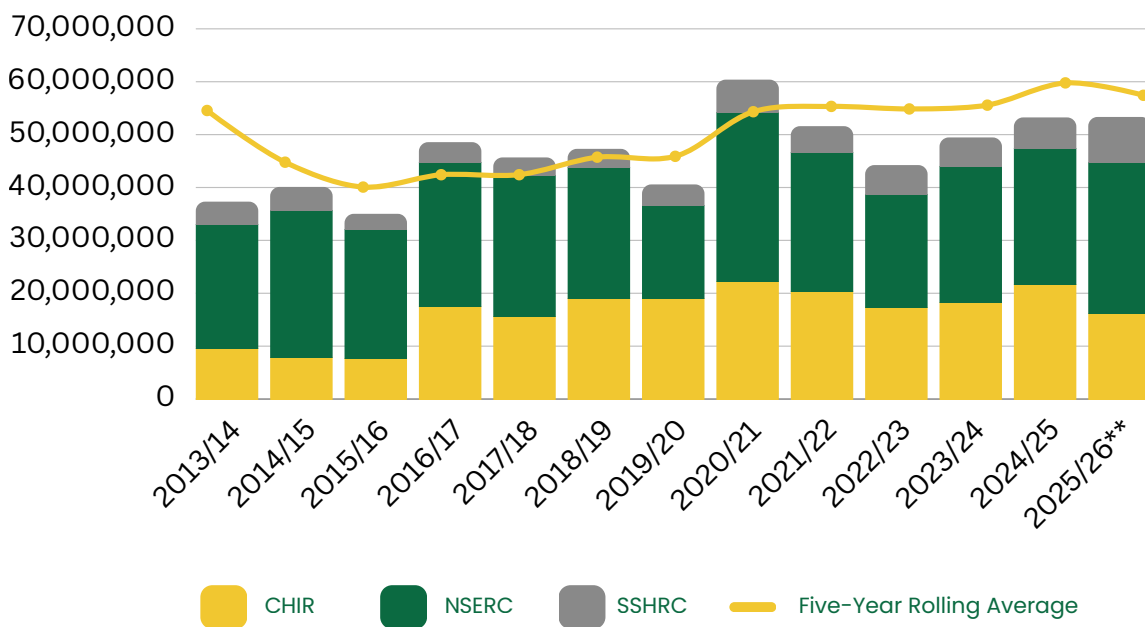


## Tri-Agency Five-Year Trends

Over the past five years, USask has experienced growth in tri-agency research activity and total funding, driven by increasing applications and strong performance in several key programs. Growth in applications and awarded funding across NSERC, CIHR, and SSHRC reflects a strong and engaged research ecosystem. For the purpose of this Annual Report, a short summary of selected tri-agency funding trends is provided below. Detailed five-year trend data is available upon request.

- **NSERC** has seen a consistent and steady increase in both application volumes and total funding, with Discovery Grant funding more than doubling since 2022. USask success rate has remained consistent and on par with national success rates.
- **CIHR Project Grants** show increasing submission volumes and higher total dollars awarded over the five-year period. The success rate in the 5/10 most recent competitions has been similar or higher than the national average.
- We are seeing significant increases in **SSHRC** applications for the flagship Insight program (Insight Grant and Insight Development Grant) with success rates remaining near national averages. There is also an increasing trend in submissions for grants focused on bringing people together for collaboration and knowledge mobilization (Connection Grants, and Partnership Engage Grants) with success rates higher than the national rates. Application rates for the SSHRC Partnership Program (Partnership Development Grant and Partnership Grant) remain quite low, with RASI and the Tri-Agency team working on improving supports for faculty who engage in these high-intensity collaborative grant applications.

Annual Tri-Agency RSAW Revenue\* (Actual) & Five-Year Moving Average



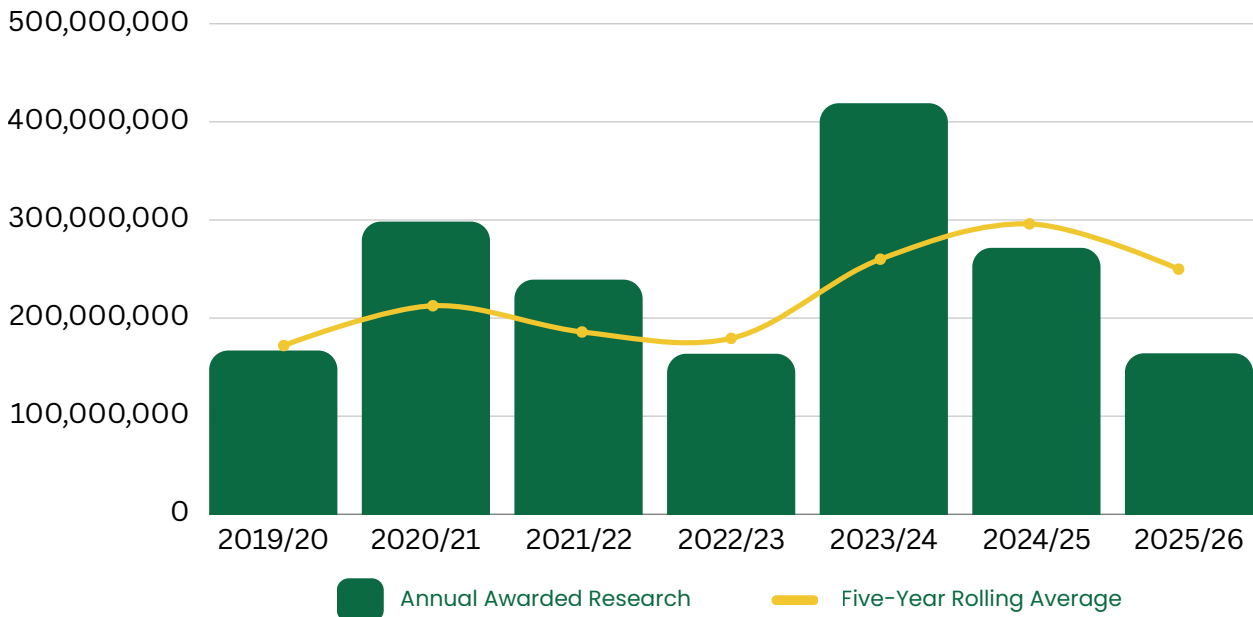
## Awarded RSAW

The OVPR supported researchers in securing:

