



# STRATEGY FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION



Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada 

University of Alberta  
February 5, 2013  
Frank Nolan

# My Goals Today

- 1. Brief overview of NSERC Partnerships Programs**
- 2. Grants administered by NSERC Regional Offices**
- 3. How the Regional Office can help**
- 4. Answer questions**

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Five Core Partnerships Programs

## Industry-Driven Collaborative R&D Program

- Interaction
- Engage
- Collaborative Research and Development (CRD)
- Industrial Research Chairs
- Partnership Workshops Grants

## Training in Industry Program

- Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships
- Industrial R&D Fellowships
- Industrial Undergraduate Student Research Award

## Commercialization Program

- Idea-to-Innovation (I2I)

## College and Community Innovation Program

- Applied Research and Development
- Innovation Enhancement
- Technology Access Centres
- Applied Research Tools and Instruments
- College-University Idea to Innovation
- Industrial Research Chairs for Colleges

## Strategic Partnerships Program

- Strategic Networks
- Strategic Projects
- Automotive Partnership Canada
- Chairs in Design Engineering
- Innovation Frontiers

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Interaction Grants

...give companies that operate from a Canadian base and researchers from Canadian universities an opportunity to meet and identify a company-specific problem they could solve by collaborating in a subsequent research partnership.

- Maximum of \$5,000

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Engage Grants

- Foster the development of new research partnerships between university researchers and companies
- Support short-term R&D projects that address a company-specific problem
- No company cash required; must provide in-kind
- Six-month project, maximum grant of \$25,000

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Applicant Eligibility

- Applicant must be eligible to receive NSERC funding – assistant, associate or full professor at an eligible institution. Adjuncts are eligible only if they work at the university
- Must have received a peer-reviewed grant in the last six years in for research in a natural sciences or engineering (NSE) field

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



## Applicant Eligibility (continued)

- Researchers from a health-oriented university faculty (e.g., medicine, pharmacology, dentistry, etc.) are only eligible for an Engage Grant if they have been awarded an NSERC Discovery Grant within the past six years
- Candidates are limited to two Engage Grant awards per fiscal year (April 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>)

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Industry Partner Eligibility

- The industry partner must be a for-profit company that operates from a Canadian base
- If the partner is a Canadian subsidiary of an international company, it must have a manufacturing and/or R&D operation in Canada
- Start-ups must have been incorporated for at least one year

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.





# Industry Partner Eligibility (continued)

- The partner must demonstrate the capacity and intention to further develop and apply the results for the benefit of the Canadian economy
- The company must be at “arm’s-length” from the applicant – no past or present relationship

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Eligibility: Proposed Research

- The proposed research must be in a natural sciences or engineering field
- The project must be aimed at solving the company-specific problem through the generation of new knowledge, or the application of existing knowledge in an innovative manner
- Due to the focus on a problem specific to the company, and the short duration of this grant, any intellectual property (IP) arising from the project will belong to the company

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Eligibility: Proposed Research (continued)

Proposals are not eligible for an Engage Grant if they:

- focus on the commercialization of a university invention
- focus on the application of existing technology
- provide routine analysis, or routine use of university equipment
- collect data without interpreting underlying mechanisms
- are principally associated with the acquisition and maintenance of scientific equipment

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Budget

- Proposed project expenditures must conform to the Use of Grant Funds guidelines (part of the *Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide*). All budget items must be carefully detailed and justified.
- It is not a requirement to have grad students work on the project

Engage Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Expenses related to publications and conferences
- Travel expenses for company personnel

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Engage Grant Timeline

- No deadline – apply anytime
- Average turn-around time on applications is 4 to 6 weeks
- Success rate: 85%

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Partnership Workshops Grants

- Support workshops aimed at building new collaborations between Canadian university researchers and the non-academic community (industry and government)
- Address research & technology needs identified by the non-academic community
- Award up to \$25,000 to cover meeting costs and travel, accommodation of academic participants
- No deadline; apply anytime

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Partnership Workshops Grants (continued)

- Intended for small, focused groups ranging from 20 to 40 participants from multiple Canadian universities and non-academic organizations
- Workshops must be held in Canada
- Workshops must include a leader from a Canadian university, and a leader from a non-academic organization

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Partnership Workshops Grants (continued)

## Evaluation criteria:

1. Need for the proposed workshop
  - issues to be tackled; potential for new cross-sector collaborations
2. Future benefits to Canada
3. Appropriateness of the workshop leaders
4. Workshop plans and budgeting
5. Workshop deliverables and outcomes
  - future meetings; potential for future funding proposals, etc.

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.





# NSERC Regional Offices



- Pacific Region – Vancouver
- Prairies Region – Winnipeg
- Ontario – Mississauga
- Quebec – Montreal
- Atlantic Region – Moncton

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# What NSERC Regional Offices can do for you:

- Connect you to the regional research and innovation community
- Partner with you on events related to research and innovation
- Provide advice and feedback on potential Interaction, Engage, and Partnership Workshops applications

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# The NSERC-Prairies Team

**Irene Mikawoz**  
Manager

**Frank Nolan**  
Research and Innovation Development Officer

**Lisa Marquardson**  
Research Partnerships Promotion Officer

**Roxanne Balcaen**  
Administrative Officer

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. PROSPER.



# Questions?

Frank.Nolan@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

435 Ellice Avenue, Suite 430  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1Y6  
204-984-0426

[www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

**NSERCPARTNERSHIPS.CA**

