

## Call for Proposals 2023: Collaborative Coastal Research

**Proposals are invited from qualified individuals seeking financial support to undertake collaborative research projects that focus on understanding and implementing conservation and sustainable development in coastal areas.**

### Robin Rigby

Patricia Robin Rigby (Feb 28, 1977 - Dec 9, 2007) had the opportunity to live and study in a variety of cultures and geographical areas. Her research and professional work benefited greatly from this international experience, which enabled her to appreciate the need to adopt alternative resource use strategies within varied local frameworks. Established by Robin's parents, Doug and Mary Rigby, the Robin Rigby Trust extends the benefits Robin had to other young people involved in the identification, sustainable use, and conservation of coastal and nearshore natural resources, so they can engage in meaningful international interactions, and carry out the kind of research and development work Robin loved. Over the course of several years, the Robin Rigby Trust has supported a wide range of individuals in carrying out meaningful projects with coastal communities around the world. To read about recipients and their projects, see <http://robinrigbyfund.info/>.



### Eligibility Criteria

**Please note the following requirements for applicant, area focus and project eligibility.**

#### 1. Applicant Eligibility

The Robin Rigby Trust will review applications from individuals who wish to undertake **community-centred coastal research** in a location distant from the applicant's location (and preferably new to the applicant) and who satisfy all three of the following:

- The applicant must be proposing work that is in close collaboration with appropriate coastal communities, or non-governmental, non-academic coastal-focused organizations/NGOs.
- The applicant must be a **current university student** (either graduate or undergraduate) or **recent university graduate** [in the first 5 years following his/her highest degree, and now either an early-career university employee (faculty, instructor, support staff) or affiliated with a coastal, environmental or development-oriented non-governmental organization (NGO)].
- The applicant **must be one the following**: (a) a Canadian applicant, whose proposed project is in an overseas location (noting that Canadian applicants cannot apply from abroad for a project based in Canada), (b) a non-Canadian applicant, currently located in Canada, whose project is in an overseas locale that is not their home country, (c) a Canadian, or a non-Canadian currently located in Canada, whose project is with a local coastal community within Canada, of Indigenous, black or other disadvantaged people, or (d) a non-Canadian applicant based outside Canada, whose project is in the Atlantic provinces of Canada.

## 2. Area Focus Eligibility

Proposals should have a specific emphasis on improving livelihoods and meeting needs of those living in coastal communities, and also have a focus on one or more of the following topic areas:

- addressing coastal environmental and resource management problems,
- carrying out policy studies on coastal community well-being,
- improving conservation of coastal ecosystems and their biodiversity,
- assisting in the responsible development of coastal areas,
- engaging in coastal community social and economic development,
- carrying out coastal biodiversity studies or marine species identification.

## 3. Project Eligibility

The Trust supports strong collaborations on small-scale “do-able” projects developed to meet local community needs. Specifically, all applicant projects should bear in mind the following criteria:

- The primary focus of the project shall be on engaging directly and closely with one or more specific local-level communities, aiming to ‘make a difference’ for the local people.
- Projects should be designed to produce direct benefits to the community(ies) in addressing environmental, socio-economic and/or coastal management issues, and in potentially developing corresponding research methods, products and services.
- Projects that (1) reflect a participatory approach to the research, and (2) focus on developing regions and/or indigenous communities, are preferred.
- Projects must demonstrate the presence of strong and well-established collaborative linkages (or convincing potential for such linkages) between the applicant and one or more partners at the location where the applicant intends to work. Partners may be coastal communities, local-level coastal research organizations (not universities, colleges or governmental bodies) and/or coastal-focused NGOs in the region of the community(ies) involved.
- If the partner in the collaboration is an organization, the work must be directly in and with coastal communities; the applicant must demonstrate in detail how this will take place.
- Canadians and applicants based in Canada must demonstrate (1) the importance to them of the opportunity to conduct research outside Canada, (2) how working collaboratively with an overseas partner (see above for eligible partner types) will generate concrete positive outcomes for the applicant, and (3) how community-centred partners, and any other beneficiaries, outside Canada will be helped through collaboration with the applicant. Note that applicants in this category should not be proposing projects that require travel to a location near where they are currently living (in the case of Canadians outside Canada) or where they have lived for considerable time in the past (for non-Canadians currently in Canada).
- Non-Canadians located outside Canada must demonstrate (1) the importance to them of the opportunity to carry out a research project in Atlantic Canada, (2) how working with community-based partners in Atlantic Canada (see above for eligible partner types) will generate concrete positive outcomes for the applicant, and (3) how community-centred partners, and any other beneficiaries, in Atlantic Canada, will gain from collaborating with the applicant.
- Preference will be given to projects that (1) provide the opportunity to link with and contribute to other ongoing activities in the project location, and/or to extend those activities to a new country/location, and/or (2) include (or demonstrate the potential for) leveraging additional funds, in-kind contributions or non-monetary benefits beyond those provided by the Trust.
- Projects that involve research with human participants, as determined by the federal *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*, “TCPS 2” ([https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique\\_tcps2-eptc2\\_2022.html](https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2022.html)) will require clearance by an authorized Research Ethics Board; partnership with a university for such may be needed, or arrangements with Saint Mary’s University may be facilitated.

