

Research Support Fund 2024-2025

Institutional Investment Stories

RSF-2024-00069

Investment Story #1

Quality Research Services for AU Members

Athabasca University is dedicated to providing excellent research services for faculty and students, and this is achieved with support from the Research Support Fund. Through this program, we are able to provide funding for grant development, research compliance, financial administration of awards, and research security. Faculty members who approach our office for assistance in the search for external funding receive first-class support from our Research Grant Development Coordinator, who provides guidance and assistance in the creation of competitive applications for funds. The Research Office also provides quality and timely services for human and animal research ethics applications, research security, as well as for the responsible use of research funds, all of which are instrumental to our continued compliance with regulations from the Tri-Agency and other sponsors. AU benefits from the excellent support of a Research Ethics Officer and a team of Research Financial Administrators, who are experienced and dedicated to ensuring the viability and accountability of our research enterprise. Finally, as safeguarding research is increasingly identified as critical to the portfolio, the Research Office continues to develop resources and procure training to serve faculty members and students in protecting the products of their work, and to contribute to the safety of Canada's research ecosystem.

Investment Story #2

Research with Reach

Athabasca University created a series of videos aimed at highlighting researchers and some resources available to them through the Research Office. We named this series "Research with

Reach". We released the fourth installment ([Season 4](#)) of the series in this reporting period, and it included the story of Dr. Alexa Ferdinands, a nutritionist specialist working with teens in a rural community. A second video displayed the work of Dr. Venise Bryan on the experience of nurses and health professionals throughout their careers, which has important implications in elucidating the causes behind the worldwide shortage of nurses. Finally, the third video focused on Canada's affordable housing crisis, through the work by Dr. Katie MacDonald, raising the question on how to make housing a human right. We have measured the impact of the series in traffic to our research news and, through surveys, on the perception of AU as a research-focused university in the community, and have recorded positive trends, in particular in the latter; in 2021, when the series started, 6% of prospective students and 8% of employers/trainers strongly agreed that AU is research-focused, values that more than doubled for 2024 (18% and 15%, respectively). The *Research with Reach* series has been funded through the Research Support Fund along with internal sources, and we will continue to develop content under this series to highlight strong research programs at AU.

