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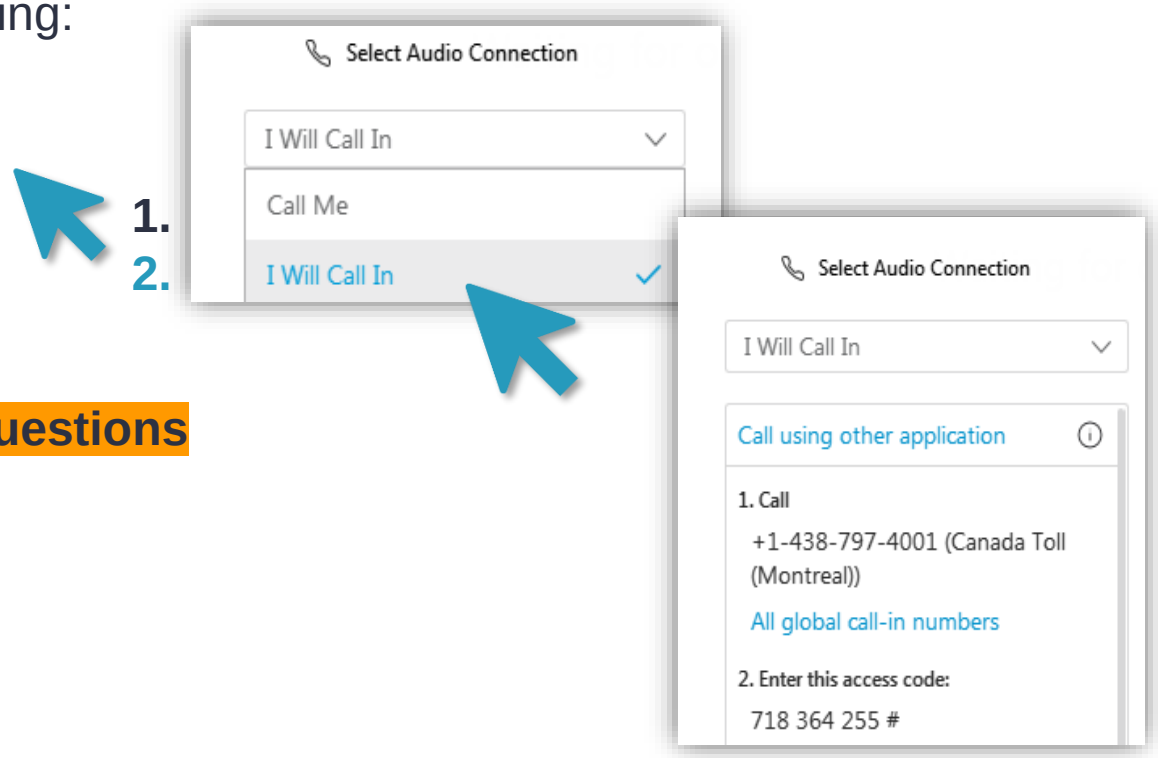
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

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**

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2022 Transformation Competition

Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)

Applicant Webinar

November 2021

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada Canada

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Webinar Contents

1. Competition Timeline
2. Funding Opportunity Description
3. Eligibility and Roles
4. LOI Requirements
5. Evaluation Criteria
6. Review Process
7. Information for RGOs
8. Resources and Questions

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Competition Timeline

2022 Transformation

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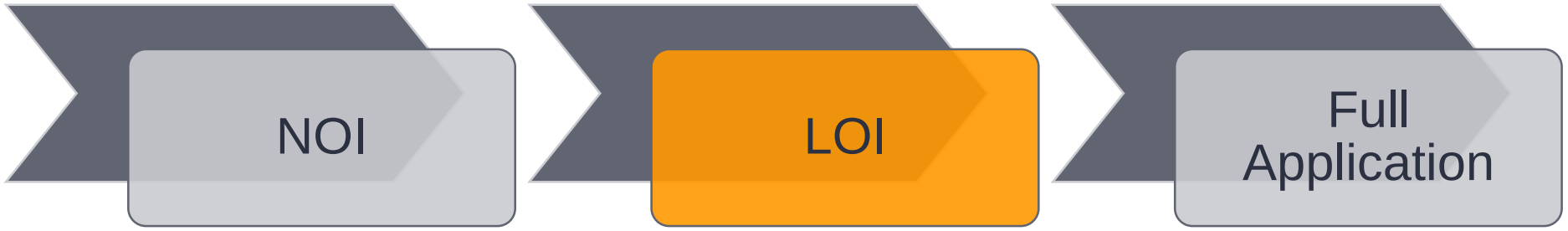
Competition Timeline

