Many UofT faculty members who hold grants from CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, and through the New Frontiers Program, have asked about the eligibility of cancelled research-related travel costs on Tri-Agency grants due to COVID-19. This morning the federal granting agencies updated the research community regarding the eligibility of cancelled travel costs as follows:

"The three federal granting agencies are aware that the rapidly changing situation involving COVID-19 may have an impact on researchers with plans to travel for meetings or other research-related activities. Individuals may decide to cancel trips as a result of various considerations and factors such as cancelled conferences, travel advisories (including those from Health Canada and Global Affairs Canada), or personal choice due to health or other concerns.

The agencies confirm that the reimbursement of non-refundable travel fees from agency funds is acceptable considering the impacts of COVID-19. This applies to the travel of both principal investigators and research personnel, when cancellation occurs as described above."

Grant-holders must document the reason for cancellation fees (e.g. COVID-19) for record-keeping and potential future audit purposes.

It is strongly recommended that those planning to travel using Tri-Agency grants purchase cancellation insurance, or tickets that are at least partially
refundable, which are eligible costs and considered an economical use of Tri-Agency funds.

**Keeping up to date:** The University provides updates to the U of T community about COVID-19 on its website, which you can review at:

- [UofT COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [FAQ from the U of T Community about COVID-19](#), which includes a Q&A about research travel covered by research funds.

Staff who work with Tri-Agency funding in the Division of the Vice President, Research and Innovation will continue to monitor developments regarding COVID-19 from the federal granting agencies and will update the research community as needed.

**Questions?** Please contact the individual noted as "Authorized By" on your Funded Research Digest (FReD), or find us through our [Staff Directory](#).

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