

# **Global Excellence Initiative** Annual Report 2021





# TABLE OF CONTENTS













Over the past year, the world continued to live through a global pandemic, saw increased effects of climate change, and faced civil unrest and the spread of misinformation large-scale issues that demand cross-border collaboration, test our ingenuity, and underline the importance of exploration and discovery.

Universities Canada is proud to steward and oversee the growth of the Global Excellence Initiative, which promotes Canadian research talent on both the national and international stage. By identifying and helping to propose offering assistance to meritorious candidates for prestigious awards, the Global Excellence Initiative is helping our best and brightest garner much-deserved support and recognition.

This year marked the highest number of international awards won by Canadians since the inception of this initiative, with twenty-five laureates earning prizes as diverse as the Prince Mahidol Award, the Shaw Prize, numerous Guggenheim and Sloan Fellowships, and the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award. This is a tremendous recognition of Canada's scientists, mathematicians, artists, anthropologists and scholars of all kinds, who are tackling some of the world's greatest and most pressing challenges.

2021 was also a banner year for the Initiative as it marked the first year that the program supported nominations for national awards and prizes, as well as developed inventory of national awards for coordination of external reviews.

This was made possible with the support of the Rideau Hall Foundation, which joined the partnership in 2020. This additional level of support filled a gap in the current Canadian research landscape - with the Initiative having received 73 requests for review for national awards in this first year alone.

The Global Excellence Initiative not only underscores the value of our research enterprise to building a better Canada and working across borders, but also serves to inspire our next generation of researchers to see the value of careers in research and discovery. Additionally, with more recent partnerships, we are able to offer additional supports to researchers who can benefit most from our services, especially those in historically under-represented groups: early-career, women, and BIPOC researchers.

The work of the Initiative is possible thanks to the backing of our partner organizations:

- The Rideau Hall Foundation
- the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
- the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR)
- the National Research Council Canada (NRC)
- the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and
- the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)



CANADA FOUNDATION FONDATION CANADIENNE FOR INNOVATION POUR L'INNOVATION





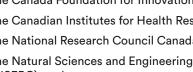
National Research Council Canada

Conseil national de recherches Canada



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada





Two years into the pandemic, the full range of impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian researchers' productivity, engagement, and advancement are starting to be known. Anecdotal evidence suggests that while all researchers were impacted and felt the strain of classes cycling between being on campus and online - due to a rise in COVID-19 variants such as Omicron - not all researchers were impacted equally. Early- and mid-career researchers, as well as women (especially those with young families impacted by daycare and school closures and those responsible for care of elder relatives) were the most heavily impacted. Many researchers affected by these external factors chose not to pursue prize nominations due to the additional work required in preparing documents, and many potential reviewers contacted by the Initiative indicated they would have provided reviews but for the additional burdens caused by the pandemic. Uncertainty and workload associated with return to campus or continued virtual delivery of courses also impacted individuals' capacity to seek the Initiative's support or provide reviews.

The Global Excellence Initiative will continue to monitor trends to understand the longer-lasting impacts of the pandemic on researchers' careers. The pandemic, as well as nearing the tenth anniversary of the Global Excellence Initiative, provide a natural juncture at which to fill data gaps under and about the Initiative. This will lead to consultations with the Canvassing Committee members, researchers, and prizes and awards staff as well as more formal data collection through member universities to determine potential additional supports the GEI could provide, specifically with an equity, diversity and inclusion lens.

## GEI by the numbers

2021 saw a significant increase in the number of dossiers submitted to the Global Excellence Initiative for external review from the previous year, continuing a trend that began in 2017. Equally encouraging, the number of dossiers reviewed, and the number dossiers reviewed by more than one reviewer also increased year over year. The number of institutions participating increases slightly year-to-year: more institutions participated than in previous years, including 8 members of the U15.

The Global Excellence Initiative received 121 requests for review of both national and international awards in 2021, compared to 59 requests for reviews of international awards in 2020, representing a 105% increase.

Three of the 26 recipients of international prizes in 2021 submitted their dossiers to GEI for review and received feedback that helped strengthen their nominations and increase their chances of success.

