



## **Sistering Indigenous and Western Science Program**

Greetings and thank you in advance for taking the time to read about the Sistering Indigenous and Western Science (SINEWS) Program.

The SINEWS program was developed and piloted in 2019 with students from Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The pilot project was supported by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) with a goal of demonstrating the value of braiding traditional Indigenous knowledge with western science, and advancing women and Indigenous science students.

NRCan relaunched the SINEWS program at a national level as of September 2021. The program is designed to support pairs of female students, one Indigenous with one non-Indigenous, enrolled in a post-secondary program to identify, develop and implement small research projects across Canada with the help of mentors. Up to 8 pairs of students will be selected to become NRCan employees and receive a budget to carry out their proposed research project within a timeframe of up to 8 months. Eligible projects will focus on combining traditional Indigenous teachings and knowledge with the associated western science and examine how they can function together to the benefit of future partnerships. The program also aims to advance NRCan's mandate in a way that is respectful of the environment, Indigenous peoples and is in the spirit of true reconciliation, and within the framework of advancing the representation of women in scientific fields of discipline.

One of the goals of the program is to help establish positive relationships and communication networks between NRCan and Indigenous communities and help students learn protocols of community engagement for their future careers.

I value feedback you may have regarding the SINEWS program and invite you to contact me if you would like to further discuss this program. If you know of a student within your community who may qualify for the program, please pass along my contact information.

I appreciate your time and any support you are willing to provide on this important initiative. In the event someone in your community requires French translation, please reach out and we will forward you the translated copy of this letter.

Regards,

Jaime Wolfe, Program Manager, SINEWS

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