



NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL DEPARTMENTAL EVALUATION PLAN 2019-20 to 2023-24


5-YEAR PRIORITIES OF NRC’S EVALUATION GROUP

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Deliver evaluation projects that support NRC in the achievement of results, sound stewardship and effective resource management

 - 5-year schedule includes majority of all of NRC’s direct program spending on a 5-year timeframe – only two enabling services not covered
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Provide independent and timely insight, advice and challenge to management on a range of issues including new business models, risks and ongoing business operations

 - completion of two program reviews (Bio-based Specialty Chemicals and Health Technologies)
 - management of retrospective review of NRC programs
 - share common themes from program reviews and evaluations
 - develop approaches to monitoring and evaluating collaboration centres and enabling services
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Facilitate use in decision-making, improve communication of results to NRC executives and other internal stakeholders

 - build expertise in using Slide Docs for evaluation reports and continuing to improve dissemination (i.e., decks) to the Performance Measurement and Evaluation Committee (PMEC)
 - implement communication strategy at the function-level and project-level (e.g., presentations to research centre advisory committees, articles in internal NRC newsletter)
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Increase efficiency and reduce burden on CBIs, streamline planning, fieldwork, reporting and quality assurance

 - review all aspects of evaluation processes with a view to streamlining

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTAL EVALUATION PLAN

- Schedule based on:**
 - FAA-required evaluations: Grant and Contribution programs and Treasury Board Secretariat commitments
 - Evaluation of all other direct program spending (timing based on risk, need and priority)
- Aligns with requirements of the *Policy on Results* and the *Departmental Results Framework***
- Developed in consultation with members of NRC’s Senior Executive Committee**
- Evaluations consider Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+)**

2019-20 PLANNED RESOURCES



	2019-20 (Budget)
Salaries (including Employee Benefit Plan)	\$1,642,637
Operations and Maintenance (O&M) (from Office of Audit and Evaluation (OAE) Operational Budget)	\$113,000
TOTAL (OAE)	\$1,755,637
O&M (from other NRC)	\$77,807
Total Evaluation Planned Spending	\$1,833,444

Full Time Equivalent: 13.4 employees

Note:

- Budget figures do not include salary or O&M for peer reviews
- Staffing complement includes 3 positions currently vacant; to be filled in 2019-20

2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS

EVALUATIONS COMPLETED

- Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program
- Digital Technologies
- Energy, Mining and Environment
- TRIUMF

PROGRAM REVIEWS COMPLETED

- Bioenergy
- Energy Storage
- Environmental Advances in Mining
- High-efficiency Mining
- High-performance Buildings
- Printable Electronics

USE OF EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS

- Increased project management skills and practices**
- Improved business approaches and processes**



NRC-Evaluation’s work on program reviews was recognized this year – the team won an award for ‘Outstanding Team’ at the Secretary General’s Award Ceremony!

EVALUATIONS AND PROGRAM REVIEWS INFORM DECISION-MAKING

-  **100%** of NRC respondents agreed that evaluation/program review **recommendations should result in significant improvements to the program**
-  **75%** of NRC respondents found that evaluations/program reviews were **beneficial to program management**
-  **96%** of **evaluation management action plan items** due in 2017-18 were actually **implemented** – NRC achieved the highest completion rate out of all large-sized Government of Canada departments (Management Accountability Framework 2018-19 Results Management)

STRONG EXPERTISE IN PEER REVIEWS

-  **91%** of peer review committee members agreed **documentation contained necessary information** to answer review questions
-  **91%** of peer review committee members would **recommend participation to a colleague**



“I have chaired many reviews of national laboratories in the US, and I found that this was the best organized that I have encountered in terms of identifying committee participants, providing information before the reviews, and in identifying additional information to be provided during the reviews.”

- Chair, Program Review

INNOVATIONS ADOPTED

- Peer review committee: continued development of guidelines and expertise in the establishment and use of peer review committees
- Slide Docs: piloting the use of Slide Docs for evaluation reports
- Walk your data: developed and used this approach to present and validate program review and evaluation findings and recommendations
- Laid the ground for an upcoming NRC impact assessment to address policy authorities commitment (Re-imagined NRC)
- Training on GBA+ and risk: led to the development of approaches piloted in evaluations
- Sharing expertise: multiple outreach within NRC (peer review, performance measurement) and within the Government of Canada evaluation community (walk your data, follow-up on recommendations, neutral assessment)

2019-24 RESEARCH CENTRE EVALUATIONS AND MID-TERM PROGRAM REVIEWS

Programs (as per Departmental Results Framework Inventory)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES					
Digital Technologies					
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES					
Advanced Electronics and Photonics					
Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics			FAA		
Metrology					
Nanotechnology					
Security and Disruptive Technologies					
TRIUMF				FAA	
ENGINEERING					
Construction					
Energy, Mining and Environment					
Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering					
IRAP					
IRAP			FAA		
LIFE SCIENCES					
Aquatic and Crop Resource Development					
<i>Bio-based Specialty Chemicals</i>					
Human Health Therapeutics					
Medical Devices					
<i>Health Technologies</i>					
TRANSPORTATION AND MANUFACTURING					
Aerospace					
Automotive and Surface Transportation					
ENABLING SERVICES AND OTHER					
Business Management Services					
Collaborative Science, Technology and Innovation				FAA	
Design and Fabrication Services					
International Affiliations			FAA		
International Innovation					
National Science Library					
Re-imagined NRC				MC	
HORIZONTAL EVALUATIONS					
Addressing Air Pollution Initiative		TB			
Genomics Research and Development Initiative (joint projects)					
Youth Employment Strategy		TB			

LEGEND:

- Evaluation
- Program review
- Other Government Department-led evaluation
- FAA

Evaluation required for compliance with Financial Accountability Act Section 42.1(1)
- MC

Evaluation required for compliance with Memorandum to Cabinet commitment
- TB

Evaluation required for compliance with Treasury Board submission commitment