

Progress on UCalgary IPG Project Objectives – 2025/26 report

Total IPG award: \$4,871,492.00

Project name	Objective(s)	Allocated amount	Progress
Supporting Indigenous Research Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the content of equity, diversity and inclusion)	To strengthen and identify existing resources for Indigenous communities and stakeholders, university researchers, and further partners to promote collaborative, reciprocal, and culturally responsive research	\$500,000	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 From April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, the Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST) provided 143 consultations to researchers, students, and university administrators on Indigenous research ethics, grants, Indigenous data stewardship, policies, and research practices, strengthening institutional capacity to conduct ethical, community-engaged, and culturally grounded Indigenous research. The team also supported: • 44 Indigenous research ethics applications and reviews; • 61 Indigenous research grant proposals and funding applications, increasing researcher capacity to meet ethical requirements, engage Indigenous communities appropriately, and pursue Indigenous research funding opportunities. IRST led revisions to the Indigenous Peoples section of the UCalgary ethics application, developing new TCPS2-aligned questions with input from engagements with Indigenous scholars, researchers, students, staff, and Research Ethics Boards. This advanced institutional readiness for Indigenous research and contributed to improvements in ethics review processes that better reflect Indigenous research methodologies and community relationships. The team developed a Comprehensive Indigenous Research Application Review Guide, supporting future development of Indigenous research review pathways and enhancing internal capacity within the Research Services Office, and delivered/collaborated on 41 intercultural capacity-building events, workshops, presentations, ceremonies, and learning opportunities,

			engaging more than 1,058 participants. These activities increased awareness of Indigenous Peoples, ways of knowing, research methodologies, protocols, and community engagement practices across the university. The team developed six new or enhanced workshops and presentations and launched Elders' Helper 101, a first-of-its-kind full-day training program that strengthened intercultural competencies, practical skills, and understanding of culturally respectful engagement with Indigenous communities and Knowledge Holders. IRST reviewed and provided consultation on 28 institutional policies, processes, and procedures, ensuring Indigenous perspectives informed institutional decision-making and strengthening alignment with commitments to reconciliation, Indigenous engagement, and ethical research practices. The team also: • Contributed to 36 committees, working groups, task forces, and governance bodies, including institutional committees, ii' taa'poh'to'p Working Circles and Task Forces, the Guiding Circle, a national network, and a federal Tri-Agency committee. • Supported development of the UCalgary Indigenous Research Plan through eight hybrid engagement sessions involving more than 180 participants and the hosting of a Pipe Ceremony and Traditional Knowledge Holder Circle. UCalgary also established in IRST the nation's first Indigenous Data Sovereignty Specialist position in a post-secondary institution, expanding institutional expertise in Indigenous data governance, stewardship, sovereignty, and rights-based approaches to research data management. Collectively, these activities advanced implementation of ii' taa'poh'to'p, strengthened researcher and institutional capacity, supported Indigenousization and decolonization
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			of research systems and governance structures, and positioned UCalgary as a leader in ethical, community-engaged, and culturally responsive Indigenous research.
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EDIA in Research Priority area: Equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the content of equity, diversity and inclusion)	The EDI in Research team supports the development and implementation of projects, activities, and action plans addressing barriers faced by equity deserving groups in the UCalgary research ecosystem.	\$440,000	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 1) Implementation supports for action plans to address barriers and gaps in EDI in institutional research processes and supports - migrated and updated supports into self-directed and accessible web formats - collaborated to develop and launch the UCalgary CRC Hub, which automates internal workflows that capture CRC recruitment plans, hosts new CRC EDI e-modules and FAQs, and modernizes intake and feedback systems for faculties submitting EDI documents for CRC allocations - launched project to review and update UCalgary’s institutional EDI Action Plan - developed an external-facing EDI in Research website 2) Updated processes, practices and resources for research design, research practice, and research administration that reflect equitable and inclusive practices - formalized consultation approaches for competition-specific advising and just-in-time detailed review models across multiple Tri-Council competitions and CRC recruitment - advised two new Canada Research Excellence Chairs on development of approved EDI action plans with unique approaches to addressing systemic barriers in the research ecosystem - collaborated with UCalgary’s CFREF initiative, One Child Every Child, to tailor foundational EDI e-modules for their audiences. 3) New guidance documents, topics and formats for researchers, reviewers, and Research Services staff on EDI and accessibility in research design, practice, and administration - comprehensively updated many competition-specific resources

