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Title of Proposal

Contact information

*The one person and place to communicate with the applicant(s).*

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Institution or department to administer grant funds

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Summary

*Less than 100 words*

Total amount requested in this competition \$

First-year Math and Stats in Canada (FYMSiC) is revitalizing their in-person conference, and we want to make it special. The 2026 Conference, University Mathematics Under the Microscope, held at McMaster University from May 7-10, 2026, will be the FYMSiC's first in-person gathering since 2019. The Conference will explore various aspects of teaching, including course delivery, assessment, classroom management, and support systems for students and instructors. With the education landscape fast evolving, our invited experts, including a Nobel Prize winner, will try to envision what the near future might bring. Support is sought to ensure accessibility and affordability.

Applicants

*Put any specific information on the relevant experience or expertise of an applicant in "Other".*

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	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CMS Member #	<input type="text" value="107710"/>	<input type="text" value="101618"/>	<input type="text" value="005302"/>
Current grants	<input type="text" value="NA"/>	<input type="text" value="NA"/>	<input type="text" value="NA"/>

What you propose to do

*at most 40 lines*

The First-Year Mathematics and Statistics in Canada (FYMSiC) conference is an annual meeting of the community of university faculty and instructors whose objective is to address the problems faced in the teaching and learning of mathematics and statistics at all levels of post-secondary education.

The first FYMSiC conference was held at the Fields Institute in 2018, followed by the University of Alberta in 2019. Since 2020, the conference has been hosted online due to the pandemic and, after, for a number of reasons, including ensuring financial accessibility. In 2026, we are bringing it back to an in-person format; we want to make it special, and we want to ensure that our FYMSiC members will be able to afford (financially) to come.

The third in-person iteration of the conference, with the title "University mathematics and statistics under the microscope", will be hosted at McMaster University from Thursday, May 7th, to Sunday, May 10th, 2026. We anticipate having approximately 80-100 attendees from across Canada, as well as a small number of colleagues from abroad. Attendees will include full-time teaching-stream faculty, contractual, full-time and part-time instructors, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. Research faculty and department chairs interested in mathematics and statistics education have been present at our previous conferences, and we hope that some will join us again in 2026.

We plan to support graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and contractual and part-time instructors with conference expenses; for instance, we will waive the registration fee for these participants. As well, we will keep the registration fees minimal for other participants (much lower than comparable conferences).

The four-day conference program will be built around four themes (course delivery, assessment, classroom management, and support systems for students and teaching teams). The key objective is not to be comprehensive, but to seek novel ideas, fresh approaches, reports on pilot studies, experiments in progress, etc., in part as a reaction to the effects that AI has been having (and will have) in education.

The conference will consist of a number of contributed talks (traditional 30-minute or 45-minute talks, as well as 5-minute lightning talks), facilitated discussions, and opportunities for active involvement through workshops, and a set of ad-hoc sessions led by the conference attendees. Planned social activities and gatherings will provide additional opportunities to explore the conference themes, build connections, stimulate the creation of new ideas, foster collaborations, and inspire education-focused research.

The aim of all conference activities is to create a plan for action to tackle a number of pressing issues in mathematics and statistics education. By taking an analytical and critical look at the teaching and learning of mathematics in undergraduate courses in the broadest sense we plan to come up with suggestions for improving the student learning experience and instructor teaching practices.

This four-day conference will have three keynote speakers. We are very excited to have Daniel Clegg and Saleem Watson, the co-authors of the James Stewart's Calculus books to talk about the communication and writing in mathematics; and Carl Wieman, a Nobel Prize winning physicist, who has done research into the learning of physics and science in general, and into attaining expertise in teaching.

**Budget**

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Description	Revenue		
Fields Institute Grant (coming from NSF money) -	10,000		
Registration (\$120 x 100 attendees) - projected	12,000		
Publishers (Cengage, Pearson) - projected	1,000		
Dept of Physics colloquium fund, McMaster Unive	500		
Dept of Math and Stats Colloquium Fund, McMas	500		
CMS Endowment Grant requested	5,000		
<b>Total Revenue \$</b>	<b>29,000</b>		
	<b>Expenses</b>		
Travel and accommodation for 3 keynote speakers	7,500		
Travel and accommodation for the Indigenous Eldi	600		
Food (Reception, 5 coffee breaks, 2 lunches, 2 dir	13,500		
Rooms at McMaster University for conference acti	3,500		
Financial support for graduate students, postdocs,	3,500		
Incidentals (name tags, stationery, etc.)	400		
<b>Total Expenses \$</b>	<b>29,000</b>		

**Other**

*Funding, partners, revenue potential, information on applicants such as publications or awards, at most 20 lines.*

Notes:

We received a grant from the Fields Institute, from which we plan to pay travel expenses for the keynote presenters, and a partial cost of the space (auditorium, break-out rooms, common space for coffee breaks) where the conference will be held. We are applying for additional funding, as the Fields grant alone will not suffice; as well, it is limited to only certain expense items (for instance it does not cover any food).

We will approach McMaster University (Dean of the Faculty of Science) and try to obtain in-kind support (such as, hopefully, a significant reduction in the cost of the space we will be using). As well, we have been negotiating with the mathematics textbooks and software publishers, whom we will charge a fee for their presence.

To make the conference as accessible as possible - as most of our participants do not have sources of funding (other than professional development money provided by their department or university) - we aim for a very low registration fee (much lower than comparable conferences); as well, we will provide most meals free to participants, and have some funds to support those participants who, for financial reasons, might not be able to attend.

Project start date

Finish date