

Request for Proposals

**l'Initiative
d'innovation
autochtone**



**Indigenous
Innovation
Initiative**

Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality

A Grand Challenge for Indigenous Innovation, Round 1

May 11, 2020



Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality Through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship – Request for Proposals (RFP)

Executive Summary

The **Indigenous Innovation Initiative** was started to address health, social and economic challenges and spark community-led Indigenous innovation. It is pleased to launch its inaugural program: **Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship**. This program is looking for projects to address this challenge statement:

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative is looking for bold ideas that will advance equality for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples across Canada. Approaches must be grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and apply a gender lens. Projects led by Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ innovators will be given priority.

Applicants are able to apply for up to \$250,000 per proposal. The application process contains two steps.

In this Request for Proposals (RFP) you will find: background information, funding overview, program scope and eligibility, the application process, the review process, the evaluation criteria and instructions for applying.

Use this document to help you submit a expression of interest (step 1) for seed funding from the Indigenous Innovation Initiative. You can submit your expression from **May 11, 2020 to June 9, 2020**.

To apply for funding, applicants must use the online application form provided on the Grand Challenges Canada Fluxx portal (gcc.fluxx.io). **We recommend you register on Fluxx by no later than June 1, 2020** as it can take up to 72 hours (3 days) for Fluxx to process your registration. Additional information is provided in Appendix C of this document. If you require technical assistance, please visit <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>. If you have any questions or require support to register on Fluxx, please email info@indigenousinnovate.org or phone 416.583.5821 extension 5585.

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The **Indigenous Innovation Initiative** was started to address health, social and economic challenges and spark community-led Indigenous innovation.

Our vision is to improve peoples' lives through Indigenous innovation.

The core principles of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative are to:

- Honour Indigenous ways of knowing and being;
- Honour Indigenous laws and protocols; and
- Honour the Land.

With leadership from the Indigenous Innovation Council, guidance from Indigenous community members and support from **Grand Challenges Canada**, the Indigenous Innovation Initiative is now launching **Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship**, a transformative new program to make a meaningful and lasting difference for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people¹, their families and their communities.

We recognize that, in many cases, it is difficult for Indigenous peoples to start and grow a business or organization. There are often additional barriers for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the entrepreneurship, business and social innovation space. Therefore, the goal of **Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship** is to support innovation and social entrepreneurship by and for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

This program has been funded in part by the department of Women and Gender Equality (Canada) (WaGE) and the McConnell Foundation.

1. Funding Overview

Successful applicants will receive seed grants to develop and test their innovative idea, project or enterprise. Grants can be up to \$250,000 for a funding period of up to 24 months (2 years). Please only apply for what you think you will need for this proposal. There will be future funding opportunities to support a transition to scale phase for successful innovators. You may be asked to modify or reduce your budget.

Applying to this RFP is a two-step process, which is outlined below in Section 3.

2. Program Scope

The goal of this program is to support innovations, projects and programs that will improve access to innovation and social entrepreneurship opportunities for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Therefore, we are seeking bold ideas that will advance equality for Indigenous peoples across Canada, including First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples in urban, rural, remote and Northern regions. Approaches must be grounded in Indigenous community and/or Indigenous culture and ways of knowing and being, and it must apply a gender lens in its considerations on equality. Indigenous women and gender diverse innovators and/or -led projects will be given priority.

¹ 2SLGBTQQIA+ is Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and other non-confirming gender/sexuality identities.

Grand Challenges Canada and the Indigenous Innovation Initiative are committed to furthering the principles of gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights and inclusion, including the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability from proposal development through implementation.

Definitions for the following terms are available in Appendix B of this document:

- Indigenous innovation
- Indigenous social entrepreneurship
- Indigenous social enterprise
- Applying a gender lens

Descriptions for the inclusion of gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights and inclusion are in Appendix D.

