



Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) Position in Exploration and Development of Critical Minerals, Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University

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The Department of Earth Sciences at Memorial University invites applications to the highly prestigious **Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Program** with specialization in **Exploration and Development of Critical Minerals**. The [CERC 2022 Competition](#) aims to attract world-leading research talent to Canada with the high potential to generate social and economic benefits via their research aligned with priority areas of Canadian science, technology, and innovation (ST&I). The allocation to this non-renewable position is \$500k/year for 8 years for a total of \$4M, with all funds available to the applicant for research activities.

The successful candidate will be an established, internationally recognized leader in their field. They will be expected to create an externally funded research program, and provide expertise and leadership in the geology, exploration, development, and creation of genetic and exploration models for [critical mineral resources](#). Ideally, the candidate should have expertise in one or more of the following mineral deposit environments: magmatic-hydrothermal systems (e.g., Cu-Mo, REE-F, Cs-Li-Nb-Ta), magmatic Ni-Cu-Co-V-PGE deposits, sediment-hosted critical metal resources, critical metal resources in volcanic environments, uranium deposits, and/or other critical metal resource environments. The candidate should demonstrate an ability to integrate geological, geochemical, and geophysical data at all scales of observation. Expertise in analytical geochemical instrumentation, data science/machine learning/AI methods, geospatial analysis, and the social, cultural, and economic attributes of critical metals is also desirable.

The application process involves 3 stages. For Stage I, candidates will submit an application to the Department of Earth Sciences that includes: a cover letter describing their fit with the [CERC Program](#); a curriculum vitae including the names and contact information of at least three referees; a brief research plan covering the 8-year duration of the CERC position; a statement on how the applicant's research program fosters and implements best practices in [equity, diversity, and inclusion \(EDI\)](#); and a statement on how the candidate's research program could develop new links, synergies, and knowledge exchange between academia, government, industry, and Canada's northern and [Indigenous communities in Newfoundland & Labrador](#). Details on the selection process for Stage I are available [here](https://www.esd.mun.ca/misc/MUNcritmetCERC%20-%20Stage%20I%20information.pdf) (<https://www.esd.mun.ca/misc/MUNcritmetCERC%20-%20Stage%20I%20information.pdf>) to all interested candidates. For Stage II, candidates selected to a shortlist will be interviewed at Memorial University. Details on the selection process for Stage II will be provided to shortlisted candidates. For Stage III, one candidate will be selected as the nominee that moves forward with co-developing an application with Memorial University to the CERC Program. Appointment of a candidate to the advertised position is conditional upon the success of the application to the CERC Program.

The successful candidate from Stage II will be, at the point of CERC Program nomination (Stage III), either: at the academic level of Full Professor; at the academic level of Associate Professor eligible for promotion to Full Professor within 2 years; or, hold a position outside of academia with equivalent qualifications necessary for appointment at these academic levels. The CERC Program

places no restrictions on nationality or country of residence of nominees. The province's multiple [Indigenous groups](#) will be engaged and their feedback will be sought during the recruitment/selection process.

Applications for the first stage (to the Department of Earth Sciences) should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 6 May 2022 to allow for sufficient time to meet the CERC Program deadlines (final submission deadline is October 13, 2022). Candidates should submit their completed application in PDF format to Dr. Gregory Dunning, Head, Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1B 3X5 via email here: earthsciresearch@mun.ca. Please quote the reference number F03295-2022-22 in the application and email subject line.

Interested candidates are strongly encouraged to reach out with any informal inquiries about this position, our department, and the broader community. CERC applications as well as further questions may be addressed to committee chair (critmetCERC@mun.ca) or Department Head (earthscihead@mun.ca), who can provide further information or help put you in touch with others in our community. The CERC position search committee will also provide a clear outline of the criteria that will be used to evaluate candidates throughout the recruitment/selection process. In assessing applications, Memorial recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves (e.g. parental leaves, leave due to illness) can have on a candidate's record of research achievement. These leaves will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.

Memorial is committed to providing an inclusive learning and work environment. Memorial's Workplace Accommodation policy can be found [here](#). If there is anything we can do to ensure your full participation in the interview process please contact equity@mun.ca directly and we will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

The [Department of Earth Sciences at Memorial University](#) is one of the largest in Canada. With over 20 faculty members, including Canada Research Chairs in Marine Geology and Boreal Biogeochemistry, over 15 staff members, and leading-edge teaching and research facilities, the Department offers high quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The successful candidate will have access to the modern geoanalytical facilities within Memorial University's [CREAIT Network](#), which includes a full spectrum of microanalytical (SIMS, LA-ICP-MS, SEM/EPMA) and bulk sample analytical instrumentation (TIMS, ICP-MS, XRF, IR-MS). The Department places strong emphasis on natural resources/economic geology, has faculty strength in this area, and shares existing collaborations with numerous mining and mineral exploration companies in Newfoundland & Labrador, and the [provincial geological survey](#), which reflects the strong integration of [mineral exploration/mining into the province's economy](#).

Memorial University is the largest university in Atlantic Canada. As the province's only university, Memorial plays an integral role in the educational and cultural life of Newfoundland and Labrador. Offering diverse undergraduate and graduate programs to over 18,000 students, Memorial University provides a distinctive and stimulating environment for research and learning in [St. John's](#); a safe, affordable, friendly city with great historic charm, a vibrant cultural life, and easy access to a wide range of outdoor activities.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Memorial University is committed to employment equity and diversity and encourages applications from all qualified candidates, including women; people of any sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; Indigenous peoples; visible minorities, and racialized people; and people with disabilities.

As part of Memorial University's commitment to employment equity, all applicants are invited to identify themselves as a member of a target group(s) as appropriate. Applicants cannot be considered as a member of a target group(s) unless they complete an employment equity survey. If you do not receive a survey or have any questions, please contact equity@mun.ca.

We acknowledge that the lands on which Memorial University's campuses are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu and Inuit of this province.