

FUNDED

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Funding Opportunities for Small and Medium- Sized Businesses



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Dear Readers

You have the very first edition of FUNDED Canada magazine at your fingertips! It is with great pride that we share this with you.

It has been more than a year now that Grants Office began offerings services in Canada and as is the case with FUNDED US, we hope FUNDED Canada can provide the same relevant information on grant programs that exist in the country and play the role of a learning tool where we will share tips and tricks to make your grant proposals stand out.

Whether you are a company, a government entity, a community organization or a foundation, you will find a relevant article.

Given the fact that there are a large number of small and medium-sized businesses in Canada, we share an article about sources of financing for small and medium-sized enterprises. The Government of Canada not only offers grants but also contributions to SMEs and if you would like to know the difference, we also have an article comparing a grant and a contribution.

As Canada focuses on innovation, we thought it would be appropriate to describe a program called Strategic Innovation Fund that was launched in 2017. Since its launch, 96 projects have been selected and approximately \$4.8 billion in contributions have been distributed, as of September 2021. We've analyzed some of the awarded projects to give a better understanding of what's being funded.

We also offer a general overview of how elementary and secondary education, commonly known as K-12, is funded in Canada as well as tips for answering 5 questions that come up in the vast majority of grant applications.

Furthermore, we have an article about how foundations had to pivot during the pandemic and another about Canada's plan for the green economy including examples of grants for these types of projects.

You will also find a summary of two popular grant programs called the Jobs and Growth Fund and the Grants for Space STEM Initiatives for Youth.

Our desire is for FUNDED Canada to become for you, dear readers, a useful source of information on the grants landscape in Canada. We would love to receive your comments and your suggestions for topics that you would like to read in future issues.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cesar and Joseph Phelan
Editors

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 Grants Office Canada



Funding Opportunities for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

Joseph Phelan

A study in December 2019, at the cusp of the pandemic, showed that 97 percent of employer businesses in Canada were considered small businesses, while just under two percent were medium-sized businesses. The remaining percent, under 3,000, were large businesses. This study, from Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED), demonstrates the necessity of small and medium sized businesses that employ people and provide products and services to Canadians.

Right now, it's unclear the lasting impact that COVID-19 has brought to businesses. The pandemic has certainly made things more challenges. Canada has invested money and resources to help businesses stay, or get back, on their feet. Long before the pandemic, however, there has been an emphasis on funding for small and medium-sized businesses.

Not only loans, although loans do play a role in how the government helps, but real grants and contributions that businesses don't need to fully pay back are available from federal and regional organizations.

Modernization is the main driver of business funding opportunities.

Canada wants to find the next big thing—meaning funds are available to help businesses grow, for products to reach their full potential and for ever-changing innovation as the world of tomorrow enters the forefront. Each year, Canada passes a new budget that focuses on putting businesses of all sizes into the best positions to find success.

For instance, the Innovation and Skills Plan was born in 2017 with a goal of making Canada the global hub for innovation. Within it, regional agencies were established to help foster growth. Since then, the regional economic development agencies have expanded to seven:

- [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#)
- [Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions](#)
- [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#)
- [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#)
- [Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario](#)
- [Prairies Economic Development Canada](#) (focused on Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba)
- [Pacific Economic Development Canada](#) (focused on British Columbia)

Funding is available within each agency. This money helps various initiatives that are important to that region. There's the Atlantic Innovation Fund from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. There's the Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Across the seven agencies there's overlap as far as available programs. The most recent example is the Jobs and Growth Fund, which has \$700 million available dispersed through each agency. The fund aims to help job creators and the organizations that support them future proof their businesses, build resiliency and prepare for growth by supporting the transition to a green economy, enhancing Canada's competitiveness through digital adoption to improve productivity and manufacturing processes and strengthening capacity in sectors critical to Canada's recovery and growth

In the December 2019 study, ISED broke down sectors by goods-producing and service-producing. The largest goods-producing sector industries include construction, manufacturing and agriculture. Mining, oil and gas extraction and construction also make up the goods-producing sector. Just under 1 million individuals work in the service-producing sector. The major industries include retail trade; professional, scientific and technical services; health care and social assistance and other services that exclude public administration.