- Proposed projects should normally commence between April and August of the calendar year following the application deadline. Applicants must demonstrate that the project can be completed within a time period of preferably one year, and not more than two years.
- Since the Trust has limited funds annually, and wishes to support multiple awards each year, funds requested in proposals should typically be in the range \$6,000-\$15,000 over a 1-year period. The Trust views positively proposals that are efficient in their planned use of funds.

### **Application Format**

Applicants should submit only the following two items:

(1) Proposal (maximum 6 pages) that describes and “makes the case” for the project. While there is no standard application form, applicants must organize their submission into the 5 sections described below, in the order stated, with no additional materials except the Letter of Support (see below). Page limits are as indicated, and Times New Roman 12pt font, 2.5 cm margins and single spacing must be used throughout. Show your name, the project title and the page number on each page. Proposals that do not follow these formatting rules and page limits will be rejected.

- a) Description of the proposed project, including its rationale, the approach to be used, and a clear time frame for the activities involved (maximum 2 pages);
- b) Detailed description of the collaboration with a coastal community, coastal research organizations or coastal-focused non-governmental organization satisfying the above conditions (maximum 1 page);
- c) Expected outcomes both for the applicant and the community/organization, and a statement of how the proposal advances the goals of the Robin Rigby Trust (maximum 1 page);
- d) A project budget (1 page) indicating the overall funding request. Specific proposed budget items and estimates of these must be presented in a table, with explanations of each item. Additional anticipated funding or in-kind contributions from other sources are strongly encouraged and should be noted. Both a ‘minimal’ and a ‘desirable’ budget should be provided. Successful applicants will later provide a detailed budget for review by the Trust;
- e) Brief description of the applicant, including motivation to carry out a project abroad, academic background and current status; experience and skills relevant to the proposed research; overseas experience or desire for such experience, and/or interests in international interactions; relevant interests and activities; & full contact information (maximum 1 page).

(2) One Letter of Support (maximum 2 pages) from the applicant’s primary community-based partner in the proposal (coastal community, NGO or eligible research organization, as above) located at the applicant’s travel destination, describing clearly and concretely the importance of, commitment to, and involvement in the proposed project. Note that this must be a formal letter of support, not an e-mail message or other informal format, and must be provided as an attachment to the application, at the time of submission. If the formal letter is in a language other than English, a translation must be provided in addition to the original formal letter.

Please check [www.smu.ca/academics/robin-rigby-trust.html](http://www.smu.ca/academics/robin-rigby-trust.html) for any updates and visit the website <http://robinrigbyfund.info/> to examine reports on previous projects.

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to: [robinrigbytrust@smu.ca](mailto:robinrigbytrust@smu.ca). Only if e-mail submission is not possible, submissions may be mailed to: Robin Rigby Trust, c/o School of the Environment, Saint Mary’s University, 923 Robie Street, Halifax, NS B3H3C3 Canada.

### **Application Deadline: October 31, 2023**

**The deadline for the current round of proposals is October 31, 2023.**