



New Frontiers in Research Fund  
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

# 2019 Exploration Competition

## How to prepare a Notification of Intent to Apply

### July 2019



Canada



SSHRC CRSH



# Presentation overview

- Program description
- Program updates
- Roles and Eligibility
- Subject matter eligibility
- Review process
- Competition timeline
- Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI)
- Selecting external reviewers
- Convergence Portal live demo
- Q&A Session

# New Frontiers in Research Fund

## Exploration Stream

- Objective:
  - Generate opportunities to conduct high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research
  - Support research that pushes the boundaries of what is funded through the agencies
- Minimum of 100 awards
  - Maximum of \$125,000 per year for up to 2 years (includes indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs)

# New for the 2019 competition

- Open to all researchers as the nominated principal investigator!
  - Protected funding for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
- Minimum of 2 team members (including Nominated PI)
- 3 Application Stages
  - Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) – *Not adjudicated*
  - Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) – *Adjudicated\**
  - Application – By invitation, based on LOI – *Adjudicated\**

\* Evaluation Matrices are available on our [website](#)

# Roles and Eligibility

- Nominated Principal Investigator
  - Independent researcher with primary affiliation at a Canadian Institution holding full institutional eligibility with one of the agencies as of March 31, 2020
- Co-Principal Investigator
  - Independent researcher
  - May not be affiliated with a government or for-profit organization

# Roles and Eligibility

- **Co-Applicants**
  - Includes, but is not limited to, independent researcher, policy-makers, Indigenous Elders, community leaders, Indigenous knowledge keeper, or individuals working for a charity
  - Have access to funds
- **Collaborators**
  - Any individual that contributes to the project and is not supervised by a team member
  - No access to funds

# Subject matter eligibility

- Must be interdisciplinary
  - Include elements from at least 2 disciplines (group level of Canadian Research and Development Classification)
- Push the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies, according to their mandates and existing programs.

# Review process - NOI

- Not adjudicated
- Purpose
  - Informing committee composition
  - Identifying external reviewers



# Review process - LOI

Adjudicated by the Multidisciplinary Review Panel

- Interdisciplinarity/Fit to program (Pass/Fail)
- High Risk (50%)
- High Reward (50%)

## Purpose

- Identify applications that don't meet the objectives of the program
- Manage application volume to:
  - Reduce the burden on applicants
  - Reduce the burden on committee members
  - Reduce the number of external reviewers required
  - Reduce the burden on Research Administrators

# Review process – Application

- Applications by invitation only
- Evaluated by external reviewers
- Adjudicated by the Multidisciplinary Review Panel
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Pass/Fail)
  - High Risk (40%)
  - High Reward (40%)
  - Feasibility (20%)

# Competition timeline

## July

Competition launch and Convergence Portal opens  
(**July 3<sup>rd</sup>**)

## August

Submission of Notification of Intent to apply (NOI)  
(**due Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>**)

## September

Submission of Letter of Intent to apply (LOI)  
(**due Sep. 4<sup>th</sup>**)

## October

LOI stage results and invitations to submit an Application  
(**Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>**)

## December

Submission of Application  
(**due Dec.10<sup>th</sup>**)

## Dec - March

External reviews and committee assessment

## March

Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

## March

Release of Notices of Decision and start of awards  
(**by March 31<sup>st</sup>**)

# Notification of Intent to Apply

- **Mandatory stage**
- **Deadline: August 7<sup>th</sup>**
  - \*\*Check with your RGO for internal deadlines\*\***
- **Main Components:**
  - Application title, fields of research, keywords\*
  - Summary of proposal (2,500 characters)\*
  - Completed profiles of at least two team members\*
  - List of collaborators
  - Suggested external reviewers and exclusions

\* Locked in at this stage for the remainder of the competition

# Selecting External Reviewers

- 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, international
  - Private, government, public sectors
  - Gender
  - Under-represented groups
  - Established, mid career, early career researchers

# Collection of information

- Collected for the purpose of program performance management
- Self-ID data collected as part of the user profile is **NOT** shared with reviewers (or agency staff)

Please consult [Data Collection policy](#) if you would like more details

# How to use the Convergence Portal



# Resources

NFRF contact	<a href="mailto:NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca">NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca</a>
Internal Deadlines	Your institution's Research Grants Office / RGO
<a href="#">NFRF website</a>	
<a href="#">Funding Opportunity</a>	
On-line Services Helpdesk	E-mail: <a href="mailto:websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca">websupport@chairs-chaire.gc.ca</a> Telephone: 613-995-4273