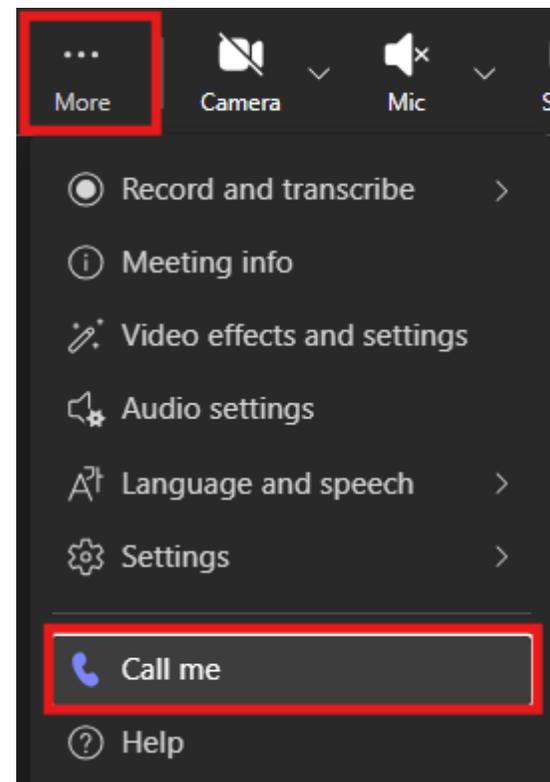




If you are experiencing **technical difficulties with the audio**, please connect with a **landline or a cell phone**.

- Under “**More**”, select “**Call Me**”:
- Enter your telephone number and follow the instructions.
- **Use the Q&A box for questions.**





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NCRST
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges

Letter of Intent to Apply Information Webinar

March 2026





Webinar Contents

1. Competition Timeline
2. Funding Opportunity Description
3. Roles and Eligibility
4. Evaluation Criteria
5. LOI Requirements
6. Full Application Overview
7. Review Process
8. LOI Stage: Distributed Peer Review
9. Information for RGOs
10. Resources and Questions



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Competition Timeline

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing
Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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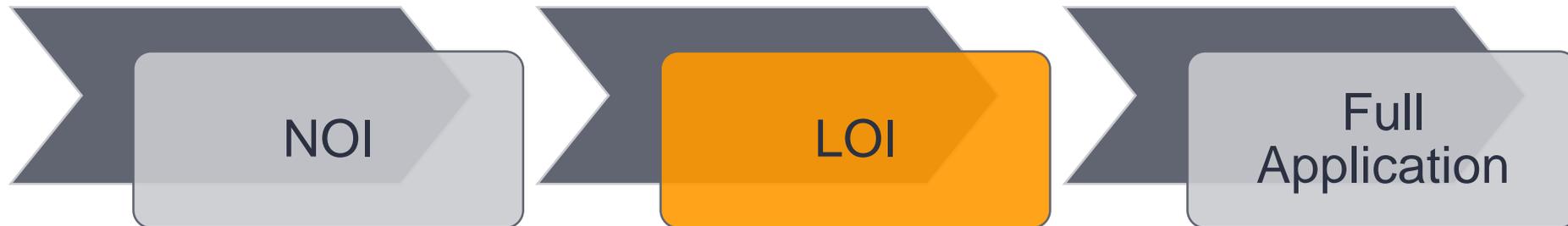


Competition Timeline

Competition stages

Three-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
2. Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)
3. Full Application





Competition Timeline

Important Dates

June 9, 2026

- Letter of Intent deadline

August 26, 2026

- Results of LOI stage review communicated to teams

November 3, 2026

- Full application deadline (by invitation)

March 2027

- Notice of funding decisions

March 2027

- Start date of projects



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Funding Opportunity Description

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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Funding Opportunity Description

Goal

By supporting international, interdisciplinary, and transformative research, this call aims to harness the potential of **disruptive technology** to offer **novel solutions to global challenges** and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.





Funding Opportunity Description

Global Challenges

- ❑ The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), adopted by all UN member states in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are a call on countries to work together to address global challenges and promote lasting peace and prosperity.
- ❑ There has been global recognition that the world is behind on achieving the SDGs.
- ❑ In recognition that the SDGs are not complete, particularly in relation to Indigenous communities, project may also apply if they address a global challenge other than the 17 SDGs.

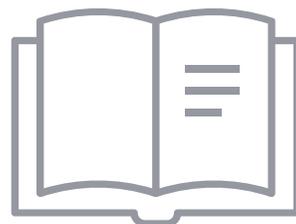




Funding Opportunity Description

Disruptive Technology

“An innovation whose application **replaces or radically alters** systems, processes and/or behaviours to have **transformative economic or societal impacts**. The impact may be **localized or far-reaching**. Disruptive technology may include **cutting-edge and novel innovations**, or the application of an **existing innovation in a new context**, bringing about **substantial change or paradigm shifts**.”





Funding Opportunity Description

Expectations for Funded Projects

- ✓ Address at least one of the SDGs or another recognized global challenge
- ✓ Focus on **developing or implementing** a disruptive technology, or **research on the impact** of a disruptive technology on society and/or economies
- ✓ Must be **interdisciplinary**, involving at least two of the following areas:
 - ✓ natural sciences and engineering
 - ✓ social sciences and humanities
 - ✓ health and life sciences
- ✓ Expected to include appropriate stakeholders and end-users in their **co-development and co-leadership**
- ✓ May include non-academic stakeholders as team members or collaborators
- ✓ Encouraged to include and budget for members from non-Funding Organization countries, particularly the Global South





Funding Opportunity Description

Funding Organizations

Funding Organization	Country
Dutch Research Council (NWO)	The Netherlands
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	Canada (eligible countries: Ghana, Indonesia, Namibia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe)
National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)	Taiwan
New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)	Canada
NordForsk	Åland Islands, Denmark, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden
São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)	Brazil
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	Switzerland
Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland	Ireland
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)	United Kingdom



International Development Research Centre (IDRC) / CONCYTEC Update

Please note that the updated list of participating funding organizations does not include CONCYTEC (Peru) in consortium with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

As communicated by IDRC, given the fixed deadlines of the call, it has not been possible to secure CONCYTEC's participation.

Please direct questions about this to IDRC: educationandscience@idrc.ca



Funding Opportunity Description

Funding Principles

- The call uses a **coordinated funding approach**: for successful projects, each Funding Organization will award funding to a researcher on the team who is eligible to receive its support.
- Funding will be awarded **according to the rules, regulations, terms and conditions of the Funding Organization**.
- Eligible expenses may vary across a project team. **Applicants must consult each relevant Funding Organization's guidelines**.
- Inclusion of team members from other countries/stakeholder communities is encouraged. **Consult each funders' guidelines for more details on eligibility**.

Using the links in the [competition overview](#), research teams should check the eligibility of expenses before submitting the full application.





Funding Opportunity Description

Value and Duration

Value

The total amount of funding available to support each project will depend on the Funding Organizations that will be supporting the project.

