



Welcome Slide/Connection Instructions

I hope you can hear me now...

- If you are experiencing **technical difficulties** with the audio, please **connect with a phone** using the phone number highlighted in yellow on the screen (under "Dial in by phone")
- **Use the Q&A box for questions**

[Need help?](#) | [System reference](#)

Dial in by phone

(888) 896-2137, 605307810# Canada (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 605 307 810#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2026 Exploration Competition

Full Application

Webinar for Applicants and RGOs

Sept 17, 2026



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Overview

1. Funding opportunity description
2. Eligibility and roles
3. Review process
4. Full Application requirements
5. Information for RGOs
6. Questions and resources



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds **Nouvelles frontières** en recherche

Funding Opportunity Description

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Funding Opportunity Description

The objective of the Exploration stream is to support high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research.

Funding is meant to support projects that:

- **bring disciplines together** beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
- propose to **explore something new**, which **might fail**; and
- have the **potential for significant impact**.

Impacts

Social, cultural, economic, scientific, artistic, environmental or health-related, technological, national or global in scope.

Disciplines

Projects may involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for funding across the three agencies but must be **interdisciplinary**



Funding Opportunity Description

Value and Duration

Value → Up to \$125,000 per year (including indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs)

Funds should be used primarily to support research activities, **not to acquire or maintain infrastructure**.^{*1}

^{*1} [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#) (New this year: “Buy Canadian policy”)

Indirect costs funding must be used only to pay for eligible expenses as outlined on the [Research Support Fund](#) website

Duration → Up to 2 years

Number of grants → Minimum of 88 grants

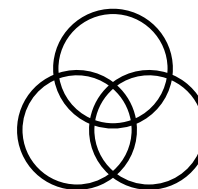
A proportion of awards will be reserved for **Early Career Researchers (ECR)**^{*2}

^{*2} *Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are recognized as an eligible delay → **starting on March 1, 2020 until the research interruptions ended (no later than May 30, 2023).***



Funding Opportunity Description

Interdisciplinarity



Interdisciplinarity requirements:

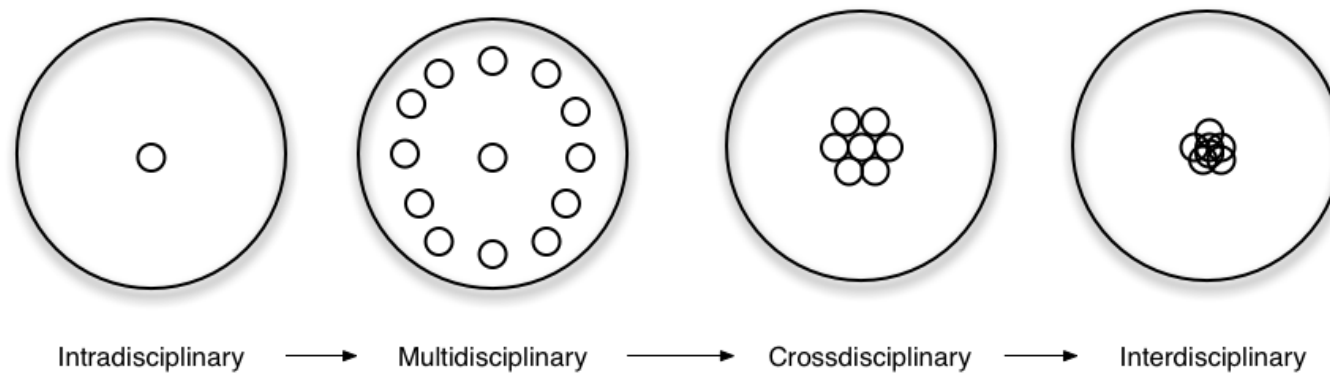
- **Integrates** approaches from **at least two different disciplines** (as defined by the group-level classification of the Canada Research and Development Classification codes, [CRDC](#)); and
- Explain **why** an interdisciplinary approach is required
- **Added value** this approach brings to the research problem



Funding Opportunity Description

Interdisciplinarity

- **Multidisciplinary**: people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge.
- **Interdisciplinary**: integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches.