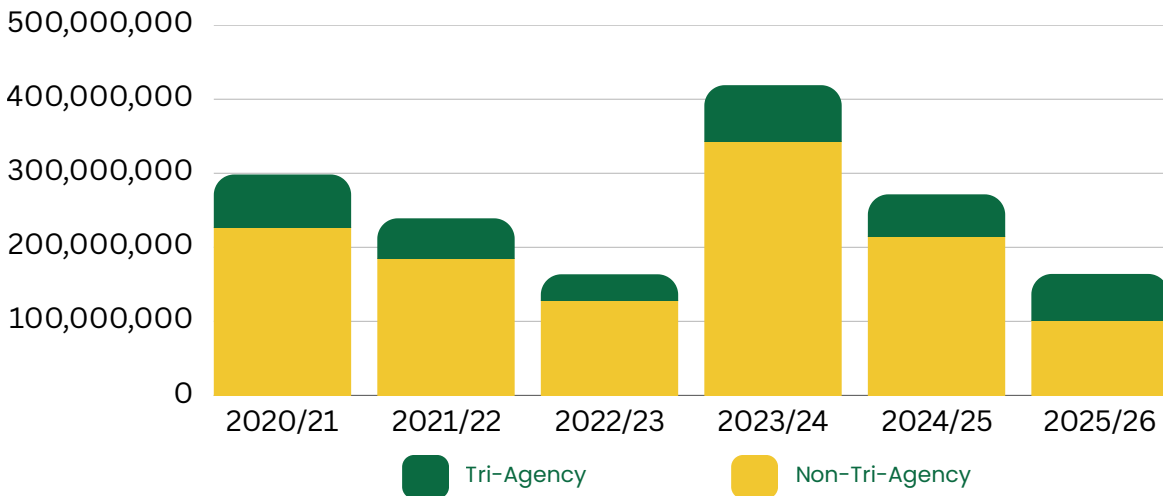
- USask received **\$164 Million** in awarded RSAW funding in 2025-26, including **\$63 Million** in Tri-Agency funding.
- USask’s five-year rolling average of awarded RSAW is **\$251 Million (17 per cent increase since 2021-22)**.

*\*Awarded RSAW includes the total research amounts under the year (fiscal year) the award was accepted. The total of all instalment amounts if any are shown under the date of acceptance of award.*

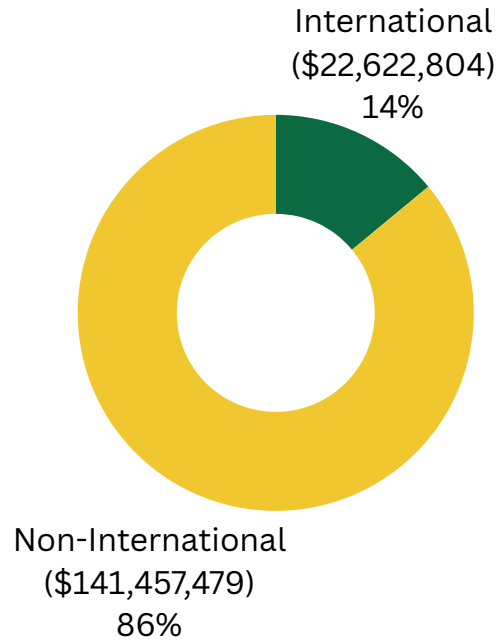
Awarded RSAW\* - Five-Year Rolling Average



USask Awarded RSAW



- Over **\$22 M** in awarded international RSAW funding from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 contributed to the USask total awarded RSAW funding listed above.



**Key grant successes in the last year include:**

**A) Large-scale and institutional RSAW and infrastructure grants**

OVPR supported the development of large-scale and institutional significant RSAW grant proposals, helping faculty navigate the complexity by providing a suite of strategic and practical supports. A few examples of key grants that USask was awarded in 2025-26 include:



*Dr. Karen Schwean-Lardner (PhD) with the College of AgBio speaks at an event announcing \$6.2 million from the CFI to support the construction of a new poultry laying facility at USask.*

- *The Story Collider: Listening, Telling and Retelling* led by **Drs. Dawn Wallin** (PhD) and **Andrew Denton** (PhD) received **\$3M** from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund (IF) program. Total project cost was funded through the inaugural social science, humanities and art (SSHA) funding stream.
- *Sustainable Eggs, Improved Animal Welfare and Enhanced Food Security through New Technologies* led by **Drs. Karen Schwean-Lardner** (PhD) and **Deborah Adewole** (PhD) received **\$6.2M** from the CFI-IF. Total project cost is **\$15.9M**.

## B) Large-scale international RSAW and development grants

The IO supported a number of successful, large-scale grants. Some examples from 2025-26 include:

- **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, USA (Dr. Veronica Campanucci (PhD) and Dr. Juan Ianowski (PhD), College of Medicine):** this project addresses poorly understood challenges in cystic fibrosis. **Dr. Campanucci (PhD)** proposes a major shift in thinking—that these symptoms are driven not only by mucus issues but also by malfunctioning gut nerves. **Dr. Ianowski's (PhD)** project aims to pinpoint exactly which airway cells must be corrected to effectively treat cystic fibrosis lung disease.
- **International Development Research Centre, Canada (Dr. Maureen Reed (PhD) and Dr. Jim Robson (PhD), SENS):** awarded \$401,320 to launch *Reimagining Ethics, Learning and Transdisciplinary Evaluation (RELATE)*, a transformative project that will advance new approaches to ethics and evaluation in sustainability research. This project strengthens USask's international partnerships, bringing together collaborators from Mexico and South Africa.
- **Global Affairs Canada, Canada (Dr. Varuni Jayasooriya (PhD), SENS):** awarded over \$500,000 as part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, to launch a multi-year research fellowship program supporting climate resilience in vulnerable coastal communities. Beginning in 2026, USask graduate students will conduct fieldwork in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and New Zealand with international partners on nature-based solutions.
- **Global Affairs Canada, Canada (Dr. Bunyamin Tar'an (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources):** awarded over \$210,000 as part of the Indo-Pacific Regional Connectivity Envelope for the *Accelerated Breeding for Climate Resilience in Rice – Harnessing Innovations, Addressing Challenges, and Promoting Cooperation* in the ASEAN Region. A five-day workshop was co-hosted by USask and Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia, with approximately 40 participants from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia. Participants represented breeding organizations, rice gene banks, agricultural ministries, universities, research institutions, and policy consultants.
- **The São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil:** a landmark **\$2M**, five-year research agreement was signed between **Dr. Walter Siqueira (PhD)** at the USask College of Dentistry and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) to support 50 joint projects over five years on oral, dental, and craniofacial research between USask researchers and leading institutions in the State of São Paulo. The development of this partnership was first initiated through an outbound mission of USask Senior Leadership in September 2024. The partnership is notable as the largest known FAPESP agreement with a Canadian university requiring interdisciplinary collaboration between USask colleges and international partners.

