

February Canada Research Chair Selection Process Updates

Email sent Feb 8

The VIU Research Chairs Strategy Committee has been working towards filling our third Canada Research Chair position and we would like to give you an update of where we are in this process. The background details are found on the [Research Chair Strategy Committee website](#).

As you may remember, an email was sent out to all faculty in May 2005 asking for suggested concept/theme areas for a potential chair. From the submitted suggestions, three themes were chosen (posted on the committee website). Advertisements related to those themes were posted on our website and placed in CAUT and University Affairs in the fall. In late December, the committee short listed to those candidates that were eligible (within ten years of having received their PhD), had a strong CV, whose research interests were interdisciplinary and whose research concept plan seemed a good fit. We now have four excellent candidates: three for the Institute for Coastal Research and one for the Social Organization of Health.

The next step in the process is to have the candidates visit VIU for a formal interview, meetings with departments that the candidate could potentially teach in, and for a public presentation to which everyone will be invited. We have scheduled the public presentations for February 20 (9 am and 1:30 pm), 21 (11:30 am) and 22 (1:30 pm). The times, locations and a bio on each candidate will be sent out in the next week.

We hope to select a candidate this month, submit the nomination to the Canada Research Chairs Secretariat in April and, if approved, have the candidate appointed in the late fall.

In the meantime, we are working hard to find matching \$1.25 million funding for the two BC Regional Innovation Endowed Chairs for which we have received tentative approval: the BC Chair in Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development and the BC Chair in Aboriginal Early Childhood Development.

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