3. Application Process

This request for proposals (RFP) will make use of a mandatory two-step application process:

Step 1: Submission of a expression of interest

The expression of interest includes a requirement to provide a short summary of your innovation (limit of 500 characters including spaces) and answering three (3) questions. The questions are:

1. What is the problem addressed by your innovation? Provide details on the specific context you are proposing to work in. (limit 1500 characters including spaces, approximately half of one page)
2. What is your proposed innovation? (limit 3000 characters including spaces, approximately 1.5 pages)
3. What are the current approaches being used to address the problem you identified and how will your idea address it more effectively? (limit 1500 characters including spaces)

This step will be open from May 11 – June 9, 2020 only. If you do not meet this deadline you will have to wait until Round 2 opens in late Fall 2020/early Winter 2021 to apply. To submit the expression of interest, applicants must follow the application instructions found at indigenouinnovate.org. Applicant organizations submitting a expression of interest must fully meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 4.1 below.

A maximum of 40 expressions of interest will be selected to proceed to Step 2 based on the Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen (see Section 4.2 to 4.5 below). Notification on the outcomes for Step 1 will be sent out by July 10.

Step 2: Submission of a full proposal (upon invitation only)

If successful at Step 1, you will be invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due by August 7, 2020. Outcomes for Step 2 will be sent out by early October 2020.

Instructions on the preparation of full proposals will be provided to applicants selected at the expression of interest stage. Successful applicants at the expression of interest stage who are invited to go to the full proposal stage will receive constructive feedback on their proposals.

4. Review Process and Eligibility

The review process is outlined below.

4.1 Eligibility Screen

Eligibility based on answers to the registration questions in your registration to the Fluxx system will be screened by the Indigenous Innovation Initiative team. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria may be removed from the competition at any time. Eligible projects must be led by Indigenous organizations (or be in meaningful partnership with Indigenous people).

Eligible applicants can be:

1. Canadian not-for-profit corporations, partnerships, associations, and trusts;
2. Canadian for-profit corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, associations, and trusts, if the nature of the *funded activity* is non-commercial and not intended to generate a profit;
3. Indigenous governments, including band councils, tribal councils, and self-government entities and their agencies, however organized located in Canada;

We are NOT able to fund:

1. Individuals;
2. Non-Canadian organizations of any kind; or
3. Commercial activities or activities intended to generate a profit.

Proposals led by Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ innovators will be given priority.

*With the guidance of our Indigenous Innovation Council, a pre-seed/innovation development support program may be developed to help potential innovators develop their ideas for a subsequent request for proposals (RFP). Sole proprietors and individuals may be eligible for this program, if there is sufficient demand. Please indicated, when prompted in Fluxx, if you would be interested in participating in this program, if you are not successful in this round.

Note on Indigenous Identity

The purpose of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative is to support innovation and social impact that is led by and/or created by Indigenous peoples. We believe in an inclusive approach to Indigenous identity, and that things like past and ongoing colonial policies and the impact of racism has contributed to many Indigenous peoples, communities and groups being exclusively targeted or outright excluded by various programs.

It is our intention to be thoughtful about access to the Indigenous Innovation Initiative's program, and to make sure we demonstrate accountability to our communities. This includes being transparent about where each project is from and how it will make a positive impact for Indigenous groups, inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. We recognize that not everyone is "registered" with their respective Indigenous governance organization. We will work to support innovation by and for status and non-status First Nations, registered and unregistered Métis, and those who are and are not beneficiaries of their Inuit Land Claims Organization, no matter their gender, sexuality, experiences or gifts, and respecting the variety of ways an Indigenous community might be identified.

Successful applicants to the Indigenous Innovation Initiative's programs and opportunities will be asked to demonstrate their connections to Indigenous identity and community. This could include a copy of your "registration" and/or a letter of support from your governance organization (e.g., Band office) and/or a letter of nomination from an Indigenous community organization or group, and/or other relevant evidence of your connection.