			addressed new topics and areas for EDI integration, e.g., partnered with the RSO Postdoctoral Office and Faculty of Graduate Studies to develop and launch the module “UCalgary Mini Course on Effectively Judging Research Presentations” for Postdoc Research Slam and Three Minute Thesis competition judges
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Visualization Studio Renewal, Open Access Information Resources, & Research Data Management Infrastructure Priority areas: • Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance • Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. Renew visualization studio space and facilities 2. Facilitate access to and use of high-quality open access journals and AI tools 3. Support increased awareness and use of research data management infrastructure	\$300,000	Timeline: April 2025-March 2026 Visualization Studio: • High resolution display wall updated to 15x55" LCD panels measuring 6m x 2m in total, 9600 x 3240 pixels. • Electrical, lighting, and structural updates to expand studio space to fit larger research groups and classes complete. • Installation of a wheeled 75" touch screen display for mobile whiteboarding, annotation, and supplementary presentation content complete. • Studio now has web conferencing capabilities to accommodate hybrid meetings and research groups. Open Access and Information Resources • Qualitative feedback from researchers indicates that the SciFree tool, which allows researchers to search for OA publishing options, reduces administrative burden and makes finding funder-compliant publishing opportunities easier. • SciFree tool experienced a 192% increase in usage compared to previous year. This demonstrates higher levels of awareness of this tool among UCalgary researchers. • A high-level analysis of UCalgary's OA publishing patterns shows 5,918 works published OA in 2025, compared to 5,437 in 2024, an almost 9% increase. • Since full implementation in September 2025, UCalgary researchers have shown steady interest in the Scopus AI add on, with an average of 474 searches per month. Research Data Management (RDM) Infrastructure • Steady increase of datasets both deposited to, and downloaded from,

			PRISM Dataverse.
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Knowledge Engagement and Open Science Priority Area: Innovation and Commercialization Activities	1. Build capacity in open science, knowledge engagement, research impact 2. Facilitate research partnership development 3. Provide robust support for knowledge to impact initiatives	\$640,000	Timeline: April 2023 – March 2026 Inquiries and partnerships supported: • 92 consultations and collaboration requests supported (72 completed; 60 internal, 32 external) • 40 partnership matching, 29 knowledge mobilization, 9 responsible research assessment / research impact (DORA) • 15 general Knowledge to Impact consults (new this year) • 8 Tri-Agency Narrative CV (TCV) consults (new this year) Events and registrants at events: • 26 events and presentations delivered (6 hosted, 20 supported; 19 internal, 7 external): 13 webinars, 9 in-person presentations, 3 workshops, 1 panel; 21 on responsible research assessment and research impact, 5 on open science, 2 on knowledge mobilization and partnerships (some sessions cover multiple topics). • 1,544 registrants and 1,464 attendees recorded across events • MobilizeUCalgary: 3-month knowledge mobilization certificate course (8 webinars plus participatory workshops, adapted from Research Impact Canada), 98 registrants, 75% completion (new this year) • CSM Research Impact Learning Lab (started in Jan 2026): 2-year pilot, 14+ delegates from all 7 CSM institutes, monthly (new this year) • C2U Expo community engagement (Jan 2026): 100+ attendees across events, 750+ responses to shape programming, including an Elder engagement session across all Treaty 7 communities. (new this year) Funded projects; research revenue: • 47 funding applications supported, representing approximately \$17.3M in requested funding with \$7.1M awarded thus far Guidance resources developed: • Tri-Agency Narrative CV (TCV) guide website (new this year) • AI Assistant to support TCV preparation (new this year)