## 2021 data

**121** Total # of requests

**73** for national awards

**48** for international awards **43 (36%)** Female nominees

78 (64%) Male nominees

20 Declined to proceed

Pending

**15** # not reviewed

2 # of dossiers never received

84 Total # reviewed 84 Total # reviewed

**32** # with 1 reviewer/ dossier

**52** # with 2+ reviewers/ dossier

#### **AS OF DECEMER 31, 2018**

Advised of request	28
Pending	0
Not reviewed	6
Reviewed	17
1 reviewer per dossier	10
2 or more reviewers	7
Female nominees	<b>11</b> (36%)

Female nonninees	(30%)
Male nominees	<b>17</b> (64%)

#### AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

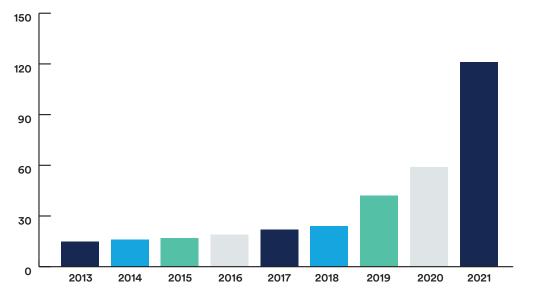
Advised of request	43
Pending	0
Not reviewed	5
Reviewed	32
1 reviewer per dossier	11
2 or more reviewers	21
Nominator requested	3
Female nominees	<b>16</b> (37%)
Male nominees	<b>27</b> (63%)

#### **AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020**

Advised of request	59
Pending	0
Not reviewed	1
Reviewed	46
1 reviewer per dossier	6
2 or more reviewers	40
Nominator requested	1
Female nominees	<mark>22</mark> (37%)
Male nominees	<b>37</b> (63%)

### 2018-2020 data

#### Nominations received 2013-2021



## Community and international engagement

The Global Excellence Initiative continues to be involved internationally by collaborating with the diplomatic corps in Ottawa on a number of international awards and the promotion of research excellence. While these linkages offer additional visibility to the Initiative and Canadian researchers, they also provide an avenue for international collaboration, sharing information and best practice exchanges with regards to national and supranational research schemes.

Cultural diplomacy is at the heart of the Global Excellence Initiative's international collaboration, and those relationships are often highlighted through articles such as the <u>op-ed</u> penned by Swedish Ambassador Urban Ahlin in *The Hill Times* on December 15, 2021. The partnership with the Rideau Hall Foundation also allowed for the organization of two webinars, one focused on how to write op-eds for non-academic publications (*How to write – and publish! an op-ed: a workshop for researchers*) on April 14, 2021, and the other one on the use of social media to promote research (*#PromoteYourResearch: How to use social media to effectively share complex information*), on June 23, 2021.

Universities Canada is proud to continue promoting the Global Excellence Initiative within the higher education sector as well as with key research stakeholders and supporters.

# YEAR IN REVIEW: 2021 INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION

In 2021, 15 universities requested support through the Global Excellence Initiative - the most diverse and highest participating number since the inception of the Initiative.

Carleton University	4	Université de Montréal	2	University of Ottawa	6
Concordia University	3	Université Sherbrooke	2	University of Toronto	5
McGill University	13	University of Calgary	4	University of Victoria	8
Queen's University	29	University of Guelph	7	Western University	20
Simon Fraser University	2	University of Manitoba	14	York University	2

#### **INSTITUTIONS 2018 (8)**

Concordia University	1
McGill University	15
Queen's University	3
Université de Sherbrooke	1
University of Manitoba	2
University of Ottawa	1
Simon Fraser University	3
Western	2
	28

\* new in 2018

#### **INSTITUTIONS 2019 (12)**

Concordia University	1
McGill University	19
McMaster University *	1
NRC*	1
Queen's University	5
Université de Montréal *	1
Université de Sherbrooke	1
University of Manitoba	5
University of Ottawa	2
University of Toronto *	1
University of Victoria *	3
Western	3
	43

