Thank you for taking the time to complete this report. Support provided by the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) is an investment of public funds. The program's accountability responsibilities for the use of award funds include reporting to the Government of Canada and program stakeholders, including Canadians, about who receives support and how funds are used to meet the program's objectives. To help ensure accountability, award recipients must report on progress annually, and are expected to publicly acknowledge their award funding to bring awareness to the value and impact of the program as part of the Canadian and international research enterprise. The information provided in this form will be aggregated to generate performance information on the program. Recipients are responsible for maintaining their eligibility and expending funds in accordance with program guidelines. For the program to collect data for its evaluation and performance management activities, institutions are required to provide reports on the deployment and management of the Canada Research Chairholders (CRCs) as stipulated by the program.

Should you have any questions about the information you are being asked to provide, contact the program at information@chairs-chaires.gc.ca. If you require technical support, contact our helpdesk at 613-995-4273 or websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca.

The Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), which is housed within the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following tri-agency programs: Canada Research Chairs Program, Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program, Canada 150 Research Chairs Program, Canada First Research Excellence Fund, Research Support Fund, New Frontiers in Research Fund and Canada Biomedical Research Fund. TIPS is strongly committed to the protection of all personal information collected and used in the operation and management of its activities.

The personal information is collected under the respective authority of section 4(2)(a) of the *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Act*, section 4(2)(a) of the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Act*, and sections 4, 5 and 26 of the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research Act*, depending on the program under which you were awarded funding.

Your data will be collected, used, disclosed and retained in accordance with the *Privacy Act*. It may be used for the purposes of program operations (including recruitment for merit review processes, where applicable), planning, performance measurement and monitoring, evaluation, and audits, and in aggregate form to report to the government or to the public. Self-identification statistics will always be reported in aggregate form, to ensure protection of the identity of any individual.

TIPS also shares aggregated self-identification data with host institutions to allow them to monitor their efforts in meeting their equity targets for the Canada Research Chairs Program. While TIPS never shares self-identification data specific to an individual, it is possible that some institutions may be able to identify some individuals' personal information when the aggregated data shared is for fewer than five chairholders.

TIPS shares data with only one key administrative contact per institution, identified by the institution as having the authority to receive the data, under very strict confidentiality requirements. No data on sexual orientation nor the subcategories of racialized individuals and persons with disabilities is shared with institutions.

Failure to submit the institutional annual report may result in funding being held back until the completed report is received by TIPS.

For more information, refer to SSHRC PPU 016, described in SSHRC's Info Source.

If you have any questions or concerns on the annual progress report, contact TIPS at information@chairs-chaires.gc.ca.

For more information about your rights under the *Privacy Act*, or our privacy practices, or to **access or correct** your personal information, contact SSHRC's (and TIPS') ATIP Coordinator.

If you believe your personal information has been mishandled, or have concerns about SSHRC's privacy practices, you have the right to file a **complaint** with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Third-party hosting: The institutional annual report is hosted on the platform of a third party, Voxco. The servers are located in Canada and, therefore, the data is hosted in this country.

Note:

- By submitting your information, you are confirming that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice Statement outlined above and have provided your personal information in accordance with it.
- Personal information of a third party should not be disclosed in this report without their consent.

Name of institution:

Brandon University

Last name:

Ardelli

First name:

Bernadette

Title or position:

Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)

Office or department:

Office of the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)

Telephone:

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The reporting period is provided by the program by email.

NOTE: Personal information of a third party should not be disclosed in the report without their consent.

The CRCP stands at the centre of a national strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries in research and development. It allocates 2,285 research chair positions and invests approximately $311 million per year to attract and retain a diverse cadre of world-class researchers, to reinforce academic research and training excellence in Canadian postsecondary institutions.

The *Chairs Administration Guide* outlines the terms and conditions institutions must follow in administering Canada Research Chair awards.

The institution must submit the report to provide an update on progress made toward meeting the objectives of the program through its administration of its allocation of Canada Research Chairs.

The institution is responsible for ensuring that their chairholders meet the program's reporting requirements.

1. ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

The CRCP supports the attraction and retention of a diverse cadre of world-class researchers to Canada. TIPS defines world-class researchers as outstanding and innovative researchers whose accomplishments have made, or have the potential to make, a major impact in their fields.

1. a) Using the scale provided, rate how important the CRCP funding and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) infrastructure support were for your institution's ability to **attract** a diverse cadre of world-class researchers from **within** Canada.

Attraction from **within** Canada to your institution	Not applicable

1. b) Explain your rating.
In addition, if you provided a rating of "Important" or "Very Important", provide one or two examples that demonstrate the way in which the CRCP played a key role in attracting outstanding researchers from **within** Canada to your institution during the reporting period.

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Brandon University did not recruit any CRC researchers during the reporting year.

1. c) Using the scale provided, rate how important the CRCP funding and the CFI infrastructure support was for your institution's ability to **attract** a diverse cadre of world-class researchers from **outside** Canada.

Attraction from **outside** Canada	Not applicable

1. d) Explain your rating.
In addition, if you provided a rating of "Important" or "Very Important", provide one or two examples that demonstrate the way in which the CRCP played a key role in attracting outstanding researchers from **outside** Canada to your institution during the reporting period.

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Brandon University did not attract any CRC researchers during the reporting year.

1. e) What are the challenges in recruiting researchers from **outside of Canada** and how does your institution address them?

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Brandon University did not recruit any CRC researchers during the reporting year.

1. f) How important was the CRCP and the CFI infrastructure support to your institution's ability to **retain** a diverse cadre of world-class researchers at your institution?

Institution's ability to retain CRCs at your institution   Very important

1. g) Explain your rating.
In addition, if you provided a rating of "Important" or "Very Important" also provide one or two examples that demonstrate the way in which the CRCP played a key role in retaining researchers at your institution during the reporting period.

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Two (2) CRC Renewals were submitted with accompanying CFI infrastructure applications. Our first term CRCs had positive experiences and were excited to submit a Renewal to enable them to continue with their CRC program of research. Both renewals were accompanied with Canada Foundation for Innovation John R. Evans Leaders Fund applications to ensure the Chairholders have the infrastructure needed to undertake their research and support trainees. The CRCs at Brandon University are close and support one another's programs and act as resources for one another, also mentoring new Chairholders when they are appointed. The recruitment process began to fill the fifth (of five) CRC internally. Brandon University is a small institution with limited resources to offer our CRCs, so internal candidates are often more successful in terms of retainment for Brandon University in the long term because the candidate know the institution and what it has to offer.

2. IMPACT ON RESEARCH CAPACITY

Chairholders aim to achieve research excellence in engineering and the natural sciences, health sciences, humanities, and the social sciences. They improve our depth of knowledge and quality of life and strengthen Canada's international competitiveness.

2. a) Select the types of outcomes resulting from the research being conducted by the chairholders at your institution. (Select all that apply.)

Artistic outcomes
Contribution to Truth and Reconciliation
Critical knowledge
Cultural outcomes
Economic outcomes, including enhanced commercialization
Equity, diversity, and inclusion
Health outcomes
New or enhanced collaborations/partnerships
Policy
Public discourse
Quality of life/well-being
Scientific outcomes
Social outcomes
Techniques, methodology or equipment
Technological outcomes
Training and skills development

2. b) Using the scale provided, rate the CRCP's impact and the CFI infrastructure support at your institution in terms of its research **CAPACITY,** with a particular focus on the reporting period.

2.b.1. The ability of your institution to attract highly qualified personnel (HQP)	To a great extent
2.b.2. The ability of your institution to fund students	To a great extent
2.b.3. The ability of your institution to train HQP	To a great extent
2.b.4. The ability to increase the number of research collaborations at your institution	To a great extent
2.b.5. The opportunities to conduct research at your institution	To a great extent
2.b.6. The ability to develop one or more research programs	To a great extent
2.b.7. The overall quality of the research conducted at your institution	To a great extent
2.b.8. Your institution's capacity to produce new research knowledge	To a great extent
2.b.9. The use of research results at your institution	To a great extent

2. c) Explain your response to the previous question:

3. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Research demonstrates that achieving an equitable, diverse, and inclusive work environment leads to increased excellence, innovation, and impact. A diversity of experiences, perspectives and voices is fundamental to achieving excellent research.

