

Summary of the Evaluation of the Research in Strategic Areas - Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects (SPG-P)

SEVEN KEY FINDINGS – STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTS FOR PROJECTS

- Meet a real, important need and is a low-risk opportunity to gain knowledge and strengthen relationships for ideas that are not yet considered to be on a definite track to commercialization or policy development.
- Contribute to the production, dissemination and use of knowledge.
- Contribute to the public debate and influence public policy.
- Support the development of industry partnerships.
- Support a variety of collaborations and the development of HQP.
- Under-represented groups experience the same level of success, but the perception of barriers persists.
- Are managed effectively.

Recommendation#1 - The federal government should continue to fund SPG-P. In the context where supporting innovation has been recognized as a government-wide priority, SPG-P occupy a unique niche as one of the few funding opportunities to provide substantial funding for longer-term collaborative research that, might not otherwise be undertaken because of its early-stages and high-risk nature. Strategic Partnerships is also NSERC's only opportunity supporting research aiming to contribute to public policy development.

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation#2 - It is recommended that SPG-P retains the requirement for partners from public organizations to actively participate in collaborative research, but the range of potential partners should be broadened to include organizations that are well positioned to use the research results and leverage them to strengthen public policy (e.g.: Northern Communities). Encouraging other forms of collaboration and rethinking the tools to better document the project's contribution to the public discussion may be worthwhile.

Recommendation#3 - The Research Partnership Directorate should consider how to best document and measure the influence of identity factors on an applicant's ability to obtain funding. Although the evaluation did not reveal significant differences in the success rates of under-represented groups for which data are available, survey evidence suggest a perception that some barriers exist, particularly for women and to some extent for Francophone researchers. Also, the absence of data for Indigenous people and people with disabilities precluded an assessment of the extent to which they experienced identity-related barriers.