\* new in 2019

#### **INSTITUTIONS 2020 (15)**

Carleton University *	3
University of Guelph *	2
Université Laval *	1
University of Manitoba	3
McGill University	14
Memorial University of Newfoundland	1
Université de Montréal	1
NRC	3
Univeristy of Ottawa	3
Queen's University	4
Université de Sherbrooke	2
University of Toronto	8
Western University	11
University of Victoria	2
York University *	1
	59

\* new in 2020

# A YEAR WORTHY OF CELEBRATION

2021 saw 26 researchers at Canadian institutions receive international recognition for their work and advancements across a broad spectrum of fields - the highest number of international awards won by Canadians since the inception of the Global Excellence Initiative.

Among the twenty-six recipients of these twenty-seven international awards is Dr. Pieter Cullis, Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia. Dr. Cullis is a co-winner of the 2021 Prince Mahidol Award for medicine. The award is one of the first high-profile international science prizes to acknowledge the pioneers behind mRNA vaccines - the most effective defence against COVID-19. Acuitas Therapeutics, a UBC spin-off company co-founded by Dr. Cullis, developed the lipid nanoparticle technology that allows the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine to enter human cells. Similarly, Dr. Cullis and his peers were co-awarded the inaugural VinFuture Grand Prize, the first global sci-tech award from Vietnam which recognizes breakthrough research and technological innovations.

"Investment in basic science is something that the government needs to do better. We punch below our weight in investments in science in the G7... We would do well as a nation to reflect on our priorities, whether it's climate change or next pandemic or treating obesity and diabetes – the investment in science is a very good investment for Canada."

DR. DANIEL J. DRUCKER, SENIOR INVESTIGATOR AT SINAI HEALTH'S LUNENFELD-TANENBAUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND PROFESSOR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE, 2021 CANADA GAIRDNER INTERNATIONAL AWARD





Recipient	Institution	Award/Prize
Armand, Jorge Thielen		Guggenheim Fellowship in Film-Video
Behzadi, Ashkan		Guggenheim Fellowship in Music Composition
Blais, Alexandre **	Université de Sherbrooke	Guggenheim Fellowship in Physics
Burton, lan	University of Toronto	BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge in Climate Change
Clarke, Kamari	University of Toronto	Guggenheim Fellowship in Anthropology and Cultural Studies
Cullis, Pieter	University of British Columbia	Prince Mahidol Award for Medicine VinFuture Grand Prize
Curtin, David R.	University of Toronto	Sloan Research Fellowship in Physics
Drucker, Daniel J.	University of Toronto	Canada Gairdner International Award
Fahrig, Lenore **	Carleton University	Guggenheim Fellowship in Geography & Environmental Studies
Grosse, Roger	University of Toronto	Sloan Research Fellowship in Computer Science
Grossman, Tovi	University of Toronto	Sloan Research Fellowship in Computer Science
Ioannou, Maria	University of Alberta	Sloan Research Fellowship in Neuroscience
Judge, Joan	York University	Guggenheim Fellowship in East Asian Studies
Kaspi, Victoria	McGill University	Shaw Prize in Astronomy
Keller, Gordon	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto	Grand prix scientifique 2021 de la Fondation Lefoulon Delalande of the Institut de France
Kumacheva, Eugenia	University of Toronto	Guggenheim Fellowship in Chemistry
Liokumovich, Yevgeny	University of Toronto	Sloan Research Fellowship in Mathematics
Matthews, Benjamin J.	The University of British Columbia	Sloan Research Fellowship in Neuroscience
McAlpine, Alison		Guggenheim Fellowship in Film-Video
Mittermaier, Amira **	University of Toronto	Guggenheim Fellowship in Religion
O'Neill, Kevin Lewis	University of Toronto	Guggenheim Fellowship in Anthropology & Cultural Studies
Rockwood, Ken	Dalhousie University	Ryman Prize
Rousseau, Sophie	University of Toronto	Sloan Research Fellowship in Chemistry
Shelukhin, Egor	Université de Montréal	Sloan Research Fellowship in Mathematics
Slofstra, William	University of Waterloo	Sloan Research Fellowship in Mathematics
Tsimerman, Jacob	University of Toronto	2022 New Horizons Prize in Mathematics

\*\* submitted dossier and received review through GEI









# TAKING ON CANADIAN AWARDS AND PRIZES: A YEAR LATER

In December 2020, Universities Canada and the Rideau Hall Foundation announced a new partnership to support the Global Excellence Initiative. The Rideau Hall Foundation and its founder and Chair, the Right Honourable David Johnston, 28<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada, recognized the pivotal role the initiative plays in supporting Canadian researchers as they pursue prestigious prizes and awards.

