

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS
Future of Business Education
Business Schools Association of Canada
January 31, 2022

The Business Schools Association of Canada (BSAC) invites proposals for research, which examine the future of business education and inform leaders responsible for the strategic direction of business schools in Canada. The research must be conducted within the context of a changing business and educational landscape, which includes new expectations from varying stakeholders in relation to diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice and social impact. This research should provide insights for business schools as they navigate the post-pandemic society and economy and seek to establish leadership in a critical agenda for Canada, namely reconciliation with Indigenous people and communities.

Recently, many business schools across Canada have signed partnership agreements with Indigenous Works to participate in ‘Luminary,’ a six-year initiative to design and implement an Indigenous innovation strategy and plan leading to economic transformation and well-being¹. This transformation should achieve goals expressed by Indigenous people in Canada, which includes secured employment, more business development, wealth creation, community wellbeing, and better-quality jobs, as well as a quality of life in alignment with Indigenous worldviews and values.

Luminary is motivated by three key insights: 1) The lack of progress made in addressing the main socio-economic gaps which characterize Indigenous circumstances today, noted in the 2019 report of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board². 2) The ‘engagement gap’ highlighted by Indigenous Works’ Engagement Index Score (2017) showing a lack of readiness by Canadian organizations to engage and work with Indigenous people, business and communities. 3) The potential, as indicated in work by Indigenomics³, to grow the Indigenous economy in Canada from \$26 billion to over \$100 billion, if the right conditions, partnerships and investments are put in place.

In response to these insights Indigenous Works has committed through ‘Luminary’ to work with its partners to work with post-secondary partners, communities and businesses to reshape the landscape and co-create the conditions needed to increase Indigenous research collaborations and innovation.

Over the past few years, Indigenous collaborations and partnerships have become increasingly important to post secondary institutions and business schools due to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s (TRC) Calls to Action (2015)⁴, along with three other related forces (a) Canada’s renewed focus of implementing the United

¹ [Luminary | Indigenous Works](#)

² [2019 Indigenous Economic Progress Report, National Indigenous Economic Development Board, 2019](#)

³ [100 Billion | Indigenomics Institute](#)

⁴ [Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada: Calls to Action, 2015](#)

Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), (b) recent court rulings affirming Indigenous peoples' inherent rights, and (c) Principles of Responsible Management Education and its Sustainable Development Goals (PRME). In response, business schools across Canada have engaged in a range of partnerships and initiatives focused on pedagogy, research and student engagement.

However, by focusing mainly on Indigenous inclusion through increasing the participation of Indigenous students, faculties and staff, partnerships that purport to address reconciliation and indigenization often fail to challenge or transform colonial-based institutions, processes, curricula, colonial epistemologies, ontologies and power structures⁵. By normalizing Western colonial power structures, these indigenous inclusion initiatives risk (re)colonizing and assimilating Indigenous students, faculty and staff via post secondary institutional norms, structures and processes which remain unchallenged and unproblematized. Most importantly, many initiatives do not include any provisions to support collaborative partnerships that facilitate Indigenous-led research and innovation that benefits Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations. While collaborative, Indigenous-led research, in partnership with post secondary institutions, specifically business schools, holds great potential in contributing to reconciliation and indigenization initiatives in Canada, there is limited research that explores the dynamics of such a collaboration or partnership.

The partnerships developed through Luminary, in this sense, may be transformative. Yet, how Indigenous communities and organizations might effectively collaborate and partner with post secondary institutions and more specifically, business schools in Canada is under-researched. Therefore, the research proposed in response to this call should aim to achieve the following: 1) act on the TRC Calls to Act, the UNDRIP, court ruling on inherent rights and PRME through the development of new insights into how a collaborative partnership between an Indigenous organization and a post secondary business school facilitates the movement from a simple *indigenous inclusion* strategy towards more sophisticated and transformational *reconciliation indigenization*; 2) explore how collaborative partnerships can facilitate the alteration of the business school's mandate and structure and aid non-Indigenous faculty, staff and students in changing how they act, think and engage with Indigenous peoples; and 3) explore and provide insights into a specific case or a comparative analysis that provides insights and models for partnership development and management that supports deep and meaningful reconciliation.⁶