3. a) Using the scale below and to the best of your knowledge, rate to what extent the chairholders at your institution currently consider equity, diversity and inclusion (**EDI) in their research practice** (i.e., in ensuring diversity in the representation and management of their teams and a safe and inclusive environment for all members).

Not at all: No EDI practices are being implemented
To a small extent: On average, EDI best practices are minimally being taken into consideration in research practice
To a good extent: On average, EDI best practices are moderately being taken into consideration in research practice
To a great extent: On average, EDI best practices are significantly taken into consideration in research practice
Do not know: Difficult to assess

To what extent are chairholders at your institution currently taking EDI into consideration in their research practice?	To a great extent

3. b) What tools or resources do you consider necessary to further support chairholders in considering EDI in their research practice?

(Maximum 1000 characters)

An Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Toolkit was developed for researchers building their research EDI plan. It includes guidelines on the three areas of EDI in research practice: 1. team composition and training; 2. recruitment; and 3. and inclusion. It also includes a fourth area based on EDI in research design, i.e., sex and gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+). The Office of Research Services distributes the Toolkit widely, including to Chairholders; uses it when reviewing research projects to ensure EDI is addressed; and incorporates it into information sessions and workshops. Brandon University received the second CRCP EDI Stipend which focusses on the creation of an institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan and accompanying Action Plan. In the reporting year, a consulting team was hired, consultations and interviews with Brandon University community took place, and information gathering began. Human Resources is always open to EDI training suggestions.

3. c) To the best of your knowledge, to what extent are the chairholders at your institution currently considering **EDI in their research design** (i.e., in the methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of research findings that promote rigorous research and consider identity factors; ensuring the results are impactful and relevant to the diverse Canadian population).

To what extent are chairholders at your institution currently taking EDI into consideration in their research design?	To a great extent

3. d) What tools or resources do you consider necessary to further support chairholders in considering EDI best practices in their research design?

(Maximum 1000 characters)

As mentioned in 3.b., Brandon University developed an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Toolkit for researchers who are building their research EDI plan. It also includes a fourth area based on EDI in research design, i.e., sex and gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+). The institution is also committed to ongoing training and workshops.

4. STRATEGIC USE OF RESOURCES

One of the CRCP's expected results is to make the best possible use of research resources through institutional strategic planning.

4. a) Using the scale provided, rate to what extent the decisions on the allocation of CRC awards within the institution are made according to your institution's CRCP strategic research plan.

Decisions on the allocation of CRC awards are made according to the institution's CRCP strategic research plan	To a great extent

4. b) Explain your rating.

(Maximum 1000 characters)

All CRC nominations and renewals must be directly related to the Brandon University Strategic Research Plan (SRP). From the Brandon University Nomination and Renewal Procedures: "Brandon University has an allocation of five Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs. The CRC nomination process, from the initial stage of an available Chair to the external nomination submission and subsequent award notification, is extensive and lengthy and has multiple stages (see Appendix B). This document takes into consideration the CRC guidelines, Brandon University Strategic Research Plan, Agreement between Brandon University and Brandon University Faculty Association Collective Agreement (BUFA CA), Article 7.19 (Appendix A), and institutional practices. An overview of the internal process, requirements, and other relevant information follows. " Our CRC advertisements include information and requirements taken from the institutional SRP.

4. c) In the last year, what efforts has your institution made to develop the priority areas of research defined in your CRCP strategic research plan?