4.2 Innovation Screen

Expressions of interest will be scored externally by members of the Indigenous Gender Equality Reference Group. The innovation screen will only evaluate the proposed idea and how it responds to the challenge statement, not the feasibility or quality of the proposal plan. Expressions of interest that demonstrate a lack innovation and/or relevance to the challenge statement will be removed from the competition at this stage.

The challenge statement is:

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative is looking for bold ideas that will advance equality for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples across Canada. Approaches must be grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and apply a gender lens. Proposals led by Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ innovators will be given priority for funding.

Expressions of interest will be scored against the following criteria:

- a) Innovation: Is the proposed idea a completely new idea, or more than a small improvement over current approaches?
- b) Relevance:
 - Does the proposed idea address Indigenous gender equality?
 - Does the proposed idea align with Indigenous community needs?
 - Does the proposed idea apply principles of Indigenous innovation and/or social entrepreneurship?

4.3 Selection Committee Review

Up to 40 of the top applications that pass the Eligibility Screen and Innovation Screen will be invited to Step 2 to submit a full application. A selection committee of innovation, business and entrepreneur reviewers grounded in Indigenous context and ways of knowing and doing, including experts with relevant social innovation and industry knowledge, will advise on the merit of the proposals and rate each application based on the evaluation criteria outlined below.

4.4 Funding Decision

Upon completion of the final selection review, the Indigenous Innovation Initiative team will receive a ranked list of proposals from the selection committee. A final list of proposals recommended for seed funding will be prepared by the Indigenous Innovation Council and the final selection decisions will be approved by the Board of Directors of Grand Challenges Canada.

4.5 Evaluation Criteria

1. Impact

- Is the potential impact of the proposed innovation on Indigenous communities important, both in terms of number of people reached and impact per person?
- Does the proposed idea aim to address inequalities, including gender inequality?
- Does the proposed idea apply a gender lens across all aspects of the innovation, including decision-making and leadership roles, hiring/HR and end recipients of the proposed idea?
- Is the proposed idea led by an Indigenous woman or 2SLGBTQQIA+ person?
- Does the proposed idea hire Indigenous women or 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons?

- Does the proposed idea have a focus on improving equality for Indigenous women or 2SLGBTQQIA+ people as end beneficiaries?

2. Integrated Innovation: Indigenous

- How bold, novel and/or a departure from incremental improvements is the innovation over current approaches?
- How well does the proposed idea integrate Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and doing with social and business innovation?
- Does the proposal take into account and aim to address the principles of honouring Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous laws and protocols and the Land, as outlined above in the Section 2 (Program Scope) and Section 4.1 (Eligibility Screen)?

3. Scale and Sustainability

- Does the proposed idea have a path to, and potential for, impact at scale? Markers of potential for scale and sustainability include: involvement of partners who can help the innovation to scale, potential to leverage or generate funding to sustain the innovation and alignment to the needs and priorities of the community in which it is being implemented.
- Does the applicant/project team have strong social networks in the community to support successful development, delivery and uptake of the innovation?
- Does the applicant identify relevant laws, regulations and interest of relevant institutions and organizations to the development, delivery and uptake of innovations?

4. Project Lead and Team

- Do the Project Lead and team have the skills to carry out the proposed activities?
- Do they demonstrate the commitment and leadership needed to transition ideas to scale?
- Is the Project Lead able to present their approach to the community in an engaging manner?
- Are the proposed activities appropriate to the training and experience level of the Project Lead and team? Does the applicant have the support of a mentor with knowledge and experience in social entrepreneurship?
- Is the Project Lead and/or senior decision-maker(s) an Indigenous woman or 2SLGBTQQIA+ person?