## C) *International Blueprint for Action 2025* – International travel and project grants

An integral component of the *International Blueprint for Action* is the International Travel and Project seed grants that the IO manages. Each year a call for applications for the travel and project grants is promoted to USask faculty/staff and to their international partners to support incoming and outgoing travel to initiate, build and support international and intercultural engagement and activities aligned with USask priorities.

USask is proud to be one of the first to offer these types of seed grants, which are seen by many of our partners as an exemplary model of how to support internationalization strategically. Some projects supported by these grants include:

- **Global Community Service Fund:** Nursing Assistant Professor **Dr. Maposa Sithokozile's** (PhD) project built a long-term international partnership to strengthen global health approaches for Indigenous older adults in Piauí, Brazil, and Saskatchewan. Guided by Elders, knowledge keepers, and community organizations, the team identified culturally grounded priorities and mapped resources and gaps through an environmental scan.
- **Global Innovation Fund:** SENS Professor **Dr. Tim Jardine's** (PhD) project focused on protecting Morocco's native African trout by assessing how climate change is affecting high-altitude freshwater ecosystems in the Atlas Mountains. By working with universities, government agencies, conservation groups, and local Amazigh communities, the team monitored water conditions, habitat health, and trout food webs to identify future refuge areas.

## D) Other notable successes

### Quantum Computer

USask, with support from Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and Innovation Saskatchewan, will be installing the new 14 qubit full-stack quantum computer at USask's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organizations (VIDO) for research and education. The PrairiesCan funding of **\$1.93M** is through the Regional Innovation Ecosystems program, and Innovation Saskatchewan provided an additional \$400,000 through its Innovation & Science Fund. This project was led by **Dr. Steven Rayan** (PhD).



*Dr. Steven Rayan (PhD), Director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and its Applications and Professor in the College of Arts and Science, shows off a quantum computer chip at the announcement event for USask's acquisition of its own quantum computer.*

## **IntegrOmes**

Guided by cutting-edge studies on the healthy microbiome, Integrated Omics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship (IntegrOmes) is a **\$17M** project that will work on development of omic tools that target livestock productivity, genetic diversity, disease investigation and surveillance will usher in a new era of animal agriculture and ecosystem health for Canada and the world. Based at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE), the IntegrOmes team will combine controlled real-time livestock investigation with genomics tools to contribute to the sustainability and profitability of one of Canada's vital industries. It secured a much-needed final piece of funding of **\$3.35M** from the Government of Saskatchewan.

## **Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Canada Impact+ Research Chair**

Every four years the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) releases a call for CERC nominations. This is a highly competitive, recruitment tool to crystalize Canada's position as a world-leader in a particular research area. For this competition, USask submitted nominations valued at up to \$1M/year (either two \$500K/year or one \$1M/year nominations).

- In 2025-26, a search for a \$1M CERC was underway. A nomination for a CERC in *Sustainable Beef Production* was submitted in March 2026. The results will be announced in December 2026.

In late 2025, TIPS launched an additional \$1B call to recruit CERC-level candidates to Canada from abroad to further Canada's strategic positioning in eight areas of strategic importance. USask was able to submit \$6M worth of chairs (either \$500K/year or \$1M/year nominations) across two intake deadlines. The first intake was in March 2026; the second intake is in June 2026.

- Two competitive Impact+ Chair candidates were identified for the first Impact+ submission (each \$1M/year chair). One nomination was submitted at the first intake in March 2026. The results will be announced in June 2026. It is expected that there will be additional submissions for the June Impact+ Chair intake.