Refer to the information provided in the [annexes](#) for information on the level of financial support available.



Duration

Projects should be designed to be completed within **three years**.

One-year no-cost extensions may be available in some circumstances depending on the funding organization, by request and requiring appropriate justification.



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Roles and Eligibility

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing
Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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Roles and Eligibility

Project Team – Roles

Project teams are composed of:

- **Co-PIs** who share responsibility for directing the project and coordinating proposed research activities;
 - **“Project Lead”** (one of the co-PIs) who will be the primary contact point for the project as a whole.
- **Co-applicants** who contribute to executing the research project and whose research activities may be supported by funds awarded to the project by the Funding Organizations;
- **Collaborators** who contribute to executing the research project and whose research activities may not be supported by awarded funds.





Roles and Eligibility

Project Team – Eligibility

- ✓ Must include **a minimum of three co-PIs**, each eligible to receive funding from a different participating Funding Organization.
 - **At least one co-PI must be eligible to apply to the NFRF program.**
- ✓ May include more than 3 co-PIs:
 1. Individual(s) eligible to receive funds from additional funding organization(s); or
 2. Individual(s) whose research activities will be supported through the grant issued to another co-PI.
- ✓ Should form a **transnational** partnership.
- ✓ Must be **interdisciplinary** and are encouraged to include at least one expert in **social sciences or humanities** among co-PIs.
- ✓ Are encouraged to support the next generation of researchers.
- ✓ Additional members may be added at the LOI and full application stages, but **the minimum eligibility requirements must be met at every stage.**
- ✓ Individuals may participate as a co-PI on **only one application to this competition.**

Review each funding organization's [eligibility rules](#), requirements, policies, eligible costs and procedure.





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Evaluation Criteria

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Fit-to-Program
- ✓ Interdisciplinarity
- ✓ EDI in Research Practice*
- ✓ Strength of the Project Consortium
- ✓ High Risk
- ✓ High Reward
- ✓ Feasibility



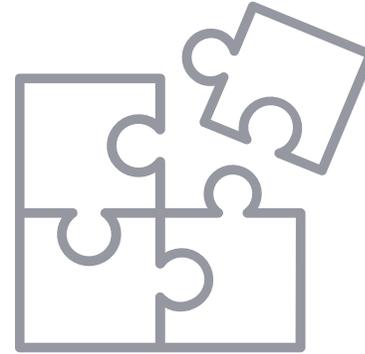
- * Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research practice will only be evaluated at the full application stage.
- Weightings of the criteria change between the LOI and Full Application stages



Evaluation Criteria

Fit-to-Program

- **Disruptive technology** must be central to the project
- The proposed research must also directly address **at least 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals**



Criterion: Fit-to-Program

Projects must receive a Pass rating for this criterion to be considered for funding. This Pass/Fail assessment considers whether the minimum requirements are met. Proposals will be assessed on how well elements are addressed within the high risk and high reward criteria.

Fit-to-Program	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Focus	<p>Disruptive technology, as defined in the competition overview, is central to the project.</p> <p>The proposed project directly addresses at least one Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).</p>	<p>The proposal does not convincingly justify that the technology in question meets the definition of a disruptive technology and/or that the project will directly address one or more SDGs.</p>



Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity

Projects must pass **each** of the following elements to pass **interdisciplinarity**:

- **Project design:** Projects must be designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- **Integration and perspective:**
 - Project integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge. It incorporates disciplines from at least two of the three broad areas: natural sciences and engineering; social sciences and humanities; and health and life sciences.
- Explains how the disciplinary perspectives, methodologies and techniques will be integrated, implemented and maintained throughout the project.
- The various disciplinary approaches and perspectives are fully integrated; the project is not an amalgamation of disciplinary-specific approaches.
- **Team:** Proposals must demonstrate that the interdisciplinary approach is reflected in the team.

Criterion: Interdisciplinarity

To meet the expectation for interdisciplinarity, projects must pass **each** of the following elements:

Interdisciplinarity	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Project design	Designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.	The proposal seems to describe an interdisciplinary component “added on” to a more conventional project or program of research.
Integration and perspective	<p>Integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge. The project incorporates disciplines from at least two of the three broad areas: natural sciences and engineering; social sciences and humanities; and health and life sciences.</p> <p>Explains how the disciplinary perspectives, methodologies and techniques will be integrated, implemented and maintained throughout the project.</p> <p>The various disciplinary approaches and perspectives are fully integrated; the project is not an amalgamation of disciplinary-specific approaches.</p>	<p>The interdisciplinary nature of the project is achieved through an amalgamation of projects/activities that are disciplinary, reflecting a multidisciplinary rather than interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p>Does not adequately explain how the interdisciplinary approaches will be integrated, implemented and maintained throughout the project.</p>
Team	The interdisciplinary approach is reflected in the team.	The team does not reflect the expertise required to execute the interdisciplinary approach.



Evaluation Criteria

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice*

EDI in research practice is a core element of the NFRF program. Applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI in research practice.

Actions proposed are expected to:

- **remove barriers** and
- **provide opportunities** for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups

Refer to the
[NFRF Best Practices
in Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion in Research
Practice and Design](#)

* Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research practice will only be evaluated at the full application stage

Criterion: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice * -

To meet the program's expectations for equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice (EDI-RP), projects must pass each of the following elements:

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice	✓ Pass	✗ Fail
Analysis of context	<p>Shows understanding of EDI considerations / systemic barriers in the context of the research team.</p> <p>Concrete and specific examples are cited in analysis.</p> <p>Demonstrates a strong commitment to EDI overall.</p>	<p>Analysis of context is generic and/or does not point to one or more systemic barriers.</p> <p>Evidence of commitment to EDI overall is lacking.</p>
Concrete practice for each area	<p>Lists at least one concrete practice that targets the specific context listed for each area.</p>	<p>A concrete practice is not listed for one or more of the areas, or the concrete practices listed are not related to the context that was described.</p>
Implementation	<p>Provides a description of how the concrete practice has been/will be realistically implemented.</p> <p>Careful thought has been given to inclusion considerations in the recruitment, training and mentoring plan.</p> <p>Efforts to establish a diverse team, inclusive working environment and equitable opportunities for all team members are apparent.</p> <p>Strong evidence of accounting for members' needs and engaging support systems (as necessary) to ensure equitable contributions of each person.</p>	<p>Provides no or an unclear description of how the concrete practice will be implemented.</p> <p>The implementation plan is unrealistic or does not offer a well-thought-out plan to address inclusion considerations.</p>
Impact	<p>Explains how the concrete practice will impact EDI, and describes an appropriate methodology for measuring success, including specific stepwise and overall evaluation criteria.</p>	<p>Gives no indication of how the impact will be measured.</p> <p>Does not explain the anticipated impact of the concrete practice on EDI or how it will be measured.</p>

*
-

EDI in Research Practice will only be evaluated at the full application stage.