The federal government reflects their funding efforts based on the industries that require it. The Natural Research Council, Natural Resources, Transport Canada, Infrastructure Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and ISED offer countless programs based on different objectives. An overriding theme, however, is innovation.

No matter what the future has in store, innovation, especially with small and medium-sized businesses operating within Canada, is where the focus lies and it's where the funding goes.



Canada Program Snapshot

Jobs and Growth Fund

SUMMARY

The Jobs and Growth Fund (JGF) is a \$700-million federal program to support regional job creation and position local economies for long-term growth.

The fund will help job creators and the organizations that support them future-proof their businesses, build resiliency and prepare for growth by:

- supporting the transition to a green economy
- fostering an inclusive recovery
- enhancing Canada's competitiveness through digital adoption to improve productivity and manufacturing processes
- strengthening capacity in sectors critical to Canada's recovery and growth

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

- Projects related to clean technology and product development to de-risk and mobilize private capital investments in areas of emerging strength.
- Process adoption that support gains in productivity, greening production and operations as well as climate change adaptation projects that increase SME resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Investing in the clean and circular economy in partnership with regional governments.
- Inclusive growth projects that support underrepresented entrepreneurs, owned/led businesses and workers which could include projects such as: providing funding to underrepresented entrepreneurs or owned/led SMEs to scale up and reach new markets; or funding to NFPOs providing inclusive business services to improve access to capital, mentoring opportunities and networks to drive greater economic representations.
- Projects contributing to diversifying local capacity (e.g. natural resource endowment, manufacturing assets and the bi-products of traditional industry, etc.) into areas with future clean growth potential.
- Projects that support collaborations to catalyze the development of consortia to support green economy transition, tech development and adoption.
- Projects that support the development or adoption of digital and technological solutions, and investments in technologies that help scale businesses, enhance their productive capabilities, and increase resilience (e.g., cybersecurity solutions, Industry 4.0).
- Projects supporting scale up and market expansion activities that bolster traditional areas of strength and highly impacted sectors.
- Projects that facilitate the development of emerging areas of global

competitive advantage that offer opportunities for future growth.

- Projects that attract investment in key sectors.
- Projects that support supply chain adaptation and diversification opportunities to protect Canadian capacity in critical sectors such as food production, medical supplies, and biomanufacturing.
- Other types of projects that support SMEs and communities that are critical to the economic fabric of communities (i.e., major employers in those communities).

ELIGIBILITY

Businesses, including co-operatives; not-for-profit organizations and community economic development partners and Indigenous-led organizations and/or businesses are strongly encouraged to apply. Under the initiative, Regional Development Agencies may contribute up to 100 percent of eligible project costs for projects with Indigenous clients.

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$700 million available throughout Canada

- \$224 million available in southern Ontario
- \$217 million in the West.
- \$140 million in Quebec.
- \$70 million in Atlantic Canada.
- \$26.6 million in northern Ontario
- \$21 million in the territories

Eligible businesses could receive interest-free, repayable contributions for up to 50% of authorized costs.

Eligible not-for-profit organizations could receive non-repayable contributions for up to 90% of authorized costs.

DEADLINE

Applications can be submitted at any time to a regional economic development agency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#)

[Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions](#)

[Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#)

[Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#)

[Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario](#)

[Prairies Economic Development Canada](#)

[Pacific Economic Development Canada](#)

A woman with dark, curly hair is looking down at a tablet computer she is holding. She is wearing a light grey blazer over a white top. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an office or modern interior.

Grants Office Canada Needs Grant Writers!

Do you have experience working with federal, provincial, local institutions or SMEs in Canada?

Are you a native speaker of French or English?

Grants Office Europe, LLC is a full-service provider of strategic grants development services for governments, education institutions, non-profit organizations, healthcare providers, and technology industry partners. Our approach to proposal development is based on collaboration and open communication among team members and clients. Our aim is to lower risk and shrink the investment of time and resources required for our clients to pursue grant funding.

Our grant writers work directly with clients to help develop all elements of the project, and coordinate submission of a high-quality competitive proposal.

**WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW WRITERS,
JOIN THE TEAM TODAY!**

Reach out to us at info@grantsoffice.com with:

- Your CV
- A listing of the Canadian agencies for which you have submitted grants
- A listing of the grant programs for which you have been a proposal reviewer, if any
- 2 writing samples (preferably narratives from successfully funded projects)

Common Proposal Questions

Stephanie Cesar



Answering questions about a grant proposal can be intimidating, especially if it's something you're doing for the first time. Needless to say, it's not as daunting to fill out a grant proposal for a foundation, as these often require less detail. However, whether it's a proposal from a federal government department or foundation, there are similar questions that you will inevitably find. You're probably wondering why funders always ask these questions, it's simply because they want to know more about your organization and your project. They want to get to know you and at the same time, judge whether they want to invest in your project. This could be compared to a job interview where the person wants to know what kind of person you are, what you are passionate about and whether you are the best candidate to fill the position.

Often, these questions are asked in different forms because funders want to know the same things about your organization and the project you want funded.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

This question is found in the vast majority of applications. It could easily be compared to the question "Tell me about yourself" which is often one of the first questions asked in the majority of job interviews. By asking this question, funders want to get to know you. They want to know what the mission and the vision of your organization is. You can also talk about the projects you have undertaken in the past and how you have been able to complete them. It's also relevant to talk about the grants you've received in the past and how you've handled them. Don't forget to mention your target audience as well. Funders want to determine if your organization has the capacity and

experience to implement the project for which you want a grant. This question gives you the opportunity to stand out. Ministries, like foundations, receive hundreds of grant applications each year. So, in your answer, you need to explain what makes your organization different and also why they should choose to invest in your organization over another. The goal is to present a good overview of your organization in relation to the grant you would like to receive.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

This is where you can elaborate on the project, (whether it's a brand-new project or an existing one that requires funds for expansion or some other initiative). Describe the impact the project will have. If it is a cyber security project, describe how this project will allow you to protect your customers' data, for example. If it is a project related to distance learning, describe how this project will allow teachers to transmit the material and students to continue their learning despite the fact that they are not physically in a classroom. It is important that your project is realistic. Have a detailed plan of each stage of the project with the time required to complete each step. If it's a project you're doing in collaboration with another organization, describe that organization's contribution to the project.

Remember that funders want to finance projects that will be beneficial to society and, the community but not human or technological resources. It goes without saying that for your project to be a success, it will be necessary, in the majority of cases, to hire new employees and acquire new technologies. These elements must be included in your plan and explain the role that this will have in the success of the project, but the emphasis must be on the fact that this project will be a solution to a problem that there is in the community, for example.

WHAT PROBLEM/NEED OF THE COMMUNITY DOES YOUR PROJECT ADDRESS?

To answer this question, it is often necessary to look for external elements, such as studies that have been done and/or statistics that will support your project. If your project is to ensure that remote areas of a province have access to the internet, for example, you can find statistics that show what percentage of households in remote areas do not have access to the internet to support your project. You will demonstrate to donors that your project will meet a real need and thus improve the quality of life of people in this region, for example. In this section, it is important to give more information about your target audience and also the geographical orientation of your project. Before answering the question, make sure you have done your research and have data that will support your project.

WHAT ARE THE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT?

To answer this question, you can make what is called a budget statement. A budget statement is simply a written description of your budget. In the vast majority of cases, it's a requirement to send your budget as an attachment. Take the time to explain each item in your budget. If the funder is not the sole investor in the project, it is important to indicate who the other funders will be and the amount they intend to invest.

HOW WILL YOU MEASURE THE IMPACT OF YOUR PROJECT?

Most funders want to know if their investment in a project has been successful. Often, the project evaluation process is included in the planning phase. If this is not the case, one way to ensure the success of your project is to focus on what the project has accomplished in the community. If we continue with the distance learning project, you can describe how many students are now able to continue their education from home by comparing with the data you had at the beginning of the project. It is also possible to call on an outside firm to help with the evaluation of the project.

A final point would be to respect the criteria. Donors can explain the challenge they have to finance all the projects presented to them. This is why very often; they have criteria that may seem strict. Take the time to read the criteria set out in the application guide and demonstrate how your project can meet all of these criteria. You are more likely to receive funding if you can explain how your application for funding meets all the established criteria.



Just like a job interview, the application for a grant requires you to be prepared, to know yourself and to demonstrate that you have transferable skills that can be beneficial for the success of the project and that the community will be able to benefit. It is also necessary to verify eligibility, to respect the instructions, and to send the application within the mentioned deadline. Another thing to consider, have your app read by a third party and ask for feedback. You'll then be ready to apply!



