The PRAIRIE HUB

For Pandemic Preparedness

Pandemic Readiness Approach & Innovative Response Initiative Ecosystem

University of Alberta, Edmonton AB, Canada

Winter Newsletter December 2023

Season's Greetings and warm wishes to all for a happy and prosperous New Year.

For everyone involved in preparing **Canadian Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF) and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF)** Stage 2 proposals for submission this September, the past year has been one of new partnerships, tight timelines, and hard work.

We'd like to acknowledge your patience in navigating this brand new funding initiative, and we look forward to building relationships and promoting new opportunities in the coming year.

PRAIRIE Hub website
PRAIRIE Hub LinkedIn page

Upcoming Events

- **Jan 17, 2024** Joint meeting of the five CBRF Pandemic Preparedness Hubs at the University of Toronto to discuss new initiatives for 2024.
- **Jan 19, 2024** Deadline to register for **EXNS 2804** Indigenous Peoples and Canada 6-module micro-course. The course is an introduction to contemporary Indigenous issues and the legacy of settler colonialism. Cost is $175, and registration is open to all.
- **Feb 7, 2024** CBRF/BRIF Strategic Review Committee will meet with each of the Hubs to discuss **Stage 2** grant portfolios.
- **Feb 29, 2024** CBRF/BRIF **Stage 2** grant decisions will be finalized.
- **March 2024 CBRF/BRIF Stage 2 grant awardees will be announced.**

What are the CBRF/BRIF Pandemic Funding Initiatives?

Stage 1 Funding Creates Hubs

In March 2023, five Pandemic Preparedness Hubs were created through a federal CBRF Stage 1 competition.

The Hubs were tasked with bringing together regional knowledge, expertise, and resources in response to emerging pandemic threats.

The five Hubs are:

- **The PRAIRIE Hub** for Pandemic Preparedness (UAlberta)
- **CIEBH** Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (UBC)
- **HI3** Canadian Hub for Health Intelligence & Innovation in Infectious Diseases (UToronto)
- **CP2H** Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Hub (UOttawa)
- **ECaPPH** Eastern Canada Pandemic Preparedness Hub (UMontreal)

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Stage 2 Funding Builds Pandemic Initiatives

The Hubs coordinated teams from academia, industry, non-profit and government to submit research, training and infrastructure CBRF/BRIF **Stage 2** grants covering areas of surveillance and diagnostics, vaccines, antivirals, infrastructure, and biomanufacturing training.

Total funding available:

- **CBRF** (Research and/or Training): **$215 million** over four years.
- **BRIF** (Infrastructure): **$360 million** ($277M Infrastructure, $83M operating costs).

Total grants submitted from the five Hubs on Sept 7, 2023: **103**

The PRAIRIE Hub submitted **15** proposals:

- Research, Training, Infrastructure: **1**
- Research, Training: **1**
- Research, Infrastructure: **3**
- Research: **4**
- Training: **1**
- Infrastructure: **5**

In addition to the PRAIRIE Hub, all other Hubs have submitted a standalone training proposal.

Training awardees will be encouraged to collaborate across the Hubs to form a national biomanufacturing training program.

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New Funding Opportunities

Deadlines:

- **Feb 1, 2024 CIHR Planning and Dissemination grant 202402PCS** to support planning activities, partnership development and to increase understanding of the health research landscape, communicate health research evidence to knowledge-user audiences ($2.2M total to be split over a range of topics including pandemic preparedness, public health, Indigenous initiatives).
- **Feb 20, 2024 Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN) grant 202402CNF** to support coordinated, collaborative, and multidisciplinary vaccine and immunization-related research (1 grant funded, $3M/year for 5 years).
- **Feb 22, 2024 CIHR Health System Impact PhD and Postdoctoral fellowships 202402HIF** to elevate the career readiness in health services and policy research (HSPR) including pandemic preparedness.
- **Feb 22, 2024 Catalyst Grant: Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Report grant 202402FOP** to enhance health promotion approaches to public health emergency preparedness (16 grants funded from $2M pool).
- **Mar 12, 2024 NIAID Omnibus Broad Agency Announcement:** "Development of Medical Countermeasures for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases".

What's Next?

- More on new funding, training, and career opportunities in 2024.
- Spring Newsletter in March 2024.

The PRAIRIE Hub is led by the University of Alberta, partnering with the University of Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Regina, and Concordia University (Edmonton), as well as technical schools, non-profit, industry, and government stakeholders within the Hub region.

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