l'Initiative d'innovation autochtone

Indigenous Innovation Initiative

Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality

A Grand Challenge for Indigenous Innovation

March 13, 2023

Grand Challenges Canada®
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Indigenous Innovation Initiative
Grand Challenges Canada
Grands Défis Canada

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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 the next phase of its program: **Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship**.

We are seeking bold and transformative projects that are led by First Nations, Métis, or Inuit female, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada that align with one (1) of our four (4) investment priority areas:
1) *Land story (environmental sustainability) – solutions that directly address or mitigate climate change*
2) *Food sovereignty (agriculture) – solutions that help address food security, including supply chains, food production and food access*
3) *Tech (digital access and data sovereignty) – tech innovations that increase digital access or data sovereignty for Indigenous communities*
4) *Wellness – solutions that address the mental health and well-being of people using an Indigenous approach. We are particularly inviting projects that focus on youth mental health.*

All projects *should speak to how their project will directly and/or indirectly honour the Lands, Waters, and Skies (environmental sustainability practices) and how they are grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.*

All projects *should speak to how they uphold gender equality, by creating safe spaces, removing barriers, or uplifting gender equality throughout the innovation's lifecycle.*

Applicants will be able to self-select requests for innovation funding for projects at either the proof of concept (Seed) or transition to scale (TTS) stage.

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. This information will help you submit a proposal for funding from the Indigenous Innovation Initiative. You can submit your application anytime. Application reviews will be ongoing, beginning in the Spring of 2023 and until the RFP is withdrawn by the Indigenous Innovation Initiative. Projects will be selected for support on an ongoing basis, pending the availability of funding**.**

To apply for funding, applicants MUST use the online application form provided, which is ONLY accessible via Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Portal. (See Appendix B for detailed instructions.)

If you have an existing Fluxx account, there is no need to re-register. Existing users should login to their account and if necessary can reset their password, at https://gcc.fluxx.io/forgot_password

New users must create a Fluxx account (https://gcc.fluxx.io). It will take at least one (1) business day but could take up to three (3) business days to process your request.

For technical assistance with registration or the online application, contact Grand Challenges Canada's Fluxx Technical Support team at: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/fluxxsupport/

For all other questions, 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 all life through Indigenous innovation. The core principles of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative are to:
- Honour Indigenous ways of knowing and being;
- Honour Indigenous laws and rights; and
- Honour the Land and Water.

With leadership from the Indigenous Innovation Council, guidance from Indigenous community members, and support from Grand Challenges Canada, the program **Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship** aims to make a meaningful and lasting difference for Indigenous peoples, 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. Frequently, there are additional barriers for *First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada* 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 *First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada*.

This program is supported by the Department of Women and Gender Equality (Canada) (WaGE), Grand Challenges Canada, the University Health Network, the McConnell Family Foundation, the Tree of Life Foundation, the Pathy Family Foundation, and other supporters.

1. Funding Overview
We are motivated to provide the right kind of funding and support to test and scale truly bold and transformative ideas by and for *First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary or gender-diverse persons*. Successful applicants ready to test for a proof of concept (Seed) or to plan or implement a transition to scale strategy (TTS) will receive grants to develop and test their innovative idea, project, or enterprise.

Both streams are required to submit the same application via the Fluxx platform (https://gcc.fluxx.io). Details about the application process are in Section 3 below.

Seed (Proof of Concept)
Seed grants can be up to $125,000 for a funding period of up to 12 months (1 year). Approximately $2 million per year is available to support projects at the Seed stage.

Transition to Scale (TTS)
For applicants at the TTS stage, budgets will be customized based on the size, scope, and impact potential of the proposed project, and may require the applicant to demonstrate they have secured other funding partners for the same project. Up to $1,000,000 per year is available to support between 2-4 projects at the TTS stage.

For projects at TTS, scaling sustainably may have funding requirements beyond our scope. Innovators may need support from strategic partners that provide money and supports, such as access to networks, markets, and expertise. Innovators are required to secure 1:1 match funds (minimum of 1:1 cash-based match the Indigenous Innovation Initiative funds) through strategic

funders and partners. Though it is preferred, innovators may not be required to secure a commitment of match funds at the application stage and exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

2. Program Scope

The goal of this program is to create access to capital and supports for innovation and social entrepreneurship opportunities for *First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada*.

