



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

Policy on Environmental Sustainability, Gender Equality and Good Governance

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting **Bold Ideas with Big Impact**® in global health. The bold ideas we support integrate science and technology, social and business innovation. The coordinated application of these domains is what Grand Challenges Canada calls **Integrated Innovation**®. This approach does not discount the singular benefits of each of these types of innovation alone, but rather highlights the powerful synergies that can be realized by aligning all three to address a single challenge. Moreover, the approach – and in particular the integration of social innovation – recognizes that development interventions operate within existing social, cultural, economic, environmental, institutional and political structures in any community, country or region. Due consideration of such factors has, since its inception, been fundamental to Grand Challenges Canada's ability to enable meaningful and responsible health and social impact through its support of integrated innovations.

The primary aims of innovations supported by Grand Challenges Canada may or may not *directly* address the critical and interrelated development aims of environmental sustainability, gender equality and good governance. Nonetheless, they may present opportunities to further these aims and, therefore, this policy makes explicit Grand Challenges Canada's implicit commitments to working with the innovators we fund, to do so where feasible and appropriate.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This policy is grounded in the following three principles¹:

1. *Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations.* To the extent reasonably possible, foreseeable negative environmental impacts of Grand Challenges Canada-funded innovations should be minimized and positive environmental impacts enhanced.
2. *A focus on gender equality in the innovation space will support the achievement of development results.* Innovators funded by Grand Challenges Canada should strive to protect and promote gender equality throughout the development and/or implementation of their innovation(s).
3. *Achieving sustainable results in international development depends on efficient, effective and inclusive governance systems.* Innovators funded by Grand Challenges Canada

¹ Taken and/or modified from Government of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), at <http://www.international.gc.ca/departement-ministere/sustainable-durable.aspx?lang=eng>

must apply principles of good governance through an emphasis on transparency, accountability, inclusion, equity, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness.

OBJECTIVE

Grand Challenges Canada recognizes the importance of integrating environmental, gender equality and governance considerations into the innovations it supports. The objective of this policy is to encourage innovators seeking and/or utilizing funding from Grand Challenges Canada to consider and, where necessary, take action regarding the following:

A. Environmental Sustainability

Grand Challenges Canada is, in part, funded by the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD) and aligns with its Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy², Policy on Environmental Sustainability³ and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012⁴. The reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of innovations funded or under review for funding by Grand Challenges Canada must be considered at the planning stage and, where applicable, monitored and evaluated throughout implementation. Efforts should be made to identify and minimize negative impacts and enhance positive impacts, if any, on the environment(s) in which the innovation is deployed.

B. Gender Equality

Grand Challenges Canada believes that supporting gender equality and the rights of women and girls is an important objective in and of itself, as well as an important development objective, and therefore aims to contribute to achievement of equality between women and men, and girls and boys. Innovators funded or under review for funding by Grand Challenges Canada must consider how the development and/or implementation of their innovation could promote – or hinder – gender equality objectives, such as:

- i. *Advance women's equal participation and support women and girls in the realization of their full human rights:* Grand Challenges Canada seeks to support processes and innovations that actively engage and empower women and their communities to further women's equal participation and status in their societies.
- ii. *Reduce gender inequalities around the access to and control over the resources and benefits of development:* Innovators should strive to understand and mitigate gender gaps in the contexts in which they operate, to work towards the achievement of gender equality and other, broader goals of development.

C. Good Governance

Grand Challenges Canada is committed to furthering the integration of principles of – and enabling conditions for – good governance in the projects it funds, from proposal through implementation. Grand Challenges Canada works with innovators to strengthen their governance

² <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/segs-sced.aspx?lang=eng>

³ <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/enviro/index.aspx?lang=eng>

⁴ <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=9EC7CAD2-1>

systems and processes, and supports its innovators' efforts to build the conditions for secure and equitable development by promoting good governance on the basis of participation, inclusion, equity and transparency in each innovator's country and surrounding region.

REQUIREMENTS

All Grand Challenges Canada innovators are subject to the terms of this policy.

Innovators seeking or in receipt of \$500,000 CAD or more in funding may be subject to more thorough engagement and/or oversight, to ensure due attention and compliance. Likewise, some proposals seeking lesser amounts (e.g., proof-of-concept proposals identified in consultation with experts as having high environmental risk or significant gender considerations) may also be subject to more significant engagement. In all such cases, innovators will be required to complete and submit for expert review an initial environment, gender equality and governance assessment, as part of the application for funding.

Additional specific obligations, if any, for innovators under this policy will vary depending on the results of the expert reviews, which in turn will depend on the particulars of the innovation being funded (or considered for funding) and may include, for example, a requirement to:

- Meet relevant commitments built into funding agreements (e.g., inclusion of a milestone for the completion of a gender analysis and strategy)
- Integrate relevant metrics into the measurement and evaluation framework
- Undergo a formal environmental assessment or governance audit.

Illustrative examples are shown below.

A. Environmental Sustainability

Innovators may initially be asked to describe: potential environmental impacts of the innovation and/or its implementation, their nature, magnitude and probability; plans to enhance positive impacts or mitigate negative ones; strategy and metrics to monitor environmental impacts. Critical reviews of proposals by external advisors with expertise in environmental sustainability can provide the basis for the inclusion and measurement of metrics of environmental impact, as well as project milestones for the development and implementation of environmental monitoring plans, and/or other future environmental due diligence requirements. Projects with negligible environmental impacts may proceed without further analysis, while those with higher potential environmental impacts will require further review and analysis, as well as potential mitigation measures or an environmental assessment in accordance with CEEA 2012.

B. Gender Equality

Innovators may be asked to address the extent to which: gender inequities and variable status influence the achievement of the overall results of the initiative and/or uptake of the innovation; women/girls may be made worse off by the innovation (e.g., lose access to or control over an existing resource); or, women/girls may be excluded from the benefits of the innovation. Description of specific gender equality results (e.g., increased participation in decision-making, reduced inequities in access to and control over the benefits of the innovation) and related

indicators may be warranted. Critical reviews of proposals by external advisors with expertise in gender equality can provide the basis for the development and inclusion of such indicators. In some cases, the development of a gender analysis⁵ and/or gender equality strategy would be required.

C. Good Governance

Grand Challenges Canada conducts due diligence to ensure that innovators conform to principles of good governance throughout innovation planning and implementation. Due diligence includes inquiries into organizational governance, project design, public sector engagement, rule of law, and promotion of human rights. For example, innovators may be queried regarding: team or organizational capacity, composition and governance structure; policies regarding human resources or procurement; establishment of governance bodies (e.g., a Board of Directors); regulatory requirements and approvals; strategies for engaging key stakeholders (e.g., government); social or cultural impediments to innovation uptake; strength of legal and other key institutions in implementation region(s). Good governance is continually monitored throughout the life of a project and experts may be engaged if innovators require support to better cultivate this aspect.

⁵ Gender analysis provides information that recognizes that gender, and its relationship with race, ethnicity, culture, class, age, disability and/or other status, is important in understanding the different patterns of involvement, behaviour and activities that women and men have in economic, social and legal structures. Source: DFATD, available at: http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/priorities-priorites/ge-es/gender_analysis-analyse_comparative.aspx?lang=eng