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## Research Connections Program

### I. About MEOPAR

Established in 2012 through Canada's federal Networks of Centres of Excellence Program, the Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network is a national network of academic researchers, students, government scientists, and partners in the private, NGO and community sectors working together to reduce Canada's vulnerability to marine risk. An independent not-for-profit organization, MEOPAR supports interdisciplinary research, provides training opportunities for students, and mobilizes scientific knowledge and technology through cross-sector engagement.

### II. Research Connections Program

The Research Connections Program<sup>1</sup> (RCP) provides financial support (up to \$15,000 per event) to eligible recipients to organize national-scope workshops, events or conferences aimed at building new partnerships between post-secondary researchers and partners in the public, private or non-profit sectors. The total budget for this program is \$60,000/year until 2022. We expect to fund approximately 4 to 10 workshops each year under the Program.

MEOPAR is interested in funding workshops that achieve the following elements:

- Strengthen the alignment of existing MEOPAR research projects with the activities and needs of partners and end-users;
- Initiate cooperative agreements for knowledge, data or equipment sharing between academic and non-academic participants;
- Establish new partnerships for knowledge mobilization, training and education, testing and implementation of new technologies, or commercialization of research outcomes;
- Promote research collaboration, alignment and cooperation across multiple sectors of society, including public, private and non-profit;
- Mobilize national or international capacity to identify best practices in management of marine risk;
- Generate innovative project ideas and consortia for MEOPAR to explore via future Calls for Proposals.

### III. Eligibility

Proposals must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered:

- Applicants must be current or past MEOPAR-funded investigators and hold an academic appointment at a Canadian university that has signed MEOPAR's Network Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as the Partnership Workshop Program in MEOPAR's first funding cycle.

- Workshops/activities must build on research project activities and focus on mobilizing knowledge to non-academic end-users/partners.<sup>2</sup>
- Workshop discussion must aim to strengthen interchanges between academic and non-academic participants, and focus on forward-looking collaborations rather than reviewing past accomplishments.
- Workshops and activities should not directly overlap or be addressed by other MEOPAR programs (e.g. MEOPAR's Communities of Practice or the HQP Regional Workshops Fund).
- Funding can only be used for eligible expenses (see section below).
- Reoccurring events will be considered; however, priority will be given to new applications.
- Investigators are only eligible to receive funding under one RCP competition per year.

## IV. Application Process & Requirements

### Application Process

There are two opportunities to apply throughout the year, however you may only receive funding under one competition. Exact submission dates will be announced prior to each competition and will be available on [MEOPAR's website](#).

#### September Competition

Deadline to apply: mid-September

Decision notification: by September 30th

#### March Competition

Deadline to apply: mid-March

Decision notification: by March 30th

Applicants can request up to \$15,000 per event and are encouraged to leverage funding from partners and other organizations. Funding is granted in two lump sums; half of the funding prior to the event and the other half once the final workshop report is received. The final award amount may be reduced if costs incurred are less than the grant. Funding must be spent within 6 months of the award letter; however, exceptions may be considered. Contact [Alison Maunder](#) for more details. Funding must be reported on the applicant's Form 300 which is generated by their university and submitted to MEOPAR's Administrative Centre on their behalf.

MEOPAR's Administrative Centre reviews and makes funding decisions based on consistency with Network activities, relevance to MEOPAR's Strategic Plan, end-user/partner involvement, and adherence to eligibility requirements.

### Application Requirements

To apply, fill out an [application form](#) and email it to the program's coordinator, [Alison Maunder](#). Proposals should demonstrate how the event or activity achieves the program's objectives, and must include a list of non-academic partners and stakeholders, as well as an initial budget.

## V. Eligible Expenses

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<sup>2</sup> The Program is not for dissemination of project results to existing partners. This should be included in your project's knowledge mobilization budget. The Program is to help establish new partnerships and/or research directions or to build on project activities for future initiatives.

Proposal budgets can include costs associated with the following:

- Meeting room and equipment rental<sup>3</sup>
- Catering/hospitality (excluding alcoholic beverages)
- National and international travel for participants and speakers
- Vendor services (e.g. printing, advertising, translation, etc.)

## VI. Reporting Requirements

Applicants will be required to submit a final report within 21 days of the workshop or event to MEOPAR's Administrative Centre to receive the final installment of funding. A fillable template will be provided to the recipient and will ask for information on the following:

- A final expense report
- General details about the workshop (location, date, total funding)
- Total number of participants, including percentage of non-academic participants and any leveraged funding
- Plans for further interaction or activities
- Overall impact of the workshop, including new partnerships or relationships, identified research needs, HQP mentorship or internship opportunities, etc.

## VII. Contact Information

Applicants are encouraged to contact the program's coordinator, with questions prior to submitting an application.

### **Alison Maunder**

Program Coordinator, Knowledge Mobilization

[alison.maunder@meopar.ca](mailto:alison.maunder@meopar.ca)

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<sup>3</sup> There may be an opportunity to use MEOPAR's videoconferencing software. Please contact MEOPAR's Admin. Centre for more information.