> *We are seeking bold and transformative projects that are led by First Nations, Métis or Inuit female, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada that align with one (1) of our four (4) investment priority areas:*
>   1) ***Land story (environmental sustainability) –*** *solutions that directly address or mitigate climate change*
>   2) ***Food sovereignty (agriculture) –*** *solutions that help address food security, including supply chains, food production and food access*
>   3) ***Tech (digital access and data sovereignty) –*** *tech innovations that increase digital access or data sovereignty for Indigenous communities*
>   4) ***Wellness –*** *solutions that address the mental health and well-being of people using an Indigenous approach. We are particularly inviting projects that focus on youth mental health.*

__All projects__ should speak to how their project will directly or indirectly honour the Land and Water (environmental sustainability practices) and how they are grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

__All projects__ should speak to how they uphold gender equality, by creating safe spaces, removing barriers, or uplifting gender equality throughout the innovation's lifecycle.

Eligible applicants must be Indigenous (please refer to our Note on Indigenous Identity, below). Eligible organizations 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 *during the project period*;
3. Indigenous governments located in Canada, including band councils, tribal councils, and self-government entities and their agencies, however organized.

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 during the testing or scaling phase.

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 have contributed to the targeting and outright exclusion of many Indigenous peoples, communities, and groups by various programs.

We intend 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.

Appendix A contains definitions for the following terms:

- Indigenous innovation
- Gender equality (specifically, what it means to aligning with the Indigenous Innovation Initiative's Gender Equality Program story)
- Environmental sustainability
- Environmental stewardship
- Wellness
- Health
- Seed
- Transition to scale
- Examples of projects that may fall under each of the four (4) investment priorities for this RFP (land story, food sovereignty, tech, and wellness)

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3. Application Process

Step 1: Submission of proposal
The proposal requires the submission of a short summary of your innovation and answers to four (4) questions and issues. All applications MUST be submitted through the Fluxx portal at https://gcc.fluxx.io.
 The questions and issues are:

1. What is your bold idea or innovative solution? Please address how it is innovative and relevant to this funding call.
2. Tell us how it will impact the reclamation or revitalization of Indigenous culture and advance Indigenous gender equality in alignment with our Gender Equality Program Story. Please address the proposed project's potential for impact.
3. What does success for this project look like for you, your organization, and/or your community? Please include any information about the potential for this project's future sustainability or scalability.
4. Budget: How much do you think it will cost? We have provided some guiding questions and a budget template to support your thinking. Final budgets will be negotiated with successful applicants.
5. Please provide us with a written summary statement to describe your project that can be used for our initial screening, communications with reviewers, and/or announcements about successful project selection. It should be no more than 500 words.

There is no deadline to apply. Applications will be accepted for as long as there is funding available. Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly to semi-annual basis, beginning in Spring 2023. Refer to our website for a schedule of key dates, including when the next review cycle begins.

To submit the proposal, applicants must follow the application instructions found in Appendix B of this RFP. Applicants must fully meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 4.1 below.

In addition to answering these questions, you will be asked to self-select what stage of your innovation journey and investment readiness you are at from options provided in the application form. For projects that self-select or identify as eligible for funding at the Transition to Scale stage, a team member will reach out to further develop your application.

Step 2: Interview with Indigenous Innovation team and external reviewer
If successful at Step 1, you may be invited to a short interview or to meet with the Indigenous Innovation team and an external Indigenous reviewer. Invitations for Step 2 will be sent out as available, quarterly to semi-annually.

External reviewers will be selected from our network of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals across Canada to support a community-based, expert opinion that comes from outside of the Indigenous Innovation team, and to provide for a balanced and holistic evaluation of applications.

4. Review Process and Eligibility

4.1 Eligibility Screen

Eligibility will be based on answers to the questions in your registration on the Fluxx system. They 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 a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit women, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse person and select which of the four investment priority areas it addresses the best. See full eligibility requirements in section 2.