5. Technical Merit/Project Execution Plan

- Is the project designed to demonstrate if idea will work (i.e., proof of concept)?
- Are the proposed milestones appropriate, feasible and technically sound?
- Is the project reasonably sound and feasible within the seed grant funding and timeline?
- Does the location or condition within where the project will be located contribute to the probability of success?
- How well does the proposal take into account and aim to address Grand Challenges Canada's gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights and inclusion objectives?
- Does the approach and budget represent an efficient use of resources?

The criteria will be equally weighted.

Note on COVID-19

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative and Grand Challenges Canada are taking into careful consideration the immediate and longer term impacts and implications of the COVID-19 global pandemic. These considerations are taking place at all levels, including the recognition that it will be more difficult for groups, organizations and communities with low connectivity access to hear about and apply to this opportunity. We are doing everything we can to monitor and address this unprecedented and rapidly evolving situation.

While this call is not specifically looking for COVID-19 related innovations, please anticipate that consideration for how this may impact the potential for the development and implementation of your idea will be included in the evaluation of the project execution plan, if applicable.

It is advised that you note if and how your idea may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what measures you are considering to adapt and/or to be more resilient to these impacts in the future.

5. Review Process and Eligibility

5.1 Confirm your eligibility when you register.

5.2 Submit your expression of interest (open call). This is the first step, outlined in Section 3.

Eligibility will be verified by the Indigenous Innovation Initiative team. This stage is only to verify that applications meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

The top expressions of interest, determined by external innovation screen reviewers, will be invited to complete a full application. We will invite up to 40 innovators to apply.

5.3 Submit your full proposal (by invitation only). This is the second step, outlined in Section 3.

Further information will be provided to applicants who are invited to the next stage. Application questions will be made available at that time.

Successful applicants will be brought together in early October 2020 to convene (COVID-19 pending) for a networking event that will have two objectives. First, to support the development of a common set of Indigenous community relevant assessment measurements to ensure comparability across projects funded under this program. Second, to support applicants with the orientation and due diligence phase required for funding to flow. It will include guidance from experienced business leaders, social innovators, mentors and peers. Due to COVID-19, these workshops may be run remotely.

To apply for funding, applicants must use the online application form provided on the Grand Challenges Canada Fluxx portal (gcc.fluxx.io). **Please register on Fluxx by no later than June 1, 2020** as it can take up to 72 hours (3 days) for Fluxx to process your registration. Additional information is provided in Appendix C of this document. If you require technical assistance, please visit <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>. If you require support

to register please email info@indigenousinnovate.org or phone 416.583.5821 extension 5585.

Applicants may decide to submit photos, videos or attachments to complement their expression of interest. These could include a/an:

- Word document (2 pages or less with font point 12 or bigger)
- Powerpoint presentation (10 slides or less with font point 20 or bigger)
- MP3 audio file (4 minute long or less)
- Link to a YouTube video (4 minute long or less)

Content above and beyond these time limits/amounts will not be considered as part of the application.

Appendix A – Key Dates

Key Dates	Event
<p>May 11, 2020</p>	<p>First day to apply for funding. You must <u>register for a Fluxx account to apply</u> (gcc.fluxx.io).</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can take up to 72h (3 days) to set up your account on Fluxx. Please register early. • If you have applied for funding in the past, you already have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal, simply click on <u>Create or reset password</u>.
<p>June 9, 2020</p>	<p>Step 1 application deadline at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST</p>
<p>July 10, 2020</p>	<p>Invitation for submission for full proposals</p>
<p>August 7, 2020</p>	<p>Step 2 application deadline for full proposals at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST</p>
<p>October 1, 2020</p>	<p>Notification of application status</p>
<p>Early 2021</p>	<p>Anticipated start date of projects</p>

Appendix B – Definitions of Key Terms

Definitions

Indigenous innovation is when some or all parts of a program, product, process or service that is designed, developed or invented by an Indigenous person or community is one of the following:

- A new idea, program, product, process or service OR
- A unique modification of a current program, product, process or service

We recognize that Indigenous innovation as not exclusively something new, but something that can be based on historical or traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices and applied to a new situation or context.