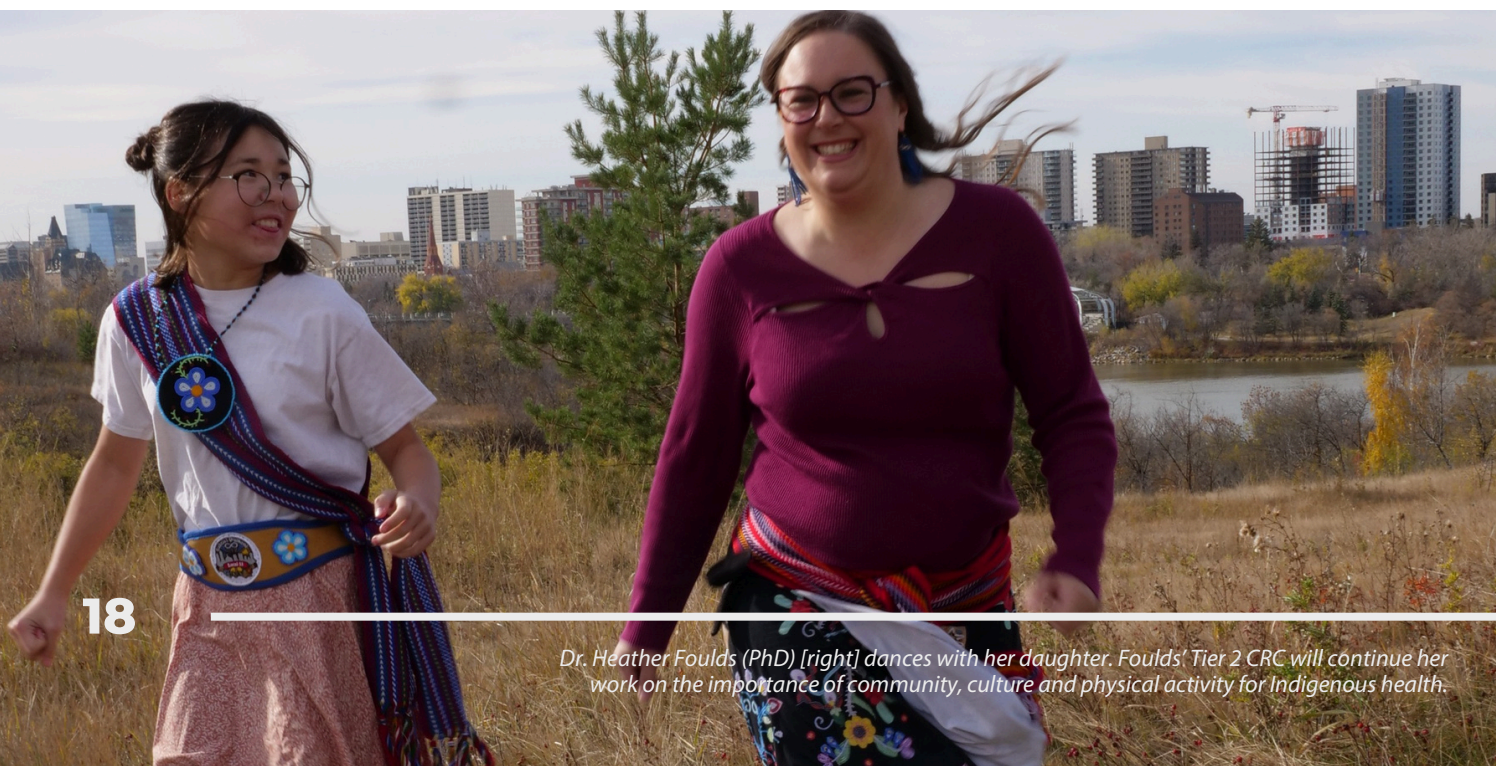
## Canada Research Chairs

In 2025-26, nine Canada Research Chair (CRC) searches were underway. Two new CRC nominations and one renewal were submitted from October to December 2025 (results pending).

- Two new CRC Tier 2 (T2) nominations and one renewal submitted in October 2024 were awarded in April to August 2025. One new CRC T2 nomination was unsuccessful but was resubmitted in November (above).
- A call for CRC theme area proposals was sent out to the community in October 2025. The call focused not only on recruiting global leaders to enhance USask's signature areas, but also allowed academic units to propose theme areas tied to existing internal faculty who have shown exceptional RSAW leadership who meet or exceed the criteria for a CRC.

## Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

- In 2025-26, two regular JELF proposals were submitted to CFI (results pending) and two JELF-partnerships were submitted to CFI in support of Canada Research Chair applications (results pending).



# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

IMP's innovation mobilization activities can be reflected in key metrics:



Assessed **28** innovation disclosures from seven colleges and schools



Filed **29** new patents, contributing to a total of **186** active patent families



Secured **46** new license agreements, which are now part of **323** active licenses under management

Within these quantitative metrics are hidden key milestones and stories of innovation mobilization success from the past year, including:

- USask spinout company Excir secured an equity investment from the UK Royal Mint, who have built a facility in the UK to utilize patented Excir chemistry for recovery of precious metals from electronic waste, invented by **Dr. Stephen Foley** (PhD) (College of Arts and Science).
- Antibodies discovered and developed by **Dr. Ekaterina Dadachova** (PhD) (College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) and **Dr. Maruti Uppalapati** (PhD) (College of Medicine) were licensed to commercial partner Frezent Biological Solutions (New York, USA) for use in developing next-generation antibody-drug conjugate therapeutics for treatment-resistant cancers.
- Plant protein de-flavouring technology developed by **Dr. Micheal Nickerson** (PhD) (College of Agriculture and Bioresources) is set for joint commercialization through a strong local partnership with POS Biosciences.
- A technology co-invented by College of Agriculture and Bioresources Professors Emeriti **Drs. Vladimir Vujanovic** (PhD) and **Jim Germida** (PhD) that was licensed to Indigo Ag, an international agriculture sustainability and biological solutions company, was successfully launched in the form of a new biological pesticide.

# INTERNATIONALIZING THE USASK EXPERIENCE

The IO has hosted events at all accessibility levels and collaborated with colleagues on and off campus to ensure an internationalization experience for all.

In 2025-26 the IO accomplished the following highlights:



The International Office leads over **250** international agreements with more than **190** entities in over **55** countries.



In 2025-2026, there were **18 new** and **15 renewed** agreements that were signed.



Five of the **18 new** agreements signed were with institutions in India, including two new Dual PhD Degrees.



## Delegation Support

- Hosted 31 inbound visiting delegations from more than 20 countries including:
  - May 2025: USask hosted Ambassador **Yuliya Kovaliv** and delegates, who met with senior leadership and engaged with faculty and students from the Colleges of Education and Nursing.
  - September 2025: USask hosted His Excellency **Rob Tinline**, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom and senior UK officials, who met with senior leaders to discuss shared priorities to strengthen Canada–UK research collaboration.
  - September 2025: USask welcomed a high-level delegation from Iwate University (Japan), led by President **Dr. Satoshi Ogawa** (PhD). USask and Iwate University have partnered since 2008, and now this relationship has grown to involve collaborative research, student exchanges, experiential learning opportunities, and a dual PhD program. President Ogawa met with senior leaders to discuss ongoing initiatives and future areas of collaboration.
- Supported 10 outbound delegations by USask senior leaders including:
  - September–October 2025: The VPR joined the CALDO Consortium Mission to Colombia and Chile to strengthen academic, research, and innovation partnerships with key institutions and government agencies in both countries. In Colombia, the delegation focused on research collaboration, graduate education, science diplomacy, and mobility with leading universities, national research networks, ICETEX, ASCUN, and the INNTEGRA forum. In Chile, meetings focused on funding, institutional partnerships, and student recruitment and research in mining, lithium and energy transition, climate resilience, health, engineering, and sustainability.
  - November 2025: Organized two separate missions to India (one led by the USask President, other led by the Dean, College of Medicine). The President’s mission included participation at the Canada-India Business Council Forum, meetings with government, academic institutions and a USask reception co-hosted with the High Commission of Canada in India. The College of Medicine Mission included visits to 15 medical schools in four cities and focused on nurturing existing relationships and developing new ones.

- February-March 2026: Mission led by the VPR was organized to visit several partner institutions in India. The visit coincided with the Prime Minister and Saskatchewan Premier's visit and a Saskatchewan-India Symposium on Science, Innovation and Commercialization was held featuring the Premier and the CEO of Nutrien. The symposium brought together senior leaders from government, industry, and academia to explore opportunities for collaboration across priority sectors, including sustainable energy, critical minerals, food processing, entrepreneurship, commercialization, and health. In addition, **Dr. Dalai** (PhD) and **Dr. Shirtliffe** (PhD), who were also part of the delegation, participated in an AI Summit. Agreements were signed with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T), and National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K).
- An India-Canada Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence between NIFTEM-K and USask was also announced as part of a joint Government of India and Government of Canada initiative. The India-Canada Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence is a research initiative that aims to advance pulse protein processing and food innovation through research and capacity strengthening with industry partners on crop development, phenotyping, disease resistance, and food fortification to address global and food nutrition security.



