

SENATE RESOLUTION ON OPEN SCIENCE AND OPEN SCHOLARSHIP AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

(Unanimously approved by Concordia University's Senate on Friday, May 16, 2025)

Background

Open science—and open scholarship more broadly—is revolutionizing how research is conducted by democratizing access to knowledge and bringing inclusion and transparency to the forefront. By making research processes and products open and accessible to all, open science promotes fairness, efficiency, and accountability in the scholarly enterprise and ensures that the benefits of scientific and humanistic progress are shared with all.

In Canada, fostering the practical implementation of open science practices (e.g., [open access](#), [open educational resources](#), [open data](#), [open labs](#), [open notebooks](#), [open evaluation](#), [open hardware](#), [open-source software](#), and [citizen science](#)) is rapidly becoming a priority. In 2020, the Government of Canada published its [Roadmap for Open Science](#), which called for a transition to an "open by design and by default" model by 2025. This transition is still underway, with policies being promoted by federal and provincial funding agencies. For example, in 2015, the Tri-Agency—implemented an [open-access policy](#) requiring grant recipients to ensure that publications funded by the agencies are freely accessible within 12 months of publication. Recently, the Tri-Agency [surveyed over 1,400 respondents](#) to gather feedback for revising these open-access guidelines. A renewed policy is expected to be released by the end of 2025. Departing from the Tri-Agency current model and aligning with [Plan S](#), the Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ) updated its [Open-Access Policy in 2022](#), requiring that articles and theses be made freely available under an open license upon publication or institutional deposit. With new mandates and policies emerging, there is a growing need for institutional support and advocacy to achieve effective solutions.

Even prior to these governmental and funding agency initiatives, Concordia has been a leader in the open science and open scholarship space. In April 2010, Concordia's Senate passed a [Resolution on Open Access](#), endorsing the principles of open access and encouraging faculty members to actively adopt open-access practices. This marked the first university-wide open-access mandate in Canada and the ninetieth of its kind globally. On May 27, 2022, Concordia University took another decisive step by hosting the Open Science @Concordia conference. The event convened a diverse group of open science advocates and stakeholders from Concordia University and other national and international institutions.

Building on the momentum of the conference, we formed the Concordia Open Science Working Group (OSWG)—a cross-campus initiative that brought together over 20 faculty members, trainees, and students from 8 academic units, including Psychology, Computer Science and Software Engineering, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Biology, Mechanical, Industrial, and Aerospace Engineering, Education, Communication Studies, and the Library. Through a series of workshops, the OSWG drafted and published a report titled [Recommendations for Fostering Open Science at Concordia University](#) (April 2023, Spectrum). Following the publication of the report, and consistent with one of its key recommendations, the group focused on drafting a Senate resolution that would extend the scope of Concordia's existing resolution to embrace open science and open scholarship. Both the report and the resolution draft underwent a continuous consultation process involving various members of the university community—including administrators, faculty, staff, students, and union representatives—to

ensure that diverse perspectives were considered, further enriching the already varied composition of the OSWG. On Friday, May 16, 2025, the resolution was passed by Concordia's Senate with unanimous support. The final version of the Senate Resolution on Open Science and Open Scholarship is included below. To our knowledge, this is the first resolution of its kind at a Canadian university.

Contributors to the Drafting of the Resolution

The following contributors participated in drafting the Senate Resolution on Open Science and Open Scholarship:

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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

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Whereas:

- Open Science and Open Scholarship aim to make scholarly outputs as widely accessible as possible. These outputs include, but are not limited to, open access articles, open educational resources, open code and software, open methods and evaluation, open data, open labs, open notebooks, open technical work, creative works, research-creation, open products, open innovations, and citizen science. This approach fosters shared values like fairness, inclusivity, and accountability, while promoting efficient use of resources, and ensuring that the benefits of scientific and scholarly achievements are available and accessible to all segments of society.
- In Canada, the practical implementation of Open Science and Open Scholarship practices is increasingly prioritized by federal and provincial granting agencies and governments, which aligns with global efforts, such as the UNESCO Resolution on Open Science, the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), and the policies of many scholarly journals and societies.
- In 2010, Concordia was the first university in Canada to endorse Open Access, establishing itself as a national leader.
- This current resolution builds upon the 2010 Senate Resolution on Open Access, and aligns with Concordia's Institutional Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy and is also consistent with Concordia University Library's involvement in provincial and national collaborations supporting Open Science and Open Scholarship initiatives.
- The Open Science Working Group, convened in 2022, produced a report with recommendations for implementing Open Science and Open Scholarship at Concordia.
- This report was reviewed, discussed, and endorsed by members of the university administration, including Faculty Deans, was published on Spectrum and, as of April 7, 2025, has garnered 735 downloads¹.
- The principles of Open Science and Open Scholarship align with Concordia's 2023-2028 Strategic Research Plan, which aims to "embrace inclusive excellence and Indigenous knowledges" as it seeks to preserve and make knowledge openly available.

Be it resolved that Senate recommends that Concordia University:

- Actively encourages Concordians to learn about, implement, and recognize Open Science and Open Scholarship practices, adapting them to the specific needs and concerns of each discipline.
- Recognizes that Open Science and Open Scholarship interact with other academic values and considerations, such as intellectual property practices and Indigenous principles of data ownership, control, access, and possession.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.11573/spectrum.library.concordia.ca.00992647>

- Undertakes to develop institutional policies and procedures that integrate equitable Open Science and Open Scholarship practices, in collaboration with existing communities of practice such as the Open Science Working Group, the Open Access Working Group, and the Library.
- Commits to supporting training and infrastructural needs in Open Science and Open Scholarship, including for students, staff, and faculty.
- Fosters the expansion of provincial, national, and international collaborations in Open Science and Open Scholarship initiatives, engaging academic units, including the Library and the Office of the Vice-President, Research Innovation and Impact.
- Calls on all academic units to review their incentive structures related to hiring, reappointment, promotion, and tenure to ensure alignment with Open Science and Open Scholarship requirements of major research funders and relevant collective agreements, while recognizing the added value these practices bring to each discipline.