

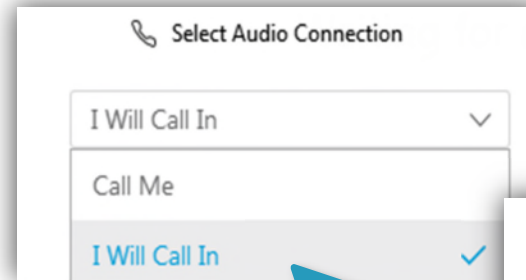
# Welcome Slide/Connection Instructions

**I hope you can hear me now...**

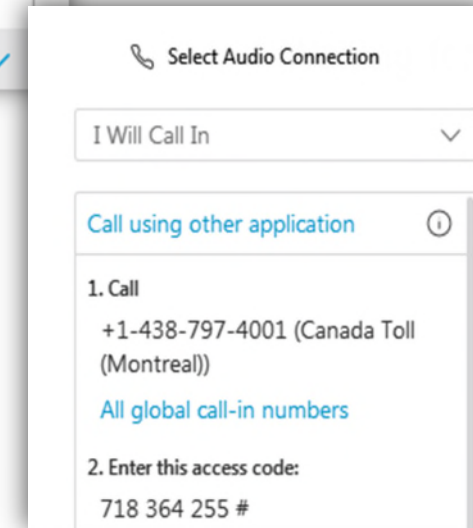
If you are experiencing **technical difficulties with the audio**, please connect with a **landline or cell phone**.

- 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

# 2024 Exploration Competition

## Information Webinar

May 22, 2024



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

# Overview

1. Program description
2. Eligibility and roles
3. Review process
4. Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements
5. Information for RGOs
6. Questions and resources



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# Program Description

## 2024 Exploration Competition



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## Program Description

# Exploration Stream Objective

Goal: Inspire research that is **high risk, high reward, and interdisciplinary.**

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.**

Range of impacts:

Social, cultural, economic, health-related, technological, etc.

Proposals led from any discipline:

Social sciences and humanities, health, natural sciences and engineering.

Program Description

## Competition Stages - 2024 Exploration Stream

### Two-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent (NOI).
2. Full Application.



## Program 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, **not to acquire or maintain infrastructure.**\*1

\*1 [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)

**Duration** → Up to 2 years.

**Number of grants** → Minimum of 100 grants.

A proportion of awards will be reserved for Early Career Researchers (ECRs).\*2

\*2 *Research interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are recognized as an eligible delay → **starting on March 1, 2020.***

Program Description

## Exploration Competition Timeline

**August 27, 2024**  
8:00 p.m. (Eastern)

NOI deadline

**November 5, 2024**  
8:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Full Application deadline

**February 10 to February  
14, 2025**

Multidisciplinary review panel meetings

**March 31, 2025**

Start date of awards



## Program Description

# Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program

Interdisciplinarity requirements:

- **at least two different disciplines** (as defined by the 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.

## Program Description

# 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.

## Subcriterion

- Fit to Program → *pushes the boundaries of what can be funded through the agencies.*

## Program Description

# Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Research

### Multidisciplinary Teams

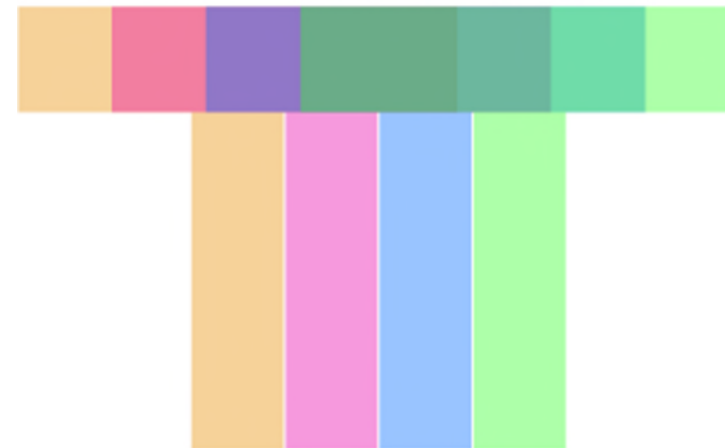
Each member operates as a part of a chain of responsibility



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

## Program Description

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice (EDI)

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 above, applicants must explain:

- what actions they will take;
- the outcomes expected; and
- the assessment planned.

## Program Description

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research Practice

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](#)

## Program Description

# 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.

## Program Description

# 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 large communities, or a single or small number of unique communities/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.

## Program Description

# Feasibility

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 (EDI-RD)** where appropriate;
- project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Metis peoples (for [Indigenous research](#)), where appropriate; and
- suitability of the research environment.





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# Eligibility and Roles

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## Eligibility and Roles

# Project Team Eligibility

At least two participants:

- a nominated principal investigator (NPI) who is an [independent researcher](#) at an eligible institution

**AND**

- a co-principal investigator (co-PI), who must also be an [independent researcher](#)

**OR**

- a co-applicant (co-App), who may be a:
  - researcher / professor → [independent researcher](#) ; **or**
  - practitioner, policy-maker, educator, decision-maker, health-care administrator, Indigenous Elder, etc.

