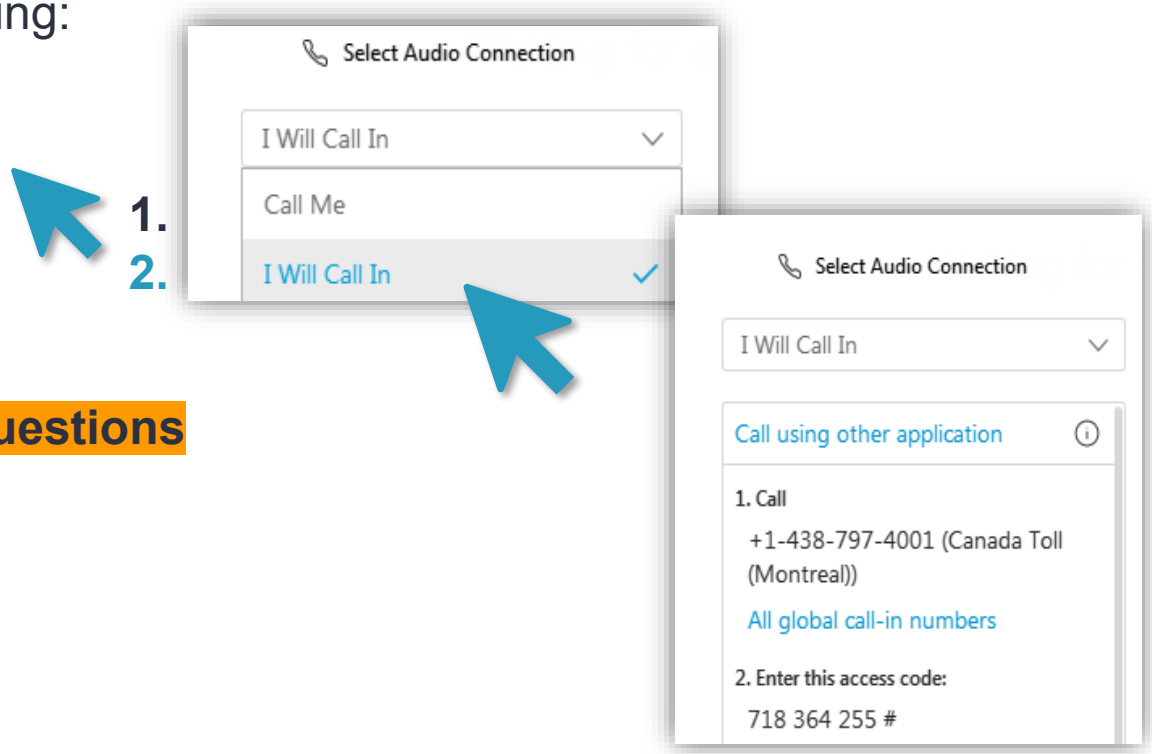
If you are experiencing **technical difficulties with the audio**, please connect with a **landline or cell phone**.

- Under **"Select Audio Connection"** choose one of the following:
    1. **"Call Me"** or;
    2. **"I Will Call In"**



- Follow the instructions
- **Use the Q&A box for questions**

New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

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

Information Webinar

February 2026

New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Webinar Contents

1. Competition Timeline
2. Funding Opportunity Description
3. Roles and Eligibility
4. Evaluation Criteria
5. NOI Requirements
6. LOI Requirements
7. Review Process
8. STRAC Policy - New for 2026
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