			• Knowledge Mobilization Budgeting Guide (new this year) • Menu of Indicators for responsible research assessment (new this year) Website data (traffic, inquiries submitted): • Tri-Agency Narrative CV (TCV) guide: 2,700+ unique visitors in the first month (new this year) • AI Assistant: approximately 70 users (new this year) • KI Newsletter 515 recipients with ~50% open rate; KI website viewed 2,730 times and the Knowledge Mobilization homepage viewed 1,553 times; • Webinars viewed ~150 times per month.
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Grants and Contracts for Research Management Priority Area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	To replace RMS and eRSO with the PeopleSoft Grants and Contracts modules. 1. Ensure functional and technical configurations support the defined project scope requirements. 2. Design and develop integration between PeopleSoft and 3rd party applications, as well export data from RMS and eRSO. 3. Define reporting strategy to support Research and Finance. 4. Development of communications plan, and organizational change management strategy, as well as test plans and transition plans	\$333,333	Timeline: September 2024 – August 2027 • Objective 1: In Progress. Functional and technical specifications have been created to design the Grants functionality. Two business units have been configured, and the Funding Opportunities database has been integrated with the Grants module. • Objective 2: In Progress. Integration has been completed with two 3rd party applications and PeopleSoft modules; development continues to integrate IRISS (Ethics Approvals). Data conversions have been completed for legacy RMS and eRSO systems and data validation is in progress. • Objective 3: In Progress. Designed a new Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) with integration into PeopleSoft. Power BI will be used for management reports and ad hoc queries. Day-to-day reports will be available in PeopleSoft. • Objective 4: In Progress. Communications plan and Organizational Change Management strategy completed. Awareness Campaign was created to raise awareness of the new applications, as well as the decommissioning of RMS and eRSO.

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Research Computing Infrastructure Priority areas: • Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance • Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	The University of Calgary provides researchers with a comprehensive computational and storage infrastructure. This project expands those capabilities: 1. Build and pilot an institutionally managed Amazon Web Services (AWS) environment to support research applications containing data classified up to Level 4. 2. Conduct a cybersecurity self-assessment of digital research infrastructure and develop a Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM) to address identified gaps and support ongoing compliance and risk management.	\$347,159	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 1. Deploy an institutional AWS environment to support applications containing Level 4 data The UCalgary AWS pilot environment was successfully deployed and configured to support research applications. The environment includes 91 technical security controls for Level 3/4 research workloads and a more flexible control set for Level 1/2 applications. Three research applications were deployed, and penetration testing of the AWS Control Tower and Level 4 research accounts was completed. All critical and high-severity findings were remediated prior to deploying Level 4 data. A Threat Risk Assessment was also completed. Additional infrastructure was procured to support future integration between local and cloud resources, enabling secure data transfer and cost-effective use of institutional and commercial computing resources. 2. Complete a cybersecurity self-assessment of research infrastructure and develop a POAM UCalgary IT teams completed a cybersecurity self-assessment of research infrastructure against the NIST SP 800-171 controls framework. An external third party was engaged to validate the assessment, develop a Plan of Action and Milestones (POAM), and create a tool to support ongoing compliance tracking and auditing. The POAM and supporting tool were completed, and 135 remediation actions were identified and documented to guide future cybersecurity improvements.

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Research Data Management (RDM) – Institutional Strategy Implementation Priority area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. Organizing UCalgary Research Data Management (RDM) Implementation Steering Committee and conducting regular meetings 2. Organizing RDM Implementation Working Groups and deliverables for each (e.g., environmental scans, policy reviews, recommendations) 3. Delivering RDM workshops and information sessions 4. Developing robust RDM tools and resources, including co-ordinated RDM support with Information Technologies and Libraries and Cultural Resources	\$165,000	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 UCalgary RDM Strategy Implementation • The UCalgary RDM Strategy Implementation Steering Committee oversees implementation of the UCalgary RDM Strategy published in March 2023. The Steering Committee was convened in February 2024 with a mandate to build a RDM culture and develop the services, training, and infrastructure needed to satisfy the Tri-Agency RDM Policy and the specific needs of University of Calgary researchers. RDM Working Groups • Reporting to the UCalgary RDM Strategy Implementation Steering Committee, RSO organized two working groups (Policies and Procedures or P&P WG and Sensitive Data or SD WG) and supported the organization of a third (Indigenous Data Sovereignty or IDS WG). • The P&P WG completed a review of the university's existing policies, procedures, standards, and schedules to determine if revisions are needed to adequately address RDM concerns. Made recommendations to Steering Committee for changes to policies, procedures, and support materials. Recommended establishing wider WG to draft RDM guidance. • The Sensitive Data WG completed a findings report for two environmental scans to inform next steps towards sensitive data-related commitments in the UCalgary RDM Strategy: 1) a scan of researcher needs, and 2) a scan of institutional requirements. RDM tools and resources • Advanced work on updated RDM landing page for RSO and

