

Shyluk Nature's Health Fund Call for Proposals

Please consider this communication a call for proposals for the Shyluk Nature's Health Fund which was created by a gracious gift from Dr. Walter Shyluk.

The Shyluk Nature's Health Fund was created to support research, scholarly and artistic works and teaching and learning activities *related to the health of ecosystems in the Krydor-Redberry Lake area of central Saskatchewan* for the accumulation and generation of knowledge. Creativity and diversity in teaching, learning, research, scholarly and artistic projects are encouraged in this exciting opportunity for USask scholars, students and partners.

Value and Duration

Projects may be funded for up to \$250,000.00 annually for up to three years with the possibility of renewal. Exceptions may be considered. Budgets must be justified and aligned with the objectives of the project. On-site student participation and learning is encouraged. Preference will be given to projects that are community-driven, co-led by USask academics and community partners.

Eligibility

Project Leads. All projects must have a USask lead, or a USask co-lead in partnership with others, who is able to hold USask funds for research, teaching and/or learning.

- **Note:** Eligibility to apply for, hold and administer research funding: <https://policies.usask.ca/policies/research-and-scholarly-activities/eligibility-to-apply-for,-hold-and-administer-research-funding.php#AuthorizationandApproval>
- **Note:** Eligibility to hold funds for teaching and learning projects may differ from eligibility to hold research funds.

Team Members. Team members may include USask faculty, staff, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and partners.

Eligible Activities

To be eligible for funding, the terms of the gift state that the focus of the efforts:

may include investigation and monitoring of overall land and water systems and/or the associated health and biodiversity of plants, wildlife such as animals, birds, fish and other organisms. The potential impact of human activities on natural ecosystem health and sustainability may also be included but the purpose of the activity cannot be for the primary benefit of humans.

Eligible activities include those for research, teaching, and student learning. The Shyluk Fund may support a range of projects, outcomes, activities, and products. For example, the Fund could support a land-based education project that includes the creation of videos to showcase the diversity of the biosphere; a project focused on knowledge dissemination may create a book or digital platform that could become part of a longitudinal research initiative. The fund could help bring together community partners with scholars to find ways to mobilize sustainability knowledge that supports the ecosystem from local settlers and Indigenous knowledge keepers into public and First Nations preK-12 schools in the region. It may serve as matching funds for a research project on the cultural history(ies) of the region and how those have impacted the health of the ecosystems in the area. Projects may focus on the nesting habits and health of pelicans that inhabit the area, or water quality and drainage effects in the watershed area. It may examine evidence of animal species, medicines, flora and fauna that has existed over time that could be re-introduced to the area. The funds could be used to inspire a theatre production, artistic exhibition or musical score focused on the human impacts on ecosystem health in the region and beyond. These examples are meant to demonstrate that creativity, diversity and community-engaged projects are welcome!

Recipients will be expected to provide a 1-page mid-term report and an end-of-project report. Any remaining funds at the end of the project will be returned to the Shyluk fund.

Costs

Eligible Costs

- Undergraduate or graduate student wages or stipends;
- Salary contributions to Postdoctoral Fellows, RSAW associates, technical assistants and/or teaching assistants;
- A non-USask individual may receive remuneration for services provided if they have been approved in the budget;
- A non-USask individual may receive a salary stipend for a portion of their salary for the time they are released from their primary duties with a project partner if it has been approved in the budget. A salary stipend is paid to the employer to offset costs for replacing the employee for time in lieu and not to the individual;
- Project funds may be used to support travel, subsistence, and reimbursement for personal costs accrued for expenses that have been approved in the budget for members of the project team;

- Materials and supplies necessary for the project;
- Consumables and small equipment necessary for the project (see application for stipulations);
- Costs associated with knowledge mobilization and transfer;
- Conference travel may be approved for up to \$5000 annually if it is essential to the project and justified in the application.

All fund distribution must be within scope of USask financial/administrative policies and adhere to policies related to conflict of interest.

Ineligible Costs

- This fund may not be used to fund infrastructure, capital projects or teaching release. Teaching release may be included as a cash or in-kind contribution if it is negotiated at the unit level.

Project Proposals

Project proposals will be accepted twice annually: once during the fall term (November 15) and once during the winter term (February 28/29). Project proposals that have community co-applicants and have time-sensitive deadlines may be reviewed on an exceptional basis. Proposal reviews may take 6-8 weeks to adjudicate. A proposal template is attached.

Each proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (40%):

- alignment with the intent of the Shyluk Nature's Health Fund;
- originality, significance and expected contributions to knowledge and/or learning;
- appropriateness of the project design/approach;
- quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars, partners and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute; and
- potential for the project results to have influence and impact.

2. Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (30%):

- probability that the objectives will be met within the timeline proposed;
- appropriateness of the strategies and partnerships involved in conducting the activities;
- appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of costs;
- indications of financial and in-kind contributions from other sources, where appropriate, and;
- quality and appropriateness of knowledge mobilization, including effective sharing, exchange and engagement with partners or others.

3. Capability—The expertise to succeed (30%):

- demonstration that the project team has the knowledge and experience to achieve the proposed outcomes (i.e. training; supporting SDG's; uplifting Indigenous Peoples and reconciliation; fostering diversity, equity and inclusion).

Fund Committee

Adjudication of proposals is determined by the Vice-President Research through a fund committee that includes, but is not limited to:

- Vice-President Research (or designate)
- Dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (or designate)
- Vice-President Advancement (or designate)

The Fund Committee has discretion on an annual basis to determine the eligible program(s), award(s), and/or eligible renewal(s) and approve the distribution of funds among initiative(s). The Fund Committee may seek expert advice to support adjudication of proposals.

