

Call for Proposals

Sprott Community and Partner Engagement Grant

The Sprott Research Committee invites all full-time research stream faculty to apply for the Sprott Community and Partner Engagement Grant. This program supports faculty in building deep, reciprocal relationships with external partners across government, industry, and the community sector. It funds the relationship-building, knowledge-sharing, and co-creation work that must happen before meaningful collaborative research is possible.

The Community and Partner Engagement Grant is designed to address a persistent gap in how academic-community partnerships develop. Most external funding programs require demonstrated partnerships at the point of application. This grant funds what comes before: the convenings, joint agenda-setting, knowledge exchange events, and sustained engagement that transform external organizations from audiences into genuine research collaborators.

Successful grants will not be judged solely on whether an external application follows. The measure of success is whether the partnership itself has become something of lasting value, one where an external organization is a genuine co-creator in defining research questions and mobilizing knowledge, and where the relationship is built to endure.

Program Overview

Grant Value	\$2,500
Duration	1 year (May 1 – April 30)
Number of Grants	Minimum one (1) per cycle
Application Deadline	April 10, 2026
Notification of Award	April 20, 2026
Project Start Date	May 1, 2026
Submit To	Submission via web form application
Contact	Sprott Research Office

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Full-time tenure or tenure-track Sprott faculty (research stream).
- Eligible to hold tri-agency funding.
- Proposed engagement is in its early stages and not yet sufficiently developed to support a competitive external partnership funding application.
- Not currently in receipt of another Sprott internal grant for the same partnership or project in the same competition cycle. If you are uncertain whether this applies to you, contact the Sprott Research Office before submitting.
- Internally Restricted Research (IRR) Fund balance does not exceed \$5,000 at the time of application. Applicants with existing IRR balances above this threshold are not eligible in the current cycle.
- Past recipients are eligible to re-apply three years after receiving their last Community and Partner Engagement Grant award.

Strategic Alignment:

Preference is given to proposals that connect to Sprott’s strategic research priorities and that engage partners in sectors or communities where the School has an existing or emerging presence.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF document and include all sections listed below. Page limits apply to each section. Reviewers will not consider content that exceeds stated limits.

Section 1: Project Title

Provide a clear, descriptive title for the proposed project.

Section 2: Partnership Context and Rationale | Max ½ page

Describe the external partner or partners involved. Explain the nature of the existing or emerging relationship, why this partner is well-positioned to become a genuine research collaborator, and what shared interests or challenges will anchor the partnership. Written for a non-specialist audience.

Tip: Reviewers will look for specificity about the partner and the relationship. Generic descriptions of a sector or type of organization are not sufficient. Name the organization, describe the relationship to date, and explain why this partner and this moment are the right conditions for deeper collaboration.

Section 3: Research Agenda and Partner Alignment | Max ½ page

Describe the research questions or thematic areas the partnership is intended to generate or refine. Explain how the external partner’s knowledge, data, experience, or networks will shape the research agenda. Indicate how the partner is engaged in defining research questions rather than simply receiving outputs.

Section 4: Engagement Plan and Co-Creation Activities | Max 2 pages

Present a realistic timeline for the 12-month project period. Identify key engagement activities, decision points, and milestones. Identify the specific relationship-building, knowledge-sharing, and co-creation activities planned, such as partner convenings, joint agenda-setting sessions, knowledge exchange events, site visits, or collaborative visioning exercises.

Explain how these activities will move the partnership beyond transactional interaction toward shared ownership of a research agenda. Articulate what the partnership will look like at the end of the grant period and how you will know it has deepened. Include a milestone for the preparation or submission of an external funding application.

Tip: The engagement plan is the heart of this application. Reviewers will assess whether the proposed activities are genuinely designed to build partnership depth or whether they replicate a standard dissemination or consultation model. Focus on activities where the partner is an active participant in shaping the research agenda, not simply a recipient of research outputs.

Section 5: Pathway to External Funding | Max ½ page

Identify the external funding program you intend to anchor within 18 to 24 months of completing this grant (e.g., SSHRC Connection Grant, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, or SSHRC Partnership Engage).

Describe how the activities funded by this grant will position the partnership to support a competitive external application.

Tip: Be specific about the target competition, the anticipated timeline, and how the partnership built through this grant will strengthen the application. Note that the measure of success is not solely whether an external application follows, but whether the partnership itself has become something of lasting value.

Section 6: Budget and Budget Justification | Max ½ page

Provide an itemized budget showing how grant funds will be used.

Justify each item by connecting it to a specific engagement activity or deliverable.

Budgets that do not clearly link expenditures to partnership-building activities will not be considered competitive.

Budget Guidance

Eligible expenses are limited to activities that directly support relationship-building, knowledge exchange, and co-creation with external partners. Eligible expenses include but are not limited to: partner convening costs (venue, catering, facilitation), honoraria for external knowledge holders or community experts participating in engagement activities, translation or interpretation services, knowledge exchange materials and event production, travel directly associated with partner engagement activities, and research assistance to support engagement planning and documentation.

Ineligible expenses: open access publication fees, conference travel unrelated to partner engagement, computers, office supplies, cell phone plans, and internet.

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

All proposals are reviewed by the Sprott Research Committee. Reviews are conducted independently and adjudicated collectively. Decisions are final.

Proposals are evaluated using the following weighted criteria:

Evaluation Criterion	Description	Weight
Partnership Quality and Depth	Evidence that the proposed partner is a genuine collaborator rather than a passive recipient of research outputs. Strength of the case for why this partner and this relationship are well-positioned for co-created research.	30%
Co-Creation and Engagement Plan	Quality and specificity of the planned engagement activities. Clarity of how the activities will deepen the partnership and move toward a shared research agenda.	25%
Pathway to External Funding	Strength of the pathway to a named external competition. Realism of the timeline. Quality of the case that the partnership will anchor a competitive application.	20%
Research Agenda Clarity	Clarity of the research questions or thematic areas the partnership is intended to generate or refine. Coherence between the engagement plan and the research agenda.	15%
Feasibility	Appropriateness of scope, budget, and timeline.	10%

Post-Award Expectations

Successful applicants are expected to:

- Use grant funds in accordance with the approved budget within the 12-month project period.
- Submit a brief end-of-grant report (maximum 1 page) within 30 days of project completion addressing: (a) engagement activities completed and partner participation; (b) the current state of the partnership and evidence of deepened collaboration; and (c) external funding applications submitted or planned, including the target competition and anticipated submission date.
- Unspent grant funds at the close of the project period will be returned to Sprott. Extensions and carry forwards are not permitted.

The Research Committee may use post-award reports to assess program effectiveness and inform future cycles. Faculty who successfully transition to external funding are encouraged to share their experience to support colleagues at earlier stages.

How to Submit

Submit your complete application package using the application web submission form on the [Sprott Research Office website](#). Proposals must be received by 11:59 PM on April 10, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered. For questions about eligibility, the application process, or how to align your proposal with external partnership funding requirements, contact: amanda.bradfordjanke@carleton.ca