

Janet Friskney, Ph.D.
Editor, Writer, Researcher

Biography

Janet Friskney is an editor, and a scholarly researcher and writer. While working in pre-award research administration at two Ontario universities since 2007, she honed her skills as a developmental editor of grant and nomination files in the humanities and social sciences. A notable number of faculty members with whom she has worked on applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada have received high rankings from their adjudication committees.

Earlier in her career, Janet Friskney served as associate editor to the award-winning third volume of the *History of the Book in Canada* (2007), a 600-page scholarly reference work involving more than 100 authors. As a scholar, she specializes in Canadian book history. She began publishing while still in graduate school, and is most well-known for her monograph *New Canadian Library: The Ross-McClelland Years 1952-1978* (2007). In addition to her three degrees, which include a Ph.D. in Canadian history, Janet Friskney holds certificates in book and magazine publishing, and access to information and protection of privacy.

Editorial Services

- **Developmental Editing: Funding Applications / Prestigious Awards**

Janet Friskney works collaboratively with researchers who are pursuing funding applications or developing files for prestigious awards. She can:

- Consult with researchers over funding opportunities or prestigious awards to assess how well they align with the project being proposed, or the career profile of the researcher being nominated.
- Provide strategic advice and/or editorial feedback on materials drafted by researchers, with an eye to heightening the competitiveness of the grant or nomination file through thoughtful restructuring and modifications of content.
- Offer suggestions on the elements that will comprise the budget.
- Assess file components for technical compliance with agency guidelines.
- Intervene in texts at the level of the sentence or the word to smooth out infelicities of style.
- Contact program officers at sponsoring agencies for clarifications if the client prefers to maintain anonymity during the file development process.
- Coordinate the collection of letters of support for those files that require them. If a referee is open to feedback on a draft letter, that can be provided as well.

Testimonials

“I have worked with Janet numerous times over the last decade on a variety of grants from small grants of only a few thousand dollars to multi-year projects with six-figure budgets. I simply cannot speak highly enough of Janet. She has consistently impressed me with the depth of her knowledge, her professionalism, [and] her attention to detail....Her performance has been impeccable....Finally, her advice and counselling has consistently proven generous, helpful, and productive. In short, any successes my SSHRC grants as well as other grants have enjoyed have been solely due to her competent, experienced, and sage role in the process.”

Boyd Cothran, Associate Professor, York University

“Without Janet's expertise and meticulous editing, I would not have had nearly the success I have had. Janet has reviewed every fellowship and grant application I have submitted over the past 10 years. Her professionalism and dedication delivered with exactly the right balance of rigour and humour have made her indispensable to me.”

Julia Creet, Professor, York University

“Janet has actively advised on all of my recent SSHRC applications, and all have eventually been highly ranked as well as successful. Her advice has been invaluable, through multiple draftings. She is incredibly hard-working, with swift turnaround times, even though you know she has multiple files she is dealing with at that moment. She herself is a scholar with a CV that might be the envy of many of our associate professors – this is partly why she is such an excellent advisor in all aspects of the grant/nomination application process. My own personal record on grants would be far less without Janet.”

Sheila Embleton, FRSC, Distinguished Research Professor, former Vice-President Academic and Provost (2000-2009), York University

“Janet is an exceptional mentor in grant applications and academic writing. She is highly intelligent, skilled, creative, and organized, which is a formidable combination of strengths. Her expertise is interdisciplinary and covers a wide range of topics in humanities and social sciences. I have learned a great deal from her in my successful federal grant applications.”

Dr. Carolyn Podruchny, University Professor, York University