4.2 Innovation Screen
Applications will be screened internally by members of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative and/or Grand Challenges Canada team. This initial innovation screen will be done **based on your project summary.** It will determine if the project proposes an idea that is novel and/or more than an incremental improvement of an existing program, product, or service. It will also consider the project's relevance to our investment priority areas.

We will consider:
Is it innovative? Is the proposed idea bold, novel, and/or a departure from incremental improvements?
Is it relevant? Is the proposed idea relevant to this call for proposals? Does the idea respond to the challenge statement? Does the idea align with one of the investment priority areas?

Applications that demonstrate a lack of innovation and/or relevance to the challenge statement will be removed from the competition at this stage. Feedback will be provided with the returned application.

4.3 Full Project Scoring
Seed
Full applications will be scored internally by members of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative. The full scoring will evaluate the proposed idea, its potential for impact and scale, and its alignment with Indigenous Innovation Initiative principles and priorities.

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative team will use the Seed Project Scoring Matrix for this step. Applications must achieve a minimum threshold score and be ranked amongst the highest-scoring projects to move to step 4.4. Applications scoring less than the threshold score and/or not selected to move to the next stage will be returned with feedback for applicants to refine and re-apply, if desired. We anticipate we will receive a large number of very high-quality proposals.

Transition to Scale (TTS)
Projects that self-selected for consideration at Transition to Scale (TTS) who are eligible and who have made it successfully past Section 4.2 Innovation Screening will be invited to meet with the Indigenous Innovation Initiative team to further explore whether there is mutual alignment with our objectives and to complete an Impact Questionnaire.

A small number of TTS projects will be discussed by the Selection Committee after they have completed the seed project ranking. These proposed TTS projects will be discussed, scored, and ranked, and a maximum of two projects may be invited for further development.

This second stage of the TTS application consists of Internal Due Diligence, the development of a Pitch Deck, Supplementary Questions, and an interview with the Selection Committee and/or special convening of the Investment Committee.

4.4 Interview at Seed
Up to 20 top-scoring Seed project applications per review cycle who scored over the threshold for funding eligibility in the scoring process 4.3 above will be invited to a short interview with (1) member of the Indigenous Innovation Initiative team and one (1) external reviewer.

Applicants will be given a short list of questions ahead of time to help them prepare. The interview will help the reviewers better understand the project before bringing it to the Selection Committee review stage (see section 4.5 below).

The Selection Committee is made up of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals, and potentially some non-Indigenous industry experts, with lived and/or professional experience to support the community participatory aspect of our review process. They will provide an additional layer of objective and holistic perspective to the evaluations.

The interview will also be scored, using the Seed Scoring Matrix. This interview score will be added to the score from full project scoring (section 4.3 above) before going to the full Selection Committee, step 4.5.

4.5 Selection Committee Review and Funding Decision at Seed
At this step, projects are presented to the entire Selection Committee by an Indigenous Innovation Initiative team member. Each project is presented with a list of strengths and considerations to be discussed by the committee members. Each member of the committee then assigns an individual score within a narrow range based on the original score.

All the scores are then averaged to generate a ranked list of projects. The committee will review and discuss the ranked list holistically and in line with the criteria set out in this RFP to confirm a final ranked list. The final ranked list will be presented to the Indigenous Innovation Council, who will use it to make recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors of Grand Challenges Canada.

Projects selected for funding will start with the projects with the highest scores, balanced across the four (4) investment priority areas. Typically, between 4-6 seed projects will be selected each cycle. Applications not being offered funding will be returned with feedback for applicants to refine and re-apply, if desired.

Applications will be reviewed quarterly to semi-annually (pending funding availability), beginning in Spring of 2023. All eligible applicants not considered for funding will be provided feedback.

Please refer to our website for a schedule of key dates, including when the next review cycle begins.

5. Evaluation Criteria
Applications will be scored in the Grand Challenges Canada Fluxx portal, where they will be submitted (see Application Format below). The criteria we will use to review your application can be found in the Seed Scoring Matrix.

