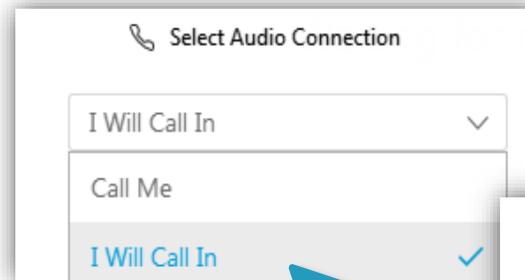


If you are experiencing **technical difficulties with the audio**, please connect with a **landline or cell phone**.

- Under “**Select Audio Connection**” choose one of the following:

1. “**Call Me**” or;
2. “**I Will Call In**”



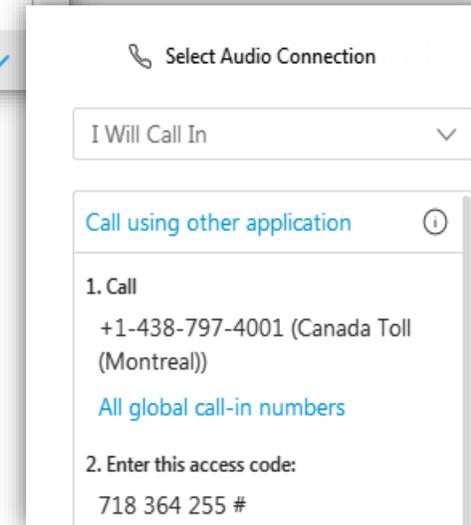
Select Audio Connection

I Will Call In

Call Me

I Will Call In

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



Select Audio Connection

I Will Call In

Call using other application

1. Call
+1-438-797-4001 (Canada Toll (Montreal))
[All global call-in numbers](#)

2. Enter this access code:
718 364 255 #



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2026 Transformation

Notice of Intent to Apply

Applicant Webinar

March 2025



Government
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Webinar Contents

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



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Competition Timeline

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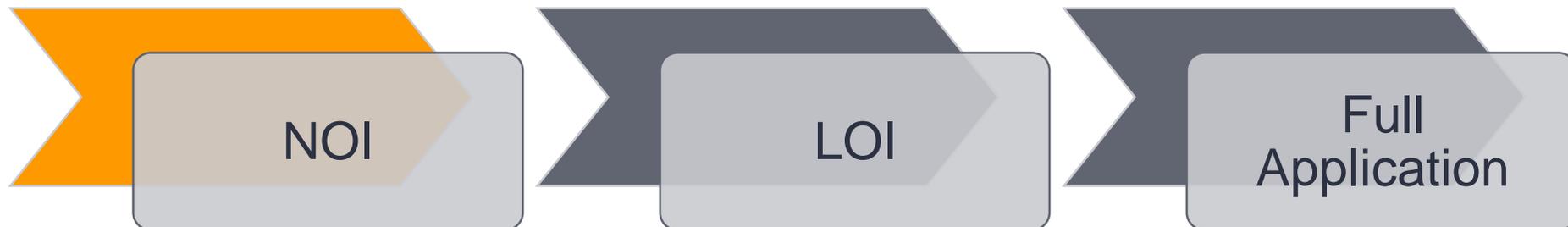
Canada

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

April 15, 2025

- Notice of Intent deadline

June 17, 2025

- Letter of Intent deadline

March 3, 2026

- Full application deadline (by invitation)

August 2026

- Results announced

September 2026

- Awards begin



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Funding Opportunity Description

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Description de l'occasion de financement

Administration

The Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) designed the NFRF following a national consultation, and is the steering committee for the NFRF

NFRF is a tri-agency program, administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), which is housed within the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)



Funding Opportunity Description

NFRF Streams

Exploration

Generates opportunities for Canada to build strength in **high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research**

Transformation

Provides large-scale support for Canada to build strength and leadership in **interdisciplinary and transformative research**

International

Enhances opportunities for Canadian researchers to **participate in research with international partners**

Special Calls

Supports research that **targets emerging areas** and aligns with the fund's overall objectives

Funding Opportunity Description

2026 Transformation

Goal

To support **large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary** research projects that address a **major challenge**, and have the potential to realize **real and lasting change**



The challenge the research addresses may be:

- fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough; or
- applied, with a social, economic, environmental or health impact

Projects are expected to be world-leading, and to draw on **global** research expertise when relevant

Funding Opportunity Description

2026 Transformation

Transformation grants will support projects that:

1. tackle a **well-defined** problem or challenge;
2. propose a **novel world-leading** approach;
3. are **interdisciplinary**; and
4. have the potential to be **transformative**

Transformative research is defined as having the potential to **create a significant and real change or impact** — a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance

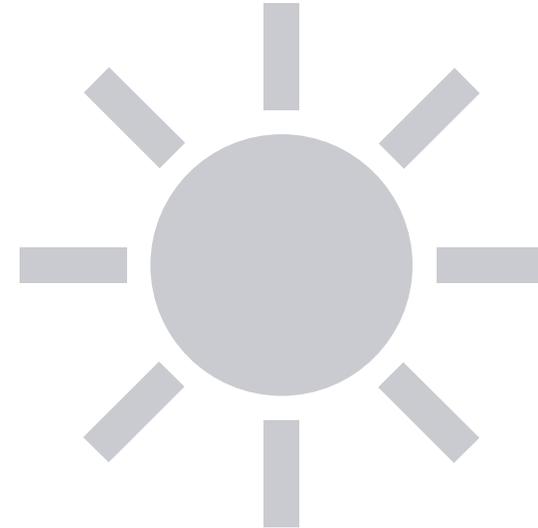


Funding Opportunity Description

2026 Transformation

Transformation grants support **clearly defined research projects**.

Transformation grants **do not support** programs of research, networks, or the setting up or further development of research institutes/centres.



Funding Opportunity Description

2026 Transformation – Value and Duration

Between \$2M and \$4M per year, including indirect costs

Applicants may request up to 25% of the value of the direct costs of research to **cover indirect costs**

Budget must be in line with the objectives of the project

Funds should be used to **support research activities**, not to acquire or maintain infrastructure

Duration : six years

Mid-term review is mandatory

Number of awards depends on the amounts requested in successful applications (expect a minimum of six awards)



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Evaluation Criteria

2026 Transformation



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Evaluation Criteria

2026 Transformation

The five selection criteria for NFRF funding opportunities are:

1. Interdisciplinarity
2. EDI in research practice
3. High risk
4. High reward
5. Feasibility

Note that in the Transformation stream, all criteria are assessed at the LOI and full application stages but the weighting of criteria changes between stages

Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity

Projects must **integrate different disciplinary approaches** to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge.

Proposals must explain how the disciplinary **perspectives, methodologies, and techniques will be integrated** and must demonstrate that the team has the **required expertise** to execute the interdisciplinary approach.

The proposal must also explain **why an interdisciplinary approach is required** and/or the **added value of this approach** to the research problem.

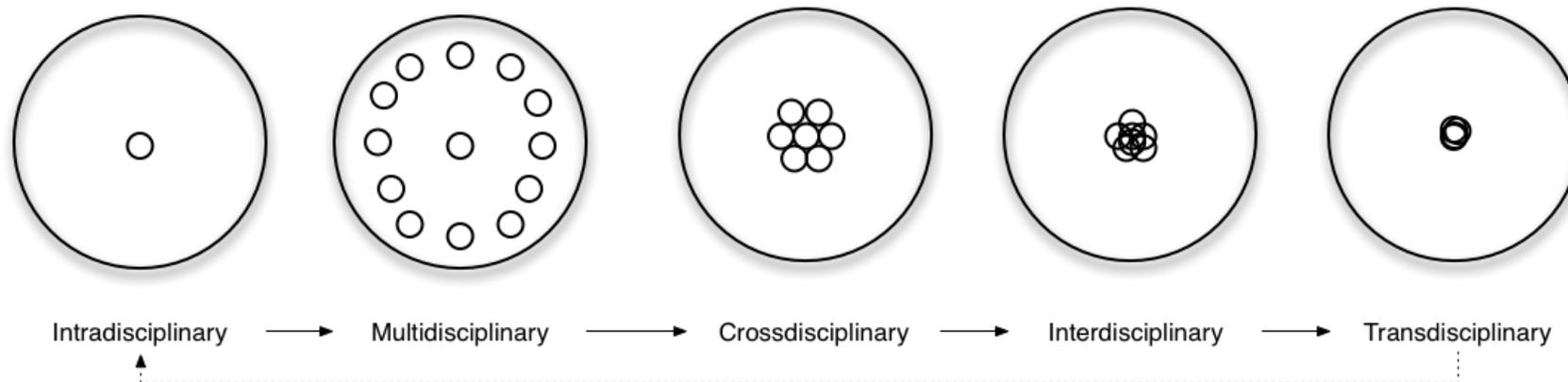
Multidisciplinary research =
juxtaposing, coordinating

