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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Indigenous Science and the Impacts of Plastic Pollution Joint Initiative

June 27, 2025



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



OUTLINE



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About SSHRC and ECCC

This funding opportunity is a joint initiative between Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada

ECCC is the lead federal department for a wide range of environmental issues. The department addresses these issues through various actions including the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change; engaging with our strategic partners including provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples; monitoring; science-based research; policy and regulatory development; and, through the enforcement of environmental laws. The department's programs focus on minimizing threats to Canadians and their environment from pollution; equipping Canadians to make informed decisions on weather, water and climate conditions; and conserving and restoring Canada's natural environment.

About SSHRC and ECCC

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

SSHRC is the federal agency mandated to promote and support research and training in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC has long been committed to supporting research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, and has played a leadership role in recent years, on behalf of Canada's federal research funding agencies, to co-develop with Indigenous Peoples an interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation.

Context - Canada's Commitment to Tackling Plastic Waste and Pollution

- Government of Canada Initiatives:
 - In 2018:
 - Canada led the launch of the Ocean Plastics Charter
 - Introduced the <u>Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste</u>
 - Adopted collaboratively by federal, provincial, and territorial governments through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)
- Key National Framework:
 - Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste
 - Phase 1 (2019): Enhance the circularity of plastics within the economy and launch systemic changes needed to reduce plastic waste
 - Phase 2 (2020): Prevent and reduce plastic pollution, foster awareness, bolster science and support global action

Context - Canada's Global Leadership and Indigenous Engagement

- International Engagement:
 - Canada is an active participant in the <u>Intergovernmental</u> <u>Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution</u>
 - The Committee aims to create an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment
 - Key involvement of Indigenous communities, including through the <u>International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on</u> <u>Plastics</u>.
- Indigenous Participation:
 - Integral in advocating that the instrument reflects their unique perspectives and knowledge, emphasizing the importance of:
 - Protection traditional lands, waters, and ecosystems from plastic pollution
 - The inclusion of Indigenous rights, environmental stewardship and sustainable practices in the instrument

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY OBJECTIVES

- To help reduce plastic waste and pollution and progress towards a circular economy for plastics, ECCC is partnering with SSHRC on this joint initiative. The funding opportunity provides research funding support through <u>Research</u> <u>Partnerships grants</u> to address knowledge gaps about the potential impacts of plastic pollution on Indigenous communities through the various stages of the plastic lifecycle, focusing on social, cultural and economic impacts.
- Applications should demonstrate that the research project prioritizes Indigenous communities by indicating that it:
 - has been designed through consultation
 - has been co-developed or initiated by Indigenous communities and responding to their needs
 - is designed to bridge, braid, and weave Indigenous science and knowledge in the project; and/or will be led or co-led by Indigenous researchers and organizations
- Research findings will help inform evidence-based decision-making when developing future actions on plastics.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Proposed research projects must address at least one of the following research objectives, as applicable, locally or across Canada:

Theme 1: Understanding the Potential Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Indigenous Peoples

- Investigating the potential impacts (e.g., social, cultural, and economic) of plastic waste and/or pollution on Indigenous Peoples.
- Examining Indigenous approaches to assess the potential impacts (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, etc.) from risks of and/or exposure to plastic pollution.

Theme 2: Indigenous Approaches to Address Plastic Pollution

- Generating knowledge based on Indigenous science and cultural approaches to address the impacts of plastic pollution on wildlife, the environment, and potentially human health (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, etc.).
- Exploring environmental justice and Indigenous rights in relation to plastic pollution.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

ECCC and SSHRC welcome applications involving <u>Indigenous research</u>, as well as those involving <u>research-creation</u>.

This joint initiative uses the definition of Indigenous science provided by ECCC's <u>Indigenous Science Division</u>:

> "a culturally specific method of accumulating knowledge, refining hypotheses, and changing practices associated with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples' deep understanding of and relationship to the natural world".

Indigenous science is **"wholistic"** (a term used to describe the ecosystem as a whole), and deeply braids, or weaves, new information over a longer-term perspective, while respecting expected codes of conduct and due diligence toward the collective benefit of all components, including humans, in ecosystems.