An **Indigenous social enterprise** is a business, venture, project or organization that is:

- Built to achieve improvements in financial, social and/or environmental and community well-being;
- Aligned with Indigenous values; and
- Does good for the people and their communities.

Indigenous entrepreneurship is often inherently similar to social entrepreneurship as it focuses on maximizing social impact for Indigenous people and communities, not just for the owners.

An **Indigenous social entrepreneur** often works to support their community by using their experience to help other entrepreneurs or acting as a role model for the community. This may include things like promoting local employment and using economic development as a policy and/or measure of success.

Innovations where some or all parts of the project, product, process or service are designed, developed or invented by a **non-Indigenous person or organization** may be eligible for funding, as long as it is for use with and done in a meaningful partnership with Indigenous peoples and/or communities.

We define the application of a **gender lens** as the practice of considering the influence of gender and the impacts on people of all genders across all aspects of the innovation. Applying a gender lens includes consideration for how the innovation empowers women and girls, including gender diverse peoples, and how the work applies a gender-aware approach

Appendix C – Instructions for Fluxx

To apply for funding, applicants **MUST** use the online application provided, which is **ONLY** accessible via the Grand Challenges Canada’s Fluxx Portal (gcc.fluxx.io). Deadlines included here are for Step 1 of the application process – the expression of interest.

1. Go to <https://gcc.fluxx.io>.
 - If you have applied for funding in the past, you **already** have an account. If you do not remember your password, you can reset it and gain immediate access to the Portal by clicking on the [Create or reset password](#) link.
 - If you are a brand new user (or the “forgot password” option does not work), you must click the **Create an account** button.

Note: If you are registering for a new account on behalf of someone else, you must enter all information (including the date of birth) of the applying Project Lead and the applying Organization. These names will display on the application form and cannot be changed without contacting an Administrator.

For new accounts only: It will take at least one (1) business day to receive your login credentials, and may take longer during peak periods. Therefore, we suggest requesting an account no later than **June 1, 2020**. Once your information has been processed, you will be emailed a username and a URL to set up a password of your choice. Click on the URL provided in the email to select a password of your choice.

2. Input your username and password. Click **Sign in**.
3. Click on the Welcome/Bienvenue link on the left menu, scroll down and click on the **Start an Application** button.

Note:

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser (DO NOT use Internet Explorer)
- You can **Save** your work at any time and return to it later by logging into your account and clicking on **Drafts/Ébauches**, then clicking on **Edit**
- When you are done editing, save your form and click the **Submit** button. Once you submit, you will no longer be able to edit, so please take care when completing the form.
- You **MUST** complete your application by clicking the **Submit** button within the application form by **June 9, 2020 at 11:59 P.M. EDT**

For more details on the steps above, including screen shots, see the [Fluxx Quick Reference Guide](#) which describes how to create a Fluxx Portal account, how to reset the password on an existing account and other helpful tips on navigating Fluxx and the application form.

Both new and returning Portal users should read the [Fluxx Quick Reference Guide](#) to avoid any technical issues. If you require technical assistance with registration or the online application, contact Grand Challenges Canada’s Fluxx Technical Support Team at <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/>.

The application can be submitted in either English or French. Applications in other languages will not be considered. To change the language of your application, go to the **Edit Profile** link on the left menu.

Appendix D – Gender Equality, Environmental Sustainability, and Human Rights and Inclusion

Grand Challenges Canada and the Indigenous Innovation Initiative are committed to furthering the principles of gender equality, environmental sustainability, and human rights and inclusion, including the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, inclusion, transparency, and accountability from proposal development through implementation.

