

Dear Colleagues,

This communiqué will provide you with an update on the ARRCU Working Group's activities as well as a couple of important announcements. Topics covered in this update include:

- 1. Administrative support through NSERC office.**
- 2. ARRCU.ca website.**
- 3. Academic-government ARR partnership paper and meetings (November 2016 and January 2017).**
- 4. Federal Government Science Review**
- 5. Concluding points: communications, other activities, actions.**

1. Administrative support through NSERC office

We are pleased to report that we have received generous logistical and organizational support from NSERC in our efforts. In particular, Dr. Sylvie Roy of the NSERC office in Ottawa will be providing administrative support for our meetings and communications. This will be in addition to the current support of Mr. Bob Christensen at the University of Toronto, for which we also continue to be very grateful!

2. ARRCU.ca website

We would like to announce the creation of a website, ARRCU.ca for the ARRCU initiative. The main purpose of the website at this point is to host current and archived documents and display announcements of upcoming events. We invite you to visit the ARRCU.ca to catch up on news related to this initiative; we will make every effort possible to keep it up to date.

3. Academic-government ARR partnership paper and meetings (November 2016 and January 2017).

With our White Paper completed, we are now in a good position to continue the strategic planning process for academic ARR in Canada in partnership with government and industry. As discussed in the White Paper, we aim for a strategic plan covering three different focus areas: 1) academic-government partnerships, 2) academic-industrial partnerships, and 3) education, training, and outreach. Our objective is to have each focus area supported by a paper of about 3000-4000 words in length (plus appendices) that will be drafted through community consultations of a somewhat more targeted form than that which went into our White Paper.

The first focus paper will relate to academic-government partnerships. Representatives of the ARRCU Working Group, of Environment and Climate Change Canada, of the Canadian Space Agency, and of NSERC will solicit input from the broader ARRCU community and other agencies in developing this paper.

The paper as currently envisioned will describe forward directions in several areas including Canadian partnership programs, training and education involving government-academic collaboration, international research programs, research infrastructure, gauging academic community funding and capacity, etc. We envisage an overarching theme of how government research priorities can be framed collaboratively with input from the academic sector. The paper will also discuss the possibility of establishing regular meetings and other channels of communication between the academic and government sectors engaged in ARR.

We will hold an initial webinar on November 7, 2016 to discuss the scope and outline of the academic-government focus paper. The meeting will take place online on November 7 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern Time (if possible we will stay online for informal discussion after this time). We will be using WebEx software and will provide briefing materials in advance. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Dr. Roy (Sylvie.Roy@NSERC-CRSNG.GC.CA) so we can get a sense of the numbers attending.

Furthermore, we will hold an in-person meeting in Toronto during the week of January 16, 2016 (final date to be determined). The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss a draft of the focus paper. We aim to finalize this paper in the spring of 2017.

4. Submission to the Advisory Panel for the Review of Federal Support for Fundamental Science

As mentioned in our previous communications, the ARRCU Working Group committee plans to submit the ARRCU White Paper to the Advisory Panel reviewing fundamental research in Canadian Universities. Our approach to submission to the Review Panel relies almost entirely on the White Paper:

- The ARRCU Working Group is not an incorporated body, but the most appropriate identification we found on the Review Panel's website was that of "Institution" (as opposed to an individual researcher or other categories).
- The questionnaire on the Panel Review website asks several questions which are partially or wholly covered by the White Paper. Thus, we answer the questions by briefly summarizing the White Paper perspective and pointing the reviewers to the White Paper for further information.
- We also attach a cover letter and the White Paper itself to our submission.

We will post the questionnaire answers and our submission on ARRCU.ca in the coming days.

5. Other communications, requests for endorsements, and invitations for engagement

A few points to conclude:

- We have summarized our recent activities in a CMOS Bulletin article (please visit ARRCU.ca and click on the "Documents" tab).
- Paul Kushner has discussed ARRCU activities at recent meetings of the EarthsCAN initiative, which deals with the broader domain of Earth System Science in Canada. Reports on these meetings are in preparation.
- We are starting to seek formal letters of support, encouragement and interest from institutions and leaders. If you wish to provide such a letter, or to encourage your institution to do so, please contact us. We will post these letters on the ARRCU.ca website.

To summarize the actions related to this communiqué:

- Please consult the ARRCU.ca website for updates and documents related to ARRCU.
- Please register for the November 7 webinar on academic-government partnerships in ARR, by sending email to [Sylvie Roy](mailto:Sylvie.Roy).
- Please let us know your interest in providing letters of institutional support.
- Academic faculty can still add their names as signatories to the White Paper – please get in touch with us if you'd like to do so.
- We welcome your continued feedback. If you would like to become more engaged in this process, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Paul Kushner, on behalf of the ARRCU Working Group Committee

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