Competition stages

Three-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
2. Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)
3. Full Application



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Competition Timeline

Important dates

January 11, 2022	• Letter of Intent deadline
September 20, 2022	• Full application deadline (by invitation)
February 2023	• Results announced
March 2023	• Awards begin

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Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation

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Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation - Objective

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

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Funding Opportunity Description

2022 Transformation Description

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

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Funding Opportunity Description

2022 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)

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Eligibility and Roles

2022 Transformation

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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.

CIHR IRSC

NSERC CRSNG

SSHRC CRSH

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**.

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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

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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, 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
- May access grant funds

Co-Applicants

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who will contribute to the project
- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Do not have access to grant funds

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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.**

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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 August 1, 2022 for this competition;**
  - 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.

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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 (August 2021 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.

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Eligibility and Roles

Exceptions

A **federal government employee and 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 and 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

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LOI Requirements

2022 Transformation

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

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LOI Requirements

Letter of Intent to Apply deadline

An NPI is eligible to create and submit an LOI only if they have submitted an NOI.

LOI deadline for submission **to NFRF**:

January 11, 2022

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

The **RGO is responsible for submitting the LOI by 8:00 p.m. (ET)** 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 Requirements

Required information on the Convergence Portal

1. Profiles for any additional members of the research team.

Members identified at NOI are expected to remain on the team;

Complete profiles include:

- Completed eligibility profile
- Fields of research and keywords
- EDI self-identification

2. Letter of Intent Content

All information submitted in the NOI, updated as necessary, as well as:

- Collaborators (any changes)
- Reviewers (suggestions and exclusions)
- **Proposed budget**
- **Gender based analysis plus (GBA+)**
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**
- **Support for ECRs**
- **Supporting documents**

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LOI Requirements

Collaborators and Suggested Reviewers

Collaborators can be added or deleted.

A minimum of 20 suggested reviewers should have the required expertise to **review and comment the proposal**, and **not be in a conflict of interest** with team members.

At least 10 must be from outside Canada

Indicate any individuals who **should not** be asked to review the proposal.

Suggest a diverse cross-section of reviewers:

- Canadian and international
- early-career and established
- women and other under-represented groups
- from academic and non-academic institutions

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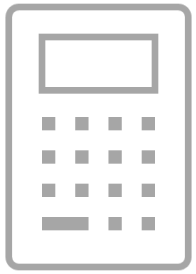
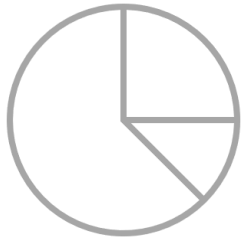
LOI Requirements

Proposed Budget

Planned amount of funds to be spent in direct and indirect costs for each year of the project.

Refer to Use of Grant Funds section for information about the eligibility for direct costs.





Please contact your research administrator for direction on how much to request for **indirect costs.**

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LOI Requirements – GBA+

Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

Are GBA+/SGBA considerations **appropriate** and have they been **integrated** into the proposed research?

- If they are considered appropriate, **but not integrated**, **you will be unable to submit your application**
- If GBA+/SGBA considerations are not deemed appropriate, **provide an explanation**

GBA+
GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS

GBA+ is assessed under the Feasibility criterion

- The GBA+ analytical process is related to the research **project design**.

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LOI Requirements – EDI

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants **must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI** in their research teams, as well as diversity as it applies to career stages, sectors and institutions.

They must explain what actions they will take, the outcomes expected, and the assessment planned for each of the following three key areas:

- team composition and recruitment processes;
- training and development opportunities; and
- inclusion.

Actions taken 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).