## 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.

### Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI)

- Shares responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- May access grant funds

### 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

## Eligibility and Roles

# Project Team Eligibility

### NPIs, co-PIs and co-Apps:

- **must not** be affiliated with a government\* or for-profit company; and
- can participate in **only one Exploration stream application or grant at one time\*\***.

*\*With some exceptions; please refer to our website.*

*\*\*Exploration grantees must submit their final report before the full application deadline of a subsequent competition to be eligible to apply.*

For a proposal to be considered led by early career researchers (ECRs), **both the NPI and co-PI** (if applicable) must be ECRs.

Refer to the [Eligibility](#) section of the Competition Overview

## Eligibility and Roles

# Final Reports – Current Exploration grantees

Only one Exploration grant can be held at a time, as either an NPI, Co-Pi or Co-App.

In order for any of the co-grantees to be eligible to apply, the NPI must have:

- Submitted their final report for their previous Exploration grant-funded project **one month before the current competition's full application deadline**
- Had their reports approved by NFRF staff.



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# Review Process

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## Review Process

# Notice of Intent and Full Application

## Notice of Intent (NOI) (not adjudicated)

### Purpose:

Used by staff to:

1. Identify persons to compose of the multidisciplinary review panel.

## Full Application (adjudicated)

### Purpose:

Used in the [review process](#). The most meritorious applications will be recommended for funding by the multidisciplinary review panel.

## Review Process

# Multidisciplinary Review Panel

Adjudication by the Panel involves scoring according to the evaluation [matrices](#) for the selection criteria:

- Interdisciplinarity / Fit to program (**pass/fail**);
- Equity, diversity and inclusion in Research Practice (**pass/fail**);
- High risk: **40%** of overall score;
- High reward: **40%** of overall score; and
- Feasibility: **20%** of overall score.





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# NOI Requirements

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## NOI Requirements

# NOI Requirements and Content

### NOI Requirement

- The NPI must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application.
- It must include completed profiles of at least two team members.
- Additional members can be added at the full application stage.

### NOI content\*

A completed NOI must include:  
application title;

- fields of research (CRDC codes);
- keywords; and
- summary of the proposal.

*\*Once submitted by the RGO, these fields are locked in for the rest of the competition*

## NOI Requirements

# Summary of the Proposal

Maximum 2,500 characters.

The summary must:

1. include the objectives and summary of the research approach; and
2. highlight the novelty and expected significance of the work.

**Once submitted by the RGO, it cannot be modified.**

## NOI 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** (or agency staff) and is not accessible by RGOs or any other users of the Convergence Portal.

Please consult the  
[Data Collection policy](#)  
for more information



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# Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

## RGO Role

### RGOs can:

- view NOIs from NPIs at their institution (expired, in progress and submitted);
- return submitted NOIs to the NPI; and
- forward submitted NOIs 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

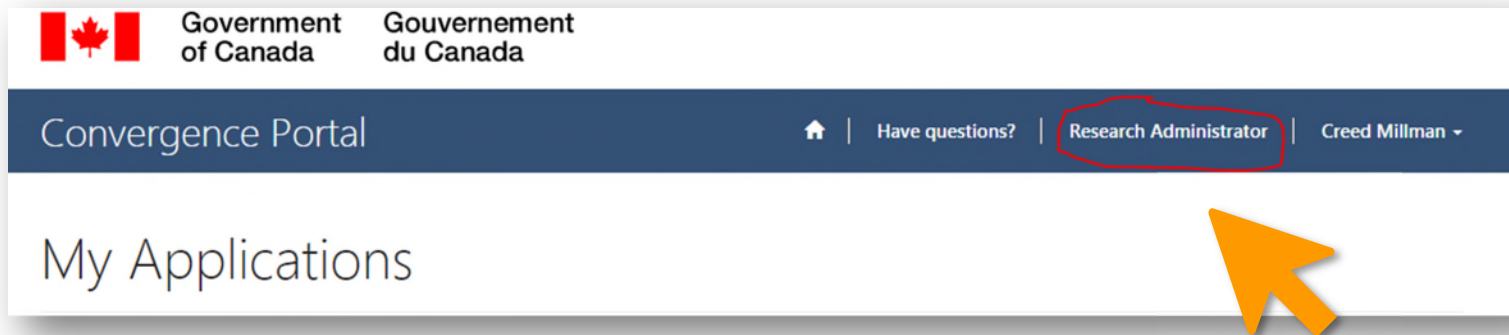
By forwarding the application, you will also be certifying, on behalf of the institution, that the NPI:

- is affiliated with the institution or organization;
- has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity; and
- will notify NFRF by email ([NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.gc.ca](mailto:NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaire.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](mailto:websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca)

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough \(18:45\)](#)





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# Questions and Resources

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Questions and resources

# Questions?





Questions and resources

## Resources

### Contact Information

[NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca](mailto:NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca)

### Online Services Helpdesk

Phone: 613-995-4273

Email: [websupport@convergence.gc.ca](mailto:websupport@convergence.gc.ca)

### Program Links

[NFRF Website](#)

[Competition Overview](#)

[Reviewer Manual](#)

[Evaluation Matrices](#)

Questions and resources

## Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough](#)