1. **Gender equality:** Gender equality and the rights of women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is important. Proposals must demonstrate equality between persons of all genders. Innovators funded by Grand Challenges Canada must consider how the design, implementation and evaluation of their innovation could promote or hinder gender equality objectives, including leadership and governance. Proposals must take actions towards realizing gender equality opportunities within the funding period. Gender equality objectives include, but are not limited to:
 - i) Advancing the equal participation and support for women, girls and gender diverse persons in the realization of their full human rights, with the active engagement and empowerment of women and gender diverse peoples and their communities to further their equal participation and status and
 - ii) Reducing gender inequalities around access to and control over resources
2. **Environmental sustainability:** All innovations funded by Grand Challenges Canada must consider at the planning stage and, where applicable, how they will monitor and evaluate the environmental impacts of their projects. Efforts should be made to identify and minimize negative impacts and enhance positive impacts, if any, on the environment(s).
3. **Human rights and inclusion:** Innovators who have submitted a proposal or who are implementing an innovation must consider how the innovation will, at a minimum, 'do no harm' with respect to the human rights of their stakeholders and beneficiaries. In the design and implementation of the innovation(s), the innovator must:
 - i) Consider ways in which the innovation can support poverty reduction in the local population, particularly for women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people;
 - ii) Be equitable and non-discriminatory;
 - iii) Actively include the participation and inclusion of more marginalized stakeholders and beneficiaries among the local population, with an emphasis on women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and gender diverse peoples; and
 - iv) Promote transparency and accountability among stakeholders and beneficiaries of the innovation and its intended impact.

Grand Challenges Canada will work with innovators to strengthen their focus on these key principles in the design, implementation and evaluation of the innovation(s).

Appendix E – Other important information

E.1 Terms of Payments

1. Costs directly related to the implementation of the proposal are eligible as per the “Recipients Guide to Managing Your Contribution Funds” and any additional funder-specific directives included in the resulting grant agreement.
2. Advance payments: An initial advance based on your estimated cash flow will be made once a grant agreement is signed. Payments after that will be made on quarterly advanced installments as agreed upon during the negotiations phase. These amounts can be adjusted and/or re-negotiated if need be. Advances will be subject to a 5% holdback on the amount forecasted.
3. All advance requests and financial reports must be co-signed by the Innovation Project Lead and their Grand Challenges Canada financial officer.
4. Outstanding advances: If you do not spend your advance payment as expected during a payment period we can still send the next advance payment installment as planned, however, the next advance will not be given until the older advance spending is completely accounted for. For example, before an advance payment is issued for a third period, the first period must be accounted for.
5. You must have a proper system for monitoring and tracking spending of the advanced payments.
6. Final payment (i.e., the holdback of up to 5% of the grant amount) will be subject to the following conditions:
 - a) The proposal has been completed as planned and agreed upon;
 - b) Grand Challenges Canada has received and accepted the final report; and
 - c) Grand Challenges Canada has received a certificate stating that financial obligations related to the grant agreement have been fully paid, including employees, subcontractors or suppliers.

E.2 Costs

Grand Challenges Canada will not pay for costs associated with applying for any stage of this RFP.

For successful applicants, Grand Challenges Canada will not pay for costs incurred before a formal agreement is signed.

E.3 Audit

Funded innovators may be audited by Grand Challenges Canada or any of its partners, at any time, up until seven (7) years after the agreement end date. Funded innovators must retain project records during that period, all of which will be reflected in each funding agreement.

E.4 Submission Materials and Privacy Notice

All proposals, documents and communications, including videos and associated materials, submitted to Grand Challenges Canada in response to this RFP (collectively, “Submission Materials”) may be shared with any funding partners.

The proposals will be subject to external review by independent subject-matter experts and potential co-funders, in addition to analysis by our staff.

Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information (including information related to inventions), we recommend you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property.

You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission and whether more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

Grand Challenges Canada will not take responsibility for any liability or claims that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in Submission Materials.

E.5 Collection and Use of Indigenous Knowledge and Data

Any proposal that receives funding will be asked to share data with the Indigenous Innovation Initiative, and will be engaged to share program materials which may include Indigenous knowledge. This information will be shared with WaGE, as the primary funder of this program, and may be shared with other program partners, with consent. Project materials include but are not limited to materials developed to support program planning, evaluation and reporting activities.

