

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation



How SHRF created a grants management platform that simplified their review process with robust data gathering capabilities.

At a Glance

SHRF was using Microsoft Access to manage their data, but found it was not particularly user-friendly. Specifically, they found accessing data and reporting a challenge. Their previous system had been limited to data entry for applications and contacts, and they really wanted the ability to save information on their review committee process.

SmartSimple client since: 2013

Type of giving: Research Grants

Old system: Microsoft Access

SmartSimple product/services:

- [SmartSimple Cloud for Research Grants Management](#)
- [Premium Support](#)

Key pain points:

- Non-user friendly system that had limited access to data to track and report on

New system must-haves

- A true, all-in-one solution that has cross-functional data access
- An intuitive reporting module that is accurate

“SmartSimple Cloud provided well integrated, cross-functional data access and an intuitive reporting module that is accurate, and it’s easy to modify the parameters of a report on the fly”

Shaz Azam

Director of Finance



Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation is a SmartSimple Cloud user

Request a demo and learn more about SmartSimple Cloud for Research Grants Management at www.smartsimple.com

About The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

The Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) is the provincial agency responsible for funding, facilitating and promoting innovative, collaborative health research in Saskatchewan.

SHRF works as a catalyst, driver, and leader to:

- Build and broaden the province’s research capacity
- Expedite the production and sharing of knowledge
- Build and broaden the province’s research capacity
- Increase stakeholder engagement
- Generate new and diverse funding partnerships
- Measure the impact of health research on our Saskatchewan communities

Selecting SmartSimple

SHRF were initially attracted to SmartSimple as a Canadian-based service provider that could supply a true all-in-one solution. They discovered the kind of expertise and research industry knowledge SmartSimple had at its finger tips would be invaluable to them.

“SmartSimple Cloud provided well integrated, cross-functional data access and an intuitive reporting module that is accurate, and it’s easy to modify the parameters of a report on the fly,” says Shaz Azam, Director of Finance for SHRF.

Working with SmartSimple

"We had a great working relationship with SmartSimple from start to finish," continues Shaz. "This is a testament to the competence, responsiveness and professionalism of the SmartSimple team."

After working with their new system, SHRF employees discovered increased efficiency, eliminating a lot of unnecessary extra work.

Specific features they found particularly helpful were:

- Being able to assign applications to review committee members without having to do a massive mail out
- Applicant assessments submitted through the system meant SHRF no longer had to organize and send to the correct committee members; it was done automatically
- The ability to edit the review forms to keep them anonymous, and upload them to the application



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to give to the researcher

After implementation, Karen Glazebrook, Director of Funding Programs sent a survey to their 2014-2015 researchers, supervisors and university research facilitators to get their feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Users found the system easy to use, had a great look and feel, and commended SHRF on the new online application process. "Users said the online application section was very clear and had better instructions than just about any other website they'd used. SmartSimple reduced the anxiety around completing their applications correctly," adds Shaz.

"SmartSimple Cloud is an intuitive system with lots of flexibility. We think other organizations would really benefit from the effectiveness and efficiency. It's great to know you're working with a team of professionals that will patiently work with you to make your vision a reality," concludes Shaz. ●