

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation



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;
- Increase stakeholder engagement;
- Generate new and diverse funding partnerships; and
- Measure the impact of health research on our Saskatchewan communities.

SHRF reports primarily to the Minister of Health.

The Challenge

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.

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 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 to give to the researcher.

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

Working with SmartSimple

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 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.

About SmartSimple

SmartSimple is endlessly configurable, putting the control of your system in your hands. Our cloud-based solution means you can communicate and integrate seamlessly with your community and the world. SmartSimple works hand in hand with your team to implement your system. Our team is at your side from the first demonstration through implementation, training and beyond.

We’ve worked hard to gain the trust of tens of thousands of users around the world, learn how we’ll earn your trust, too.