Evaluation Criteria

Strength of the Project Consortium

Strength of the project consortium considers the “value add” of the collaborative approach of the team and is defined by:

- **Integration of disciplinary and regional expertise:** The approach builds on, integrates, and benefits from expertise, perspectives and resources of a wide variety of regions and disciplines.
- **Research team:** The research team has the required knowledge, expertise, capacity and availability in all relevant disciplines to meet the objectives.

- X The size of consortium is not an evaluation element.
- ✓ The focus is on the integration of the team and expertise required to achieve the proposed project’s objectives.



Criterion: Strength of Project Consortium

A project consortium's strength is defined by the following elements. Evaluation should not be based on the size of the consortium, but on whether they have the necessary expertise and a clear plan to work together to achieve the proposed project's objectives.

Strength of Project Consortium	Exceptional	Very Good	Fair	Poor
Integration of disciplinary and regional expertise	The international team fully integrates, in a manner that can be a model for other projects, expertise and perspectives from a variety of regions and disciplinary backgrounds, as appropriate, to meet the objectives of the project.	The international team integrates expertise and perspectives from a variety of regions and disciplinary backgrounds, as appropriate, to meet the objectives of the project.	The team includes expertise and perspectives from more than one region and/or disciplinary background, but the level of integration between the perspectives is not evident.	The team is missing expertise and/or perspectives that would have made the project approach more novel, and the outcomes more impactful.
Research team	The application clearly demonstrates that the research team has the required expertise in all relevant disciplines to meet the objectives.	The application demonstrates that the research team likely has the required expertise in all relevant disciplines to help meet the objectives.	The application demonstrates that the research team has most of the required expertise, though some aspects may be missing or insufficiently described.	The application does not clearly demonstrate that the research team has all the required expertise to complete the work.



Evaluation Criteria

High Risk – Novelty of Approach / Scientific Rigour

High risk refers to the **novelty and cogency of the proposed approach** and can be defined by:

- **Novelty of approach:** How the project is novel, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information and techniques, as well as other major projects currently underway.
- **Scientific rigour:** Research objectives, design, methodology and proposed analysis approaches are clearly articulated, comprehensive and follow best practices that will ensure high quality,

reproducible research results.

- **Cogent (or persuasive, plausible):** Why the approach is likely to succeed where others have failed.



Criterion: High Risk

Projects that meet the expectation for high risk can be defined by the following elements:

High Risk	Exceptional	Very Good	Fair	Poor
Novelty of approach	An exceptionally innovative approach, building on the latest methods, concepts, information and techniques.	A significantly innovative approach that incorporates advanced techniques and methodologies from several disciplines.	Represents a well-thought-out approach that is an innovative variation on a conventional approach.	Represents a conventional approach to the problem.
Scientific rigour	Research objectives, design, methodology and proposed analysis approaches are clearly articulated, comprehensive and follow best practices that will ensure high quality, reproducible research results.	Research objectives, design, methodology and proposed analysis approaches are clear and comprehensive, and mostly follow best practices that will ensure high quality, reproducible research results.	Research objectives, design, methodology and proposed analysis approaches are lacking clarity. It is difficult to assess if few best practices for high quality research will be followed.	There are concerns regarding the quality and rigour of the project, due to a lack of clarity in research objectives, design, methodology and/or analysis approaches.
Cogent (or persuasive, plausible)	Highly compelling case for why the approach is likely to succeed where others have failed.	Compelling case for why the approach is plausible and likely to succeed.	The application is somewhat persuasive in terms of the potential of the approach.	The application is not convincing in terms of the potential of the approach.
<p>(Note: The viability of the project plan is assessed under the Feasibility criterion. The focus of this element is on the persuasiveness of the argument.)</p>				



Evaluation Criteria

High Reward – Anticipated Societal Impact

High reward is defined as the **potential to create a significant and real societal change or impact** and includes:

- **Impact:** Having a very significant economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact;
- **Reach:** Impacting and/or affecting large communities, or unique communities or subpopulations with the potential to provide lessons for other contexts;
- **Likelihood:** Significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies, and positioning them for uptake; and/or
- **Short-term benefits:** Short-term benefits are significant, clearly defined and specific, and a detailed measurement plan is in place.



Criterion: High Reward

Projects that are high reward are those with the potential to contribute to addressing at least one SDG, and can be defined by the following elements:

High Reward	Exceptional	Very Good	Fair	Poor
Impact	Very significant scientific impact.	Significant scientific impact.	Notable scientific impact.	Limited scientific impact.
	Very significant economic, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact.	Significant economic, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact.	Notable economic, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact.	Limited economic, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact.
	<p>The substantial change that is likely to result is clearly defined and specific, and relates directly to an SDG.</p> <p>There is a solid plan to measure the impact, with a focus on implementing, testing and refining solutions to maximize potential impact.</p> <p>The significance of the stepwise and overall anticipated change is clearly described.</p>	<p>The substantial change that is likely to result is clearly described and relates directly to an SDG.</p> <p>There is a sound approach to measure the impact. An implementation, testing and refinement of solutions to maximize impact is planned, although limited in scope.</p> <p>The significance of the overall anticipated change is described, but there is lack of detail regarding the stepwise approach.</p>	<p>The substantial change that is likely to result is described in broad terms.</p> <p>The anticipated change aligns with an SDG.</p> <p>There is a vague approach to measure the impact. An implementation, testing and refinement process to maximize impact is mentioned but not well described.</p> <p>The significance of the anticipated change is broadly described.</p>	<p>There is lack of clarity or specificity about the substantial change that is likely to result, or the change does not relate to an SDG.</p> <p>The proposal lacks a plan or approach to measure the impact. There is no implementation, testing and refinement processes planned to maximize impact.</p> <p>The significance of the anticipated change is not sufficiently articulated.</p>

Reach	<p>Major impact on a single or small number of groups, communities or subpopulations, with lessons for other contexts and strong potential for impact on large or multiple communities.</p> <p>The project is likely to produce effective strategies related to technology, policy, communication and community engagement, which will encourage implementation in other groups, communities or subpopulations.</p>	<p>Substantial impact on a single or small number of groups, communities or subpopulations, with lessons for others and potential to impact large or multiple communities.</p> <p>There are plans to develop strategies related to technology, policy, communication and community engagement, which should help implementation in other groups, communities or subpopulations.</p>	<p>Limited impact on a single or small number of groups, communities or subpopulations, with either limited or no lessons for others, or limited impact on multiple communities.</p> <p>There is mention of plans to develop strategies related to technology, policy, communication and community engagement, but the plans lack details.</p>	<p>No meaningful impact on any groups or communities, with limited or no lessons for others, and no impact on multiple communities.</p> <p>There is no mention of plans or means to investigate and develop strategies related to technology, policy, communication and community engagement.</p>
Likelihood	<p>There is a strong likelihood that the significant impact will be realized.</p> <p>Potential for knowledge uptake and use is high, as evidenced by thoughtful consideration and involvement of potential users in the co-creation of the research.</p>	<p>There is a reasonable likelihood that the significant impact will be realized.</p> <p>Knowledge uptake is likely. Potential users are involved in the project.</p>	<p>There is a chance that the significant impact will be realized.</p> <p>The potential for knowledge uptake is limited.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the significant impact will be realized.</p> <p>The potential for knowledge uptake is low because there is insufficient engagement of potential users.</p>
Short-term benefits	<p>Short-term benefits are significant, clearly defined and specific, and a detailed measurement plan is in place.</p>	<p>Short-term benefits are notable, clearly described, and a detailed measurement plan is in place.</p>	<p>Short-term benefits are described and will be measured, but the measurement plan lacks details.</p>	<p>There is a lack of clarity or specificity about the short-term benefits that will result.</p>



Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility – Capacity to Execute the Project

Feasibility considers the **soundness of the plan and the team's ability to execute the activities**. It includes elements such as:

- Building on current knowledge or prior art
- Work plan
- EDI considerations in research design (EDI-RD), where appropriate
- Approach to co-production with relevant stakeholders, where appropriate
- Positioning for uptake

- Value for money
- Environmental footprint
- Suitability of the research environment
- Management
- Resources

For more information on the criteria, refer to the [evaluation matrices](#)



Criterion: Feasibility

A project's feasibility can be defined by elements including, but not limited to, the following:

Feasibility	Exceptional	Very Good	Fair	Poor
Building on current knowledge or prior art	The application demonstrates that the research team has strong awareness of current and relevant research and prior art or knowledge.	The application demonstrates that the research team is aware of most current and relevant research, and prior art or knowledge.	The application demonstrates that the research team lacks awareness of relevant research or prior art or knowledge in one aspect/discipline related to the project.	The proposed project does not seem to consider current and relevant research and prior art or knowledge (for example, by proposing approaches that have been tested and failed).
Work plan	The proposed work plan, including the methodological approach, is well described, reasonable and likely to be achievable within the proposed time frame.	The proposed work plan, including the methodological approach, is described, reasonable and likely to be mostly achievable within the proposed time frame.	The proposed work plan is reasonable. The methodological approach is lacking detail. The project objectives might be met within the proposed time frame.	The proposed work plan is not reasonable/feasible. The methodological approach is missing or flawed. It is unlikely that the project objectives will be met within the proposed time frame.
EDI considerations in research design (EDI-RD)	EDI-RD considerations have been integrated into the methodological approach. The impact on the methodological approach and/or design has been clearly described.	EDI-RD considerations have been integrated into the methodological approach and/or design has been described.	EDI-RD considerations have been integrated. The impact on the methodological approach or design has not been described.	EDI-RD considerations have not been integrated into the methodological approach or design.
Approach to co-production with relevant stakeholders	Co-creation, co-leadership and co-ownership with relevant stakeholders is clearly integrated in the project's design. Attention to equitable processes and procedures for fair and respectful inclusion of stakeholders is evident. The proposed budget reflects an equitable approach, with funds flowing to engaged communities, where applicable.	Active engagement and reciprocity with relevant stakeholders are present and clearly described. Some attention to equitable processes and procedures for fair and respectful inclusion of stakeholders is evident. The proposed budget includes reasonable funds flowing to engaged communities, where applicable.	There is modest engagement and reciprocity with relevant stakeholders. The methodological approach and/or theoretical framework do not adequately reflect equitable stakeholder engagement. The proposed budget includes little or no funds flowing to engaged communities, where applicable.	Engagement and reciprocity with relevant stakeholders appear to be lacking or have not been described.

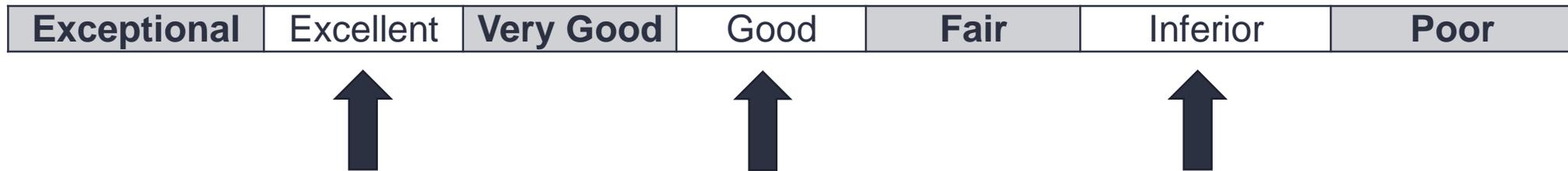
Positioning for uptake	The research is designed with use in mind, with a very well-considered and detailed plan for engagement with stakeholders and end users (including ensuring findings are accessible and user-friendly).	The research is designed with use in mind, with a plan for engagement with stakeholders and end users (including ensuring findings are accessible and user-friendly).	There is engagement of potential users in the project but no plan to ensure uptake.	There is no engagement with potential users and/or no plan to ensure uptake.
Value for money	The proposed project is excellent value for money, proposing efficient and effective use of resources to achieve the intended impact.	The proposed project is good value for money, although lacking in some detail to assess the efficient use of resources.	The intended impact(s) of the project are acceptable in relation to the level of resources requested.	The intended impact of the project is deemed insufficient for the level of resources requested.
Environmental footprint	A thorough assessment of the potential environmental impact of the project has been completed, and a sound approach to minimize the environmental footprint is in place.	An assessment of the potential environmental impact of the project has been completed, and some consideration as to how to minimize the environmental footprint is evident.	A limited assessment of the potential environmental impact of the project has been completed, and/or little consideration as to how to minimize the environmental footprint is included.	No assessment of the potential environmental impact of the project has been completed and/or no consideration has been given as to how to minimize the environmental footprint.
Suitability of the research environment	The research environment is enriching for and provides numerous opportunities and support for the next generation of researchers.	The research environment is enriching for and provides some opportunities for the next generation of researchers.	There are limited opportunities for trainees to participate and/or the research environment is suitable but not enriching for the next generation of researchers.	There are few opportunities and/or inadequate support for the next generation of researchers to participate and/or the research environment is not suitable for their involvement.
Management	There are sound plans in place related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the administration/management of the project and grant; performance measurement; training (if applicable); and data management. 	There are sound plans in place related to most of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the administration/management of the project and grant; performance measurement; training (if applicable); and data management. 	There are sound plans in place related to some of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the administration/management of the project and grant; performance measurement; training (if applicable); and data management. 	There are a lack of sound plans in place related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the administration/management of the project and grant; performance measurement; training (if applicable); and/or data management.
Resources	The research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work. All aspects have been described.	The research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work. Some aspects have not been well described.	The application demonstrates that the research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire most of the resources to complete the work. Some aspects may be missing or insufficiently described.	The application does not clearly demonstrate that the research team has acquired or has concrete plans to acquire the necessary resources to complete the work.
	<p>The overall rating for the Feasibility criterion cannot be higher than the rating of these elements in the matrix. For example, if a reviewer considers most of the elements to be Very Good, but considers the approach to co-production or EDI-RD element to be Fair, then the overall rating for Feasibility cannot be higher than Fair.</p>			
	<p>Assessed at the full application stage only.</p>			



Evaluation Criteria

Rating Scale

Strength of Consortium, High Risk,
High Reward and Feasibility are evaluated
using a seven-point scale



For more information on the criteria
refer to the [evaluation matrices](#)





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Letter of Intent Requirements

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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LOI Requirements

Letter of Intent to Apply Deadline

You must have submitted a notice of intent to apply (NOI) by the deadline to be eligible to create and submit an LOI.