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

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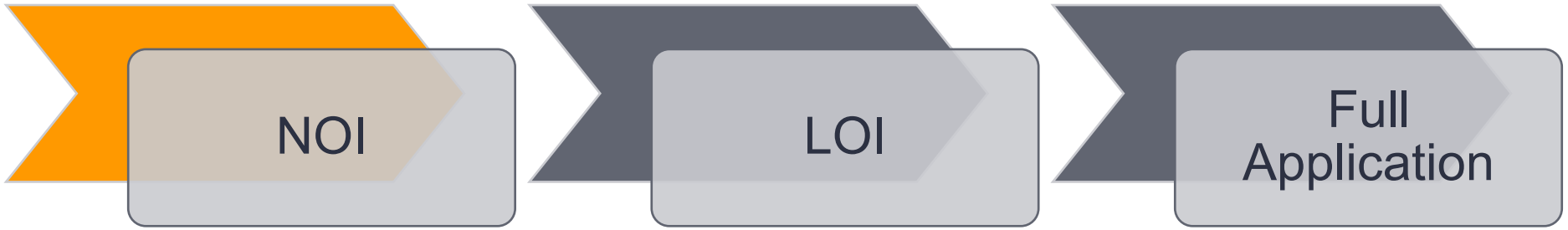
Competition Timeline

2026 International Joint Initiative

Three-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) – not adjudicated
2. Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)
3. Full Application



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Competition Timeline

Important Dates

March 3, 2026	• Notice of Intent deadline
June 9, 2026	• Letter of Intent deadline
November 3, 2026	• Full application deadline
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.

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Funding Opportunity Description

Context

- 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.

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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."

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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

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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, Peru, 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

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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.

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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 will be 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.

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Roles and Eligibility

Project Team – Eligibility

- ✓ Teams must include a minimum of three co-PIs, each eligible to receive funding from a different participating FO.
  - **At least one co-PI must be eligible to apply to the NFRF program**.
- ✓ Teams 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.

- ✓ Applicants should form a transnational research project partnership.
- ✓ Project teams must be interdisciplinary and are encouraged to include at least one expert in **social sciences or humanities** among the co-PIs.
- ✓ Project teams are encouraged to support the next generation of researchers.

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Roles and Eligibility

Project Team – Eligibility (cont'd)

- ✓ Additional team members may be added at the LOI and full application stages, but **the minimum eligibility requirements must be met at every stage of the competition**.
- ✓ Individuals may participate as a co-PI on **only one application to this competition**.

Each Funding Organization may have additional eligibility rules for applicants and proposed projects. Review each funding organization's **eligibility rules**, requirements, funding mandates, 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 other criteria change between the LOI and Full Application stages

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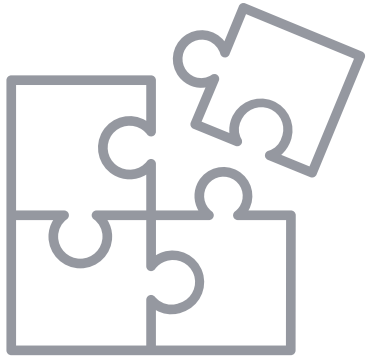
Evaluation Criteria

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**



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Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity

- Projects must be designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Proposals must demonstrate that the interdisciplinary approach is reflected in the team.
- Proposals must explain how the different disciplinary perspectives, methodologies, and techniques will be integrated, implemented, and maintained throughout the project.

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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

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Evaluation Criteria

Strength of the Project Consortium

Strength of the project consortium considers the “value add” of the collaborative approach of the team and refers to:

- knowledge, expertise, capacity and availability of the project team;
- how the approach builds on, integrates, and benefits from expertise, perspectives and resources of a wide variety of regions and disciplines, as appropriate.

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.

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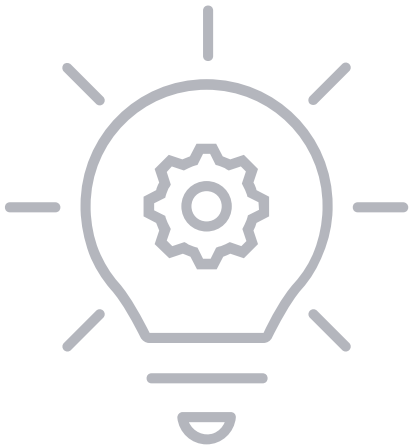
Evaluation Criteria

High Risk – Novelty of Approach / Scientific Rigour

High risk refers to the novelty and cogency of the proposed approach.

Proposals will have to explain:

- how the project is novel, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information and techniques, as well as other major projects currently underway; and
- why the approach is expected to lead to real change



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Evaluation Criteria

High Reward – Anticipated Societal Impact

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

- Proposals must explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and its significance (including how it relates to at least one of the SDGs).
- Proposals must outline the major short-, medium- and long-term changes expected, the likelihood of their being achieved, and who (or what) will be affected by the changes.