## Government Engagement

To extend our global impact on International Education, the IO participated in more than 75 meetings with provincial, federal, or international government representatives. We have participated/organized joint events and initiatives with international and provincial governments such as:

- DAAD Germany, Innovation Saskatchewan, and USask agreement: The first year of this tripartite agreement was successfully utilized as students and faculty participated in academic, research and partnership activities in Germany. This agreement was designed to strengthen research and mobility ties between Saskatchewan and Germany.
- February 2026: A joint mission to the Philippines and Thailand with the Ministry of Advanced Education and the SaskAlliance was organized and facilitated strategic partnership development with partners and diplomats in those countries to advance cooperation in joint research, student mobility and recruitment, faculty exchange and training for USask.
- June 2026: **Dr. Fabien Agenès** (PhD), Director of The French National Institute of Health and Medical Research's (INSERM) North America Office, visited USask to explore collaboration in infectious disease and vaccine research.

## IO Initiatives

- June 2025: Dental schools from USask, the University of São Paulo (Brazil), Peking University (China), and the Catholic University of Portugal gathered in Beijing for the inaugural INSPiRE (International Network of Strategic Partners in Research and Education) Oral Health Symposium. As a founding member of the consortium, USask helped support its expansion in 2026, when the University of Otago (New Zealand) and the University of the Western Cape (South Africa) joined as new partners. The Consortium seeks to drive transformative research, education and innovation in oral health to improve health and well-being in communities worldwide.



Keynote speaker André Picard presents at PAW 2025 International Congress at USask.

- October 22-24, 2025: The People Around the World (PAW) 2025 International Congress hosted by USask on its Saskatoon campus themed on *Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Driving Innovation with Data* was attended by students and panellists from 16 countries. The Congress enabled many learning and collaboration opportunities through its five pre-Congress workshops focused on research collaboration with the Czech Republic, France, Germany and Mozambique. Keynote speakers included **André Picard**, **Timothy Caulfield**, and USask alumnus **Steven Heidel** (Congress Reception Speaker). Three panels spanned multiple topics ranging from public and population health data management, the future of healthcare to science diplomacy. Several concurrent sessions were tailored to USask's interdisciplinary interests. The overall event brought together researchers, industry partners, students, and community members.
- February 5, 2026: USask and the National University of Singapore, Asia's top-ranked university, co-hosted a joint *Symposium on Tissue Engineering and Bioprinting* in Singapore. This event brought together leading researchers from two of the world's leading tissue engineering programs to share emerging research, explore collaborative opportunities, and discuss the future of bioprinting innovation.
- The USask IO team has supported our researchers in engaging with over 100 collaborating institutions from Europe and other global regions to facilitate consortium building for Horizon Europe. These collaborative efforts brought together expertise spanning Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Agriculture & Bioresources, Health Sciences, and Social Sciences & Policy and have led to multiple application submissions to the Horizon Europe program.

# TRI-AGENCY UPDATES

## Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

USask has achieved notable progress in CIHR Project Grants, driven by augmented internal review program, competition targeted workshops, and expanded internal funding mechanisms such as bridge grants. These initiatives have contributed to both increased application volume and improved funding success rates. National engagement has also strengthened considerably, with representation on five of 13 Institute Advisory Boards (up from 0–1 previously), and 93 USask members currently serving on the College of Reviewers. USask's CIHR lead is **Dr. Darcy Marciniuk** (MD, PhD).

## Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

**Dr. Julia Boughner** (PhD), a professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology (College of Medicine) has joined us as the new NSERC Lead. She brings extensive experience with NSERC and has introduced several new initiatives to support faculty and strengthen application success rates, including a peer support program, new workshops, and enhanced guidance for Internal Reviewers. We would like to sincerely thank our out-going lead, **Dr. Ron Borowsky** (PhD), for his dedicated leadership as USask's NSERC lead for many years.

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

USask's SSHRC lead is **Dr. Dawn Wallin** (PhD). Under her leadership, the SSHRC portfolio is seeing more applications and increased success for USask researchers. Initiatives such as the Bridge Funding Program support scholars in the Insight Programs. The SSHRC Matters series continues to create RSAW conversations for scholars on a variety of topics. Excitingly, **Alexandria Pavelich**, an Interdisciplinary PhD student supervised by **Dr. Colleen Dell** (PhD), was chosen as one of the 20 finalists for the annual Storytellers Challenge for her submission, *Mattering and the Social Significance of Animals for Individuals Living with Pain and Suicidality*.

## Tri-Agency Highlights

- **Service to Assist Research in French (SARF)**. USask collaborates with Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas) on the SARF program to offer additional research support to French language researchers at USask applying to CIHR and SSHRC. It was recently announced that SARF will be supporting NSERC in the near future. The program has been successful in supporting the submission of proposals in French.

- **Tri-Agency Narrative CV Development Series.** The Tri-Agency team launched an initiative to help faculty navigate the new tri-agency requirement for narrative CV's for grant submissions. The first Tri-Agency CV workshop in December in collaboration with colleagues from NSERC and CIHR was widely attended by over 200 people. A second session was held in April in collaboration with colleagues from the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning focused on the ways in which storytelling approaches that are rooted in Indigenous methodology and sustainability can improve how scholars communicate their research experience, with a particular emphasis on developing narratives for the Tri-Agency CV.

# STORYTELLING AND AWARDS

The RPI team continues to creatively find ways to tell USask's RSAW story to the world.

In 2025-26 RPI accomplished the following:

## Storytelling

- RPI's social media channels "usaskresearch," continued to expand our storytelling presence online. Instagram stories and reels have generated over 1.2 million views and have reached over 136,293 accounts. USask Research had over 290,000 impressions on LinkedIn and gained more than 2,600 new followers, contributing to a total of 6,881 followers on the platform. This increase reflects a 40 per cent growth rate.
- USask's *Signature Series Podcast* is an exploration and celebration of the interesting and the innovative, the fun and the fantastic, the cutting-edge and creative of USask RSAW.
  - Listeners join host, **Matt Olson**, for a deep dive into thought-provoking questions about the world in which we live. Through the lens of USask's Signature Areas of Research, listeners can learn about USask's leading researchers and scholars as they tackle the questions, challenges and opportunities the world faces today. Work includes identifying podcast guests, writing, editing, technical support and promotion. The *Signature Series Podcast* webpage has been visited over 1,500 times with over 2,700-episode downloads since its launch.
- RPI's monthly newsletter, *Discovery Digest*, had a 54.5 per cent open rate. Additionally, 46 new subscribers were added.
- There was a total of 156 news releases/stories on the USask news page labelled as "Research".