Indigenous science encompasses both past and real-time environmental events that Indigenous people have knowledge of, such as changes in species behaviour and distribution, water, climate change impacts and adaptations, prevention of wildfires as well as cultural burning, land stewardship, wildlife protection, and species at risk.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Value and Duration:

• Up to \$237,500 annually for up to 2 years (with option to extend

by one year with no additional funding)

Application deadline:

• October 16, 2025 (8 p.m. Eastern)

Results announced:

• Results announced in February 2026

ELIGIBILITY - INSTITUTIONS

- Grant funds can only be administered by an <u>eligible Canadian postsecondary</u> <u>institution or Indigenous not-for-profit organization</u>. Institutions proposing to administer a grant awarded under this funding opportunity must hold or obtain <u>institutional eligibility</u>.
- ✓ Indigenous institutions or not-for-profit organizations unsure about their institutional eligibility or interested in obtaining eligibility are strongly encouraged to contact SSHRC's institutional eligibility team at least 10 business days prior to the application deadline: institutional.eligibility@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

Indigenous postsecondary institutions, including but not limited to **universities**, **tribal colleges**, **polytechnics and institutes**, are encouraged to participate. If your organization does not meet the criteria for institutional eligibility, your organization may participate on a proposal as a **partner organization** or have individuals participate on a project team in the role of **co-director**, **co-applicant** or **collaborator**, as applicable.

Eligibility – Applicants

Applicants: must be affiliated with a Canadian institution or Indigenous not-forprofit organization that holds <u>institutional eligibility</u> before funding can be released.

Eligible:

- **Postdoctoral researchers** eligible if they have formally established an affiliation with an eligible institution within 3 months of the grant start date and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period must also confirm beforehand that the institution can administer funding if awarded
- **PhD candidates** eligible if they have met all PhD requirements before the grant is awarded and established a formal affiliation with an eligible postsecondary institution within 5 months of the grant start date and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period

Not eligible:

- Researchers whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian institution
- Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian institution that holds institutional eligibility, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution

Eligibility - Participants Continued

- Co-directors/Co-applicants: Individuals (including postdoctoral researchers) are eligible if they are formally affiliated with any of the following (regardless of their institution or organization holding institutional eligibility):
 - **Canadian:** postsecondary institution; not-for-profit organization; philanthropic foundation; think tank; municipal, territorial or provincial government; or Indigenous government, governance body or band council
 - International: postsecondary institution

PhD candidates are eligible to be co-directors or co-applicants under the same conditions as those described for an applicant.

- Collaborators: Any individual who makes a significant contribution to the project is eligible.
 - Do not need to be affiliated with an eligible institution
 - Individuals from private sector or federal government can only participate as collaborators

Eligibility – Participants Continued

- Partner Organizations: can be Canadian or international institutions or organizations of any type (private, public or not-for-profit). Indigenous academic and non-academic organizations (including private), Indigenous governments, and Indigenous not-for-profit organizations are all welcome to partner.
 - For this funding opportunity, <u>at least one partner organization must be an</u> **Indigenous partner**.
 - To promote collaboration across institutions and organizations, not-for-profit organization applicants must include <u>at least one</u> **Canadian postsecondary institution** as a partner organization.

International private organizations <u>cannot</u> participate as a partner organization for this joint initiative.

Specific rules for the use of grant funds

Grant funds cannot be used to remunerate <u>Team</u> members (applicant, co-director, coapplicant or collaborator) regardless of an individual's eligibility to apply for grants. * This includes postdoctoral fellows serving in any of these capacities.

***Exception to the above rule:** In some cases, Indigenous <u>team</u> members may be compensated. For more information, please consult the <u>Tri-agency guideline on</u> <u>remuneration for Indigenous people participating in funded projects</u>. Note that in such cases, the team member may not be delegated to authorize grant expenditures, and under no circumstances is the applicant/project director eligible to be compensated from grant funds.

- Grant funds cannot be used for salaries or stipends to individuals whose status would make them eligible to hold a grant from the agency.
- Grant funds cannot be used for course release time to allow an individual to engage in research activities.
- A salary research allowance can be requested for not-for-profit organizations involved in the partnership with a named eligible participant on the <u>team</u> to release them from duties to their organization. A salary research allowance is not a salary for the project participant but is paid to the Canadian not-for-profit organization to offset the costs of replacing its employee for time spent participating on a SSHRC-funded research project.

