

# Memorandum

**Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)**

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**TO:** Board of Governors  
**FROM:** Dr. Rosie Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)  
**SUBJECT:** Canada First Research Excellence Fund Grant Agreement  
**DATE:** February 2, 2017  
**DOCUMENT #:** GD16-32

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

**ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME** Approval is sought to execute a grant agreement valued at \$84 million with the Government of Canada under the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The project is entitled “Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives” (HBHL).

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE** **CFREF Award:** CFREF is a tri-agency initiative of the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC) and the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), which assists competitively selected Canadian post-secondary institutions turn their key strengths into world-leading capabilities in order to excel in research areas that create long-term economic advantages.

On March 29, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors approved the submission of the University’s grant application to CFREF.

On August 24, 2016, McGill received the Notice of Decision from the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat that the University’s proposal to CFREF was awarded \$84 million over seven years, from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2023, for research and innovation in the area of neuroscience. The present funding agreement sets out the obligations and understanding of the CFREF Award and highlights important policies affecting the Award.

**Budget:** Of the \$84 million award, \$64.8 million will be allocated to support the direct cost of research projects, which will be selected through a competitive peer-reviewed process. \$19.2 million will be allocated to indirect costs, which will go to support administration, resources, and renovation of research space.

**Institutional Commitments:** The Award does not require matching funds or other financial commitments from the institution. McGill's commitment to HBHL will consist primarily of a reallocation of existing resources towards the large area of neuroscience, including the hiring of 21 new faculty members over the 7 years of the grant, mainly within existing compacts, administrative and finance support. All commitments will go through the regular process for approval of resource allocation.

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<b>ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>	This project is aligned with McGill's Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017 with a focus on research in neuroscience and health care delivery. In addition, this project will strengthen McGill's reputation as a world-class leading, research-intensive institution.
<b>COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY</b>	The grant agreement is presented to the Board in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Regulations Relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority</i> . The agreement has been reviewed by the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), Financial Services, and Legal Services.
<b>COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS</b>	The grant agreement is provided by the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat and is standard for large-scale research funding with the Government of Canada.
<b>RISK FACTORS</b>	There are minimal risks associated with the project. The agreement refers to provisions of the Tri-Agency Agreement, which were signed by the University in 2015 and which govern all Tri-Agency grant funding.
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS</b>	The research under this grant will be carried out according to McGill's current policy and procedures for sustainability. Neuroscience research is not expected to have significant impact on the environment.
<b>IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS</b>	The payment of grant funds to will be retroactive to September 2016, following the Treasury Board's approval of funding.
<b>MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL</b>	<i>Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), approve the Canada First Research Excellence Fund Grant Agreement between The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning/McGill University and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), in support of the Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives project, and authorize the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) to sign the Grant Agreement and any related documents, provided that where necessary, they are reviewed by Legal Services.</i>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	CFREF Grant Agreement is available from the Secretariat upon request.

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