*Matt Olson (right) with Research Profile and Impact interviews Dr. Colin Laroque (PhD) (left) with the College of AgBio for an episode of the Signature Series Podcast.*

## Awards

RPI facilitates several USask faculty applications for external research awards to encourage and build external recognition for breadth and quality of RSAW created by our faculty. Working with facilitators and other supporters from colleges and schools, the RPI awards team has supported many high-profile nominations for awards and recognitions, including the Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and more.

Awards received (May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026) include:

### **Dr. Ingrid Pickering** (PhD)

Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Science  
2025 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards STEM category – Laureate

### **Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace** (PhD)

Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Science  
2026 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards STEM category – Finalist

### **Global Water Futures**

Stockholm Water Prize – Shortlisted  
(Ranked within the top 10 per cent of 200 highly competitive nominations submitted)

### **Dr. Dwight Newman** (PhD)

College of Law  
Royal Society of Canada Fellowship

### **Dr. Leon Kochian** (PhD)

Department of Plant Sciences, College and Agriculture and Bioresources  
Royal Society of Canada Fellowship

### **Dr. Allyson Stevenson** (PhD)

Department of History, College of Arts and Science  
Royal Society of Canada College Membership

### **Dr. Steven Rayan** (PhD)

Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Science  
Royal Society of Canada College Membership

### **Dr. Arinjay Banerjee** (PhD)

Principal Investigator, VIDO  
Canadian Academy of Health Science Emerging Leaders

### **Dr. Curtis Pozniak** (PhD)

Department of Plant Sciences, College and Agriculture and Bioresources  
The Bertebos Prize, Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry



*Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD) receiving the Bertebos Prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.*

# RSAW SERVICES

## Strengthening the Operational Framework

In 2025, the OVPR continued strengthening its research administration operational framework to support sustained growth in research activity across the university. With a significant increase in application volume and overall demand for support, efforts have focused on enhancing scalability, consistency, and efficiency of core processes. Key improvements include the introduction of standardized administrative review practices, streamlining of internal workflows, and closer coordination across units involved in the research lifecycle. Collaboration with the Legal Office (Research Contracts) has continued to strengthen, supporting greater alignment between grants and contracts as volume increases and ensuring more seamless support for researchers. This ongoing work is helping to build a more responsive and sustainable operating environment that supports researchers effectively, while maintaining strong institutional compliance and accountability. This work has been particularly important in the context of a 33 per cent increase in research funding applications compared to the previous year.

## Human Research Ethics

The Human Research Ethics Office (REO), along with the Behavioural and Biomedical Research Ethics Boards (REBs), continues to support USask researchers who engage in research involving human participants. Over 4,100 research ethics applications were processed in the last year (new applications, acknowledgments, exemptions, amendments, renewals and closures) representing ~ four per cent increase from the previous year. Despite the increase, the REO and REBs have maintained their shortened times from submission to approval that were achieved in the previous year.

Recognizing the need for continued improvement and innovation in the services provided to researchers, the REO and REBs collaborated with the USask Information and Communications Technology unit to successfully complete the RFP process for new research ethics software. Once developed and implemented, this new software is expected to improve and optimize researchers' experiences with submitting applications, as well as increase efficiency in the review process for the REO and REBs.

## Research Security Program

The Research Security service within RASI continues to develop USask's research security program. Currently RASI is working collaboratively with ICT to create a full travel security program including loaner devices. Travel Security is an important part of safeguarding research data, methodologies, and outputs when researchers, administrators and senior leadership travel. A one-year pilot program is anticipated to launch in fall 2026.

## Animal Care

The Animal Care and Research Support (ACRS) office has improved sustainability and support for researchers who use animals in response to an increased workload and the growing complexity of Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) requirements.

USask's last full CCAC site assessment was on June 10-13, 2025, the associated report was received on March 27, 2026 which included a number of serious and regular recommendations of areas for improvement across the full scope of the animal care and use program to ensure alignment with current CCAC standards and guidelines.

ACRS is currently updating the Care and Use of Animals in Science at USask Policy (January 2001) and we expect that all approvals will be in place by fall 2026. Additionally, the office has introduced a USask Culture of Care for Animals Used in Science statement that provide objectives for anyone involved with the use of animals to maintain the highest standards.

ACRS has secured funding and signed a contract with a vendor for a new software system for animal protocol administration, animal ordering and management. The new software will streamline various facets of ACRS work to improve the animal user experience. Implementation is planned for early 2027. ACRS will be hosting multiple town halls with stakeholders to communicate the forthcoming changes. Training for all animal researchers including faculty, students, and staff on use of the new system will be provided via multiple formats.

In 2025-26 ACRS accomplished the following:

- Supported over 1,000 active animal users, at USask and its affiliates, who completed animal-based activity on 160,000 animals and totaling more than \$1M in animal purchase costs.
- Managed 470 animal use protocols.
- Completed over 100 animal user training sessions.
- Trained veterinary students in laboratory animal medicine through first year lectures, senior year rotations, and the WCVL laboratory animal medicine club.
- ACRS Veterinarians and animal technicians as well as various USask faculty continue to be invited and complete CCAC assessments at other institutions. This provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with animal research and teaching programs across Canada and heightens USask's role nationally with various regional and national stakeholders.



## Infrastructure

We have undertaken an inventory of research equipment and capabilities. Research equipment valued at over approximately \$50,000 and unique equipment was inventoried and the inventory made available and searchable on the USask Geographic Information System. Research infrastructure of lesser value but that, collectively, provides unique research capabilities was also added to the inventory. The result is a searchable database that allows researchers to locate USask research equipment or capabilities and contact the individual(s) managing the equipment to determine user fee schedules and availability. Evaluation of current software used on campus to reserve access to research inventory is underway. Additionally, commercially available research equipment management software and software utilized by other universities is under evaluation. Our goal is to develop the ability for researchers to locate research infrastructure and resources to advance USask research along with software that will facilitate reserving access to the required infrastructure and allocation of the user fees to the appropriate research account.

We continue to work with our colleagues in Facilities to ensure research infrastructure is installed in appropriate locations, in a timely manner and that supporting infrastructure receives the required level of maintenance support. Work over the next year will include an inventory of research space uses and inclusion of research infrastructure space needs in on going long-term planning.