**Interdisciplinary research =
integrating, synthesizing**

Evaluation Criteria

Disciplinarity: multi, inter, and trans

- **Multi**disciplinary: people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge
- **Inter**disciplinary: integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a real synthesis of approaches
- **Trans**disciplinary: creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives



Evaluation Criteria

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams

Multidisciplinary Teams

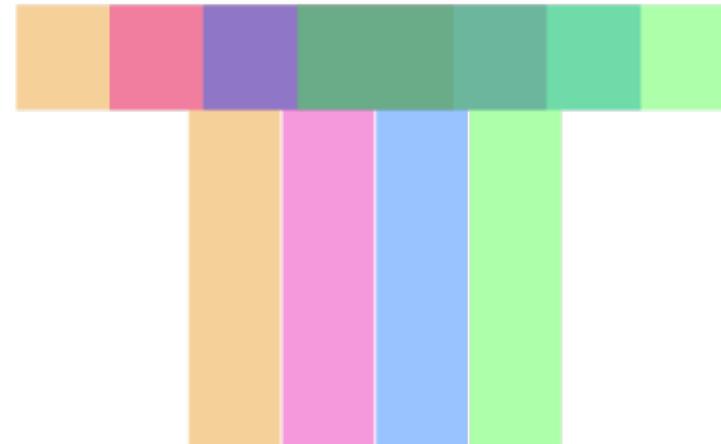
Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



Members working in silos
by discipline

Interdisciplinary Teams

Individuals from different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project



Members listen and learn from others

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](#)



Evaluation Criteria

High risk

High risk, in the context of the Transformation stream, refers to the **novelty of the proposed approach to the challenge**.

Proposals will have to explain

- why the project is **novel**, as it relates to the latest methods, concepts, information, and techniques;
- how the approach builds on and benefits from **expertise and resources** across Canada and internationally;
- what makes the approach **world-leading**; and
- why the approach is expected to lead to **real change**.



Evaluation Criteria

High reward

High reward is defined as the potential to create a **significant and real change or impact** — to be transformative.

Applications must explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and its significance.

Proposals must also outline the **major short-, medium- and long-term changes** that are expected, **the likelihood** of their achievement, **and who (or what) will be affected** by the changes.



Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility

Feasibility covers the plan and the ability to execute the activities. It considers elements such as the:

- problem or challenge being addressed;
 - proposed approach, **including EDI in research design**;
 - knowledge, expertise and capacity of the team;
 - workplan and timeline;
- engagement and collaboration with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous nations, communities, societies or individuals (for Indigenous research) when appropriate;
 - suitability of the research environment (i.e., access to required infrastructure); and
 - management plans

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



Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility

Update for 2026

The **definition of Indigenous research**, as defined by SSHRC, is no longer limited to Indigenous Peoples, individuals or communities in the North American context.

This update is reflected in the evaluation matrices.

For more information on the criteria refer to the [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)

*“Research in any field or discipline that is conducted by, grounded in or engaged with **First Nations, Inuit, Métis or other Indigenous nations, communities, societies or individuals**, and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present. Indigenous research can embrace the intellectual, physical, emotional and/or spiritual dimensions of knowledge in creative and interconnected relationships with people, places and the natural environment.”*

Source: [Definitions of Terms](#)



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Eligibility and Roles

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Eligibility and Roles

Subject matter

Projects may involve **any discipline, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas** eligible for funding **across the three federal research funding agencies** (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC).

Projects should engage the **full range of disciplines** required to achieve the project goals.

To meet **the minimum requirement to be considered interdisciplinary**, the proposed research project must include elements from **at least two different disciplines** (as defined by a group-level classification based on the Canadian Research and Development Classification codes).

