

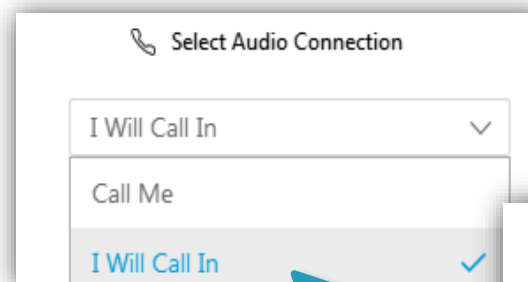
If you are not able to hear me, please follow the instructions below

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

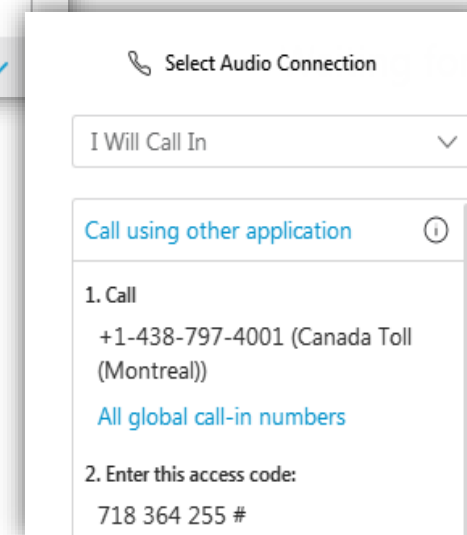
- Under “**Select Audio Connection**” choose one of the following:

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

1.
2.



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





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

2025 Exploration Competition

Full Application

Webinar for Applicants and RGOs

Sept 9, 2025



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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



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Funding Opportunity Description

Exploration Stream Objective

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, health-related, technological, national or global in scope.

Disciplines

Projects led by researchers in social sciences and humanities, health, natural sciences, engineering, and which are **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

**Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration*

Duration → Up to 2 years

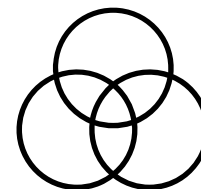
Number of grants → Minimum of 90 grants

A proportion of awards will be reserved for **Early Career Researchers (ECR)***



Funding Opportunity Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program



Interdisciplinarity requirements:

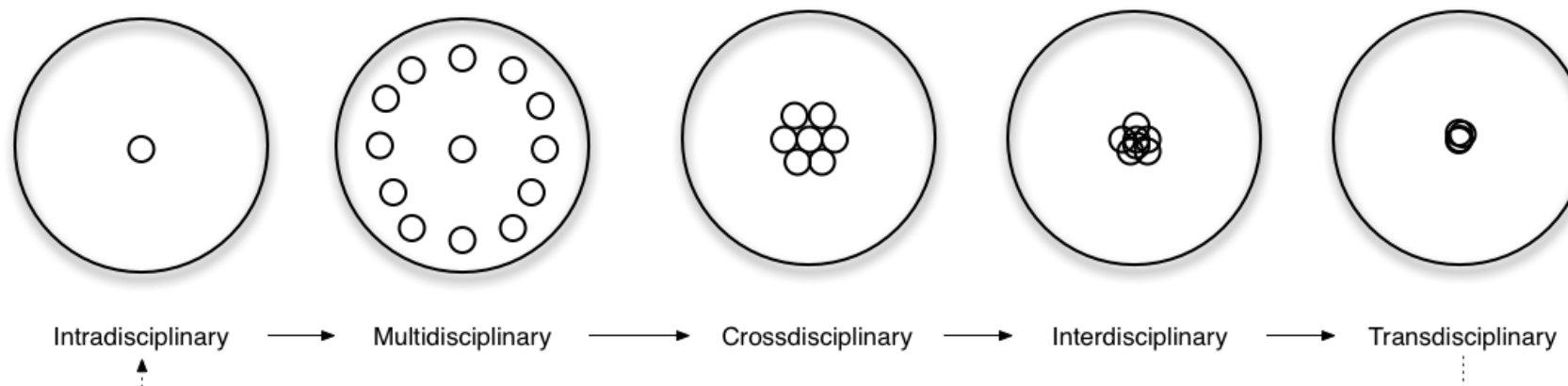
- at least two different disciplines (**group**-level classification of the Canada Research and Development Classification codes CRDC); and
- the onus is on the applicant to explain **the novelty** of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program.



Funding Opportunity Description

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program

- **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.