In partnership with the Vice-President Administration office, the Research Information Management System (RIMS) initiative advanced progress across several key areas. For Animal Care software, the contract was successfully awarded, and work is underway to establish the USask project team and consolidate workflows, documentation, and knowledge-transfer materials in preparation for software configuration. For Human Ethics software, the project is currently in the contract award phase, after which formal team formation and execution activities will commence under the established RIMS governance framework.



*College of Engineering alumnus, Colton Breitzkreuz, pitches his company TAUlab at the 2025 Opus Innovation Expo.*

## RSAW INITIATIVES

### Opus – Incubating USask Startups

USask launched Opus in 2022, a pre-accelerator program for USask founders with research-backed innovations they wish to use as the basis for a startup venture. Opus is designed to provide participants with foundational knowledge to build business acumen, as well as personal connections to mentors, experts, industry, funders, and business service providers.

#### Opus 2025-26 Quick Facts:

- Our i2Build 2025 cohort included 23 aspiring entrepreneurs in 11 new ventures with six of those ventures moving into our i2Market 2026 cohort.
- Our i2Market 2026 cohort began in January 2026 consisting of 11 ventures in AgTech, FoodTech, BioTech, AI, PharmaTech, IoT (Internet of Things) and HealthTech.
- To date, Opus companies have created 22.75 jobs and 27 demo-ready prototypes.
- In total, companies have generated almost \$998K in revenue and accessed \$1.1B in funds to help grow their ventures.
- As of January 2026, Opus founders have earned \$39,900 in prize money from 37 startup competitions and have participated in 32 external accelerators/incubators.

## Undergraduate Research

The Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works (uRSAW) initiative focuses on connecting undergraduate students to the research activities of USask, including course-based research experiences, research skill development, paid assistantships and disseminating the impact and achievements of our emerging scholars. Highlights for 2025-26, include:

- The 2025 SURE Symposium hosted 100 undergraduate poster presentations, 70 volunteer judges and handed out seven sponsored awards and prizes for undergraduate RSAW excellence totaling \$3,000, including a prize for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual uRSAW Storytelling Competition.
- The SURE program hosted 38 workshops and events with 809 attendees.
- Our 19 FYRE courses had 1,937 enrollments, a growth of over 600 students from the previous year.
- USask maximized our annual Tri-Agency Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) allocation and awarded a total of 91 Tri-Agency USRAs for the summer of 2026, including 67 NSERC USRAs, 11 NSERC USRAs for Indigenous Student Scholars, seven NSERC USRAs for Black Student Scholars, three SHRC USRAs for Black Student Scholars, and three CIHR USRAs for Black Student Scholars.
- The DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards funded nine early career researchers to hire undergraduate student research assistants for the summer of 2026.
- The Collaborative Energy, Minerals, and Society Research Award (CEMSRA), funded four research projects where undergraduate students are co-led and co-supervised by faculty at both USask and URegina.



The winners of the 2025 SURE Symposium.



Dr. Tianqi Xie (PhD) in the College of Arts and Science captivated the crowd with her talk, "Why did the asteroid kill all the dinosaurs, but not us?" at the 2026 TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan event.

## TEDx

On February 1, 2026, RPI – with support from USask’s Media Production and University Relations teams – hosted a half-day TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan event that profiled a carefully curated and prepared series of talks designed to celebrate world-leading ideas and innovations at USask. Under the theme of *Exploring the Edges*, the event welcomed 400 attendees from on and off campus.

13 faculty, staff and students were engaged in this year’s TEDx process, undergoing a comprehensive series of coaching and rehearsal sessions to prepare for the live event.

Live talks were recorded and distributed online via the TEDx official YouTube channel – home to 42 million+ subscribers. These recordings have also been widely shared and celebrated within the USask community and beyond. As of March 23, four of the recordings were selected by TEDx for additional marketing profile, significantly increasing their reach and viewership.

Planning for TEDxUniversityofSaskatchewan 2027 is already underway, with speaker information sessions and recruitment set to begin Spring of 2026.

## Images of Research

From field work in the Canadian Arctic to the 3D map of one of USask's most iconic lecture theatres, this year's Images of Research contest once again showcased the rich research, scholarly and artistic work of USask staff, faculty, students, and alumni.

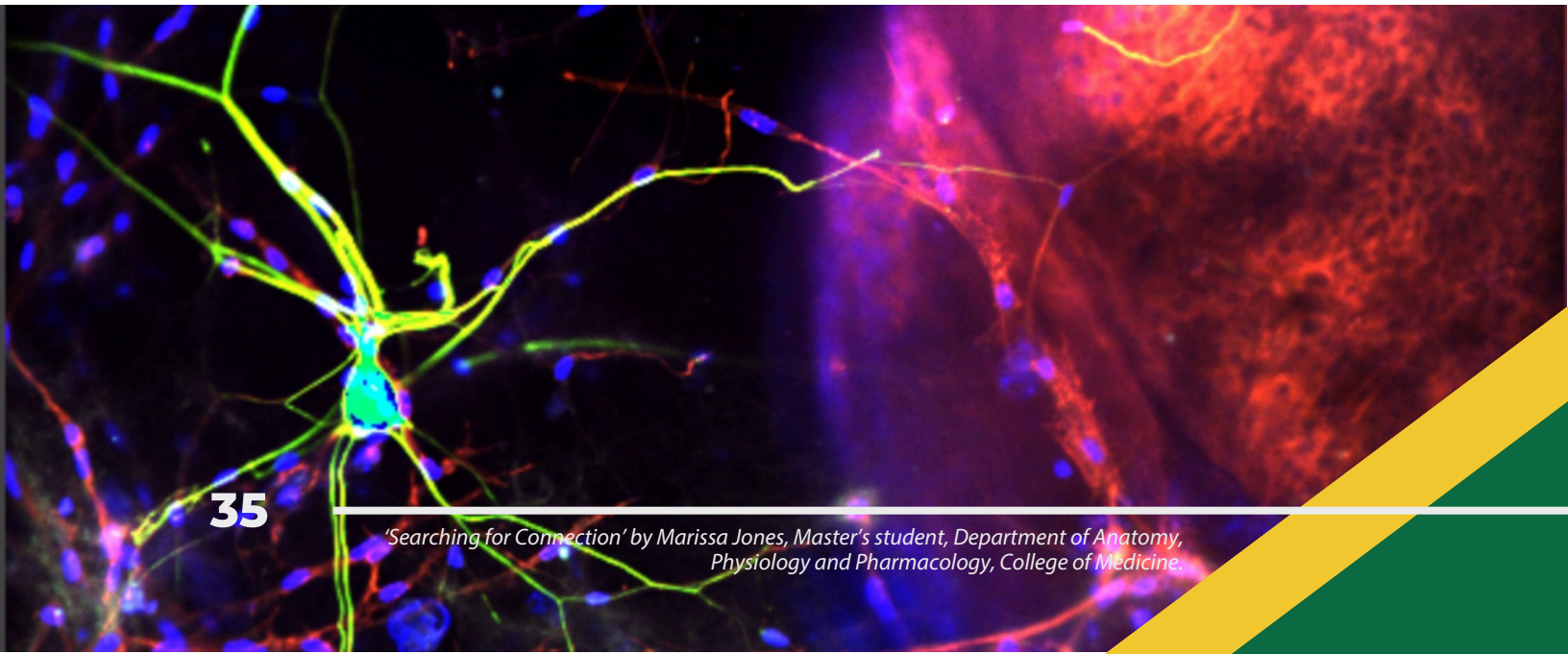
In its 12th year and organized by USask's Research Profile and Impact team, the Images of Research contest celebrates the beauty, diversity, and impact of USask research.