Projects that fall under the mandate of only one federal research funding agency are **not eligible**.



Eligibility and Roles

Project Team

- Proposals must be submitted by **teams of at least five participants** (excluding collaborators)
- Teams **must** include a nominated principal investigator (NPI)
- Teams **may** include any number of co-principal investigators (co-PIs), co-applicants and/or collaborators



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, LOI and full application in the [Convergence Portal](#) and submits them to their research administrator
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant

Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs)

- Share responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- Research activities related to the project may be supported by grant funds

Co-Applicants

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

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who will contribute to the project
- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Grant funds may not be used to pay for collaborators' activities or expenses

Eligibility and Roles

Project Team

The **NPI and team members can be from any discipline(s)**

The **NPI must be considered an independent researcher** at their primary affiliation, which must be a Canadian institution holding full eligibility with CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC

Other **team members may be from any sector**; however, **co-PIs and co-applicants may not be affiliated with a government or for-profit company** (this restriction does not apply to collaborators)

Team members in academia must be considered independent researchers

Full- or part-time students, postdoctoral fellows or research associates **are not eligible to participate as NPIs, co-PIs or co-applicants.**

Eligibility and Roles

Exceptions

A **federal government employee who is an adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose students are participating in the research project may be a co-applicant, with the use of funds limited to salaries or stipends and travel costs for the students.

A **federal government employee who is an adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose contributions to the project do not fall within the mandate of their federal organization and will not be performed within the employer's facilities or with the employer's resources may be a co-PI or co-applicant.

Individuals whose primary affiliation is with an Indigenous government are eligible to be co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators, with eligible expenses limited to those related to the execution of the project that are not within the mandate of the Indigenous government.

Refer to the [Eligibility](#) section of the competition description



Eligibility and Roles

Independent researcher

An **independent researcher**

- engages in research-related activities that are **not under the direction** of another individual; and
- has an academic or research **appointment** that:
 - **begins by March 3, 2026 for this competition** (the full application deadline);
 - allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, supervise trainees (if applicable) and publish the research results; and
- obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on the conduct of research, supervision of trainees (if applicable) and employment conditions of staff paid with tri-agency funding.

Eligibility and Roles

Early Career Researchers

Early career researchers (ECRs) must be included as confirmed members in all teams.

An ECR is defined as a researcher within **five years of the start date of their first research-related appointment**, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (for example illness, maternity or parental), as of the first of the month of the competition launch (February 2025 for this competition), where:

- “**research-related appointments**” are defined as those where an individual has the autonomy to conduct research independently;
- all **eligible leaves** (such as maternity, parental, medical or bereavement) are credited at twice the amount of time taken; and
- **professional leaves** (such as training, sabbatical or administrative) are not credited.

Eligibility and Roles

Participation on multiple grants

To ensure that teams awarded a Transformation grant have sufficient time to dedicate to the project, **award holders may serve as an NPI or co-PI on only one Transformation grant.** It is, therefore, recommended that individuals limit their participation as an NPI or co-PI to a single application. If an individual is listed as an **NPI** or co-PI on more than one application, they will be required to remove themselves from all but one at the full application stage. After the removal of the individual as NPI or co-PI, the application could potentially be removed from competition if the team's minimal eligibility requirements are no longer met.

New Rule

An individual who is an NPI or co-PI of a funded Transformation project is expected to remain in that role for the entire term of the grant. An NPI or co-PI on an active grant should not amend their role to become eligible to apply in another competition. In cases where a funded NPI or co-PI is removed from an active grant, or has their role changed to co-applicant or collaborator, **they will not be eligible to be an NPI or co-PI on another Transformation grant until the first grant ends.**

Eligibility and Roles

STRAC Policy **NEW**

On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC Policy).

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.**



Policy on Sensitive
Technology Research and
Affiliations of Concern



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NOI Requirements

2026 Transformation



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NOI Requirements

Collection of personal information

Personal information is collected for the **purpose of program performance management.**

Self-identification data collected as part of the user profile is **not shared** with reviewers and is limited to agency staff on a need-to-know basis.



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



NOI Requirements

Notice of intent deadline

NOI stage

The NPI must submit an NOI to be eligible to complete and submit an LOI. Selected teams will be invited to complete and submit a full application.

NOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

April 15, 2025

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

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

Late NOIs will not be accepted.

An NOI cannot be changed after the RGO has submitted it.

NOI Requirements

Required information on the [Convergence Portal](#)

Completed profiles for at least five participants

- NPI and any combination of co-PIs and co-applicants

Notice of intent content

- Application title
- Language of the application
- Indigenous research
 - Indicate if the project involves Indigenous research

- Keywords (5 to 15)
- Fields of research (up to 10)
 - Select the fields of research from the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) codes that relate to the proposed research
- Outline of challenge (max. 3,500 characters)
- Overview of approach and potential changes (max. 3,500 characters)
- Collaborators
- Suggested reviewers (optional for the NOI; min. 20 for the LOI)

NOI Requirements

Required information

Outline of challenge (max. 3,500 characters)

Provide a plain-language overview of the challenge(s) or issue(s) to be addressed and the goals or objectives of the project.

Overview of approach and potential changes (max. 3,500 characters)

Briefly describe the approach to be taken and the anticipated changes or impacts that are likely to result from the project.

If your application is successful, the overviews will be used for promotional purposes and to inform the government, the media and members of the public who request information about research funded by the NFRF program.

NOI Requirements

Suggested reviewers

NPIs are required to provide a list of **at least 20** suggested reviewers who may be contacted to review the proposal at the full application stage as expert panelists. (Optional at NOI stage; required at LOI stage.)

Suggested reviewers should

- have the **required expertise** to review the proposal in the language in which it was written and comment on it
- **not be in a conflict of interest** with any member of the team

NPIs are encouraged to suggest a **diverse cross-section** of potential reviewers, including reviewers who are

- Canadian and international
- established and early-career
- women and members of other underrepresented groups
- individuals from academic and non-academic institutions

At least 10 of the suggested reviewers must be from outside Canada.

NOI Requirements

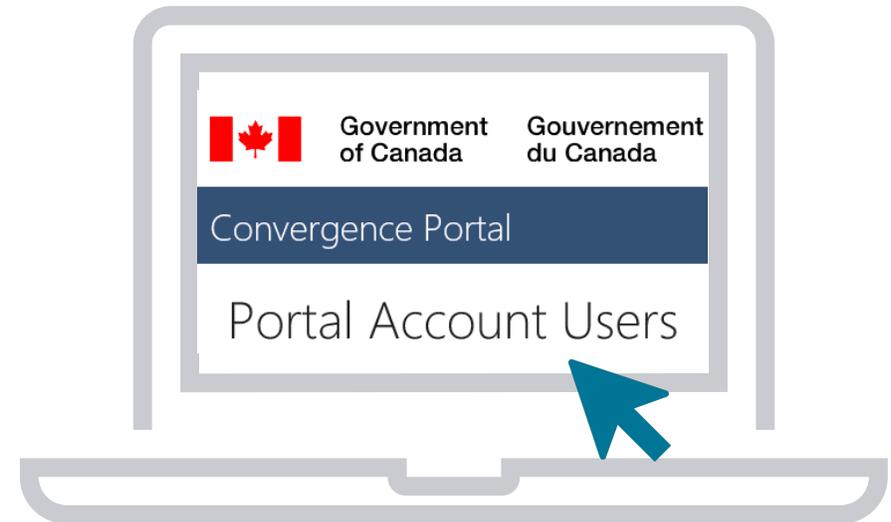
Submitting the Notice of Intent

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 this point.





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Review Process

2026 Transformation



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Review Process Overview



Internal review
To help staff identify reviewers

Multidisciplinary/ multisectoral review panel evaluation
Focus on the idea

EDI-RD	p/f
Interdisciplinarity	p/f
High risk	20%
High reward	60%
Feasibility	20%

Top-rated proposals invited (usually 20-25)

Expert Panel review
Consensus summary report

Multidisciplinary/ multisectoral review panel evaluation
Focus on feasibility

EDI-RD	p/f
Interdisciplinarity	p/f
High risk	25%
High reward	25%
Feasibility	50%

Top-rated proposals invited (max. 12)

Jury review
Broad assessment

Applications recommended for funding



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

STRAC Policy - New for 2026

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STRAC POLICY *NEW*

- ↘ 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*

- 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 investigators, 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.