			organized coordinated RDM services with Information Technologies and Libraries and Cultural Resources, including a shared mailbox. Data Management Plan (DMP) reviews • Nine DMPs reviewed for applications to Tri-council agencies and other funders (e.g., Horizon Europe).
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UCalgary's Gateway Innovation Initiative Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. To increase researcher engagements with the innovation ecosystem by 30% this year and by 100% over 3 years. 2. Build capacity for academic social innovators and community partners to co-design sustainable solutions to complex social problems.	\$540,000	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 Progress for Objective 1: UCalgary is making strong progress toward scaling engagement in innovation programs and resources, with several outcomes already exceeding expectations. Innovation and entrepreneurship program awareness has increased by more than 500%, while interest and enrolment have grown by more than 200%, demonstrating that expanded storytelling, outreach, and communications are translating into meaningful engagement across the ecosystem. Researcher participation has also increased substantially, with more research teams engaged in commercialization activities, more researchers completing innovation and commercialization training, and mentorship hours more than tripling. These results show both broader reach and deeper support for teams advancing research toward impact. Progress is also evident in commercialization outcomes. New company formation has more than doubled, revenue-bearing agreements have doubled, and invention disclosures have increased, indicating that expanded programming, advisory services, and investor-readiness supports are helping more teams move from awareness to action. The growth in coaches, mentors, and expert advisors is reducing pressure points in commercialization pathways and improving access to timely, specialized guidance. Overall, Year 2 results indicate that UCalgary is well positioned to achieve the majority of its March 2027 targets and is building a stronger culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and off-campus impact. Progress for Objective 2: 1. Delivery of social innovation support service, offering tailored

			guidance to researchers aiming to mobilize knowledge and pursue diverse pathways – including launching enterprises, partnering with community, and exploring licensing – to advance their work to the next stage. 9 early-stage social innovation teams advancing research into viable and sustainable application. - Two community engagement projects leveraging innovation ecosystem resources to advance their social-serving mandates/goals. - Delivery of Social Impact Starter Series workshops focused on ‘soft skills’ development. Expanded delivery for Fall and Winter sessions, incorporating a hybrid attendance option. 278 participants (researchers, deans, community, practitioners, social enterprise). 121 engagements (internal and external) providing support across 9 faculties. Top three areas of focus (UN Sustainable Development Goals) include Good Health and Wellbeing, Partnerships for the Goals, and Reduced Inequalities. - UCalgary hosted the 2025 International Social Innovation Research Conference – the event’s first appearance in Alberta and only its second North America. The conference welcomed over 150 delegates representing 15 countries and featured more than 100 presentations spanning 13 thematic streams.
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Strengthening, Advancing, and Facilitating International Research Partnerships and Innovation at UCalgary Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. Connecting UCalgary to more international funding opportunities 2. Helping researchers to attract new major international funding, including Horizon Europe 3. Strengthening global partnerships that support research and innovation	\$470,000	Timeline: April 2024 – March 2027 During this reporting period, we delivered 17 Roadshows across all faculties, engaging more than 320 researchers, and conducted 28 individual consultations. We also coordinated 15 international research delegation visits, hosted the Swiss Consulate Blue Peace Water Research and Diplomacy Event, and supported executive missions to the United Kingdom, Qatar, India, Singapore, Germany, and France. A key initiative was the launch of the UCalgary Visiting Scholars from France Program in January 2026, developed with the Embassy of France and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). The program supports research visits that strengthen collaboration in priority Canada-France research areas. UCalgary also continued to strengthen its Strategic Alliance with Curtin University (Australia) and the University of Aberdeen (Scotland). Through researcher matchmaking, Alliance funding opportunities, and coordinated leadership, the partnership continues to expand collaborative research. In 2026, UCalgary assumed the rotating Chair of the Alliance and hosted the first Steering Committee meeting. Canada's association with Horizon Europe, the world's largest research and innovation program, continues to create significant opportunities for UCalgary researchers. During 2025, UCI Research conducted 104 Horizon Europe consultations, while the joint UCI/Research Services team hosted a webinar attended by 151 researchers. These efforts supported 35 Horizon Europe applications in 2025. During this reporting period, UCalgary secured six Horizon Europe awards, representing approximately €1.8 million in funding, along with seven