Funding Opportunity Description

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Research

Multidisciplinary Research

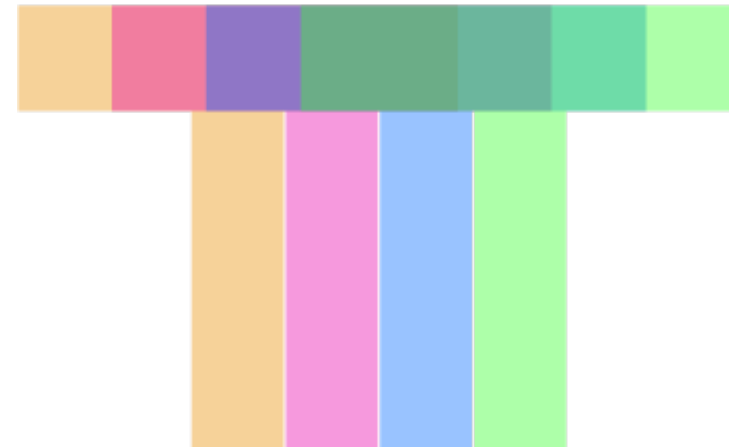
Each field operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



Working in silo, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Research

Different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project stack



Disciplines listen to and learn from others



Funding Opportunity Description

Competition Timeline

August 18, 2026

- NOI Deadline – 1095 NOIs submitted

October 20, 2026 – 8PM EST

- Full Application deadline

February 22-26, 2027

- Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

By March 31, 2027

- Start date of awards



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds **Nouvelles frontières** en recherche

Eligibility and Roles

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Eligibility and Roles

Team Roles

Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

- Responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed research activities.
- Completes the NOI and full application on [Convergence portal](#) and submits to their research administrator.
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant.
- Is an Independent Researcher

Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI)

- Shares responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- Research activities related to the project may be supported by grant funds
- Is an Independent Researcher

Co-Applicants (co-App)

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Various backgrounds and affiliations
- Research activities related to the project may be supported by grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who contributes to the project
- Cannot be supervised by the team
- Grant funds may **not** be used to pay for collaborator's activities or expenses



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Review Process

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Review Process

Overview

Five members of the Multidisciplinary Review Panel review each application against all criteria. The results of the assessments are used to make funding recommendations.

Each application will be assigned to 5 members:

- 3 with expertise in one or more disciplines implicated in the application
- 2 provide non-expert perspective
- Members have access to all content from the NOI and Full application stages (**but not the EDI self-ID data**)

Consult the [Reviewer Manual](#) for more detail





Review Process

Multidisciplinary Review Panel

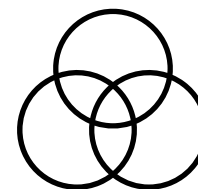
Adjudication involves scoring according to the evaluation [matrices](#) for the selection criteria:

- Interdisciplinarity / Fit to program (**meets expectations / does not meet expectations**);
- Equity, diversity and inclusion in Research Practice (**meets expectations / does not meet expectations**);
- high risk: **40% of overall score**;
- high reward: **40% of overall score**; and
- feasibility: **20% of overall score**.



Review Process

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program



Interdisciplinarity can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- Novelty of the Perspective → integrating two or more disciplines not commonly combined.
- Novelty of the Approach → application or adaptation of frameworks/ tools/ methods/ techniques from one discipline to solve a problem in another discipline.
- Project Design → designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Team → interdisciplinarity reflected in the team composition (*new)

Subcriterion

- Fit to Program → *pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies.*



Review Process

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice (EDI-RP)

EDI in research practice is a core element of the NFRF program and is comprised of **three key areas:**

1. Team composition and recruitment processes
2. Training and development opportunities; and
3. Inclusion.

For each of the three key areas, applicants must explain:

- ☐ What actions they will take (concrete practice for each);
- ☐ How they will be implemented; and
- ☐ The outcomes expected and how they'll be measured.



Review Process

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice (EDI-RP)

Actions proposed are expected to:

- **remove barriers;** and
- **provide opportunities** for the meaningful integration of individuals from all groups, including the four designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities).

