



WorkSafeBC seeks proposals for research grant competitions

By Jesse Marchand

WorkSafeBC is seeking graduate students or recent doctoral graduates who are studying occupational health and safety or work disability. Depending on which category you fall into, you may be eligible for one of two WorkSafeBC Research Services grants.

“These projects provide insights and solutions for real issues faced by workplaces and WorkSafeBC,” says Deepani Weerapura, senior manager, who oversees WorkSafeBC’s research grants program. “We support research and knowledge sharing that contributes to improving health and safety, fostering successful rehabilitation and return to work of injured workers, or ensuring fair compensation for people suffering injury or illness on the job.”

Research Training Awards

Research Training Awards are available to highly qualified graduate students at the master’s and doctoral level who are undertaking research training with a focus on workplace health and safety. To qualify, applicants need to be engaged in a full-time graduate studies program with a B.C. university.

Awards include a \$20,000 stipend and a \$2,500 research and travel allowance. Master’s students receive one year of funding and doctoral students receive two years of funding. Recipients can apply to renew their grant for an additional year.

Ralph McGinn Postdoctoral Fellowship

WorkSafeBC is also offering a fellowship for postdoctoral students. This competition is open to

recent doctoral graduates (within four years of completing their Ph.D.) who hold a postdoctoral position at a Canadian university or research institution. This fellowship is designed to foster the development of occupational health and safety and work disability research in B.C. and across Canada.

“We are pleased to be offering the Ralph McGinn fellowship,” says Weerapura. “It was established in 2021 to commemorate the tremendous contributions of Ralph McGinn, a lifelong advocate and leader in the field of occupational health and safety, and former chair of the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors.

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—Deepani Weerapura,
senior manager, WorkSafeBC

The fellowship was awarded to two successful candidates in 2021: The first was Sonja Senthonar, whose research focuses on the relationship between the experiences of rehabilitation services among immigrants compared to Canadian-born workers. The second was Heather Johnston, who is studying the risk factors and hazards common for both work-related musculoskeletal and psychological injury.

Awards are \$50,000 annually for two years, with the option to renew for a third year upon successful reapplication.

“Awards will be provided based on the quality of the proposed research, relevance to occupational health and safety and our research priorities, prior research contributions, and the postdoctoral training environment,” adds Weerapura.

How to apply

For more information, please visit worksafebc.com and search for “research services” or contact Research Services at resquery@worksafebc.com.

BCCSA
BC Construction Safety Alliance

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- TCP (TRAFFIC CONTROL PROGRAM)
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