MERIT REVIEW

- For this initiative, ECCC and SSHRC will establish a joint merit review committee with expertise including Indigenous research and related worldviews, ethics and protocols, as well as knowledge of plastics and their impacts.
- The merit review committee will include members who are Indigenous.
- The final selection of projects will be made by ECCC based on the recommendations of the merit review committee and on the funds available, considering the final ranking of proposals as well as the aim of supporting a diverse portfolio of projects to ensure that a variety of partnerships and complementary themes are included.

EVALUATION

- The following criteria and scoring theme are used to evaluate the applications:
 - **Challenge** Aim and importance of the endeavour (50%)
 - **Feasibility** Plan to achieve excellence (20%)
 - **Capability** Expertise to succeed (30%)
- The quality of training, mentoring and employability plans for students and emerging scholars will be evaluated as an important part of the proposed initiative. <u>SSHRC's Guidelines for</u> <u>Effective Research Training</u> explain how students and emerging scholars can meaningfully participate in proposed initiatives.

Unclassified | Sans classification

SSHRC POLICIES & GUIDELINES

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

SSHRC has several tools specifically intended to support applicants working in Indigenous research, merit reviewers assessing applications related to Indigenous research, and communities and other research partners engaged in Indigenous research:

- SSHRC's definition of Indigenous research;
- Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research; and
- <u>Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research</u> Involving Humans, Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – ACCESSIBILITY

- Raising research community awareness of accessibility services
- Methods of communication
- Types of adaptive measures
- Information to include when requesting an adaptive measure
- For more details, please consult the <u>Accessibility in programs and</u> <u>services at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</u> page launched in 2023
- For further questions, contact:

Accessibility-accessibilite@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

- SSHRC is committed to increasing equitable and inclusive participation in the research ecosystem, including on research teams, and to promoting the integration of considerations related to EDI into research design and practices.
- SSHRC has developed a <u>Guide to Addressing EDI Considerations in</u> <u>Partnership Grant Applications</u>. It outlines expectations and provides definitions, examples, guiding questions and resources for applicants to draw on when incorporating EDI considerations in the development of their partnerships and conceptualization of their research projects.



POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

Applicants must protect the privacy and confidentiality of all team members and trainees. How an individual self-identifies is considered personal and confidential information. If a team member's self-identification (e.g., gender, Indigenous identity, disability or racial background) is relevant to the research project, you may include that self-identity information <u>only with</u> <u>their consent</u>. Otherwise, self-identification information about any team member should not appear in the application.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – STRAC NEW

- On January 16, 2024, the Government of Canada announced the <u>Policy on</u> <u>Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern</u> (STRAC Policy).
- The policy operates using two lists that must be used in conjunction a list of <u>Sensitive Technology Research Areas</u> (STRA) and a list of <u>Named</u> <u>Research Organizations</u> (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.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES – STRAC 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-directors, coapplicants and collaborators) must complete attestation forms, 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 forms to the applicant, who must save them as a single PDF and upload it to the STRAC Attestation module of the application form.

Unclassified | Sans classification

PREPARING AN APPLICATION

PREPARING AN APPLICATION

Convergence Portal

A Have questions? ↓ Login

Applications must be submitted through the <u>Convergence Portal</u>

2. Funding Opportunities

Award

Applications

Portal Account Users

Due to a technical issue with the Convergence Portal, we are providing a 24-hour extension of the 2026 Transformation LOI deadline to **Wednesday, June 18 at 8 p.m. ET**.

ORCID

The Convergence portal is now integrated with ORCID. Convergence users have the option to connect directly to their ORCID account and link it to their Convergence profile.

Multi-Factor Authentication

Effective May 2, 2024, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) will be implementing Multi-Factor Authentication as a mandatory requirement for Convergence Portal access, as required by Government of Canada security policies.

Visit the Multi-Factor Authentication page for more information.

