



Global Access Policy

BACKGROUND

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting **Bold Ideas with Big Impact**[®] in global health. We are funded by a variety of governments and organizations (“**Funding Partners**”) and we primarily fund innovators in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and Canada. The bold ideas we support integrate science and technology, social, and business innovation – we call this **Integrated Innovation**[®]. We focus on bringing successful innovation to scale, catalyzing sustainability and impact. We have a determined focus on results, and on saving and improving lives.

The objective of this Global Access Policy is to ensure that the successful innovations we support and the vital knowledge we help create will have the greatest possible impact for those most in need.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF GLOBAL ACCESS

Grand Challenges Canada’s Global Access Policy is grounded in the following three principles:

1. Solutions to grand challenges in global health that are supported by Grand Challenges Canada funding or that are developed through funded activities (“funded solutions”) should be made broadly and quickly accessible and affordable in the relevant context and setting.
2. Knowledge gained through funded research should be broadly and quickly disseminated between related projects and to the global scientific community.
3. Commercialization of funded solutions is encouraged, as long as the first two principles are respected.

REQUIREMENTS OF GLOBAL ACCESS

The following requirements apply to funded solutions and to other outputs of work undertaken with funds from Grand Challenges Canada.

1. **Broad dissemination of knowledge.** All research-related outputs of Grand Challenges Canada-funded projects, including results, data, and reports, must be shared with Grand Challenges Canada and its community of researchers and related institutions, and must be disseminated as quickly and broadly as possible to the scientific community. Dissemination of research-related outputs may be delayed for a reasonable period of time – typically no more than 12 months after project completion but subject to extension

in appropriate circumstances – if necessary to prepare and submit materials for publication, to file intellectual property applications, or to enable successful commercial implementation of funded solutions.

2. **Open access publication.** Publications arising from funded research must be immediately openly accessible under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) or equivalent license and must be discoverable and accessible online.¹ The financial costs of open access publication may be included in proposed project budgets and will be subject to review and approval.
3. **Open access to data.** As further elaborated in Grand Challenges Canada’s Data Access Policy, data from funded projects must be made openly accessible.
4. **Commitment to achieving global access.** Funding recipients must work with Grand Challenges Canada to achieve their objectives in compliance with this Policy during the funding process and throughout the subsequent implementation of funded solutions. Innovators that receive Grand Challenges Canada funding to transition their solutions to scale must develop action plans to achieve access and affordability in the relevant context and setting. Grand Challenges Canada will monitor implementation of these access plans.
5. **Development and protection of intellectual property.** Funding recipients may apply for and maintain intellectual property protection for funded solutions, but must administer their rights in a manner that will not impede achievement of access and affordability in the relevant context and setting. Generally, ownership and control of intellectual property shall remain with the funding recipient, subject to applicable laws and policies.
6. **Commercialization that promotes meaningful access.** Funding recipients are encouraged to commercialize funded solutions but must do so in a manner that promotes access and affordability consistent with the Guiding Principles. Funding recipients may satisfy this requirement directly or by way of partnerships, license agreements, or other arrangements with for-profit or not-for-profit entities.
7. **Grand Challenges Canada and Funding Partners’ access to funded solutions.** To ensure that the Guiding Principles will be achieved, funding recipients must provide Grand Challenges Canada with a limited right of access to funded solutions that may be exercised in the event the funding recipient is unable to achieve access and affordability in the relevant context or setting. The details of this limited access right will be specified in each funding agreement. The right may take various forms, including but not limited to a non-exclusive license to intellectual property rights, distribution agreement in the relevant territory, or a global access covenant. If triggered, such rights must be sub-licensable or assignable by Grand Challenges Canada, including to its Funding Partners or an appointee thereof. Funding recipients must ensure that their agreements with third parties do not conflict with the above access rights. Third parties that own core

¹ Grand Challenges Canada’s open access publication requirement is aligned with the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Open Access Policy* (<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Open-Access-Policy>).

intellectual property rights in funded solutions may also be required to provide access commitments to Grand Challenges Canada and its Funding Partners.

8. **Global Health Emergencies.** Where applicable, in order to ensure global health emergencies can be quickly and adequately addressed, some funding recipients may be required to grant, upon request and in the event that the World Health Organization declares a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, a non-exclusive license to funded solutions to Grand Challenges Canada or an appointee of the Funding Partner. Funding recipients must ensure that their agreements with third parties, or any third party intellectual property rights in the funded solutions, do not conflict with the above global health access rights.
9. **Revenues from commercialization.** Generally, revenues generated from the sale of funded solutions shall remain with the funding recipient, subject to applicable laws and policies and the collaborative process described above, including any arrangements between the funding recipient and other individuals or institutions. Grand Challenges Canada may, however, require repayment of funds from innovators that it supports at transition to scale in the form of a loan or a success-based royalty.
10. **Due diligence.** Grand Challenges Canada will conduct due diligence to determine the viability of a project and to ensure that the project conforms to this Policy. This due diligence may include inquiries into important background technologies and how they will be accessed; the intellectual property landscape and how intellectual property rights will be accessed, managed and/or allocated; and what collaborations may be involved and how these collaborations will be managed.
11. **Reporting.** Funding recipients must provide periodic reports on progress in achieving global access, including after completion of the funded project.

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