Thierry Drapeau
Director, Service to Assist Research in French
L’Association francophone pour le savoir - Acfas

- Not-for-profit organisation of French-speaking researchers and research users created in 1923

- Our mission is to promote research and scientific innovation and culture in Quebec, in Canada, and internationally, pursuing three objectives:
  1. Promote and support the next generation of scientists
  2. Defend the relevance of research and scientific data in society
  3. Foster the dialogue between science and society

- We make representations before government and collaborate with dozens of organisations and stakeholders from the research sector and from civil society

- Our main event is our annual Congress. The biggest and most important scientific meeting of the French-speaking world.

- 6 regional chapters: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Sudbury, Toronto, Maritimes

- Nearly 5,000 members (individual subscribers) and over 25 000 research users and followers across Canada
The Challenges of Research in French in Minority Settings

CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT

• There are barriers that prevent French-speaking researchers working in minority settings from being able to submit research grant applications in French.

• Given that the three federal granting agencies accept applications in either of the two official languages, this situation puts French-speaking researchers at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their anglophone colleagues.

• The vitality of research in French and, by extension, of francophone minority communities is therefore weakened.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Improve the on-campus support offered to French-speaking researchers.
A Canada-Wide Interuniversity French-Language Research Assistance Service

Pre-Award Support to Scholars

Scholarship Support to Graduate Students
Life Cycle of a Research Grant with SARF

- **Advisory services**
  - One-on-one meetings to discuss research goals
  - Contribution to information sessions and workshops
  - Identification of funding and collaboration opportunities

- **Funding application development**
  - Liaison with external agencies, partners, research assistants
  - Project development and scoping
  - Budget planning and development

- **Review and detailed assessment**
  - External peer review, if required

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- **Step 1**
  - Research funding opportunity

- **Step 2**
  - Proposal development

- **Step 3**
  - Institutional endorsement

- **Step 4**
  - Submission to the External Agency and Peer-review Process

- **Application going through SARF**

- **Research grant application**
SARF Implementation Plan, 2023-24

**Services**
- Pre-Award support
- Scholarship support

**Funding Agency**
- SSHRC
  - We already met with SSHRC’s Director, Research Grant Portfolio

**Programs**
- Insight
  - October 2023
- Insight Development
  - Février 2024
- Canada Graduate Scholarships (MA, PhD)
  - Fall 2023

**Building SARF’s Team**
- SARF’s Director
- External consultant (former VPR)
- Next recruitment for Spring 2023
- Research facilitator (SSHRC)
- Administrative agent

**Official Launch**
- Friday May 12th
  - During Acfas’s 90th Congress in Montreal
The Advantages of Collaborating with SARF

**STABILITY**
SARF ensures a stable and durable access to research support in French

**BENEFITS**
SARF provides an opportunity to increase research revenue by adding to the annual number of grant applications

**INNOVATION**
SARF allows universities to contribute to the building a unique research assistance service in Canada

**OUTREACH**
SARF reinforces the engagement of partner universities to support the growth and development of francophonie on its campus and in its community
Thank you for your attention!

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