

Primary caregivers who are eligible for but decline taking extended leave (maternity, parental or adoption) - NSERC Discovery Grant and Discovery Development Grant holders only (Pilot)

Recognizing the career pressure, research momentum, and the interest by some researchers to continue their work while also managing early childcare needs, NSERC is piloting a new option within its [Maternity / Parental Leave policy](#) for grantees:

Individuals who become primary caregivers immediately following the birth or adoption of a child, during the tenure of their Discovery Grant or Discovery Development Grant, and who are eligible to take extended maternity, parental or adoption leave through the institution that administers their grant, but decline taking the leave, may be eligible to receive a one-year grant extension with funds at a level up to but not exceeding the current grant amount.

This pilot policy applies only to grantees holding a Discovery Grant (DG) or a Discovery Development Grant (DDG).

Policies and requirements of the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#), and the Terms and Conditions of the existing DG or DDG, apply to grant extensions approved under this policy.

Principles

- To be eligible for a one-year DG or DDG extension with funds under this pilot policy, grantees must be:
 - Women who are the primary caregiver immediately following their giving birth to a child and who are eligible for but don't take extended leave (maternity or parental).
 - Women who are the primary caregiver immediately following the adoption of a child and who are eligible for but don't take extended leave (adoption).
 - Men who are the primary caregiver immediately following the birth or adoption of a child and who are eligible for but don't take extended leave (parental or adoption).
- The grant extension when declining extended maternity, parental or adoption leave will be considered only within the first year following the birth or adoption of a child. Should grantees take extended parental leave during the second year, they may request a grant extension with funds for the second year under the [Maternity / Parental Leave policy](#). The grant extension under the pilot policy is included *within* the two-year limit set out in the [Maternity / Parental Leave policy](#).

Process

The following documents must be submitted to NSERC at least 30 days prior to the date when the grantee is eligible for taking extended maternity, parental or adoption leave (see also [Effective Date of the Pilot Policy](#)):

- A signed letter from the grantee confirming
 - the application number of the grant and the title of the grant;
 - the period (start and end dates) during which the grantee is primary caregiver immediately following the birth or adoption of a child and has been declared eligible by the institution for taking extended maternity, parental or adoption leave;
 - that the grantee declines taking the leave;and
 - requesting a one-year grant extension with funds;
 - justifying the need for the additional grant instalment.

- A signed letter from the appropriate authorized official at the institution confirming
 - the application number of the grant and the title of the grant;
 - the period (start and end dates) during which the grantee is primary caregiver immediately following the birth or adoption of a child and has been declared eligible by the institution for taking extended maternity, parental or adoption leave;
 - that the grantee declines taking the leave;and
 - endorsing the amount requested by the grantee.

- A Grants in Aid of Research, Statement of Account (Form 300) as of the date the grantee is eligible for taking extended maternity / parental / adoption leave.

NSERC must be notified immediately if there is any change in the recipient's eligibility to receive the supplement.

Effective Date of the Pilot Policy

The pilot policy on Primary caregivers who are eligible for but decline taking extended leave (maternity, parental or adoption) will be in effect as of March 1, 2016. Grantees cannot request a grant extension for a period of declined leave which precedes March 1, 2016.