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

Funding Opportunities

	Agency	Name	Stage 🕇	Deadline	Actions
	SSHRC	Indigenous Science and the Impacts of Plastic Pollution	Application	2025-10-16 8:00 PM	Create Application

Login
Email
Email
Password Forgot password?
Password
Login
New to the Convergence Portal?
Create My Portal Account

PREPARING AN APPLICATION

Application Section: Participant Eligibility (5 Steps)

- Step 1: Project Director Eligibility
- Step 2: Affiliations
- Step 3: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (self-identification questionnaire)
- Step 4: Fields of research
- Step 5: Keywords

Final Step:

Accept Terms and Conditions

Step 2 of 5: Affiliations

You must add all of your current affiliations and identify your primary affiliation. Also include your affiliation associated with this application, even if you have not yet started the position.



ry ↓	Date 🖊	Organization and Department	Position	Actions
	2023-01-01 - present	Test Organization - Test	Test	Edit

Affiliation associated with the application

Choose the affiliation associated with this application. (required)



Primar

PREPARING AN APPLICATION – MY INFORMATION SECTION

CV Education

My Information			
CV Education			
CV Affiliation			
CV Interruptions and Special Circumstances	+	— (If a	pplicable)
Tri-Agency CV Document			
Finalize			

- This section is required for the project director and any invited co-directors and co-applicants.
- Not applicable for collaborators

Document Name	Stage	File	Status	Actions
Tri-Agency CV	Application	Required		Upload file

PREPARING AN APPLICATION – MY INFORMATION SECTION

CV Education



Tri-Agency CV Steps:

- . Open the "Tri-Agency CV Document" section
- . Go to <u>Tri-agency CV instructions</u> and download the <u>Tri-agency CV template</u>
- 3. Complete and convert CV to a PDF to upload

Document Name	Stage	File	Status	Actions
Tri-Agency CV	Application	Required		Upload file



PREPARING AN APPLICATION – TRI-AGENCY CV

- Narrative style with maximum 5 pages total (6 for French CVs)
 - normally written in the first person to tell your story
- No section-specific page limit but information must be self-contained
- Solution Section S
 - Personal statement

(ex: relevant expertise; lived or living experience)

 Most significant contributions or experiences (up to 10) (ex: publications; community service or involvement that leverages expertise)

Supervisory and mentorship activities

(ex: development and delivery of training workshops outside of research or course requirements; outreach and engagement activities)

Questions about the TCV? — <u>Tri-agency CV Frequently asked questions</u>

Invitations – Project Director

• Participants (co-directors, co-applicants and collaborators) must be invited by the project director through the "Invitations" module in the Convergence Portal.

				Invite Participant
Name 🕇	Role	Status	Date	Actions
Diana, Test	Collaborator	Accepted	2025-06-23 11:32 AM	
	Collaborator	Cancelled	2025-06-23 10:19 AM	
	Co-Director	Invited	2025-06-23 10:18 AM	Cancel Resend
	Co-Applicant	Invited	2025-06-23 10:36 AM	Cancel Resend

Invitations - Participant

Email from Convergence Portal:

Should you <u>accept this invitation</u>, you will be redirected to the Convergence Portal to log in (or create an account).

In the case that you <u>decline this invitation</u>, an automated message will be sent to Diana Meneses Iwai.

• Portal:

You have been invited to participate as a Co-Applicant in the following application.

Competition

Indigenous Science and the Impacts of Plastic Pollution Joint Initiative

Accept Decline my Participation



Finalizing Participants



- The Project Director is required to ensure all participant information is complete before finalizing and submitting.
- If a participant has not completed their section, the Project Director must remove them from the application in the "Participants" module before submitting the application:

Role 🕇	Status	Actions
Co-Applicant	Information not finalized	View Information Finalize information Remove Participant
Co-Applicant	Pending eligibility	Remove Participant
Collaborator	Removed	



Finalizing Participants

Co-Applicant Information: Test Diana

WARNING: Once this information is finalized it cannot be undone.

To prepare your application for submission, you can now finalize the information for this application participant.

Please review this information of this participant to ensure correctness before submission. This action cannot be undone.