With nearly 110 entries across five categories, eight images took home this year's top spots. Seven of the images were selected by judges on multi-disciplinary panels while the Viewers' Choice category was decided by more than 1,500 online votes.

With thoughtful descriptions and beautiful visuals, this year's entries looked at the hidden details of the microscopic world, the impact of community-based research and artistic pursuits, and the many ways we can capture and celebrate the important research of our campus community.

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*'Searching for Connection' by Marissa Jones, Master's student, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Medicine.*



## Research Cluster Incubation

The OVPR supports emerging areas of research strength, particularly in Artificial Intelligence, Northern research and national security and defence research. Support included organizing workshops, developing internal funding mechanisms, and creating strategies to build institutional research capacity in these areas.

On September 25, 2025, the OVPR hosted the USask Northern Research Initiative workshop, where 100 faculty members, USask staff and external partners joined in conversations on how to support RSAW and training programs focused on the North and beyond. On November 6, 2025, the OVPR hosted the Convergence in AI Futures across Social, Human and Natural Sciences: A USask AI Research & Innovation Workshop, bringing together 70 researchers and scholars for an interdisciplinary workshop with a keynote talk, an expert panel, and a collaborative breakout session. To further support this area, the OVPR launched an AI Capacity Building Grant that will fund new collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects. On December 18, 2025, the OVPR organized the USask UAV & Drones Defence Research workshop, which had an attendance of 37 researchers and industry partners from Calian, with 10 presentations by USask researchers and a facilitated group discussion.

## Faculty Support

DARE supports new faculty at USask to build cross-campus connections and grow their research programs. DARE provides practical and tailored resources for new and early career faculty, coordinates interdisciplinary programming to support grant development, and hosts networking and career development events for new and early career faculty.

- Over 2025-26, DARE welcomed 45 new research faculty to the USask and subsequently held 1:1 meetings with 40 of these new researchers.
- DARE hosted 12 workshop and connection events with over 200 attendees. Events focused on key skills needed to accelerate research careers, including building a research program, effective grant writing, establishing partnerships, and responsible uses of AI for research.
- DARE supports early career researchers with the NFRF Exploration funding program through our *Exploration Grant Development Program*. Through a series of targeted workshops, organized internal review, and 1:1 support, DARE supports ECR proposal development to ensure competitive proposals are submitted to the ECR stream of the Exploration program. The 2024 results (announced in spring 2025) included one successful USask project. This was led by early career researcher **Dr. Soo Kim** (PhD), (College of Medicine) (\$247,898) and ECR co-applicant **Dr. Stacey Lovo** (PhD), (College of Medicine). Both participated in DARE's *Exploration Grant Development Program*.

## Research Support Network (RSN)

The purpose of RSN (formerly called the Research Facilitators/Administrators) is to provide a common platform for professional learning and engagement, build community of practice, sharing of information and opportunities, and celebrate success. The RSN continued its monthly professional development forums, including topics on AI in Research Management, Post Award Grant Management Pathways, and Responsible Conduct of Research. Planning for the RSN annual meeting scheduled for June 10 for professional development, engagement with Associate/Vice Deans, and the OVPR, and celebrate RSN members achievement is in progress.

## Rankings and RSAW Intelligence

OVPR continues to collaborate with various portfolios continues in support of rankings and RSAW intelligence at USask. The 2025-26 year once again saw overall strong rankings performances for USask, continuing the positive momentum built in recent years. Some highlights from this cycle were:

- **Research Funding Growth:** USask jumped into 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the Research Infosource Rankings in 2025, based on total sponsored research income. In the medical university category, USask dominated the “growth” ranking categories, ranking #1 in research income growth (34.6 per cent), corporate research income growth (63.2 per cent), and international government research income growth (188.1 per cent), as well as ranking #1 in research intensity per graduate student.
- **Strong International Presence:** USask maintained strong performances in international university rankings after multiple record-setting years, achieving 378<sup>th</sup> in the 2026 QS World University Rankings, 351-400 tier in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, and 401-500 tier in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities.
- **Global Subject Leadership:** USask once again achieved global top 100 placements in multiple subjects, including Water Resources (Shanghai – 34<sup>th</sup>, #1 in Canada), Agriculture (QS – 54<sup>th</sup>), Veterinary Sciences (QS – 49<sup>th</sup>), and Earth Sciences (Shanghai - 76-100). We additionally achieved top 200 performances in Environmental Sciences (Shanghai – 101-150, QS – 151-200), Dentistry & Oral Sciences (Shanghai – 101-150) Geophysics (QS - 151-200), and Atmospheric Science (Shanghai – 151-200). These highlight just a few of USask’s achievements in subject rankings, as USask saw strong results among the top 300, 400 and 500 across a number of competitive subjects.
- **Sustainability Impact:** USask continues to perform strongly in global sustainability rankings, placing 168<sup>th</sup> globally in the QS Sustainability Rankings. USask also placed 101-200 overall in the THE Impact Ratings, including top 100 placements in three of the global sustainable development goals: Life Below Water, Sustainable Cities, and Partnerships for the Goals.

Research-related metrics, along with reputation indicators, continue to hold significant weight across most international rankings. Continued focus on improving research productivity, impact, and visibility, and improving global reputation, will enhance USask’s international profile and provide opportunities to continue to showcase our excellence on the global stage.



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