Thanks to this new partnership, Canadian researchers now have added support in their efforts to apply for and receive career-boosting national awards. The Global Excellence Initiative was able to expand its mandate to include more than 40 national prizes and fellowships, including granting council awards and medals, Royal Society of Canada medals, Killam Prizes, and Governor General's Awards.

The need and demand for this type of support has been high – with early to mid-career researchers benefitting the most from the opportunities provided by this new partnership. In 2021, there were 73 requests for reviews for national awards. Of those 73 initial requests, 51 were reviewed, 7 were not reviewed and 15 researchers declined to proceed with the reviews.

Two individuals who were awarded Canadian awards submitted their dossiers and received reviews through the Initiative. Will Kymlicka, professor, Queen's University, won the Royal Society of Canada Pierre Chauveau Medal in 2021, and Lynne Viola, professor, University of Toronto, was awarded the SSHRC Impacts Awards – Gold Medal in 2021, after submitting their nominations for external review.

The Rideau Hall Foundation's support of the Global Excellence Initiative will continue to allow for growth and expanded support to researchers at Canadian institutions as they gain the national and international recognition they so richly deserve.

## Winners of Canadian awards and prizes

Recipient	Institution	Award/Prize
Arnaktauyok, Germaine		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Asmundson, Gordon J. G.	University of Regina	Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prizes
Ban, Natalie	University of Victoria	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships
Barber, David	University of Manitoba	Northern Science Award
Blais, André	Université de Montréal	SSHRC Impact Awards - Insight Award
Blondeau, Lori		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Bob, Dempsey		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Bouvier, Michel	Université de Montréal	Killam Prize in Health Sciences
Bovy, Jo	University of Toronto	RSC Rutherford Memorial Medal in Physics
Courchesne, Luc		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Cranston, Emily	University of British Columbia	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships
Devine, Bonnie		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Eisenhauer, Elizabeth	Queen's University	Canada Gairdner Wightman Award
Evans, Alan	McGill University	RSC Mclaughlin Medal
Falardeau-Côté, Marianne	Université Laval	Weston Family Award in Northern Research
Gill, Stephen	York University	Killam Prize in Social Sciences

Grahn, Jessica	University of Western Ontario	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships
John, Sajeev	University of Toronto	Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering
Kanbara, Bryce		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts – Outstanding Contribution
Klemberg-Sapieha, Jolanta E.	Polytechnique Montréal	NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation
Krkosek, Martin	University of Toronto	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships
Kymlicka, Will**	Queen's University	RSC Pierre Chauveau Medal
Laporte, Gilbert	HEC Montréal	Killam Prize in Engineering
Leblanc, Melanie-Louise	University of British Columbia	Weston Family Award in Northern Research
Lévesque, Carole	INRS	SSHRC Impact Awards - Connection Award
L'Hirondelle, Cheryl		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts
Lynn, Lou		Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts – Saydie Bronfman Award
Mallard, Bonnie	University of Guelph	NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation
Manners, lan	University of Victoria	RSC Henry Marshall Tory Medal
Martinu, Ludvik	Polytechnique Montréal	NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation
McNicholas, Paul	McMaster University	RSC John L. Synge Award
Michelson, Chantel	Acadia University	Weston Family Award in Northern Research
Mohanty, Amar	University of Guelph	RSC Miroslaw Romanowski Medal
Philip, NourbeSe	N/A	Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prizes
Potvin, Catherine	McGill University	RSC Sir John William Dawson Medal
Puri, Poonam	York University	RSC Yvan Dallaire Medal
Rehan, Sandra	York University	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships
Ripstein, Arthur	University of Toronto	Killam Prize in Humanities
Sleiman, Hanadi	McGill University	NSERC John C. Polanyi Award
Sondarjee, Maïka	Université de Montréal	SSHRC Impact Awards - Talent Award
Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research (SOCAAR)	University of Toronto & Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering
Stahnisch, Frank W.	University of Calgary	RSC John A. Hannah Medal
Stephan, Douglas	University of Toronto	Killam Prize in Natural Sciences
Sumaila, Rachid	University of British Columbia	SSHRC Impact Awards - Partnership Award
Sun, Yu	University of Toronto	NSERC Synergy Awards for Innovation
Tyrell, Lorne	University of Alberta	Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research
Vetrone, Fiorenzo	INRS	RSC Rutherford Memorial Medal in Chemistry
Vincter, Manuella	Carleton University	RSC Henry Marshall Tory Medal
Viola, Lynne**	University of Toronto	SSHRC Impact Awards - Gold Medal
Yu, Alfred	University of Waterloo	E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships

