



April 29, 2020

Professor Anne-Emanuelle Birn
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Dalla Lana School of Public Health
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Professor Paul Hamel
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Ms. Nikisha Khare
Master of Public Health, Medical Student
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Professor Gavin Smith (Emeritus)
Department of Anthropology
University of Toronto
19 Russell Street
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Re: Circulation of Vale Canada's COVID-19 Funding Opportunity

Dear Professors Birn, Hamel, Smith, and Ms. Khare:

I am writing in response to your letter dated April 21, 2020 on my office's circulation of Vale Canada's COVID-19 funding opportunity to the U of T network of researchers.

The Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation assists researchers to acquire the necessary funding for their projects, including the communication of funding opportunities from a wide array of sponsors. By transmitting a funding opportunity to our faculty members, we are not indicating University support for the potential sponsor or its operations. This is the case for all sponsors - including foundations, corporations, and national governments from around the world.

Annually, U of T oversees the administration of 9,000 research funds from more than 1,000 funding sponsors. We encourage faculty members to connect with external funding partners as it allows our scholars to expand their research activities and the impact of their work.

U of T has a long history of partnerships with industry, and well-established University policies and guidelines are in place to protect our faculty members' academic freedom and to guard against undue influence of sponsors on research. The lines of inquiry and innovation undertaken

by our researchers are chosen by our researchers alone. Our academic priorities are not determined by philanthropists or by industry.

We will continue to connect researchers to funding opportunities that will enable them to do this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vivek Goel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Professor Vivek Goel, MD, CM, MSc, SM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Strategic Initiatives