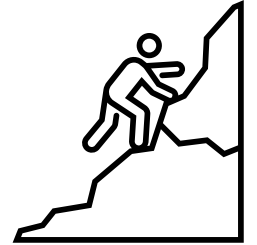
Refer to the

[NFRF Best Practices in
Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion in Research](#)



Review Process

High Risk



High risk can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- proposing unique directions;
- challenging current research paradigms;
- enhancing understanding of complex and challenging issues;
- bringing new disciplines together with different perspectives, to use novel approaches for solving existing problems; and/or
- developing or adapting frameworks, methods and techniques.



Review Process

High Reward



High reward can be defined by elements such as, but not limited to:

- having an economic, scientific, artistic, ideological, cultural, social, technological, environmental or health impact;
- impacting and/or affecting large communities, or unique communities or subpopulations with the potential to provide lessons for other contexts;
- transforming and/or disrupting conventional thinking;
- resolving a longstanding issue or debate; and/or
- significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies.



Review Process

Feasibility



While a focus on high risk may seem at odds with **feasibility**, risk must be related to the idea being proposed, and not to a lack of a concrete plan or inability to execute the activities.

Feasibility considers elements such as the:

- research problem being addressed;
- knowledge, expertise and capacity of the research team;
- current research in the field;
- workplan and timeline;
- proposed approach, including EDI in research design where appropriate;
- project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds **Nouvelles frontières** en recherche

Full Application Requirements

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Full Application Requirements

Deadline

NPIs who submitted a NOI by August 18th, 2026 will be able to complete the Full Application using the Convergence Portal.

Application deadline for submission to NFRF:

October 20, 2026 at 8:00pm EST

Check with your **RGO**, who may set an earlier **internal deadline**.



Full Application Requirements

Full Application Content

- Information that was provided at NOI stage; and
- Any new participants (Co-PI's and Co-applicants)
- Any changes to: Collaborators, Suggested Reviewers or Reviewer Exclusions
- Details of: Budget, EDI in research design, Certifications, Licenses and permits, EDI in research practice
- Supporting documents (4) uploaded as separate attachments
 - Research proposal
 - Biographical information about the research team
 - Budget justification
 - Literature references



Full Application Requirements

Participants and Suggested Reviewers

- Additional members can be added e.g. co-PI (if one not already invited), co-Applicants and/or Collaborators (new members will need to complete Convergence profiles).
- Update the list of suggested or excluded reviewers (a minimum of 3 from each primary research field)
 - ❖ Be mindful of **conflicts of interest**
 - ❖ Identify appropriate **expertise**.
 - ❖ Ability to review with confidence (incl. language).
 - ❖ Experts familiar with the various disciplinary approaches in the interdisciplinary project.
 - ❖ Consider **diversity** in your selection (Canadian and international; private, government and public sectors; gender; under-represented groups; established, mid- and early-career researchers)



Full Application Requirements

Application Components in the Convergence Portal

- Budget Table
- EDI in research design
- Certifications, licences and permits:
 - ❖ [Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions](#)
 - ❖ [Requirements for Certain Types of Research](#)
 - ❖ [Impact Assessment Form \(Appendix A\)](#)
- EDI in research practice:
 - ❖ Consult NFRF's [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research](#)





Full Application Requirements

Research Proposal

Maximum 4 pages

Applicants must address all merit criteria and should:

- Describe the proposed research and its **objectives**
- Explain why it is **high-risk and high-reward**
- Demonstrate the **need for and value of interdisciplinarity**
- Briefly outline the **team expertise, methodology, work plan and timeline**
- Where applicable, address **Indigenous research approaches** (see [SSHRC's Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)); and **EDI in research design**



Full Application Requirements

Biographical Information

Maximum 2 pages

- Provide an overview of the research team's knowledge, background and expertise
- Identify the anticipated contributions of each team member
- Explain how their contributions will be coordinated and integrated
- If self-identifying information is relevant, it may be included **only with the team members' consent**



Full Application Requirements

Budget Justification

Maximum 1 page

- Provide a breakdown & explanation of the direct costs:
 - ❖ provide sufficient information to assess appropriateness of requested resources
- Other resources can also be described, if necessary, e.g. funding, materials, equipment
- Breakdown of indirect costs is not required

Literature References

Maximum 5 pages

- List of references cited in the application (most relevant to your proposal).