\*\* submitted dossier and received review through GEI











# CONCLUSION

2021 was a banner year for the Global Excellence Initiative – specifically with regards to growing the inventory of national and international awards and prizes, and continuing to improve Canada's research standing globally.

As we near the tenth anniversary of this Initiative, the benefits of a concerted and strategic approach to identify, support and promote Canadian research talent are contributing to increases in Canadian researchers being recognized for major international awards.

The year ahead will offer opportunities to continue growing the GEI program and fine-tune the support it provides to researchers throughout their careers, namely through gathering more data on the impacts of the pandemic and on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion; expanding the number of awards and prizes for which external reviews are offered; working closely with existing and new stakeholders and increasing the visibility of the Initiative.

As Dr. Theresa Tam articulates in her foreword to this year's Canadian excellence, global recognition: Canada's 2021 winners of major international research awards: "Looking forward, it is critical to build on this momentum and leverage our country's best and brightest. We can start by celebrating Canada's research excellence, supporting and funding Canadian researchers, and encouraging more opportunities to bridge the gap between knowledge generation, policy and practice. In this way, we can build up our future research capacity, and ultimately, contribute to a stronger and healthier society."

The Global Excellence Initiative will continue to spearhead this work with the support of our partners.

"International awards [like the Shaw Prize] are important in the Canadian context because they show the world that excellent science, as judged by an international panel, is being done within Canada. [...] I think it also demonstrates to the Canadian government and to Canadian taxpayers that their tax dollars going to science here are well spent."

DR. VICTORIA KASPI, ASTROPHYSICIST AND PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY, 2021 SHAW PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY



# ANNEX A: MORE INFORMATION ON THE GLOBAL EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

## Background

While Canada has a strong record of research achievements, relatively few Canadians had received high recognition internationally for their contributions. The Right Honourable David Johnston, 28<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada, recognized the need for a proactive strategy to identify candidates for international awards and prizes. In 2012, he launched the Global Excellence Initiative to promote the recognition of the contributions made by Canadian researchers, both nationally and internationally. He recruited leaders from civil society, academia, and government to identify, support, and promote Canadian researchers in all fields of study and across all disciplines.

Over the last ten years, the initiative has been supported by a number of partners including the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the National Research Council Canada (NRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Rideau Hall Foundation, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Universities Canada assumed the stewardship of the initiative upon the end of Mr. Johnston's term, on October 1, 2017. With this change, support to the committees, coordination of the external review process of nominations for international prizes, and promotion of winners of these international awards have been centralized and streamlined.

#### Governance

The initiative is guided by the work of three committees:

The CHAMPIONS GROUP, a steering and advisory committee, is made up of the heads of the granting councils, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the National Research Council Canada, and leaders from civil society, and government representatives. This group is chaired by Paul Davidson, president of Universities Canada.