As these Indigenous-led partnerships are being developed in schools across the country, it is timely to reflect on the contribution of business education, and specifically, Canadian business schools, to meeting these broader objectives. Research questions could focus on the structure, purpose and impact of partnerships with Indigenous communities and/or with Indigenous Works. How are these partnerships framed and integrated into the broader strategic objectives of business schools? What are the rationalizations for investment in these partnerships to the business school community and key business stakeholders? What are the common and divergent objectives that each partner brings to the partnership? To what extent have business schools aligned with businesses in research and innovation partnerships, and how are the goals understood? How are the optimal 'ethical spaces of engagement'⁷ for collaborative research partnerships between Indigenous organizations and business schools developed over time? How is the potential for co-creation of knowledge and innovation assured throughout the partnership?

⁵ Gaudry, Adam and Danielle Lorenz. 2018. "Indigenization as Inclusion, Reconciliation and Decolonization: navigating the different visions for indigenizing the Canadian Academy," [AlterNative](#). July 6th, page 218.

⁶ The language in the three paragraphs above draws heavily on language used in a grant proposal prepared by Dr. Rick Colbourne at the Sprott School of Business, with his explicit permission.

⁷ Ermine, Willie. (2017) "The Ethical Space of Engagement," [Indigenous Law Journal](#), Vol. 6, No.1, July 1st.

Research might take the form of a case study, comparative analysis, empirical work or co-created research methodology. This research would be supported by Indigenous Works who, in partnership with Dr. Rick Colbourne at the Sprott School of Business has agreed to organize a paper development workshop with the grant recipients.

Submission Guidelines:

This call is part of the Business Schools Association of Canada (BSAC) initiative to evaluate the role of business education in promoting a more purpose-driven economy.

You are invited to submit a research proposal including any of the above or related topics. The proposal should clearly indicate the topic of interest and the interface between Indigenous economic development and well-being, the goals of the TRC Calls to Action and business education. We welcome any and all disciplines, methodologies and frameworks.

Important Deadlines:

Research Study proposal due:	April 1, 2022
Award of grant:	April 15, 2022
Report submission deadline:	September 30, 2022

Grant value:

BSAC will provide a financial award of \$10,000 to the successful proposal, \$5,000 upon award and \$5,000 following receipt of the full report, subject to terms and conditions as outlined in agreement with the successful candidate.

Award recipients will be invited to present their report at the annual BSAC Deans' Conference in late fall 2022.

For any queries, please contact Tim Daus, Executive Director of BSAC at daus@bsac-aegc.ca.

Guidelines for proposals for research proposals

Please refer to “Future of Business Education, Business Schools Association of Canada (BSAC),” (January 31, 2022) for specific details on project subject.

Proposals should be 3 to 5 pages maximum, exclusive of appendices, and should be organized in the order described below.

Proposal Abstract

Resume (approximately 50-80 words) of research focus, objectives, methodology, and primary deliverables.

Proposal Summary

Primary researcher’s name, contact information, and credentials.

Proposal title.

Explain how, in your view, this research will support the BSAC overall mission to expand the organization’s knowledge and understanding of the issue.

How could the report be used to further our knowledge and understanding of the problem in a way can be of value to BSAC, its members and important stakeholders in the Canadian management education sector?

Research Description

There are a number of issues addressed in the call for proposals document. Please describe the particular approach you would choose for this research. What would be the focus of the research? What is your understanding of the key issues? Why is this topic important?

Methodology

Describe your proposed methodology and explain how it will answer or lead to a better understanding of the research problem.

Expected Results / Deliverable Description

What do you see in terms of length of final document?

What information would be included and how does this coincide with the proposed methodology?

Timeline for completion

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee in April 2022, with an intended award decision to be made by April 15, 2022.

Deadline for final report is September 30, 2022. Information on expected progress reports and other details are to be negotiated with selected candidate before final award is granted.

Appendices

Curriculum vitae of researcher.

Submit proposals, no later than April 1, 2022, to:

daus@bsac-aegc.ca

For more information contact:

Timothy Daus
Executive Director, BSAC
514-340-7116
daus@bsac-aegc.ca