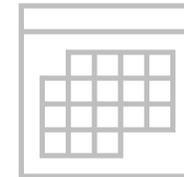
LOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

June 9, 2026

Check with the research administrator at your institution for **internal deadlines**.

The research administrator at the institution of the co-PI eligible to receive funding from NFRF is responsible for submitting the LOI by **8:00 p.m. eastern time** on the deadline date.

- Late LOIs will not be accepted.
- An LOI cannot be changed after the RGO has submitted it.





LOI Requirements

Collection of Personal Information

The Canadian funding agencies collect self-identification data to monitor the equity of their programs and strengthen EDI in the research enterprise.

All co-PIs and co-applicants will be required to complete the questionnaire. The questions are framed from the Canadian perspective and may not be applicable to all participants. You may select “Prefer not to answer” for any or all questions.



Please consult the [data collection policy](#) for more information



LOI Requirements

LOI Content and Required information on Convergence Portal

! Application Details
✓ Sustainable Development Goals
✓ Funding Organizations
✓ Invitations
✓ Participants
! Collaborators
✓ Socioeconomic Objectives
✓ Fields of Research
✓ Keywords
✓ Summary of Proposal
! Reviewer Exclusions
! Proposed Budget
! Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design (EDI-RD)*
! Supporting Documents

! Completed profiles for any additional members of the research team

! Any changes to the list of collaborators

! Reviewer Exclusions (if applicable)

! Proposed Budget

! Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design (EDI-RD)

! Supporting Documents:

Research proposal

References

Supplementary information for Funding Organizations (if applicable)

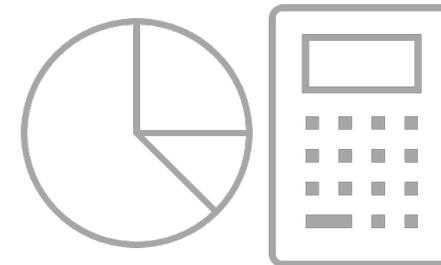


LOI Requirements

Proposed Budget

- Fill in the table with the **total funding amounts requested each year** from the relevant funding organizations in the **appropriate currencies**.
- Ensure the amounts requested are **less than the maximum allowable amounts** noted in the funding organization annexes.
- For NFRF, the maximum budget for the **direct costs**: CA\$400,000 per year, for up to three years. Applicants may, in addition, request up to 25% of the value of the direct costs of research to cover indirect costs and include this in their total funding request, for a maximum grant value of **CA\$500,000 per year**.

Refer to [Use of Grant Funds](#) section for information about the regulations governing use of NFRF grant funds





LOI Requirements

Supporting Documents

Each of these documents must be uploaded as a **separate attachment**, following the [instructions for attachments](#):

- 1. Research proposal** (max. pages: 10 for English and 12 for French): should address:
 - Disruptive technology
 - Interdisciplinarity
 - Feasibility
 - Anticipated impact / global challenge
- 2. References** (max. pages: 5 for English and 6 for French): the main references

required to support the proposal

- 3. Supplementary information for funding organizations** (if applicable)

- **You must preview all attachments** to ensure that the documents have been uploaded correctly and the content is viewable.
- Non-compliance with the required page length or formatting may result in withdrawal of an application.
- **For more information, please review [Letter of Intent to Apply Guide](#)**





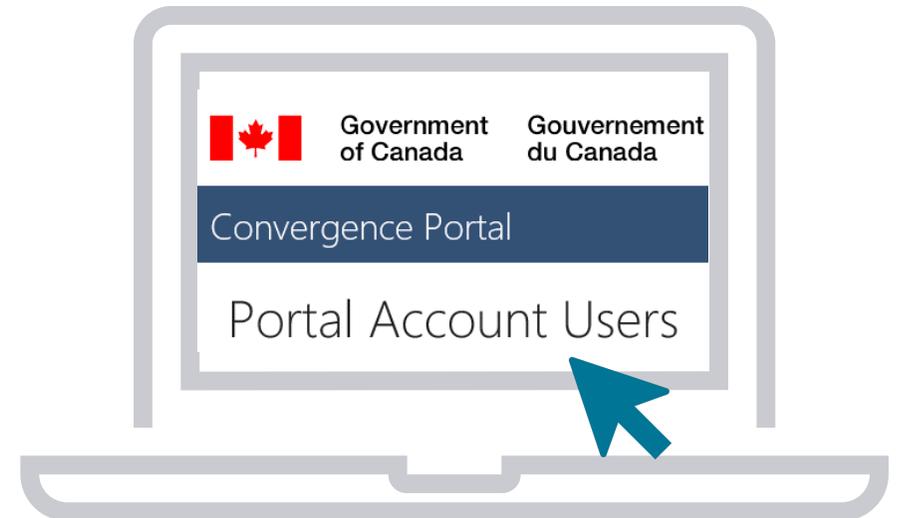
LOI Requirements

Submitting the Letter of Intent

Review your LOI to ensure that it is complete.

From the **Finalize Application section** in the Convergence Portal, follow the prompts to submit the LOI. After you accept the **terms and conditions**, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator**. If you want to make any **changes** at this point, you may request that your research administrator return it to you.

Once your research administrator has submitted your LOI, the application status will be changed to **Received by Agency**. **No changes** can be made at that point.





LOI Requirements

Locked After Submitting the LOI

🔒 Application Details
🔒 Sustainable Development Goals
✅ Funding Organizations
✅ Invitations
🔒 Participants
✅ Collaborators
🔒 Socioeconomic Objectives
🔒 Fields of Research
🔒 Keywords
🔒 Summary of Proposal
✅ Reviewer Exclusions
✅ Proposed Budget
✅ Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design (EDI-RD)*
✅ Supporting Documents



- 🔒 Application Details
 - Application Title
 - Language of Application
 - Indigenous Research
- 🔒 Sustainable Development Goals
- 🔒 Participants
- 🔒 Socioeconomic Objectives
- 🔒 Fields of Research
- 🔒 Keywords
- 🔒 Summary of Proposal



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Full Application Overview

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing
Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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Full Application Stage Overview

Full Application Deadline

To be eligible to create and submit a full application, the team must have been successful in the LOI process and invited to submit an application.

Deadline for **submission to NFRF:**

November 3, 2026

Check with the research grants office (RGO) at your institution for **internal deadlines.**

The **RGO is responsible for submitting the Full Application by 8:00 p.m. (ET)** on the deadline date.