			complementary Canadian awards (including SSHRC and Mitacs) that support Canadian participation in the program. By April 2026, UCalgary had already reached 94% of the total number of Horizon Europe applications submitted during all of 2025, prior to the major spring and fall competition deadlines. These activities continue to strengthen UCalgary's global research profile and contribute to measurable institutional impact: 1. \$35.4 million in research funding from international sponsoring organizations (Source: UCRED). 2. 56.8% of UCalgary publications included international collaborators, up from 56.0% the previous year (Source: Scopus/SciVal).
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Supporting International Research and Innovation: EU Data Protection Compliance Program Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	Develop and implement an EU Data Protection Compliance Program to support researchers, ensure GDPR compliance, and enable participation in Horizon Europe and other EU research collaborations.	\$110,000	Timeline: July 2025 – June 2028 During the reporting period, UCalgary - developed the GDPR Compliance Standard and updated the Information Security Classification Standard to address GDPR-regulated personal data - New tools were created, including the Data Protection Impact Assessment template, risk matrix, and an informed consent addendum for use by research ethics boards. - Work is underway to add an International Privacy Compliance section to the Legal Services website. 14 overall EU research projects received GDPR support. 4 Horizon Europe projects also received GDPR support.

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Industry Liaison Office - Research Priority area: Innovation and commercialization activities	1. Market research opportunities from faculty members to companies 2. Match company research needs to faculty expertise and core facilities. 3. Administer institutional corporate research programs	\$576,000	Timeline: April 2025 – March 2028 - Introduced 87% of faculty members requesting industry connections to at least one company aligned with the request - Generated more than \$350,000 in research revenue by responding to company requests for research expertise - Actively administered four institutional programs, generating \$450,000 in research revenue

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STRIDE: The University of Calgary's Strategic Research Intelligence and Data Ecosystem Priority area: Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	1. Create a centralized research intelligence data ecosystem (STRIDE) that enables high-quality performance assessment, enhances institutional competitiveness, and provides campus-wide access to curated, reliable data. 2. Integrate 90% of high-priority institutional datasets—including research funding, human resources, scholarly outputs, and external benchmarking data—into the STRIDE platform. 3. Hire a Junior Data Scientist to support development, implementation, and ongoing maintenance. 4. Support institutional and national goals by enabling strong research assessment, impact tracking, and real-time monitoring of open science practices.	\$110,000	Timeline: April 2025 – March 2028 • The Junior Data Scientist was hired in July 2025 and has been trained on our key datasets, Power BI, and Python. • The framework for STRIDE (Microsoft One Lake - Lakehouse) is in place and has been tested through a pilot project. • After successful piloting, key datasets have been restructured, cleaned and uploaded to the Lakehouse. A number of these now have a live feed and are being used routinely for our Power BI dashboards as a 'source of truth'. • We are continuing to clean/structure datasets for the Lakehouse, with the goal of having all in place in the next 6 months. • Concurrently, we are working with IT to explore integrating AI into the Lakehouse.

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Roof Replacement at Barrier Lake Field Station Priority area: Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	Facilities renewal (duplex roof replacements at Barrier Lake Field Station), for safe and ongoing occupation of these buildings by users	\$310,000	Timeline: April 2025 – March 2026 The recent roof replacement project for three duplex units was completed on schedule (August 2025, with final inspection fall 2025), delivering significant improvements to facility integrity and occupant comfort. Key outcomes: Enhanced Durability: Aging roofs were fully replaced, restoring weather protection, and reducing risk of water penetration and structural damage. Zero Maintenance Issues: Post-installation inspections confirm full compliance with building codes and manufacturer specifications. There have been no leak reports or maintenance calls since completion. Operational Continuity: The project was executed safely with minimal disruption, allowing researchers to retain their units without relocation and ensuring uninterrupted facility operations. Long-Term Value: By utilizing durable, fire-resistant materials compliant with Kananaskis Improvement District standards, the project has reduced ongoing maintenance costs and extended the service life of these duplexes.

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Engineering Study to Upgrade Kluane Lake Research Station Off-Grid Renewable Energy System for Winter Operation Priority area: Facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance	1. Complete an engineering assessment of the KLRS off-grid power system to enable winter operations 2. Deliver costed, tiered upgrade scenarios and implementation pathways 3. Identify near-term actions to improve off-grid power system performance and reliability	\$30,000	Timeline: April 2025 – March 2028 • Engineering firm contracted and site visit completed • Stakeholder consultations conducted with KLRS staff and user groups • Final engineering report delivered on schedule, including costed upgrade scenarios • Additional outcome: several recommendations already implemented • Early upgrades improved cold-weather performance, system resilience, and backup capacity • KLRS now has increased capacity for partial winter operation (e.g., continuous instrumentation) • Project delivered both a “shovel-ready” plan for future grant opportunities and immediate operational improvements