Conditions of Acceptance

Successful applicants will be notified of the award by email. As a condition of accepting funding, recipients will be required to authorize the Fund Committee to release to the donor an annual financial report; a report on the activities of funded initiatives; and, if a graduate student award was to be created, the successful candidate's grade point average.

For more information, contact the Office of the Vice-President Research designate, Dr. Dawn C. Wallin at dawn.wallin@usask.ca

Scholars are encouraged to share this invitation with others who may be interested.

**Shyluk Nature's Health Fund
Project Template**

Title of Project:	
Project Lead(s) (name, affiliation and contact) USask Lead: Partner Co-lead (if applicable):	Team Members (names and affiliations):
Funds Requested:	Length of Project (start and end dates):
Anticipated Start Date:	Signature Area Alignment:

- 1. Objectives** (*approx. 600 characters or 1/2 page*)
 - a. List the purpose and/or objectives of the project and describe how it fits within the terms of the Shyluk Fund.

- 2. Project Plan** (*up to 2400 characters or 2 pages*)
 - a. Provide a summary of your project design.
 - b. Describe the milestones and timelines for the project activities proposed.
 - c. How will USask team members engage and/or partner with local residents, community leaders, and/or organizations in the region to gain permission and undertake proposed activities?

- 3. Significance** (*approx. 600 characters or 1/2 page*)
 - a. Indicate why and to whom the project is important.
 - b. Outline the anticipated outcomes/contributions/benefits of the project, as well as its potential impact in the region (economic, social, cultural, intellectual, legal, political, environmental, etc.).

- 4. Knowledge Mobilization** (*approx. 600 characters or 1/2 page*)
 - a. Describe any knowledge mobilization activities that will be undertaken, and how/to whom knowledge will be shared or distributed.

- 5. Project Team** (*approx. 2400 characters or 2 pages*)
 - a. Describe the strengths of the project lead(s) and their expertise related to this project.
 - b. Outline the roles, responsibilities, and contributions of the project team members.
 - c. Describe the plan for communication between team members (how progress and feedback will be shared, etc.)
 - d. Training: If involved in the project, describe the approach to training students, postdoctoral fellows, emerging scholars, partners, and other highly qualified personnel.

- 6. Sustainability, Reconciliation, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (EDI)** (*approx. 600 characters or 1/2 page*)
 - a. Address considerations of how the project supports the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals (SDS's).
 - b. Address how this project involves and/or impacts Indigenous Peoples, and advances reconciliation.
 - c. Address how diversity, equity and inclusion will be inherent in the project design and team creation/training.

- 7. Additional Funding Support** (*approx. 600 characters or 1/2 page*)
 - a. Discuss any cash or in-kind funding that will be available to leverage this project (e.g. APEF usage, college in-kind opportunities, partner cash or in-kind support, existing grants, etc.).

- 8. Other** (*up to 3 additional attachments—not mandatory*)
 - a. If the nature of the proposed project is such that there is additional information that might be helpful for the reviewers to know, or if the proposal parameters are not a perfect “fit” for the idea, please use this section to discuss (i.e., letters of support, existing reports or videos, testimonies, etc.).

- 9. List of References** (*no more than 1 page necessary but include as desirable for the project*)

Budget Request and Justification

Provide a detailed justification for each expenditure using the table provided. Be sure to provide sufficient information to allow reviewers to assess whether the resources requested are appropriate. Please refer to the attached Proposal Development Budget Guide for guidance on salary costs (*Note: changes to costs are based on institutional requirements that can change during the application period*).

For personnel and student support, include the rate of pay per hour, the number of hours per week, the number of weeks needed, and include the required benefits in your calculations (e.g., Canada Pension Plan, Workers' Compensation, Employment Insurance, vacation). For travel expenses, break down your request even further (e.g., accommodations, per diem costs, transportation, conference fees).

Helpful links:

- USask standard rates of pay for students: <https://working.usask.ca/agreements/compensation/salary-ranges.php>
- USask standard travel rates: <https://servicecatalogue.usask.ca/procurement/travel-and-expense-reimbursement.php>
- Research Proposal Development (Pre-Award) Salary and Compensation Budget Guide: <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/rasi/resource-hub/workshops.php#Other>
- USask salary ranges: <https://careers.usask.ca/agreements/compensation/salary-ranges.php>
- Employment agreements: <https://careers.usask.ca/agreements/index.php>

Software or small equipment will be considered to a limit of \$5000 annually only if strong justification is demonstrated, and funding is not available from other sources. All software and equipment purchased through the Shyluk Nature's Health Fund remains the property of the University. Purchase of equipment normally provided by a University unit or through University allocations for the purpose of capital equipment is not eligible. Capital costs and teaching releases are ineligible.

Expenditure	Total			Description	Justification
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		
Personnel costs - student salaries and benefits/stipends					
Personnel costs - non-student salaries and benefits					
Travel and subsistence costs - applicant/team member(s); student(s)					
Travel and subsistence costs – other					
Other expenses (e.g., honoraria, hospitality, professional/technical services, materials, supplies, equipment).					
Other expenses (specify)					
Shyluk Fund Request					
In-kind contributions (specify whether confirmed or pending)					
Cash contributions (specify whether confirmed or pending)					
Annual Subtotal					
Total Project Funding					

USask Project Lead Signature (Date)

Partner Co-Lead Signatures (if applicable) (Date)