



New Frontiers in Research Fund  
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

# 2020 Transformation Competition

January 2020



Canada



SSHRC CRSH



# Outline

- NFRF overview
- Transformation stream
- Project team eligibility and roles
- Subject matter eligibility
- Competition stages and timeline
- Review process
- Convergence demonstration (applicants)

## Information for RGOs

- RGO role
- Convergence demonstration (RGOs)

# New Frontiers in Research Fund

- Objective: to support research that is international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking and high risk
- Launched in December 2018
- Initial investment of \$275 million over five years beginning in 2018-19
- The budget will increase to \$124 million per year beginning in 2023-24

# 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)

# 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

# Transformation Stream 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

# Transformation Stream Objective

- 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

# Value and Duration

- Value: between \$2,000,000 and \$4,000,000 per year (including indirect costs of up to 25% of direct costs)
- Funds should be used to support research activities, not to acquire or maintain infrastructure
- Duration: up to six years
- Number of grants depends on the amounts requested in successful applications
- Mid-term review of funded projects is mandatory



# Project Team Eligibility

- Proposals must be submitted by teams of **at least five participants**
- Teams must include a nominated principal investigator who is an independent researcher
- Teams may include co-principal investigators, co-applicants and collaborators, who may or may not be academic researchers

# Project Team Eligibility

- National, international and cross-sector collaborations are encouraged, as needed
- Early career researchers must be included as confirmed members in all teams

# Roles

## Nominated Principal Investigator

- responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed activities
- completes the NOI, LOI and full application through the [Convergence Portal](#) and submits them to the RGO at their institution
- assumes the administrative and financial responsibility for the grant

# Roles

## Co-Principal Investigators

- Work with the NPI to direct the project and contribute to its execution

## Co-Applicants

- Contribute to the execution of the project

## Both Co-Principal Investigators *and* Co-Applicants

- May access grant funds
- Can be a range of individuals
- Cannot be affiliated with a government or for-profit company

## Collaborators

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

# Subject Matter Eligibility

- Must propose a world-leading interdisciplinary approach
- Must have the potential to have a significant impact in addressing a well-defined challenge
- The project must include elements from at least two disciplines **AND** cross the mandates of at least two of the federal research funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC)
  - Projects that fall under the mandate of only one federal research funding agency are **not** eligible

# Competition Stages

## 1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)

- not adjudicated

## 2. Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI)

- evaluated by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel

## 3. Full application, by invitation based on the LOI

- evaluated by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel, taking into account the feedback of the external reviewers

## 4. Highest-ranked full applications

- reviewed by a jury to select the applications to recommend for funding
- the CRCC, the steering committee for the NFRF, makes decisions regarding which applications to fund based on the review panel's and jury's recommendations

# Competition Timeline

**February 18, 2020**

- NOI deadline

**April 15, 2020**

- LOI deadline

**June 15, 2020**

- LOI results released

**November 18, 2020**

- Full application deadline

**January 2021**

- Multidisciplinary review panel meeting

**February 23, 2021**

- Jury meeting

**March 16, 2021**

- Award results released

**March 2021**

- Start date of awards

# Notice of Intent to Apply

- **Mandatory stage**
- NOI deadline: February 18, 2020  
**\*\*Check with your RGO for internal deadlines\*\***
- Not adjudicated
- NOIs, LOIs, and full applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or application guidelines will be withdrawn from the competition



# Notice of Intent to Apply

- Main requirements include:
  - completed profiles of at least five team members;
  - application title, keywords and fields of research;
  - outline of challenge;
  - overview of approach and potential changes; and
  - list of collaborators.

# Letter of Intent to Apply

- **The NPI must have submitted an NOI to be eligible to create and submit an LOI**
- **LOI deadline: April 15, 2020**  
**\*\*Check with your RGO for internal deadlines\*\***

# Review Process: Considerations

- **Indigenous Research**

- SSHRC's [Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](#) and [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#) should be referred to by teams preparing applications related to Indigenous research
- These guidelines are provided to merit reviewers to help build understanding of Indigenous research

# Review Process: Considerations

- **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)**
  - Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) is used to assess the potential impact that identity factors, such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability, may have on the experience of the individual
  - These considerations must be integrated into the research design, when appropriate
  - The purpose of GBA+ is to promote rigorous research that is sensitive to sex and gender as well as other identity factors



# Review Process: Selection Criteria

- Five selection criteria for all NFRF streams:
  1. interdisciplinarity
  2. EDI and early career researchers
  3. high risk
  4. high reward
  5. feasibility
- Criteria are assessed at the LOI and full application stages and the weighting of the criteria changes between stages