- Late Full Applications will not be accepted.
- A Full Application **cannot be changed** after the RGO has submitted it.



Full Application Stage Overview

Full Application Content

- a) Profiles for any additional members of the research team.
- b) Certifications, licenses and permits
- c) Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern Attestation Attachment module
- d) Equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice
- e) Supporting Documents
 - 1. Proposal
 - Introduction/overview
 - Biographical information about team members
 - Research proposal
 - Management plans
 - Budget justification
 - 2. Budget Table
 - 3. Literature References
 - 4. Supplementary Information
 - 5. Other Documents



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

STRAC Policy - New for 2026

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STRAC Policy - New for 2026

- ↘ On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC Policy).
- ↘ The policy operates using two lists that must be used in conjunction — a list of [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) (STRA) and a list of [Named Research Organizations](#) (NRO).
- ↘ Grant applications that involve conducting research and related activities that aim to advance a sensitive technology research area will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from, a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence or state security entities that could pose a risk to Canada's national security.





STRAC Policy - New for 2026

- ↘ In the application form, applicants will be asked if the proposed research grant aims to advance a STRA. **If not, no further action is required.**
- ↘ If so, all co-PIs, co-applicants and collaborators must complete attestation forms, available through a link in the application form, to certify they are not currently affiliated with an NRO.
- ↘ Those with named roles must provide the completed attestation forms to the NFRF-eligible co-PI, who must save them as a single PDF and upload it to the STRAC Attestation module of the application form.
- ↘ For applications aiming to advance a STRA, the inclusion of completed attestation forms is an eligibility issue. However, whether an application aims to advance a STRA or not will **not** affect merit review.

The attestation and the upload of the forms will happen as part of the **full application** submission.



STRAC Policy - New for 2026

- ↘ If an application aiming to advance a STRA is successful, any post-award additions of participants or collaborators will require completed attestation forms.
- ↘ Grantees must also inform SSHRC if the nature of their research evolves such that activities supported by the grant would aim to advance a STRA. Grant recipients cannot proceed with these new research activities until the appropriate granting agency's approval has been obtained.
- ↘ For further guidance and FAQs: [Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC Policy\) - Research security \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](#)





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Review Process

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges



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Review Process Overview

NOI

Internal review
Assess eligibility of teams to apply for funding from selected Funding Organizations

LOI

Distributed Peer Review (DPR) evaluation

Fit-to-program	p/f
Interdisciplinarity	p/f
Strength of project consortium	30%
High risk	25%
High reward	25%
Feasibility	20%

Funding Organizations Committee
Identify applications invited to the full application stage

Full Application

Multidisciplinary/ multisectoral review panel evaluation

Fit-to-program	p/f
Interdisciplinarity	p/f
EDI RP	p/f
Strength of project consortium	20%
High risk	25%
High reward	25%
Feasibility	30%

Funding Organizations Committee
↓
Applications recommended for funding





Review Process

LOI Stage: Results

Overall score based on reviewers' ratings:

- Strength of project consortium (30%)
- High risk (25%)
- High reward (25%)
- Feasibility (20%)

Criterion scores: Mean of reviewers' ratings after removing the highest and lowest scores.

Fit to program and interdisciplinarity:

Determined by **majority Pass/Fail vote** from reviewers.

- Tie between Pass and Fail → **Pass**.

Outcome: Teams receive a recommendation on whether to submit a full application.



Review Process

LOI Stage: Funding Organizations Committee

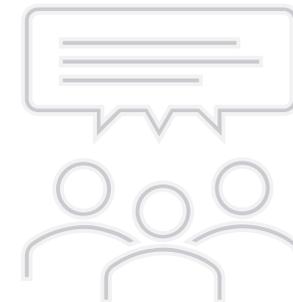
A joint committee with representatives from all Funding Organizations will identify which applications are invited to the full application stage.

Decisions will be based on overall scores and the following criteria:

- The total requested funding from invited proposals must not exceed three times each organization's available budget.
- Lower-ranked proposals may be invited to ensure all Funding Organizations have representation at the full application stage.

Proposals will be considered in order from the **highest-rated to the lowest-rated**, based on the overall score.

Proposals that have failed the **fit to program** or **interdisciplinarity** criterion will not be invited.





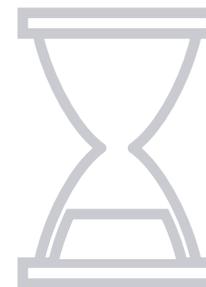
Review Process

LOI Stage: Selection of LOIs Invited to the Full Application Stage

Invited teams: Teams will automatically be able to access the Full Application stage in the Convergence Portal.



Teams advised not to continue may still apply. They must email the NFRF team within **2 weeks** of receiving the results and justify why they should be allowed to submit a Full Application.





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

LOI Stage: Distributed Peer Review

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing
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Review Process

Distributed Peer Review (DPR)

Applicants are also the reviewers and review other proposals submitted to the same funding opportunity.

By submitting an LOI, you agree to be a reviewer at the LOI stage, and that your LOI will be reviewed by other applicants.

For this competition, all co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) must be available and willing to act as reviewers.

Reviewers will have a maximum of 10 LOIs to review.

Reviewers must read, rate and provide feedback within the timelines.

Timely, high-quality reviews are required for eligibility at the full application stage.

If a co-PI misses the review deadline or submits poor-quality reviews, the proposal the co-PI is part of will be deemed ineligible to proceed to the full application stage.





Review Process

Why Distributed Peer Review?

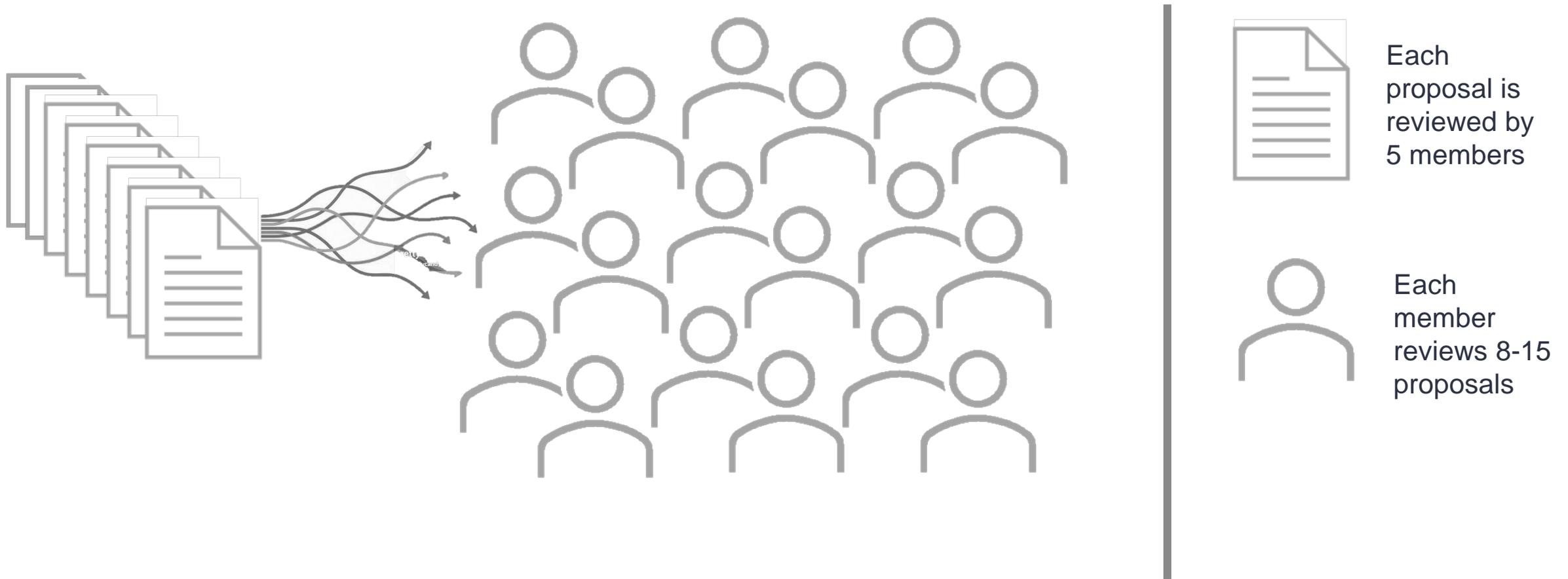
Distributed Peer Review (DPR) offers high quality review over a shorter timeframe.