To ensure that Indigenous worldviews, protocols and rights are honoured, this information will be collected, shared and used as per the Indigenous Innovation Initiative's "Indigenous Knowledge and Data Governance Protocols" (under development). These protocols are being developed in partnership with Indigenous communities, our Indigenous leadership on the Indigenous Innovation Council and Grand Challenges Canada Board of Directors, and the department of Women and Gender Equality (Canada) (WaGE).

Any proposal that receives funding through this program will be engaged to define what data will be collected and how it will be used as it relates to their project. Applicants remain the owners of any intellectual property that they generate. Grand Challenges Canada will grant to WaGE a royalty free non-exclusive license to any project materials developed by applicants provided to it for the purposes of the master funding agreement with Grand Challenges Canada, including but not limited to: (a) reports and lessons learned generated by the project and (b) reports, tool kits and analyses generated by the project.

E.6 Rights of Grand Challenges Canada

This RFP is part of a discretionary granting program. Submission of an application does not create a commitment or contractual relationship between the applicant and Grand Challenges Canada in any way.

Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to:

1. Cancel this RFP at any time and for any reason.
2. Amend and reissue this RFP at any time and for any reason. This RFP is valid commencing on May 11, 2020, and supersedes any previous RFP of this nature. The

terms and conditions of this RFP apply to all applications submitted from May 11, 2020 going forward and may be replaced by a revised RFP in the future. We recommend checking for any revisions to the RFP prior to the submission of your application.

3. Accept or reject any application that is non-conforming because it does not meet the eligibility criteria, does not comply with the application instructions and/or does not comply with the instructions for allowable costs.
4. Not award an application based on performance on a previous Grand Challenges Canada grant or project, or based on the award of a grant to the applicant for the same or similar research by one of Grand Challenges Canada's partners or collaborating institutions.
5. Disqualify any application at any stage where there is an indication that the proposal was, in any way, plagiarized.
6. Accept or reject any or all applications, regardless of an application's ranking based on the evaluation criteria and with or without providing an explanation.
7. Award applications with different funding amounts, different durations and/or different conditions than set out herein.
8. Verify any information provided by applicants through independent research or by contacting third parties deemed to be reliable by Grand Challenges Canada, and use that information to inform Grand Challenges Canada's funding decision.
9. Provide grants in collaboration with funding partners. This may involve separate grant agreements with each institution (i.e., one with Grand Challenges Canada and one with a funding partner institution), as well as distinct transfers of funds. Any such funding may be subject to terms and conditions beyond those described herein. The project deliverables, however, will be aligned.

E.7 Research Assurances

It is the policy of Grand Challenges Canada that research involving human subjects, research with animals and research subject to additional regulatory requirements must be conducted in accordance with the highest internationally-recognized ethical standards. In order to receive funds from Grand Challenges Canada, initially and throughout the course of a research project, researchers must affirm and document compliance with the guiding ethical principles and standards outlined below:

1. Research involving human participants must be conducted in a manner that demonstrates, protects and preserves respect for persons, concern for the welfare of individuals, families and communities, and justice;
2. Research involving animals must be conducted in a manner that ensures their humane care and treatment; and
3. Certain research endeavours, including but not limited to research with recombinant DNA, biohazards and genetically modified organisms, may be subject to enhanced regulation and oversight.

As applicable to any research project funded, Grand Challenges Canada will require that all legal and regulatory approvals be obtained before starting the regulated activity. We will further require you to agree that no funds will be expended to enroll human subjects until the necessary regulatory and ethical bodies' approvals are obtained. For further details, see [Grand Challenges Canada's Ethics Policy \(https://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/20170927-EthicsPolicy-EN.pdf\)](https://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/20170927-EthicsPolicy-EN.pdf).