Full Application Requirements

Instructions for Attachments

- All documents must be converted to Portable Document Format (PDF) before they can be attached to the application
- Be mindful of [formatting requirements](#) (page length, font size, margins, etc.)
- Applications that do not adhere to the requirements can be removed





Full Application Requirements

Finalizing the Application

- Review your application and click submit.
- Accept the Terms and Conditions
 - Status will change to Received by Administrator
- If changes are needed – ask your institution's RGO to return it to you
- RGO approves and submits to agency
 - Status will change to Received by Agency
 - No further changes can be made



Full Application Requirements

Collection of Personal Information

Collected for the purpose of program performance management

Self-ID data collected as part of the user profile is **NOT shared with reviewers**

Please consult
[Data Collection policy](#)
for more information





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

STRAC Policy - New since 2025

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Exploration Competition

STRAC POLICY

- 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.



Exploration Competition

STRAC POLICY

- 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, applicants and other named roles (i.e., co-principal investigator, co-applicants and collaborators) must each complete an attestation form, 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 form to the applicant, 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.



Exploration Competition

STRAC POLICY

- If an application aiming to advance a STRA is successful, any post-award additions of participants with named roles 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 \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](https://nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Research_and_Affiliations_of_Concern_(STRAC_Policy)/Research_security_(nserc-crsng.gc.ca))
- Questions related to the STRAC policy:

Researchsecurity-securiterecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Information for RGOs

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Information for RGOs

RGO Role

RGOs can:

- view applications from NPIs at their institution (expired, in progress and submitted);
- return submitted applications to the NPI; and
- forward submitted applications to the agency.

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

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



Information for RGOs

RGO Role

By forwarding the application, you will also be certifying, on behalf of the institution, that the NPI:

- is affiliated with the institution or organization;
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity; and
- will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the partnership, such as the addition of new co-principal investigators, co-applicants or collaborators.

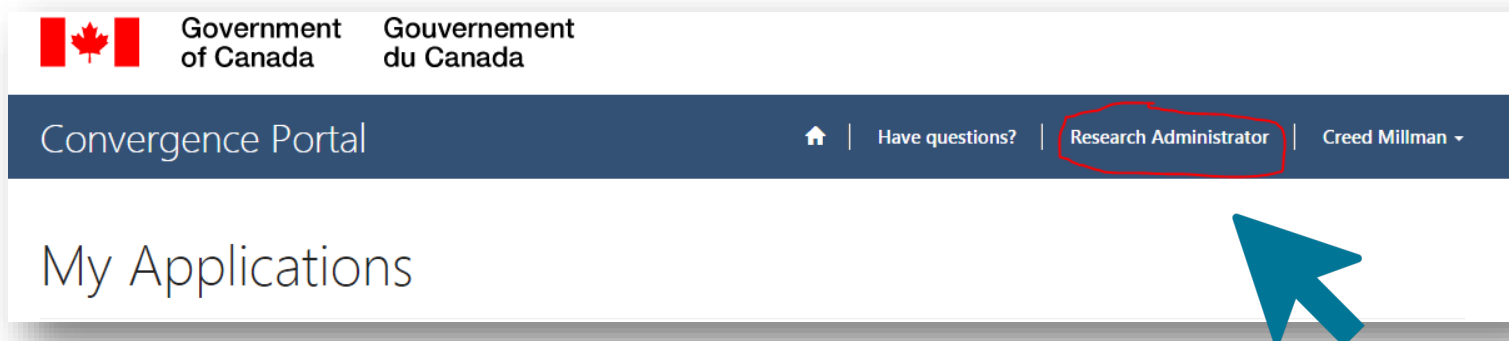
Once the application is received by the agency, requests to have applications returned will only be considered up to Friday October 16th at noon (12 p.m. Eastern Time).



Information for RGOs

RGO Role

Use the “**Research Administrator**” button to access your institution’s applications



If you are an RGO and you don’t see the button, please contact your institution's **Principal Research Administrator**.

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough](#) (18:45)



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds **Nouvelles frontières** en recherche

Questions and Resources

Exploration Competition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



Questions and resources

Questions?





Questions and resources

Resources

Contact Information

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

Online Services Helpdesk

Phone: 613-995-4273

Email: websupport@convergence.gc.ca

Program Links

[NFRF Website](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[Reviewer Manual](#)

[Evaluation Matrices](#)



Questions and resources

Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 Full Application
Convergence Walkthrough](#)