Provides a large pool of potential reviewers with relevant expertise and are familiar with the call.

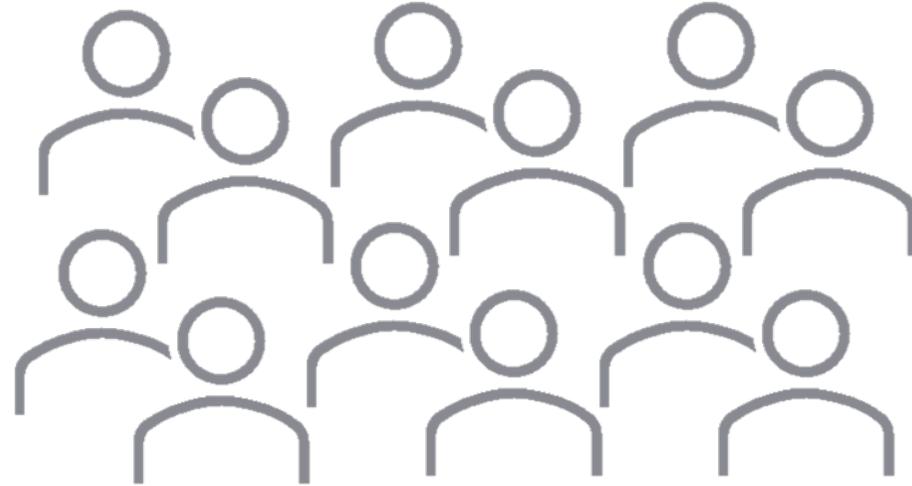
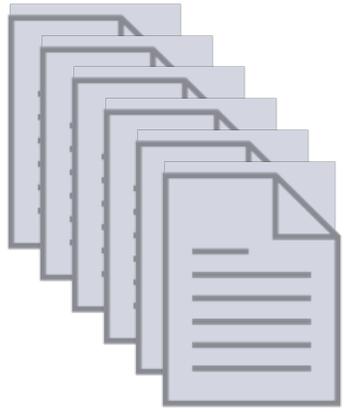
Each proposal is reviewed by more individuals than in standard merit review processes.



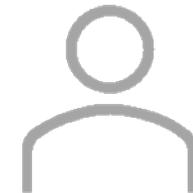
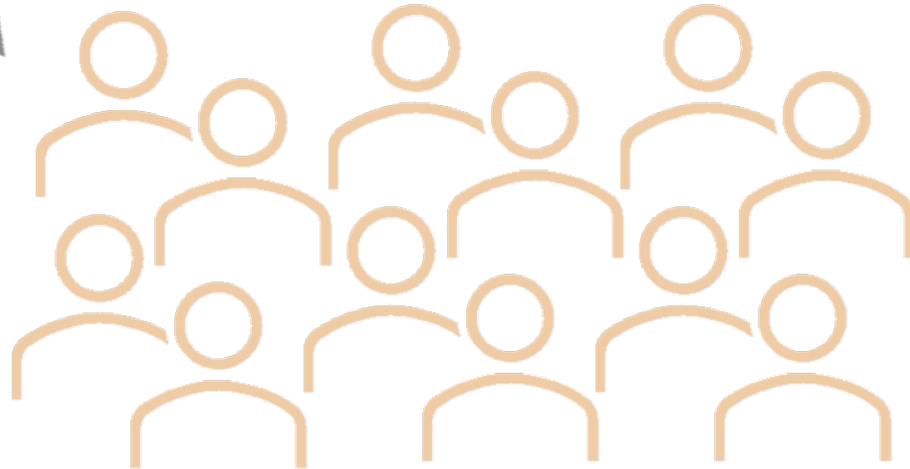
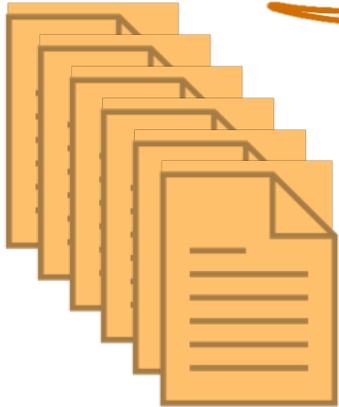
“Standard” Process – Multidisciplinary Review Panel



Distributed Peer Review



Each proposal
is reviewed by
8-10 reviewers



Each reviewer
assesses 8-10



Review Process

Expectations for Reviewers

Co-PIs' completion of timely and high-quality reviews of assigned LOIs is an eligibility requirement for moving to the full application stage. Failure to complete the reviews by the deadline, or submission of reviews of consistently poor quality, will result in the proposal the co-PI is part of being deemed ineligible to proceed to the full application stage.

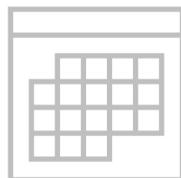
All co-PIs must be available and willing to act as reviewers. There is no option to opt out.

Selected co-PIs will be notified shortly after the LOI deadline and have 4 weeks to complete their reviews.

Reviews must be completed by the deadline.

Reviews must be high quality.

Written comments must justify the ratings provided, be constructive and factual, and use appropriate language.





Review Process

Distributed Peer Review Process - Assignments

The selection of co-PIs to participate as reviewers will be based on disciplinary area of expertise and the disciplines implicated in the LOIs that are submitted.

Assignments will take into consideration conflicts of interest (COIs) based on institution, while also ensuring that collaborating co-PIs are not assigned the same proposal to review.

Co-PI reviewers will first be asked to review their assigned proposals for COIs. Re-assignments will follow if COIs are identified so that reviewers still assess 8-10 proposals.