Resources

- NFRF EDI Webinar, Recorded Sept. 2021
- Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

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LOI Requirements – ECR

Support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

How will ECRs be **included in the team and integrated in a meaningful way**, including **plans to support their leadership and development** throughout the project?

Personal information about any individual must not be included in the GBA+, EDI, and ECR sections.

EDI and ECR criteria

- Related to **team members' practices**

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LOI 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

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LOI Requirements

Supporting documents

Uploaded as **separate attachments** following the instructions for attachments.

- **Research proposal** should address
  - Novelty of approach
  - Interdisciplinarity
  - Feasibility
  - Anticipated transformation/change/impact
- **References** (unlimited)

You must preview all attachments to ensure that the documents have been uploaded correctly and the content is viewable.

Non-compliance with the required page length or formatting may result in a withdrawal of an application.

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Full Application stage

Locked at the Full Application Stage

- Application Details
  - Application Title
  - Language of Application
  - Indigenous Research
- Fields of Research
- Keywords
- Project Description
  - Outline of Challenge
- GBA+
- EDI
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

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Evaluation Criteria

Transformation 2022

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

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Evaluation Criteria

Five Selection Criteria

- Interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)
- Equity, diversity and inclusion and support of early career researchers (EDI / ECR) (pass/fail)
- High risk (20%)
- High reward (60%)
- Feasibility (20%)

Note that in the Transformation stream, criteria are assessed at the LOI and the Full Application stages and **the weighting of criteria changes between stages.**

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Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity

Projects must **integrate different disciplinary approaches** to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge, **and fall within the mandate of more than one funding agency** as per the evaluation matrices.

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

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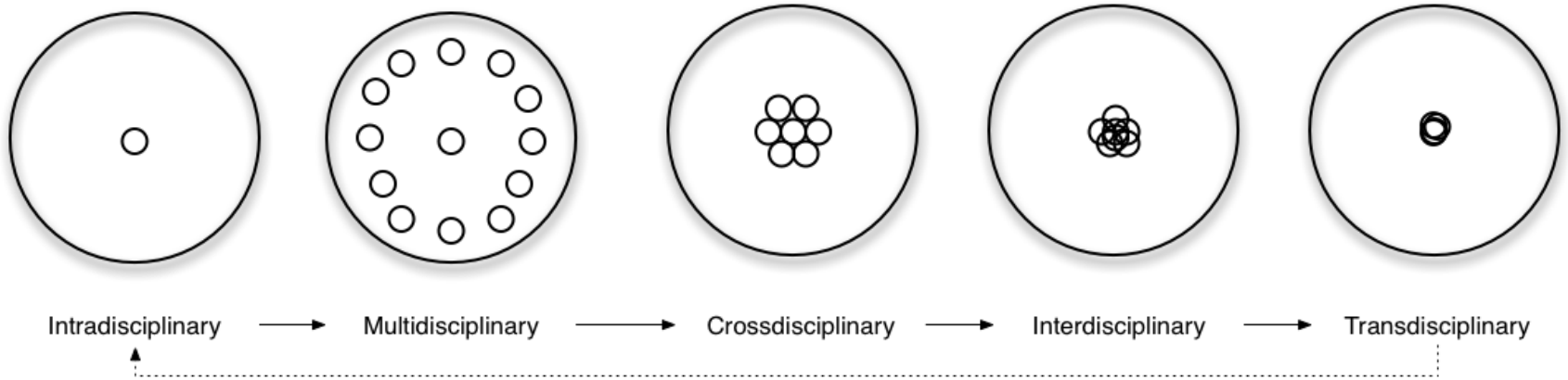
Evaluation Criteria

Disciplinarities: multi, inter, and trans

- **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
- **Transdisciplinary**: creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives



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Evaluation Criteria

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams

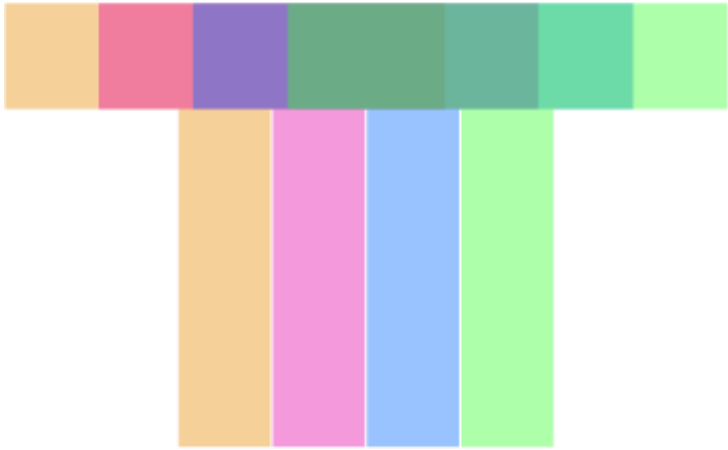
Multidisciplinary Teams

Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility

Members working in silos, by disciplines

Interdisciplinary Teams

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



Members listen and learn from others

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Evaluation Criteria

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and support of early career researchers

EDI is a core element of the NFRF program. In the Transformation stream, **the EDI criterion also considers early career researchers (ECRs).**

Refer to the

NFRF Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

Applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI.

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)

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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/or internationally;
- what makes the approach **world-leading**; and
- why the approach is expected to lead to **real change**.

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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.

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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 GBA+/SGBA when appropriate;
- knowledge, expertise and capacity of the team;
- workplan and timeline;
- engagement and collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples (for Indigenous research) when appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment (i.e., access to required infrastructure);

For more information on the criteria refer to the **evaluation matrices**

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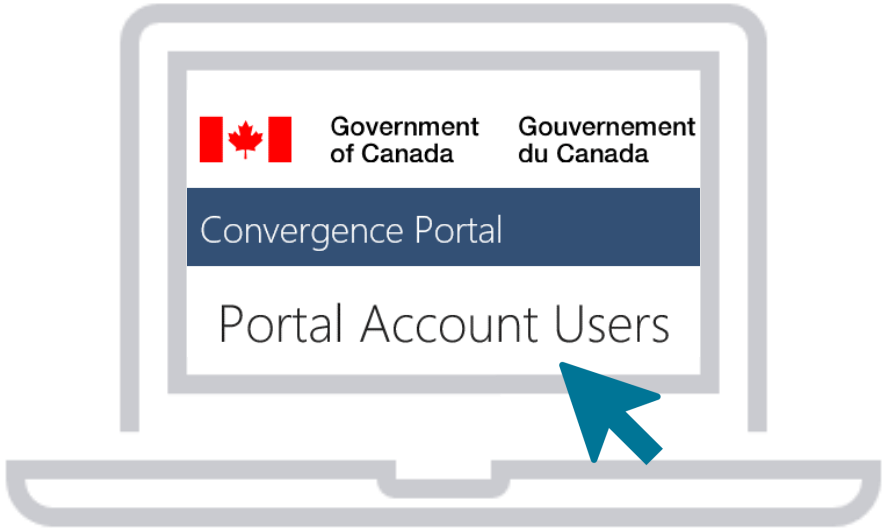
LOI Requirements

Submitting the Letter of Intent

Review your LOI to ensure that it is complete. From the **Finalize Application section** in the Convergence Portal, follow the prompts to submit the LOI. After you accept the **terms and conditions**, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator.** If you want to make any **changes** at this point, you may request that your research administrator return it to you.



Once your research administrator has approved and submitted your LOI, the application status will be changed to **Received by Agency. No changes can be made at that point.**