Funding Opportunity Description

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams

Multidisciplinary Teams

Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



Members working in silo, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Teams

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



Members listen to and learn from others



Funding Opportunity Description

Competition Timeline

August 19, 2025

- NOI Deadline – 956 NOIs submitted

October 21, 2025 – 8PM EST

- Full Application deadline

February 9-13, 2026

- Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

By March 31, 2026

- Start date of awards



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Eligibility and Roles

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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
- May access grant funds
- Is an Independent Researcher

Co-Applicants (co-App)

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Various backgrounds and affiliations
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who contributes to the project
- Cannot be supervised by the team
- Do not have access to grant funds



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Review Process

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Review Process

Overview

Purpose:

- to identify the most meritorious applications to be recommended for funding by the multidisciplinary review panel

Five members of the Multidisciplinary Review Panel review the application for all criteria to make funding recommendations

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





Review Process

Multidisciplinary Review Panel

Adjudication involves scoring according to the evaluation matrices for the selection criteria:



- equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) (pass/fail);
- interdisciplinarity / fit to program (pass/fail);
- high risk: 40% of overall score;
- high reward: 40% of overall score; and
- feasibility: 20% of overall score.

Each application will be adjudicated by 5 members:

- 3 with expertise in the application
- 2 provide non-expert perspective

Members have access to all content from the NOI and Full application stages



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, cultural, technological 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;

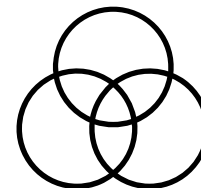
- workplan and timeline;
- proposed approach, including EDI in research design **(formerly GBA+)** where appropriate;
- project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment





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.
- Fit to Program → pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies.
- The onus is on the applicant to explain **the novelty** of the interdisciplinary approach to justify the fit to program.



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;
- ☐ the outcomes expected; and
- ☐ the assessment planned.



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](#)

[Resources for Implementing EDI in Research](#) (CSFG)





New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Full Application Requirements

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Full Application Requirements

Deadline

NPIs who submitted a NOI by August 19th, 2025 will be able to complete the Full Application using the Convergence Portal.

Application deadline for submission to NFRF:

October 21, 2025 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
 - Must not include any self-identifying information
 - Consult NFRF's [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research](#)





Full Application Requirements

Research Proposal

Maximum 4 pages

- Describe the project and address why it is:
 - High Risk
 - High Reward
 - Feasible
 - Interdisciplinary
 - EDI compliant
- State the objectives
- Describe the project:
 - methodology and design
 - work plan and timeline
- describe the approaches to Indigenous research (see [SSHRC's Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#));
- explain how the EDI considerations in research design are integrated into the methodological approaches.



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



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, no personally identifying information, etc.)
- Applications that do not adhere to the requirements can be withdrawn





Full Application Requirements

Finalizing the Application

- Review your application and submit it
- 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





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STRAC Policy – New for 2025

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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 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.



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



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Information for RGOs

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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:

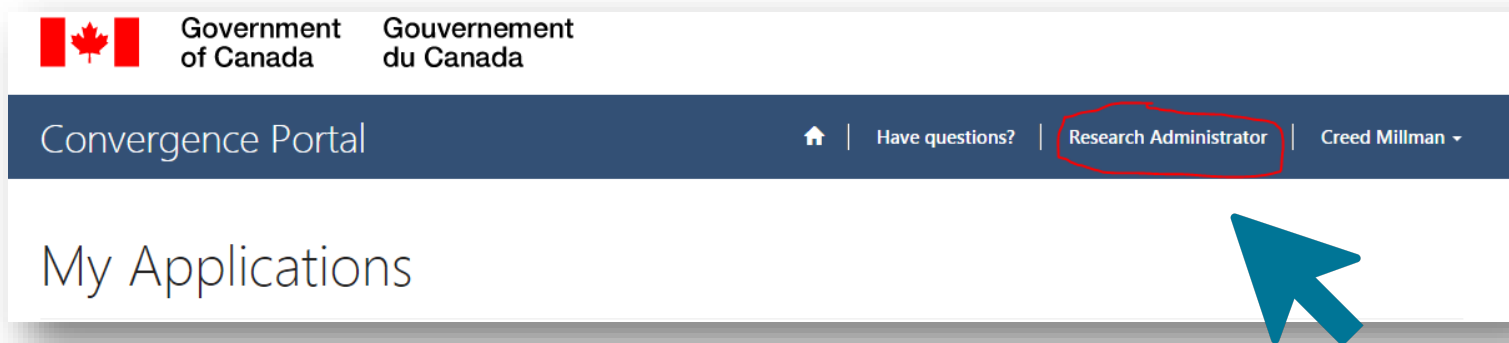
- is affiliated with the institution or organization;
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity; and
- will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the partnership, such as the addition of new co-principal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



Information for RGOs

RGO Role

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



If you do not have this option, please contact websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca



New Frontiers in Research Fund
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Questions and Resources

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Questions and resources

Questions?