The current membership of the Champions Group:

- Alejandro Adem, President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Howard Alper, Distinguished Professor, University of Ottawa and Chair, Canvassing Committee
- The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- John Hannaford, Deputy Minister, International Trade, Global Affairs Canada
- The Right Honourable David Johnston, 28<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada, and Chair, Rideau Hall Foundation; Honourary Chair, Champions Group
- Valerie LaTraverse, Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- · Jeremy McNeil, President, Royal Society of Canada
- Bernard Miller, Counsel, McInnis Cooper (representing the Killam Trusts)
- Roseann O'Reilly Runte, President, Canada Foundation for Innovation
- Janet Rossant, President and Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation
- Iain Stewart, President, National Research Council Canada
- Michael Strong, President, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The CANVASSING COMMITTEE is comprised of former Canadian university presidents, established and earlycareer researchers, and leaders from civil society. This committee is chaired by Howard Alper, past chair, Science, Technology and Innovation Council (STIC) and distinguished professor, University of Ottawa. The role of this committee is to identify potential benefactors of this program and recommend to the leader of the candidate's institution that the candidate be nominated for a specific award. The Committee is dedicated to supporting the candidate and their institution throughout the application process.

- Colin Dodds, Former President, Saint Mary's University
- Aleeza Gerstein, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba
- Cheryl Misak, University Professor, University of Toronto
- Roderick McInnes, Professor, department of biochemistry, McGill University and director, Lady Davis Research Institute
- Robert Prichard, Chair, Torys LLP
- Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Québec
- Molly Shoichet, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Tissue Engineering, University of Toronto
- Juan Luis Suarez, Professor, Western University
- Louis Taillefer, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Quantum Materials, Université de Sherbrooke

Universities Canada and Dr. Howard Alper, Chair of the Canvassing Committee, wish to thank the following departing members for their participation and contributions to the committee over the last few years:

- Catherine Beaudry, Professor, Canada Research Chair in Creation, Development and Commercialization of Innovation, Polytechnique Montreal
- Dennis Hall, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Boron Chemistry for Catalysis and Drug Discovery, University of Alberta

Of note, the membership of the Canvassing Committee is intended to change in the next twelve months following the departure of these members. A third group, the **CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE** is composed of Canadian expats in various fields of research and study. While composition and scope of this group is under review, generally this group will be asked, from time to time, to provide advice on Canadian researchers working abroad who should be nominated for international prizes and awards, and to promote Canadian researchers and research within their international networks.

"The Global Excellence Initiative, coordinators and reviewers have helped the University of Victoria hone award nominations to a fine sheen. Whether the reviewers provide new insights or confirm that a nomination is strong, their straightforward feedback is invaluable."

RACHEL GOLDSWORTHY, AWARDS FACILITATOR, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

### Process

While identifying candidates for prestigious international and national awards and prizes is the first step in increasing the number of prizes received by Canadian researchers, support throughout the nomination process is crucial to success.

Building on the known strengths of peer review, the external review of nominations for international prizes is a process that allows for constructive comments and feedback from experts in the field of study covered by the award, with the aim of strengthening the nomination and increasing chances of success. Reviewers are selected from a pool of Canadian and international, high-profile individuals who have been successful in obtaining international awards and prizes. Reviews are anonymous and conducted in confidence, unless the reviewer expresses interest in selfidentifying to the nominee and nominating institution.

Universities Canada coordinates the external review of draft nomination packages from submitting institutions and serves as the liaison between nominating institutions (and their nominees), the granting councils that provide lists of potential reviewers, and the reviewers offering valuable feedback. The external review process operates in the following manner:

"Engaging with the GEI process has allowed us to obtain detailed and extremely useful reviews from external experts on our draft nominations for prestigious awards. This feedback has been integrated into our nominations, providing valuable direction and advice for polishing the final dossiers. The GEI is an important element of our overall awards strategy. Using the GEI helps strengthen the quality of nominations our institution submits to national and international awards and prizes. I am very optimistic that continuing to use the GEI process will lead to successful nominations!"

JULAINE HALL, RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS, WESTERN UNIVERSITY dossier forthcoming 2 List of potential reviewers prepared 3 s weeks to deadline: dossier submitted

1

6 weeks to deadline:



Jossier to reviewers

5

10 days to deadline: feedback from reviewers to nominating institution

Modifications to dossier as desired