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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

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Notice of Intent Requirements

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NOI Stage

Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline

You must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a Letter of intent (LOI).

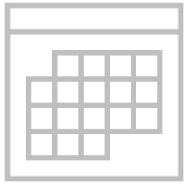
NOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

March 3, 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 NOI by **8:00 p.m. eastern time** on the deadline date.

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



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NOI Stage

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

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NOI Stage

NOI Requirements on the Convergence Portal

- Completed profiles for research team members
- Application title
- Language of the application
- Indigenous research (yes/no)
  - Indicate whether the proposal involves Indigenous research
- Keywords **(5-10)**
- Fields of Research **(up to 5)**
- Summary of the proposal **(maximum 2,500 characters)**

NFRF-eligible Co-PI must initiate the application in Convergence.

- Sustainable Development Goals
  - Identification of relevant Sustainable Development Goals
- Funding Organizations
  - Note: Spanish State Research Agency (AEI) will not be participating directly in the call. **Do not** select it in Convergence.
- Participants (co-PIs and co-applicants)
- Collaborators
- Socio-economic objectives
  - Indicate relevant socio-economic objectives
- Supporting documents (if applicable). Each of these documents is uploaded as a separate attachment following the instructions for attachments.

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NOI Stage

Summary of the Proposal

Maximum 2,500 characters

The Summary of the Proposal should:

- Include the objectives of the proposed project and summary of the research approach; and
- Describe how disruptive technology is central to the project. Indicate which of the SDGs the proposal addresses and how the anticipated changes and impacts will contribute to addressing a global challenge.
- Be written for a general audience.

If your application is successful, this summary may be used for promotional purposes outside the research community to inform the government, media and members of the public who request information about research funded by this call.

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NOI Requirements

Submitting the NOI

Only the NFRF-eligible co-PI is able to submit the NOI.

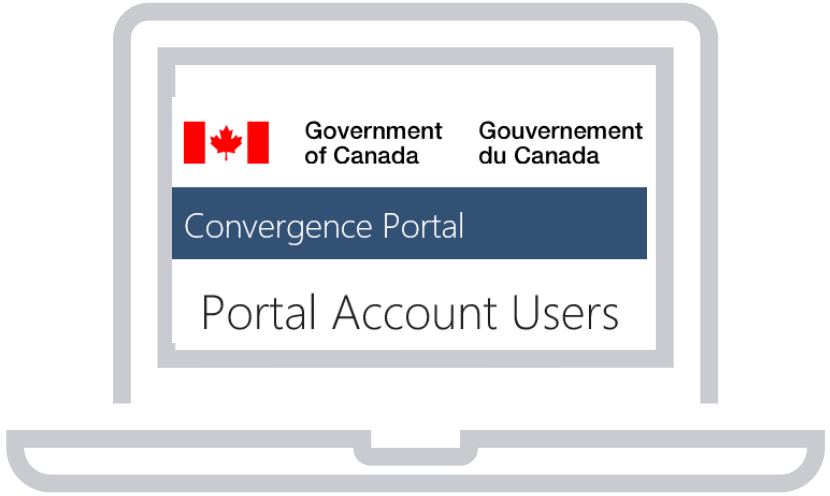
Review your NOI to ensure that it is complete.

From the **Finalize Application** section in the Convergence Portal, follow the prompts to submit the NOI.

After you accept the terms and conditions, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator.**

Once your research administrator has approved and submitted your application, the application status will change to **Received by Agency.**

No changes can be made at that point.



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Letter of Intent Requirements

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

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LOI Stage

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.