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- To ensure the greatest innovation and success, EDI is a core element of the NFRF program
- Teams must demonstrate a commitment to diversity by meaningfully engaging members of underrepresented groups, including the four designated groups
- Teams should also consider diversity as it applies to career stages, sectors and institutions
- The meaningful integration of all members in the project team is required, with concrete measures to ensure this

# Review Roles

## Internal Review

- **NOIs, LOIs and full applications** that do not meet the program's eligibility requirements and application guidelines will be withdrawn

## Multidisciplinary/Multisectoral Review Panel

- A multidisciplinary review panel composed of national and international members with broad expertise will evaluate the **LOIs and full applications** against all criteria

## External Review

- External reviewers with relevant subject matter expertise will evaluate **applications** according to the interdisciplinarity, high risk, high reward and feasibility selection criteria

## Jury

- A diverse, international and multisectoral jury will evaluate **applications** that meet the standard of excellence and are recommended by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel to select those to be recommended for funding

## Steering Committee

- The CRCC makes decisions regarding which **applications** to fund based on the review panel's and jury's recommendations

# Review Process: LOI

- Assessed by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel:
  - interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)
  - EDI (pass/fail)
  - high risk (20%)
  - high reward (60%)
  - feasibility (20%)



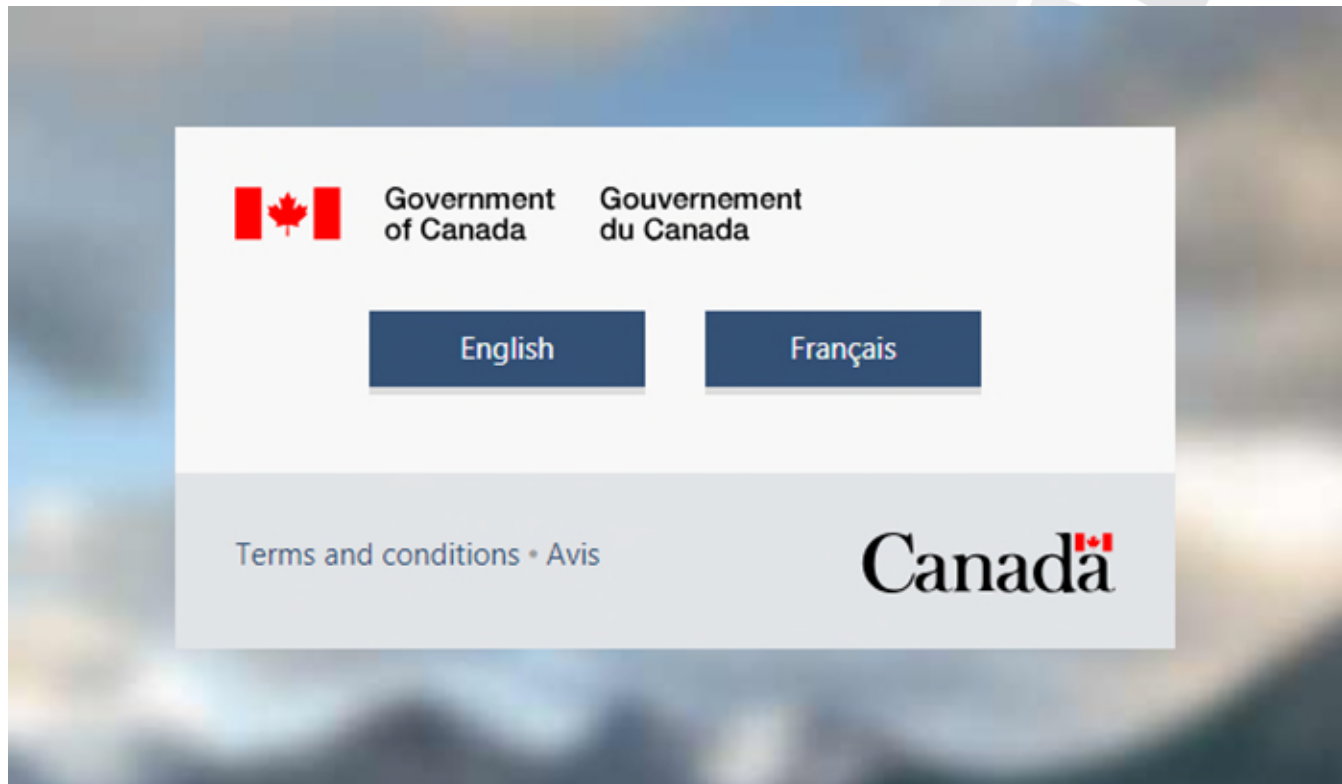
# Review Process: Application

- Applications by invitation only
- Evaluated by external reviewers
- Assessed by the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel and discussed at the face-to-face review meeting:
  - interdisciplinarity (confirm pass from LOI stage)
  - EDI (confirm pass from LOI stage)
  - high risk (25%)
  - high reward (25%)
  - feasibility (50%)

# Review Process: Application

- The multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel will recommend, from the applications that meet the required standard of excellence, those to be invited to present their proposal in person to a jury
- The jury will select from the top-rated applications according to the high reward and feasibility criteria, and recommend which ones should be funded

# How to Use the Convergence Portal: Applicants



# For RGOs

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

Français



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Convergence Portal



Have questions?