(Maximum 2000 characters)

The development of the Brandon University CRC Transition Guidelines began. The Guidelines will act as a starting point to facilitate discussions between a Chairholder and their respective Dean in anticipation of the end of a Chairholder's term and subsequent entry back into their Faculty/School. The Guidelines are meant to assist a Chairholder's transition back into their Faculty/School and Department and call attention to areas for consideration in advance of that transition. The creation of a Brandon University CRC Exit Survey for Chairholders also began. The Survey is for those who complete their CRC term and for those who leave the CRC position early. The Survey is meant to assist the institution in improving and strengthening the CRC experience. The Brandon University Nomination and Renewal Procedures document was updated to include a section on EDI and Target Setting requirements. The procedures now include an institutional EDI statement and EDI is addressed throughout. The Brandon University CRC Recruitment Guide was updated and incorporated the CRCP "Best Practices" in the form of a checklist for best practices in the hiring process. The creation of a step-by-step detailed process document with accompanying timelines was started. The document encompasses the CRC recruitment process from the time an allocation becomes available until the CRCP makes its public announcement of the successful nomination.

5. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTED TIME FOR RESEARCH

As an evaluation criterion of the program, institutions must demonstrate that they will provide chairholders with the support they need to ensure the success of their work, such as protected time for research (e.g., release from certain teaching or administrative duties), mentoring (if applicable), additional research funds, office space, administrative support, and hiring of other faculty members.

5. a) Protected time for research is an important component of a research chair as it provides the individual with specific time to focus on their research program. Does your institution provide protected time for research to its chairholders? Protected time can include teaching release, release from service expectations, release from administrative duties, and/or increased administrative support).

Yes

5. b) If yes, select whichever applies:

There is an institution-wide policy that applies to all chairholders

6. OTHER COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

6. a) Use this section to describe any research successes that have resulted this year due to the CRCP.

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Dr. Herron's Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health continues to gain momentum, increasing community partners and facilitating a variety of training and dissemination events. Notably, a successful seminar series was offered that included topics such as Routes and Roots of Rural Homelessness in MB; and Belonging and Mental Well-being Perspectives of BU Students during COVID-19. Dr. Mousumi Majumder received $830,000 from a national foundation for her project entitled, MicroRNAs as Predictive Blood Biomarkers for Breast Cancer Therapeutic Intervention, which directly supports her CRC program of research. The foundation asked to remain anonymous. The funding directly supports her CRC program of research. The prestige and recognition of the CRCP allows Chairholders to be successful at other funding opportunities. One of Dr. Majumder's graduate student research trainees, Reid Opperman, won the Manitoba Health Research Poster Competition held at the national Canadian Students Health Research Forum 2022 for his poster entitled, Investigating the Effects of miRNA-High Tumour Cell Secretions on Cancer Stem Cell Reprogramming in Senescent Breast Cancer. The competition included hundreds of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows. This is a testament to the exceptional training and mentorship provided by out Chairholders. Two Brandon University Chairholders, Dr. Jonathan Allan and Dr. Rachel Herron partnered with another Brandon University researcher, Dr. Candice Waddell-Henowitch, on a successful SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant entitled, Connecting Indigenous men to culture through teaching ceremony, and land-based activities. The research concluded with a successful art exhibition that brought exploratory research on Indigenous drum making to life through stories, photographs, videos, and the experiences of drum making participants and researchers.

6. b) Use this section to describe any problems or challenges you have experienced this year with the CRCP. Include any suggestions you may have for improvements or changes to the program.

(Maximum 2000 characters)

Communications from the CRCP sent out directly to the institutional signing authority should also be shared with assigned institutional CRC research administration. This includes email and documentation, as well as actions and approvals required of the senior institutional authority via the Convergence Portal. This does not take away the role and responsibility of the institutional authority, it only helps to efficiently facilitate the work required of institutions, which is often left to those under their authority. It is currently challenging to get all of the information sent from the CRCP that is needed to complete the CRCP requirements in a timely manner. A suggestion is to include the relevant institutional CRCP research administration on all communications. For example, the voxvo link to complete this annual Institutional Report is sent via email to the institutional authority, which often does not get forwarded to those who undertake and facilitate the work.

This information will be sent to the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat when you click 'Submit'. You will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your completed form in HTML format once it is submitted.