

Mprime Environmental Review Policy

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Policy Statement

Mprime will ensure that the research it supports promotes sustainable development and is conducted in a way that respects and protects the environment. To do this, Mprime is committed to paying careful attention to environmental considerations in its decision to fund any research project. Ultimate responsibility for environmental considerations rests with the Mprime Board of Directors which may, at its discretion, assign this duty to a subcommittee. Mprime management believes that this policy is consistent with the guidelines established by the NCE pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA).

Policy Goals

- Mprime will ensure that all proposals are examined for potential environmental effects.
- When an environmental assessment is required, Mprime will make sure it is conducted at the proposal stage and any funding awarded will be pending the results of such an assessment.
- For any proposal that has potentially negative impacts on the environment, Mprime will follow up to ensure that appropriate monitoring and mitigation measures are put in place to minimize these impacts.
- Researchers must disclose potential environmental effects of research activities in their proposals and inform Mprime of any changes in the work during the course of the award.
- Mprime will not release funds until it is satisfied with the results of the environmental assessment and with the proposed mitigation measures.
- Mprime will report annually to the NCE Directorate to summarize their environmental review process and the results of the reviews done.

Self-assessment

Research projects and internship research projects will carry out a self-assessment of the research using NSERC's Form 101 (Appendix A and B available at www.nserc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm). In most cases, the review will be straightforward and should not result in any delay in funding. The results of this self-assessment will be reported either on annual project CV submission or in the new project or internship application using the template outlined in Appendix A of this policy.

A. Indoors Research

In principle, most laboratory research conducted indoors may be excluded from such assessment, provided that appropriate environmental protection procedures are in place, e.g., provisions for the treatment of effluent or disposal of hazardous waste. Mprime investigators must attest to this fact by making a declaration on their annual project CV or project or internship application using the template detailed in Appendix A of this policy.

B. Outdoor Research

Where applicants declare that at least one activity takes place outdoors, the level of review will depend on the applicant's response and the complexity of the research project. Mprime investigators will complete NSERC's Environmental Impact Statement and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Pre-screening Checklist (Form 101, Appendices A and B, available at www.nserc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm).

Environmental Assessment Forms will be signed by the project leader or internship supervisor and sent to Mprime.

Review Process

Mprime Research Management Committee (RMC) will have the responsibility for assessment of potential environmental effects. In order to carry out this role, the RMC is expected to:

- Review Environmental Assessment Forms by Mprime project leaders and internship supervisors in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, section 16 – see appendix B.
- Establish controls to both monitor and mitigate the potentially negative impacts on the environment.
- Send any project where the environmental impact is of concern to an external expert in environmental impact assessment.

Mprime funds shall only be released to Mprime investigators after their projects have undergone an environmental review and Mprime has determined that no significant adverse effects on the environment are expected. Funding awards will be made conditional on a favorable environmental review.

If the RMC determines that the environmental effects of a research project are significant, the project will not be funded by Mprime and will not be part of the Mprime research program. In such cases, the result of the environmental review and the Board's decision shall be communicated to the researchers involved, to the NCE Directorate and to the relevant universities.

An individual may request in writing, within 30 days, a review of a Mprime Board of Directors' decision on environmental impact assessments. In certain circumstances, the Mprime Inc.

Mprime Board of Directors may arrange for an independent third party appointed by mutual agreement of Mprime and the Board of Directors to act as an intermediary and provide an opinion on the overall merit of the review, without divulging specifics of a proprietary nature to other members of Mprime. The ultimate decision on the resolution of the review rests with the Mprime Board of Directors

Appendix A

Declaration to be included in project CVs, new project proposals, and internship proposals.

All Mprime research projects must include one of the following two declarations:

No phase of the research described in this proposal:

1. takes place outside an office or laboratory; and
2. involves an undertaking described in NSERC's Form 101, Part 2, Appendix B (available at www.nserc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm)

OR

Some part of the research described in this proposal:

1. takes place outside an office or laboratory; or
2. involves an undertaking described in NSERC's Form 101, Part 2, Appendix B (available at www.nserc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm)

In this case, a completed assessment outlining the environmental impact (Form 101, Appendices A and B, available at www.nserc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm) has to be completed and submitted to Mprime with the research proposal.

Appendix B

Section 16(1)(a) to (d) of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

16. (1) Every screening or comprehensive study of a project and every mediation or assessment by a review panel shall include a consideration of the following factors:

- (a) the environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in activities that have been or will be carried out;
- (b) the significance of the effects referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) comments from the public that are received in accordance with this Act and the regulations;
- (d) measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project