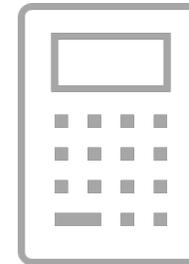
Review Process

Distributed Peer Review Process - Monitoring

Once reviews are completed, all submitted ratings will be compiled.

Scoring patterns will be scrutinised to identify any attempts to “game” the review, and to ensure that any such attempts do not impact the scores of proposals.

Reviewers are responsible for the content of their reviews.





Review Process

Distributed Peer Review Process - Results

Criterion scores: Mean of reviewers' ratings after removing the highest and lowest scores.

Overall score based on reviewers' ratings:

- Strength of project consortium (30%)
- High risk (25%)
- High reward (25%)
- Feasibility (20%)

Fit to program and interdisciplinarity: Determined by **majority Pass/Fail vote** from reviewers.

Tie between Pass and Fail → **Pass**.

Proposals to be invited to the full application stage identified by the Funding Organizations Committee, based on the overall scores (and pass/fail assessments)

Outcome:

Teams receive the overall score by criterion, all written reviews, and a recommendation on whether to submit a full application.



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Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can, in the [Convergence Portal](#): 

- **View** NOIs, LOIs, and full applications from the lead NFRF-eligible co-PI (NPI) at their institution (including those that are expired, in progress, and submitted)
- **Return** submitted NOIs, LOIs, and full applications **to the NPI**
- **Forward** submitted LOIs, NOIs, and full applications **to NFRF**

Before forwarding an application to the agency, **the RGO will be asked to confirm:**

- the NFRF-eligible participants meet the eligibility requirements; and
- the proposed research project meets the eligibility requirements.



Information for RGOs

RGO role

By forwarding the application, the RGO will also be certifying on behalf of the institution, that the NFRF-eligible co-PI

- Is (or will be) affiliated with the institution or organization;
- Has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity;
- Will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the team, such as the addition of new co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators.





Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can use the **Research Administrator** button to access their institution's applications.



If you have been assigned as an RGO by your institution, and you still don't see the button, please contact websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Resources and Questions

2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing
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Resources and Questions

Resources - Contacts

Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

Convergence Portal help:

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273



Funding Organizations Contacts:

- Dutch Research Council (NWO): eagle@nwo.nl
- Fonds de recherche du Québec: marion.kuhn@frq.gouv.qc.ca
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC):
educationandscience@idrc.ca
 For Ghana: jointinitiative2026@gnrf.gov.gh
 For Indonesia: dana-risnov@brin.go.id
 For Namibia: grants@ncrst.na
 For Rwanda: research@ncst.gov.rw
 For Zimbabwe: technical@rcz.ac.zw
- NordForsk: bjornar.komissar@nordforsk.org;
- São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP): chamada-NFRF@fapesp.br
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF): International@snf.ch
- National Science and Technology Council (NSTC):
yijiechen@nstc.gov.tw
- Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland: challenges@researchireland.ie
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI): IIDTAC@esrc.ukri.org



Resources and Questions

Resources - Links

[NFRF Website](#)

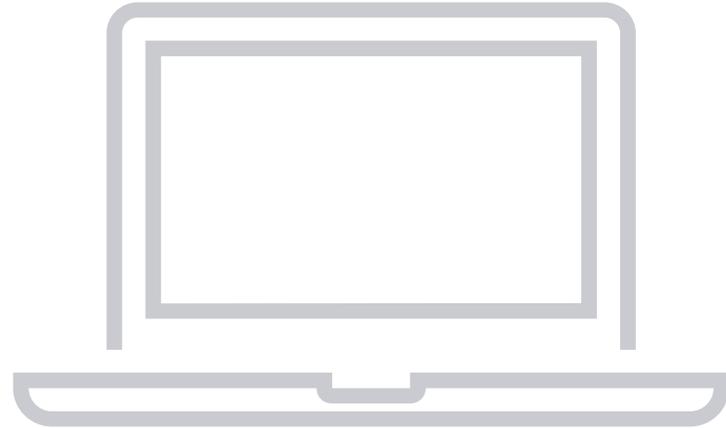
[Competition Overview](#)

[LOI Guide](#)

[Review Process](#)

[Evaluation Matrices](#)

[Annexes](#)





Resources and Questions

EDI Best Practices Guide

New Frontiers in Research Fund

Exploration

Transformation

International

Special calls

Canadian Research and Development Classification 2019

Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

A guide for applicants to New Frontiers in Research Fund competitions

- [About this guide](#)
- [What is "EDI"?](#)
- [Systemic barriers in academia and the research ecosystem](#)
- [Addressing equity, diversity and inclusion in applications](#)
 - [Research team and research environment](#)
 - A) [Team composition and recruitment processes](#)
 - B) [Training and development opportunities](#)
 - C) [Inclusion](#)
- [Considering equity, diversity and inclusion perspectives in research design: Feasibility criterion](#)
- [Appendix A–Definitions](#)

About this guide

Equity, diversity and inclusion requirements and their related considerations are assessed under two criteria of New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) competitions:





Resources and Questions

Indigenous research

For proposals involving Indigenous research, SSHRC's [Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](#) and [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#) may be used as a reference.

A screenshot of the SSHRC website. The page is titled "Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council" and features a red maple leaf logo. The navigation menu includes "About SSHRC", "Funding", "Competition Results", "Connecting with Society", and "News Room". The "Funding" menu is expanded, showing options like "Talent Program", "Insight Program", "Connection Program", "Joint initiatives", "Future Challenge Areas", "Funding search tool", "Upcoming Deadlines", "Upcoming Webinars", and "How to Apply". The main content area displays a "COVID-19 Update" and the title "Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research". Below the title, the "Purpose" section states: "SSHRC has developed these guidelines to ensure that the merit review of Indigenous research upholds SSHRC's principles for merit review. These guidelines are intended to supplement the SSHRC Manual for Adjudication Committee Members, but might also be used by applicants, external reviewers and the postsecondary institutions and partnering organizations that support Indigenous research." A blue arrow points to the right side of the screenshot.



Tips – Common errors and important reminders

Please **read the instructions** carefully!!

- For each funding organization selected, please ensure that there is a co-PI included on the project team who is eligible to receive funding from them.
- Consult the Funding Organizations annexes provided for information about each of the partners - including eligibility and maximum annual value of grants
- Students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates are not eligible to participate as an NFRF-supported **co-PI** or **co-applicant**
- The NFRF-supported co-PIs' and co-applicants' affiliation may **not** be a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization.



Tips – Common errors and important reminders

- When completing the eligibility workflow to be added to a project team as a co-PI or co-applicant, please select your affiliation that will be **associated with the application**, even if you have not yet started the position.
- Budget
 - Include requested funds from all selected Funding Organizations
 - Do not convert amounts to CAD\$ - amounts should be in the relevant currency
- Be sure to let your research administrator know you plan on submitting – so that they can submit the LOI on time.



Resources and Questions

Questions?