Once a participant is finalized, the status in the "Participants" module will update to Complete but it is still possible to remove them and re-invite them, if necessary:



Partner Organizations:

• Partner organizations are added (but not invited) through Convergence

First Name (required)	Family Name (required)
Position or role (required)	Department
Email (required)	Telephone number (required) Provide a telephone number
Website	
Organization name (required)	Country or region of organization (require
Select	✓ Select

Supporting documents:

- **Project Description** (maximum 10 pages)
- List of references or bibliography (maximum 2 pages)
- Funds requested from SSHRC (<u>Excel template</u>)
- **Budget justification** (maximum 2 pages)
- Funds requested from other sources (<u>Excel template</u>)
- Letters of support from partner organizations (maximum two pages per partner)
- List of potential partner organizations (maximum two pages, if applicable)

Project description:

Sections with recommended page lengths (12 pages maximum in total):

Goal and research project description (5 pages)

 Clearly justify how the proposal aligns with the funding opportunity's goals and objectives, highlight its relevance to Canada and partner organizations, demonstrate the suitability of the theoretical and methodological approaches, and include a project timeline.

Description of partnership (4 pages)

 Describe the composition, expertise, and roles of the team and partner organizations; explain why a partnership approach is essential and how it adds unique value; outline the governance structure and decision-making process; and show how partners will benefit and be impacted by their involvement.

Training and mentoring (1 page)

- It is expected that <u>emerging scholars</u> and/or other highly qualified personnel will meaningfully participate. Consult <u>Guidelines for Effective Research Training</u> for more information.
- Knowledge mobilization plan (2 pages)



Funds requested from SSHRC & Funds from other sources:

Funds requested from SSHRC				
		Year 1		Year 2
Personnel costs	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Student salaries and benefits/Stip	ends			
Undergraduate				
Masters				
Doctorate				
Non-student salaries and benefits	/Stipe	nds		
Postdoctoral				
Other				

Funds from Other S	Sources			
Full organization name	Contribution type (cash or in- kind)	Confirmed? (Y/N)	Year 1	Year 2

Excel templates can be downloaded from the Convergence Portal (Shared Information > Supporting Documents) and must be completed, saved, and uploaded as PDFs)

Helpful Links:

- Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration principles governing the appropriate use of funds
- Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions
- Salary research allowances
- Guidelines for Support of Tools for Research and Related Activities
- Tri-agency guideline on remuneration for Indigenous people participating in funded projects

Budget Justification (maximum 2 pages)

- → Using the categories listed on the Funds requested from SSHRC page, explain how you will use the funds in each budget category to achieve the project objectives. For example, under the Student and non-student salaries and benefits categories, explain why these individuals need to be hired to meet the project's objectives. Applicants are reminded of SSHRC's mandate to provide training opportunities for students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, as applicable. Justify any funds that appear in the category "Other." Only provide amounts for the two years of funding for this joint initiative.
- For tools for research and related activities: Within the page limit, you must include in your Budget justification a table clearly indicating amounts by item (e.g., professional/technical services, supplies). This presentation is mandatory, as these separate amounts cannot be included individually in the Funds requested from SSHRC template form. Provide clear justification for each item proposed.

Letters of Support

- Maximum 2 pages per partner organization
- Must be uploaded as one combined PDF for this section of the application
- Each letter must be written on official letterhead and include:
 - The relevance and significance of the project objectives in relation to the partner organization and the stated outcomes of the ICLR Connection Grants
 - The exact nature of the involvement of the partner organization in the project, including the intellectual leadership and governance of the partnership and/or Indigenous Elder and community involvement, as appropriate
 - Details on partner contributions financial, <u>in-kind</u>, or other (e.g., social or linguistic capital)
 - expected outcomes the partner organization wishes to achieve

PREPARING AN APPLICATION – SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

→ Finalizing an application

- Follow prompts from the Finalize and Submit section to submit application to research administrator for review and approval
- Project Director must verify all participants have completed their sections and finalized their information – if a participant's section is not complete and it's time to submit, the participant must be removed from the application.
- Research administrator at institution or organization must forward the application to SSHRC
- Once forwarded:
 - application status indicates "Received by Agency"
 - no further changes can be made

THANK YOU

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Environment and Climate Change Canada Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

• Program support for the Indigenous Science and the Impacts of Plastic Pollution Joint Initiative :

partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

o Helpdesk technical support for the Convergence Portal:

webgrants@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca or 613-995-4273



Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