6. Application Format
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** as soon as possible, as it can take up to 72 hours (3 days) for Fluxx to process your registration. Additional information is provided in Appendix B 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.

Applicants may decide to submit photos, videos, or attachments to complement their application as described below. Everything you submit must be done through Fluxx. You may answer the

questions in this section either directly in the provided spaces in Fluxx or by attaching any of the following to your Fluxx application:

- PDF or Word document (suggest 10 pages or less with 12-point font or bigger)
- PowerPoint presentation (suggest 15 slides or less with 18-point font or bigger)
- MP3 audio file (suggest 5 minutes long or less)
- Link to a YouTube video (suggest 5 minutes long or less)

Reviewers will be asked to spend no more than one (1) hour reviewing each application, therefore content above and beyond these suggested sizes may not be reviewed.

There will be space on the application form for you to provide links to documents, audio, or videos that are available on a website (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo), so you do not have to upload them.

Appendix A - Definitions of Key Terms

Indigenous innovation is a new program, product, or service that is developed, designed, and/or led by an Indigenous person which supports the resurgence of Indigenous culture, systems, and/or economies, and aims to maintain the existence and wellbeing of all our relations. It is a necessary tool to allow Indigenous Peoples to uphold their responsibility to all their relations, particularly as caretakers for the planet and its inhabitants. We recognize Indigenous innovation as not exclusively something new, but something that can be based on Indigenous cultural, traditional and/or ancestral knowledges, worldviews, and practices and applied to a new situation or context.

To be eligible for funding, projects must **align with our [Gender Equality Program Story](#).** We define this 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, girls, and gender-diverse peoples, and how the work applies a gender-aware approach throughout the organization. This includes decision-making, leadership, hiring, and end recipients. Consider areas such as ownership and/or Board structure, executive leadership, project leadership, employees, and end users ("beneficiaries").

Projects that are **environmentally sustainable** restore, preserve, and/or steward the Earth in a way that embodies Seven Generation thinking by taking long-term impact into account. They heal, maintain the integrity of, and mitigate damage to the planet, while increasing the availability of resources, services, and/or products.

Environmental stewardship is the act of being in an ongoing and reciprocal relationship with the Earth, caretaking the Lands, Waters, and Skies in a way that allows them to provide us with what we need for full and healthy lives.

Health is a state of complete physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual/cultural well-being. **Wellness** is the journey to achieving health; it is the activities, habits, traditions, and ceremonies that allow us to reach a state of health.

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative's **Seed** program is for people who are ready to implement their innovative solution. It is for *existing* concepts, models, prototypes, ideas, or solutions that need support to be tested in a new context. Seed funding allows innovators to test their idea and learn if it solves the problem they are trying to fix, and how the idea benefits people and the planet.

Our **Transition to scale (TTS)** program is for people who know their innovative solution works and that it has the potential to benefit people, the planet in a big way. In this program, people refine their innovative solution and prepare their organization to be able to share it in new and diverse ways. For example, implementing their innovative solution in new communities or in the same community with a new or bigger group of people.

Scalability is the potential for a program, product, or service to be applied in a new or broader context to benefit a greater number of people, and a larger portion of the planet. It is the potential for a solution to grow beyond its current form and size to create a larger impact.

We have four (4) **investment priorities** for the Gender Equality Program. They are:

1. **Land story** (environmental sustainability) - Solutions that directly address or mitigate climate change. Some examples of projects that would fall under this priority are those that focus on:
    a. Stewardship, repairing, nurturing, and/or protecting the planet, or
    b. Increasing the cycle of care between the Earth and its populations, or
    c. Bringing Indigenous ecological knowledge into existing initiatives.
2. **Food sovereignty** (agriculture/food supply/production) - Solutions that help address food security, including supply chains, food production, and food access. Some examples of projects that would fall under this priority are those that:
    a. Support, create, and/or amplify Indigenous ways of knowing and being or utilize Indigenous ecological knowledge in agriculture, food supply, or production, or
    b. Address food security by way of agriculture/food production.
3. **Tech** (digital access and data sovereignty) - Tech innovations that increase digital access or data sovereignty for Indigenous communities. Some examples of projects that would fall under this priority are those that:
    a. Promote equitable access and/or the self-determination of Indigenous Knowledge(s), information, and/or data, or
    b. Assert and/or advocate for Indigenous data sovereignty.
4. **Wellness** (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being) - Solutions that address the mental health and well-being of people using an Indigenous approach, particularly projects that focus on youth mental health. Some examples of projects that would fall under this priority are those that focus on increasing the overall wellness of Indigenous cultures and/or Peoples. This includes projects focused on emotional, spiritual, mental, and/or physical wellness.