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Review Process

Transformation 2022

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

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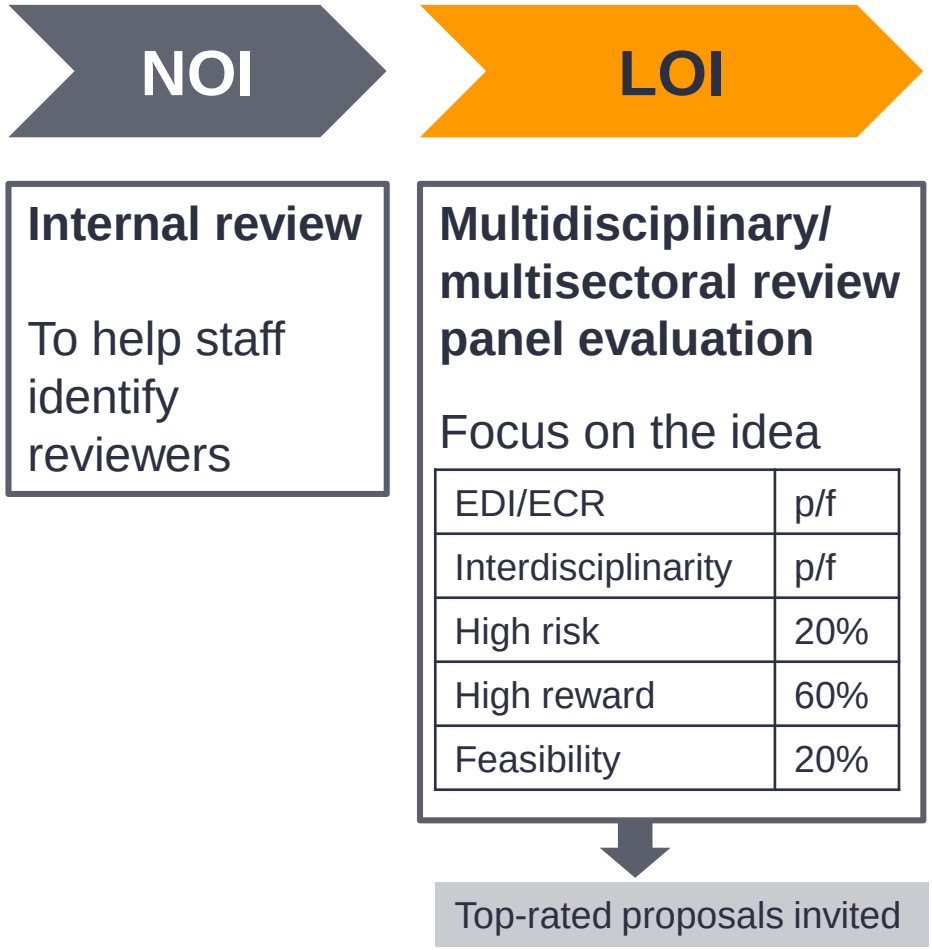
Review Process Overview



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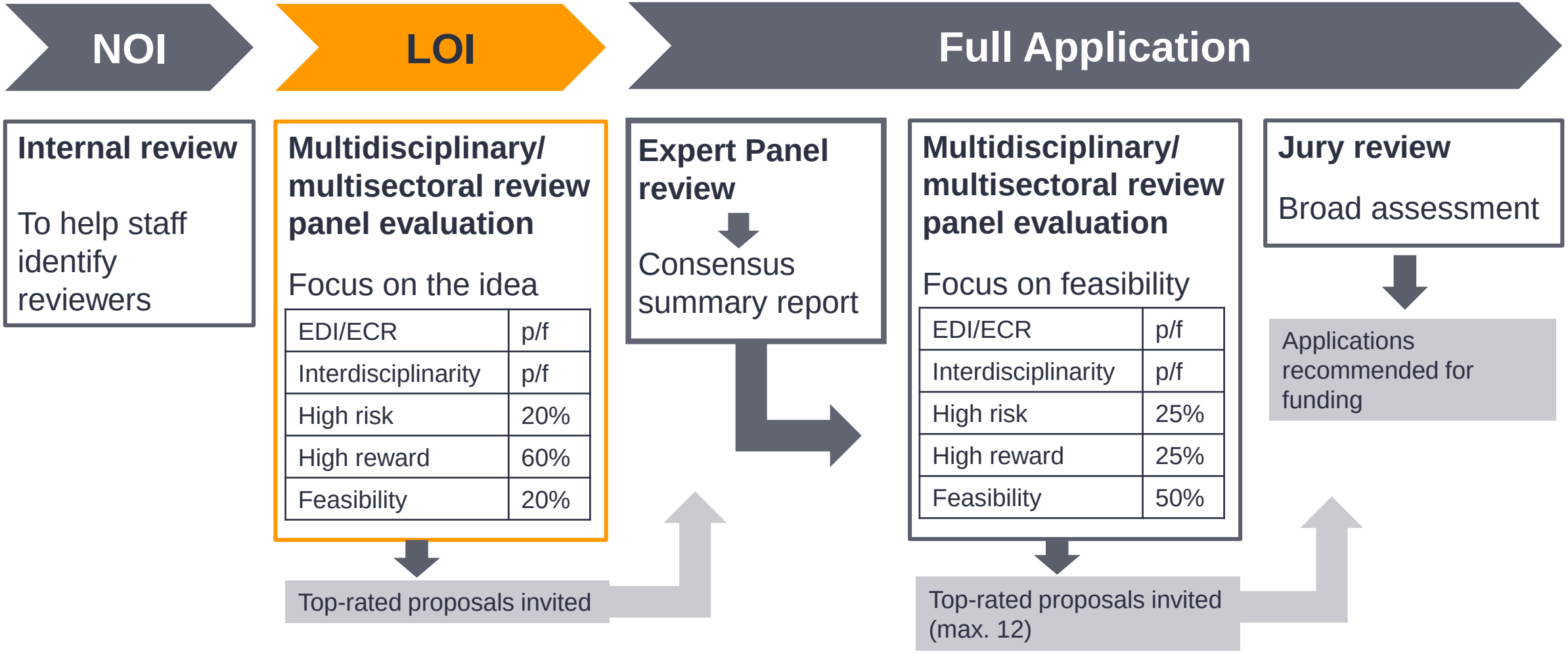
Review Process Overview



