

Terms of Reference

The Terra Nova Young Innovator Award (TNYIA) recognizes and supports outstanding young faculty members whose research is particularly innovative and whose specific proposal has real potential to make a significant impact on society. Additionally, this award seeks to recognize those proposals that align with Suncor Energy's values and deliver economic prosperity, advance social well-being and a healthy environment for today and tomorrow.

The TNYIA reflects a shared commitment by Suncor Energy Inc. and Memorial University of Newfoundland to enable exceptional young faculty to be adventurous in their research, to explore novel ideas, and to be creative in the way they investigate important research issues. The TNYIA seeks to promote new transformative research initiatives that push the boundaries beyond what the faculty member would normally undertake through conventional funding mechanisms.

Accordingly, the TNYIA selection committee seeks projects that marry innovative designs, methodologies and/or technologies to important research challenges, opportunities, and concepts. While the research achievements and relevant expertise of the applicants are important considerations in the overall adjudication process, the TNYIA is, first and foremost, a proposal-based award in which innovative, original and potentially high-impact submissions will be rewarded.

Up to \$50,000 is available annually for this competition. One or more awards may be made each year. The dollar value of each award will be established by the selection committee based on the budget justification submitted with each successful proposal. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the results by March 1.

ELIGIBILITY

- Full-time faculty members in tenured or tenure-track positions (or in the case of the Marine Institute, a permanent or contractual appointment) across all disciplines
- Applicants/nominees must have received their first university faculty-level appointment not more than 10 years prior to the competition deadline

TERM OF AWARD

- The award is not intended to sustain multi-year research. It is offered in support of research activities that achieve a specific deliverable over a period of one year to eighteen months.

- Capital or operating expenses that further the innovative work proposed are eligible for support.
- It is expected that the recipient will spend the funds as indicated in the budget provided with their nomination/application as well as in accordance with Memorial’s policies and procedures; however, unique opportunities that arise following submission of an approved budget may be considered, with consent from the Office of the Vice-President (Research).
- Award recipients will be expected to provide Memorial University with a summary of how the funds were spent and the status of their research within two years of the date of award including how the project contributed to a specific area of society or to society at large. Excerpts from this summary will be shared with Suncor Energy Inc.
- Recipients must agree to the publication of the award and their project work. Recipients must also acknowledge the Terra Nova development, which is operated by Suncor Energy and Memorial, in any publication that results from the work supported.

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Nominations or applications are to be submitted electronically by November 19th to:

tinaw@mun.ca

Receipt of the nomination package will be confirmed by email. If you have not received confirmation of receipt within two business days of the application deadline, please contact Ellen Steinhauer (ellens@mun.ca) or Tina Winsor (tinaw@mun.ca).

Package must include:

- A lay summary of the proposed research of not more than 200 words which is suitable for use in the general media;
- An abstract not exceeding 250 words which gives a brief summary of the proposal;
- A detailed description of the nature of the project being pursued (maximum 4 pages);

- A statement explaining how the proposed research is innovative, will advance economic prosperity, improve social well-being and environmental performance, and the potential impact it could have to your field of study, other disciplines, industry, government or society. This statement should also include information on the influence this funding could have to your research program (maximum 1 page);
- An outline of the need for assistance, with a detailed budget (maximum 2 pages);
- Justification for the budget (maximum 1 page);
- Timelines for the project and expected outcomes as they relate to the project (maximum 1 page);
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae;
- Written support from the candidate's head of department and faculty dean/director. This document will include a description of the quality, innovation and potential impact of the proposed research (maximum 2 pages);
- One letter of recommendation from a colleague highlighting the degree of innovation of the project from a disciplinary perspective (maximum 2 pages); and,
- A statement by the nominee or applicant that, if awarded, he/she accepts the terms of award as stated in this program description.

Instructions for preparing and formatting the required documents:

- Use a font size of 12 point, black type;
- All materials should be single-spaced;
- No condensed/narrow fonts, type, or spacing;
- Insert a margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) - minimum - around the page;
- Indicate your name and the section title (e.g., Lay Summary of the Proposed Research) at the top of each page. Indicate the page number clearly at the bottom of each page;
- Observe page limitations indicated above; and,
- Use only letter size (21.25 X 27.5 cm / 8.5" X 11") white paper/background for all attachments.

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection will be based on:

1. Degree of innovation of the research*;
2. Quality of the proposal;
3. Expected impact of the project;
4. The impact associated with the receipt of TNYIA funding to your research program (e.g. future funding opportunities, enriched training environment);
5. Appropriateness and realism of project timeline and budget; and,
6. Overall research promise of the individual.
7. Degree to which the proposal aligns with Suncor Energy's values of delivering economic prosperity, improved social well-being and a healthy environment for today and tomorrow.

* The degree of innovation is assessed on originality, uniqueness, and the creativity of the proposed research. A research project will not be considered innovative if it represents the next logical step or continuation of a previous project or an incremental advance upon published data and/or existing knowledge.

Selection will be made by a committee of the Vice-President (Research), at least three other individuals appointed by the President, and a representative of Suncor Energy Inc. The selection committee has the authority to choose numerous award recipients and to determine the dollar value of the award that each successful applicant is to receive.

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

The information on this form is collected under the authority of the Memorial University Act (RSNL 1990 Chapter M-7) and is needed for and will be used to assess your application for the Terra Nova Young Innovator Award. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, contact Tina Winsor at 709-864-2740.