Research Administrator

Creed Millman ▾

## My Applications

**Please note:** Submission deadline dates and times are presented in local time.

- If you do not have this option, please contact [websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca](mailto:websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca)

# For RGOs

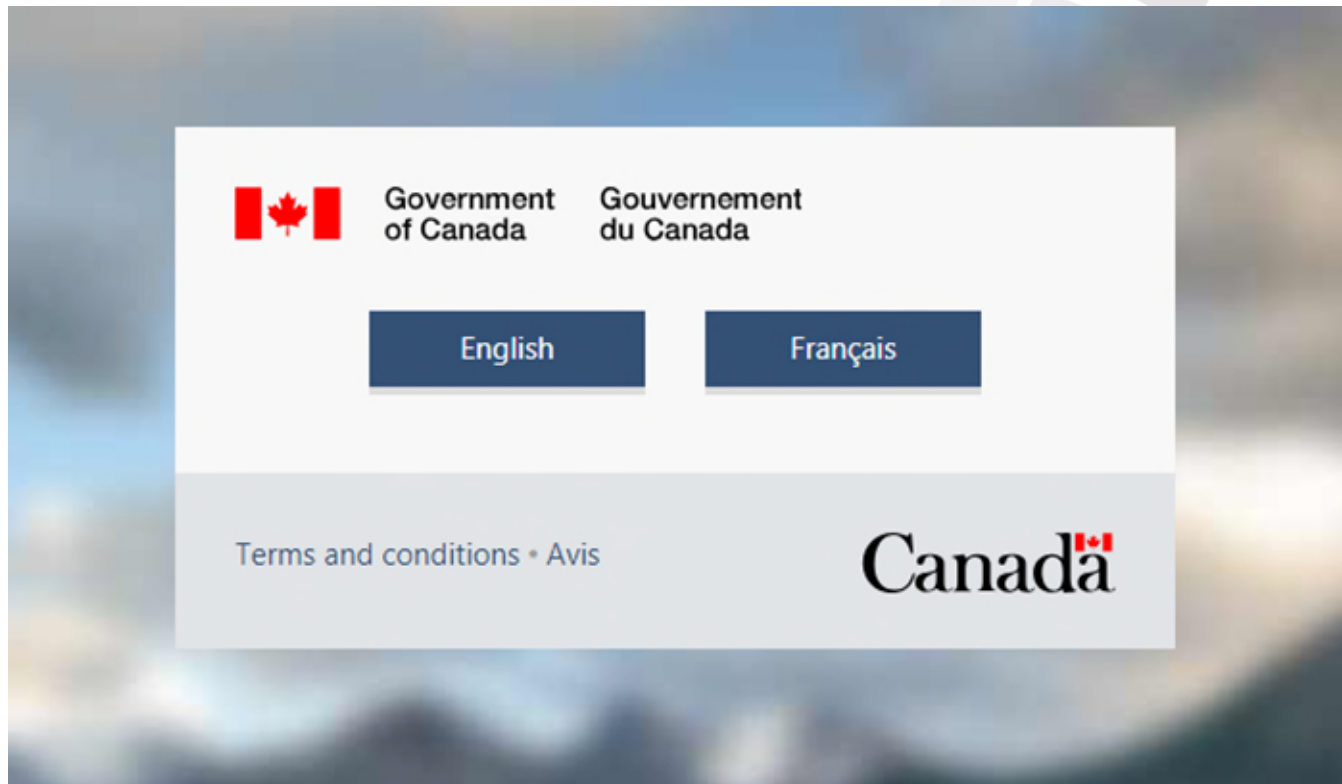
- Currently, RGOs can:
  - view NOIs from NPIs at their institution (in progress and submitted);
  - forward NOIs to the agency;
  - return NOIs to the NPI.

# For RGOs

By forwarding the application, the research administrator, on behalf of the institution, will also be certifying 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-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

# How to Use the Convergence Portal: RGOs



# 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
<a href="#">NFRF website</a>	
<a href="#">Transformation stream</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