Appendix B – 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 (https://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. 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.

   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.

Appendix C – Other Important Information

C.1 Terms of Payments

1. Costs directly related to the implementation of the proposal are eligible as per the "Eligible & Ineligible Expense Directive for the Indigenous Innovation Initiative of Grand Challenges Canada (GCC)" – found in English here and in French here - and any additional funder-specific expense directives included in the resulting grant agreement.

   Please note that the cost directive will be updated in 2023. If you have any concerns or want to ask us any specific questions, please feel free to email info@indigenousinnovate.org.

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 all final reports; 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.

C.2 Application 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.

C.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 the "Eligible & Ineligible Expense Directive for the Indigenous Innovation Initiative (GCC)" available on our website, in English here and in French here).

C.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 and Grand Challenges Canada's employees, Board of Directors, representatives, and advisors.

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 attempt in good faith to respect the confidentiality of information that is received in your Submission Materials, if it is clearly marked "Confidential". Regardless of your characterization of any information as "Confidential", Grand Challenges Canada reserves the right to publicly disclose all information contained in Submission Materials as may be required by law, and as is necessary for potential co-funders, advisors, and external reviewers (such as government entities) to evaluate them and the manner and scope of potential funding, consistent with appropriate regulations and their internal guidelines and policies. Grand Challenges Canada expressly disclaims any and all liability that may arise from disclosure of confidential information contained in Submission Materials.

Privacy Notice
In order to conduct due diligence and audits, and to manage and monitor the performance of a funding agreement, Grand Challenges Canada may collect personal information (such as names, addresses, employment history, criminal and other legal checks where legally permissible) about some of a successful applicant's directors and officers, employees, project lead(s), and others engaged on the project before and during the course of the funding agreement. Some of this personal information is collected for the purpose of complying with applicable legal and policy requirements that apply to Grand Challenges Canada and our funders in order to provide the funding and services by Grand Challenges Canada under a funding agreement. Refusing to provide information that Grand Challenges Canada needs to conduct required legal and contractual due diligence may impact Grand Challenges Canada's ability to provide such funding and services and may result in not being able to enter into a funding agreement with you or early termination of a signed funding agreement. Grand Challenges Canada's Privacy Policy explains

how Grand Challenges Canada collects, use, discloses, and protects the personal information that it collects and receives. By submitting any personal information about others, you represent and warrant that you are authorized to do so. If applicable law allows or requires you to supply the information without authorization, you represent and warrant that you have abided by that law and that it allows Grand Challenges Canada to receive and disclose the information under the Privacy Policy without any further action on the part of Grand Challenges Canada. You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Grand Challenges Canada against any failure by you to comply with the requirements set out here.

C.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 and Grand Challenges Canada's Board of Directors and employees, representatives, and advisors. 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 Knowledges and Data Governance Protocol" and "Inquiry and Learning Bundle". These protocols were 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 and how intellectual property, Indigenous Knowledge and data will be created and used during the course of the 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.

C.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 February 21, 2023, and supersedes any previous RFP of this nature. The terms and conditions of this RFP apply to all applications submitted from February 21, 2023, 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.

C.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 Research Ethics and Integrity Policy.

C.8 Governing Law

This Request for Proposals and any resulting agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the applicable laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario. Each applicant

agrees that this any and all disputes, actions or proceedings relating to this Request for Proposals whether as to interpretation, validity, performance or otherwise, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the Province of Ontario and each applicant and Grand Challenges Canada irrevocably attorn to the jurisdiction of the courts of such province.