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Review Process

Evaluation matrices

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

For more information on the criteria refer to the **evaluation matrices**

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Information for RGOs

2022 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

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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 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-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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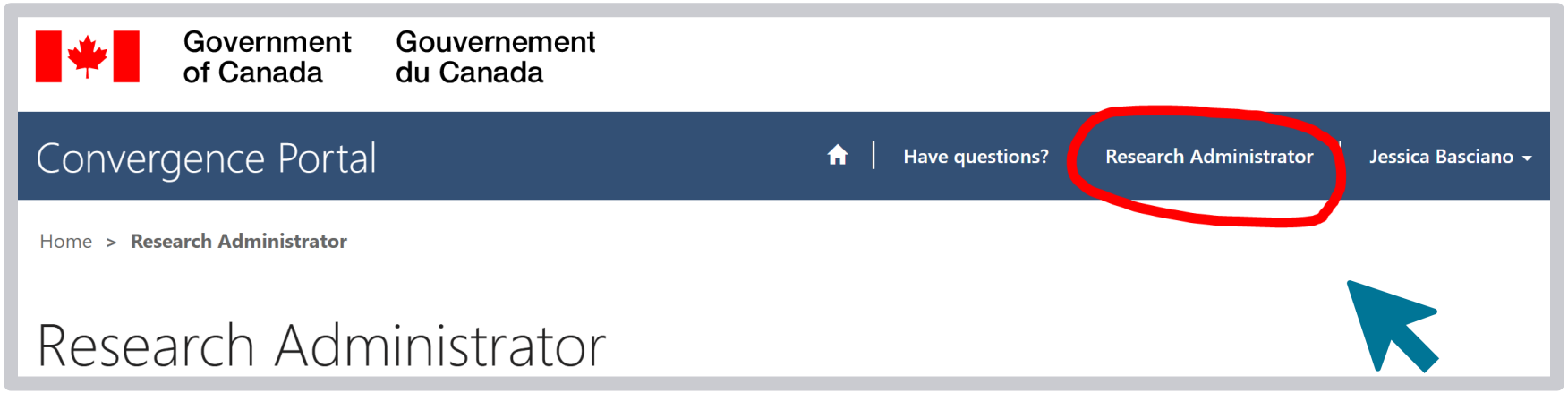
Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can use the **Research Administrator** button to access their institution's applications.



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

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Resources and Questions

2022 Transformation

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Resources and Questions

Resources

Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

Convergence Portal help:

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273

Program Links:

NFRF Website

EDI Guide

Competition Overview

LOI Guide

Reviewer Manual

Evaluation Matrices

Frequently Asked Questions

New Frontiers in Research Fund
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Resources and Questions

Questions