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LOI Stage

LOI Requirements on the Convergence Portal

- Completed profiles for any additional members of the research team
- Any changes to the list of collaborators
- Reviewer exclusions (if applicable)
- Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design (EDI-RD)
  - Indicate whether EDI considerations are appropriate for the project and whether and how they have been integrated into the proposed research.
- Proposed Budget
- Supporting documents. Each of these documents is uploaded as a separate attachment following the instructions for attachments.
  - **Research proposal** (including diagrams and illustrations: maximum 10 pages if written in English; maximum 12 pages if written in French)
  - **References** (maximum 5 pages if written in English; maximum 6 pages if written in French)
  - **Supplementary information for Funding Organizations** (if applicable)

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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

Assessment Using Distributed Peer Review (DPR)

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 to be 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

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Review Process

LOI Stage: Distributed Peer Review Process (DPR)

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

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

- Maximum of 10 LOIs to review
- Read, rate and provide feedback

Timely, high-quality reviews are required for eligibility at the full application stage. If a co-PI misses the review deadline or submits consistently poor-quality reviews, the proposal the co-PI is part of will be deemed ineligible to proceed to the full application stage.

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Review Process

LOI Stage: Selection Criteria

- Fit to Program (Pass/Fail)
- Interdisciplinarity (Pass/Fail)
- Strength of Project Consortium (30%)
- High Risk (25%)
- High Reward (25%)
- Feasibility (20%)

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Review Process

Evaluation matrices

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

Exceptional	Excellent	**Very Good**	Good	**Fair**	Inferior	**Poor**

For more information on the criteria refer to the evaluation matrices

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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.

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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.

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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)

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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.

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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.

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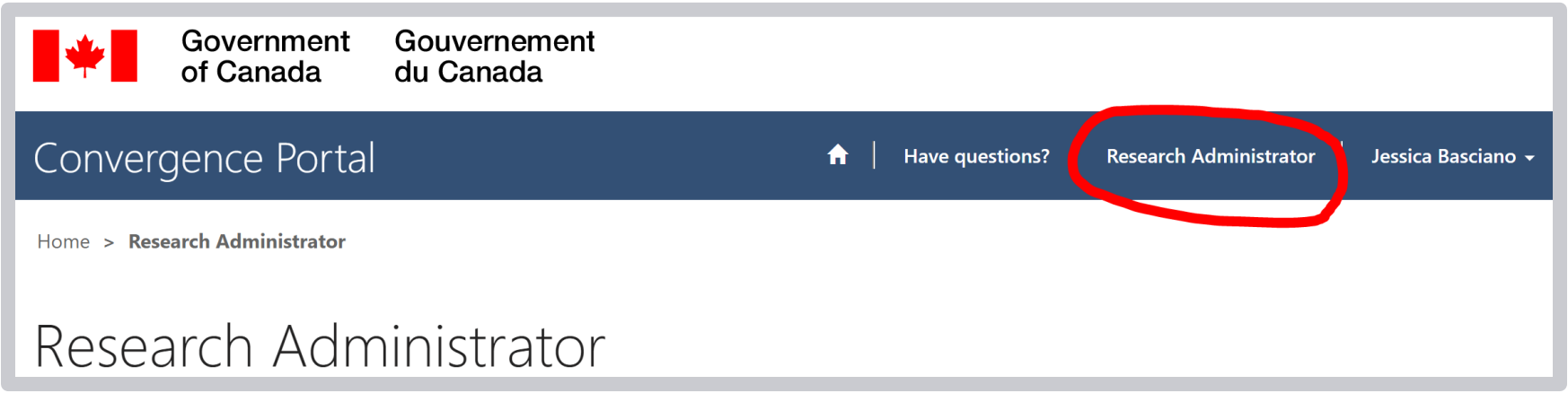
Information for RGOs

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-chaires.gc.ca**

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Resources and Questions

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Resources and Questions

Resources - Contacts

Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.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: TBC
  For Indonesia: TBC
  For Namibia: grants@ncrst.na
  For Peru: TBC
  For Rwanda: research@ncst.gov.rw
  For Zimbabwe: TBC
- **NordForsk:** bjornar.komissar@nordforsk.org; kristin.andersen@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

New Frontiers in Research Fund
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Resources and Questions

Resources - Links

NFRF Website

Competition Overview

NOI Guide

Review Process

Evaluation Matrices

Annexes

New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

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:

New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

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.

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Resources and Questions

Questions?