STRAC POLICY *NEW*

- ↘ 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 \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](#)
- ↘ 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

2026 Transformation



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Information for RGOs

RGO role

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

- **view** NOIs, LOIs, and full applications from NPIs at their institution (including those that are expired, in progress, and submitted)
- **return** submitted NOIs, LOIs, and full applications to the NPI
- **forward** submitted NOIs, LOIs, and full applications to the agency

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

- that the **participants** meet the eligibility requirements
- that the **proposed research project** meets the eligibility requirements

RGOs should also **create and submit test applications** with ZZZ-INTERNAL TESTING ENVIRONMENT as the Organization at the NOI stage.

Information for RGOs

RGO role

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

- 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-chaire.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.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Convergence Portal. On the left, there is the Government of Canada logo and the text "Government of Canada" and "Gouvernement du Canada". The main navigation bar is dark blue and contains the text "Convergence Portal" on the left, a home icon, "Have questions?", a red circle highlighting the "Research Administrator" button, and the user name "Jessica Basciano" with a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb "Home > Research Administrator" is visible, followed by the heading "Research Administrator". A blue mouse cursor arrow points to the "Research Administrator" button.

If you are an RGO and you don't see the button, please contact websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

Create test applications with ZZZ-INTERNAL TESTING ENVIRONMENT as the Organization.



New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Resources and Questions

2026 Transformation



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Resources and Questions

Resources

Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca

Convergence Portal help:

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273

STRAC Policy-related questions:

[Researchsecurity-
securiterecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:Researchsecurity-securiterecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

Program Links:

[NFRF Website](#)

[EDI Guide](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[NOI Guide](#)

[Reviewer Manual](#)

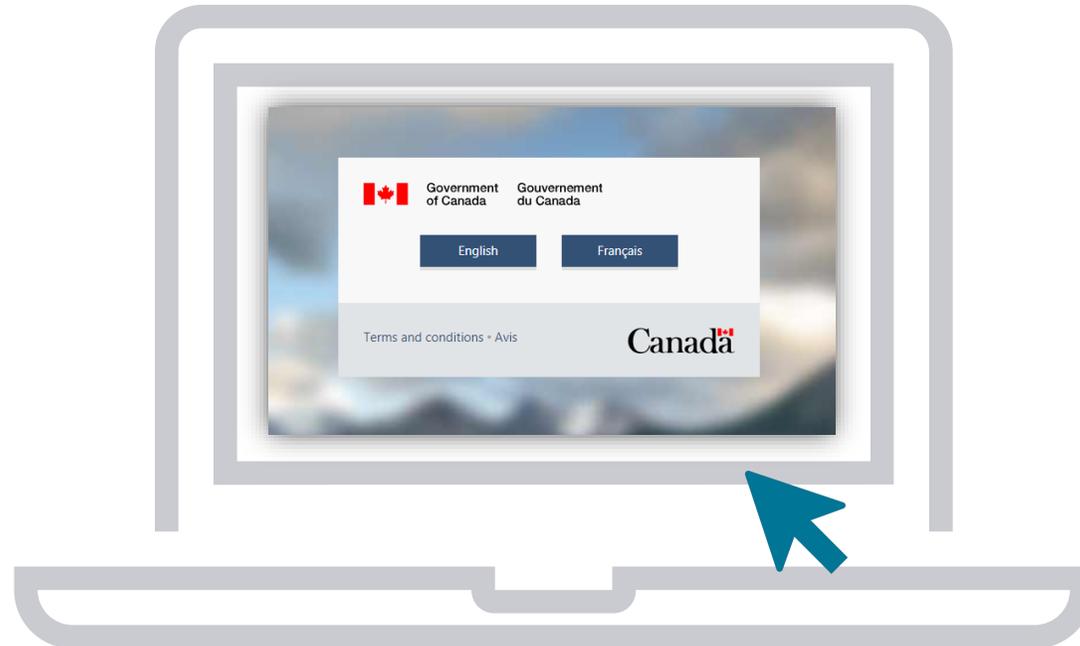
[Evaluation Matrices](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Resources and Questions

Video capsule



A video capsule demonstrating how to complete and submit an NOI, and the RGO role, will be made available to RGOs upon request.

Resources and Questions

Questions?

