

TO: Assoc. Deans Research, Chairs, Faculty Research Officers and Admin. Staff

FROM: Janice M. Deakin, PhD, Acting Vice-President (Research)

DATE: February 10, 2012


SUBJECT: ***New Tri-Council Policy: Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information Required by ALL Applicants and Co-Applicants for Grant Application Submissions***

Please note the new Tri-Council policy on **Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information**, which was implemented November 17, 2011 under the **Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research** (<http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/>).

All researchers applying for CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC awards will be required to consent to this new policy. If an applicant refuses to agree with the Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information, the application will not be accepted by the agency. Should an individual participating in a group application refuse to agree to the consent, the application would have to be submitted without the name and participation of said individual.

The following information is taken from:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/governance-gouvernance/consent-consentement_eng.asp

Statistics on the agencies' Web sites indicate that standards of integrity in the agencies' research communities are very high, and that serious breaches are extremely rare. Until now, the agencies have not disclosed the names of individuals who have committed serious breaches. In order to ensure full accountability and transparency for the proper use of public funds in supporting research, the agencies will now require all researchers applying for funding to provide a  [Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information](#), allowing them, in cases of a serious breach of agency policy and subject to applicable laws, including the *Privacy Act*, to publicly disclose: 1) the name of the researcher; 2) the nature of the breach; 3) the name of the institution where the researcher was employed at the time of the breach; and 4) the name of the institution where the researcher is currently employed.

In determining whether a breach is serious, the agency will consider the extent to which the breach jeopardizes the safety of the public or would bring the conduct of research into disrepute. We believe the introduction of consent will further strengthen Canada's reputation for excellence and responsible conduct in research.

The Consent, agreed to by the Applicant(s) upon electronic submission of the Application in the CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC system, states:

“I understand that maintaining public trust in the integrity of researchers is fundamental to building a knowledge-based society. By submitting any application, by linking my Personal Data Form (Form 100) as a co-applicant to an application, or by accepting funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, NSERC and/or the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, I affirm that I have read and I agree to respect all the policies of these agencies that are relevant to my research, including the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Integrity in Research and

Scholarship. In cases of a serious breach of agency policy, the agency may publicly disclose my name, the nature of the breach, the institution where I was employed at the time of the breach and the institution where I am currently employed. I accept this as a condition of applying for, or receiving, agency funding and I consent to such disclosure.”

An FAQ regarding this new policy can be found at:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/governance-gouvernance/consentFAQ-consentementFAQ_eng.asp

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annu". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial letter.