



# Policy regarding open access to published research outputs

## Table of Contents

PREAMBULE	2
OBJECTIVE	2
APPLICATION	2
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	2
PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION	3
OTHER FORMS OF DISTRIBUTION	4
EFFECTIVE PERIOD	4



## PREAMBULE

The Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) is mandated to promote and fund research, researcher training, and knowledge dissemination. As a manager of public funds, it is firmly committed to ensuring that the full potential of research outputs is used and that the return on research investments is optimized so that society as a whole can reap the benefits thereof. In adopting this Policy, the FRQS, reaffirming the independence of researchers and repeating its acknowledgement of their crucial role in developing research, intends to establish measures that will structure and support researchers' initiatives to disseminate research outputs and thereby foster open access to them when possible.

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Policy is to improve access to and dissemination of the outputs of FRQS-funded research.

## APPLICATION

This Policy applies to all research fully or partially funded by FRQS, whether by means of awards or individual or group grants (for a centre, group, network or other grouping), and to any new award or grant issued as of January 1, 2009. Although recipients of awards or grants issued before this date are not bound by this Policy, it would be appropriate that they abide by it.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Policy is based on four guiding principles that, together, underpin the concept of open access to research outputs:

- Academic freedom – The Policy recognizes the importance of academic freedom as a means of advancing knowledge. It reaffirms the complete independence of researchers in determining the relevance of distributing research outputs and the means used to do so.
- Use and development of research outputs – The Policy supports researchers in furthering the use and development of research outputs through distribution, transfer, translation or commercialization. It particularly encourages the dissemination of knowledge to the scientific community and to output users.



- Compliance with ethical standards – The Policy requires compliance with the highest standards in matters of research ethics and the protection of personal information. Beyond the relevant legal and regulatory standards, it insists on the importance of transparent and fair action with the populations participating in a study or likely to be affected by the results. Furthermore, the Policy also reiterates the importance of adherence to the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards for research, when animals are used in experiments.
- Harmonization of rules – The Policy ensures harmonization of standards and practices among health research funding agencies. It also takes into account Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) requirements in order to prevent needless overlap and to facilitate Policy implementation by researchers.

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION

**Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, a "peer-reviewed publication" means a manuscript (for publication in a scholarly journal or for presentation at a scientific convention) assessed by peers and deemed to be scientifically and ethically sound.

FRQS awardees are expected to make every possible effort to have their peer-reviewed publications posted on open-access Web sites as soon as possible, ideally, no later than six months after publication or presentation. Awardees can achieve this through the following options:

**Option 1** – Via the publisher's Web site (in the case of articles) or that of the organizer of the event (in the case of scientific conventions);

**Option 2** – Via one or several online repositories (awardees must comply with the publisher's or the organizer's policies).

Open access repository sites – Peer reviewed publication

- [PubMed Central](#)
- [Canadian Institutional Repositories](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Repositories \(international\)](#)



## OTHER FORMS OF DISTRIBUTION

**Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, "other forms of distribution" means all publications that are not peer-reviewed, for example, unpublished articles, books or chapters thereof, symposium proceedings, lectures, or Web-posted documents.

FRQS awardees can, if they choose, post their non-reviewed publications on an open access Web site through the following options:

**Option 1** – Via their own Web site or that of their home institution (university, hospital centre, department, research centre, etc.);

**Option 2** – Via the Web site Érudit or a Canadian site based on Érudit Synergies.

## EFFECTIVE PERIOD

This Policy came into effect upon its adoption by the Board of Directors of FRQS on October 24, 2008.