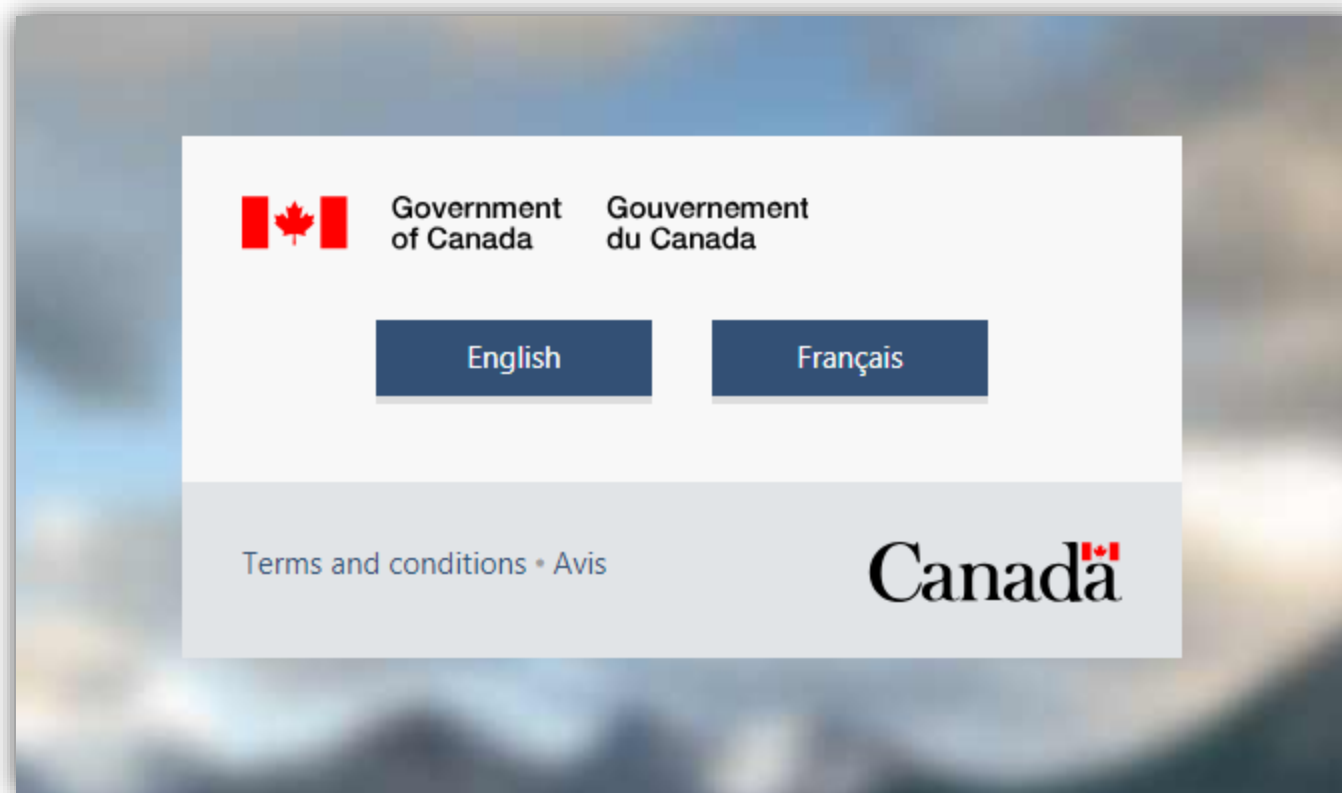




Questions and resources

Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 Full Application
Convergence Walkthrough](#)





Questions and resources

Resources

Contact Information

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

On-line Services Helpdesk

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273



Program Links

[NFRF Website](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[Reviewer Manual](#)

[Evaluation Matrices](#)

