

**INSTITUT CANADIEN DE RECHERCHE SUR LES MINORITÉS LINGUISTIQUES/
CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON LINGUISTIC MINORITIES**

Research Policy

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Preamble

The Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (hereafter designated the Institute) is an independent body performing fundamental and applied research. Together with its Program Committee, it defines its research needs in partnership with its associated researchers and its community and government partners. In order to promote scientific knowledge and to explore theoretical and methodological issues affecting the study of linguistic minorities, the Institute encourages the advancement of fundamental research. It also addresses the research needs of communities and the general public by carrying out applied research, which includes in areas influencing public policy. The Institute's financial aim is to structure its fundamental and applied research in a way that will establish stable medium- and long-term research programs. The overall goal of the Institute is to develop a reputation for excellence in fundamental and applied research.

Mandate of the Institute

The Institute has received from the federal government a grant of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to set up an organization to conduct research on official-language minorities in Canada. Articles 3.1 and 3.2 of the Funding Agreement signed by the minister of Canadian heritage and the rector of the Université de Moncton on 26 March 2002, impose the following conditions on the grant:

- 3.1 The grant shall be used by the Institute solely for the purposes of establishing the fund. While monies may be invested

to generate revenues, at no time may the balance of the endowment fund fall below the amount granted by Canada.

3.2 The Institute shall not amend or alter the purposes of the grant as described in Section 2 without the prior consent of the Minister.

The purposes of the grant are specified in Section 2 of the agreement as follows:

2.1 The Institute shall establish an endowment fund, herein referred to as “the fund,” under a separately managed account in which monies granted to it by the Minister shall be deposited.

2.2 The Institute shall only use the revenues generated by the fund to further the purposes for which it was created, being to perform, encourage and share multi-disciplinary research that contributes to a better understanding of key factors that affect the development of the official-language minority communities of Canada.

2.3 The Institute will, drawing on the revenue generated by the fund, undertake the following activities related to research on Canada’s French and English linguistic minorities, thus increasing research and analysis in a variety of areas and ensuring that official-language minority community leaders and public policy makers are able to better understand the impact and measure the effectiveness of language policies:

- 2.3.1 develop a research program, balanced between fundamental and applied research;
- 2.3.2 support the efforts of specialists or research teams;
- 2.3.3 provide financial support allowing external experts to perform research pertinent to the program mentioned in 2.3.1;
- 2.3.4 publish research reports (and make them available digitally);
- 2.3.5 create a digital data bank of documentary resources;
- 2.3.6 organize or participate in conferences and colloquiums;

2.3.7 facilitate exchanges between researchers or between students; and

2.3.8 welcome guest researchers.

This document outlines a research policy for the Institute, a policy which, together with any amendments to it, must be approved by the board of directors on the recommendation of the Program Committee. The policy will guide the latter in planning and carrying out the Institute's research activities, in making decisions on supporting research, and in assigning material and human resources to the Institute's activities. The following guidelines outline the Institute's research policy.

Guidelines

1. The Institute encourages research “that contributes to a better understanding of key factors that affect the development of the official-language minority communities of Canada” (Article 2.2 of the Funding Agreement).
2. The Institute encourages research with results and analyses “ensuring that official-language minority community leaders and public policy makers are able to better understand the impact and measure the effectiveness of language policies” (Article 2.3 of the Funding Agreement).
3. As much as possible, the Institute favours research which has or will have the potential to be national in scope, that is, having results that apply to minorities of both official languages.

4. The Institute, in all its activities and decisions related to funding research, seeks projects that are “balanced between fundamental and applied research” (Article 2.3.1 of the Funding Agreement).
5. The Institute encourages multidisciplinary research activities that utilize the contributions of complementary fields of expertise to further an understanding of the phenomena being studied.
6. The Institute seeks to create partnerships in order to base its research on community needs, facilitate knowledge transfer to the community, minimize the costs of research for each partner, and maximize the usefulness and scope of the results.

Research Funding

Research funding and the main activities of the Institute and its research staff are guided by the research program set up by the Program Committee. Based on the directions of the research program, the Institute will offer research mandates to outside experts who agree to perform research pertinent to the program (Articles 2.3.1. and 2.3.3 of the Funding Agreement) and to support the efforts of certain specialists or research teams (Article 2.3.2 of the Funding Agreement).

Although the Institute is dedicated to research and can support a certain number of research projects, its primary role is to provide leadership in initiatives with a potential both for extensive projects and for fruitful partnerships. For instance, the Institute could support researchers in applying for funding from organizations such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for projects supported by, or of interest to, the Institute.

Research funding could also include the following:

- Publication of monographs and research reports together with their diffusion, particularly digitally (Article 2.3.4 of the Funding Agreement)
- Creation of digital data banks (Article 2.3.5 of the Funding Agreement) and making available to researchers those data banks to which the Institute may have access (e.g., Statistics Canada’s national surveys)
- Organization of conferences and colloquiums, exchanges between researchers or students, and welcoming guest researchers (Articles 2.3.6 to 2.3.8 of the Funding Agreement)

The goal of the Institute is to establish projects and a research program that are self-financing. Interest on the trust funds granted to the Institute will provide sufficient revenue to pay for the Institute’s infrastructure and core staff; however, funding for large-scale fundamental or applied research projects is limited and must therefore be obtained elsewhere.

Fundamental research will be financed by bodies offering scientific grants (SSHRC, CIHR, etc.). Besides projects designed directly by its own research staff, the Institute will partner in projects planned by associate researchers. Thus the Institute may provide start-up funds to prepare grant proposals for submission to major research councils.

The partnerships that the Institute establishes with research groups, community bodies, and governments will give it access to funding for applied research. To the extent possible and without excluding any research opportunities worthy of interest, the funding of applied research will be structured and spread over several years. Each research project will be integrated into an

overall research program dealing with problems that bring together the major questions related to the development of minority-language communities. This method of funding projects has the advantage of allowing the Institute to plan its medium- and long-term research activities. These research projects can then become part of overall long-term planning, thus allowing for better management of research within the Institute and for the maximization of resources and efficiencies.