Canada Program Snapshot

Innovation Fund

SUMMARY

The success of the Canadian research community rests on its ability to realize the full potential of both its people and its infrastructure. The Innovation Fund provides continued investments in infrastructure, across the full spectrum of research, from the most fundamental to applied through to technology development. The Innovation Fund supports a broad range of research programs including those in natural, social and health sciences, engineering, humanities and the arts, as well as interdisciplinary research. Projects funded through the Innovation Fund will help Canada remain at the forefront of exploration and knowledge generation while making meaningful contributions to generating social, health, environmental and economic benefits and addressing global challenges.

Research infrastructure projects should:

- Be aligned with the institution's strategic priorities
- Be of appropriate maturity and offer the best potential for transformative impact
- Allow teams and institutions to build on established capacity to accelerate current research and technology development or to enhance emerging strategic priority areas
- Enable teams to fully exploit research infrastructure and drive world-class research.

AWARD INFORMATION:

The CFI will invest up to \$400 million in research infrastructure funding and will fund up to 40 percent of a project's eligible infrastructure costs. The CFI will provide up to \$120 million for associated operating costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund.

ELIGIBILITY

Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions recognized as eligible by the CFI can apply to this competition. Eligibility requires the adherence of a two-stage application process including a notice of intent and a proposal (using CFI's CAMS system).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This fund is for projects within CFI defined “core facilities” (those that provide access to state-of-the-art research services, analyses, instruments and technology, expertise, training, and education and which are generally too expensive, complex, or specialized for researchers to cost-effectively provide and sustain themselves) which enable research collaborations and are used primarily for research activities (i.e. space for focus groups) and which utilize both CFI-funded and non-CFI funded equipment (which must meet the CFI’s eligibility guidelines).

The objectives of the 2023 Innovation Fund competition are to:

- Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members
- Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure
- Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians

DEADLINE

Information sessions for potential applicants are December 13 and 15 in English and December 14 in French.

The deadline to submit notices of intent is February 23, 2022. Full applications are due June 1, 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Program Page:

<https://www.innovation.ca/awards/innovation-fund>

Application Guidance:

https://www.innovation.ca/sites/default/files/2021-10/CFI-IF-2023-Draft-call-for-proposals_0.pdf

*As of November 15, 2021



Analysis of Recent Awards -- Strategic Innovation Fund

Stephanie Cesar

In this article the Strategic Innovation fund will be explored with a particular emphasis on what it is and examples of projects that have attained funds.

The Strategic Innovation Fund is a program from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. It was launched in 2017 and the goal of the program is to support the Canadian innovation ecosystem.

The program has 5 streams which are divided under two components:

- The first component is Business Innovation and Growth, and it includes streams 1 to 3
- The second component is Collaborations and Networks, and it covers streams 4 and 5

Strategic Innovation Fund drive innovation across the following six Economic Strategy Tables:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Agri-food
- Clean Technology
- Digital industries
- Health/Bio-sciences
- Resources of the Future



STREAM 1: R&D AND COMMERCIALIZATION

This stream offers funding for R&D and market commercialization of innovative technologies. The activities must be within Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 1-9.

Projects under this stream can focus on (but are not limited to):

- R&D to evaluate the commercial potential of a new concept
- Adaptation of research results to commercial applications that may disrupt the market
- Development of existing products through the implementation of new technologies that will enhance the recipient's competitiveness; and
- Development of process improvements that decrease the environmental footprint of current production through the use of new technologies.

STREAM 2: FIRM EXPANSION AND GROWTH

Projects under this stream must support the expansion or material amelioration of existing industrial or technological facilities, or projects. Furthermore, activities have to be in TRL 8-9.

Here are some examples:

- Increasing manufacturing capacity to satisfy demonstrated market demand
- Improving production efficiency through facility and equipment improvements; or
- Improving processes to increase efficiency



STREAM 3: INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND REINVESTMENT

The third Strategic Innovation stream support new investments in industrial or technological facilities in Canada. Activities in this stream are at least TRL 2 and are intended to support the establishment of new facilities or bring new mandates to Canada.

For examples, projects could focus on:

- Establishing a new production facility that did not exist in Canada
- Obtaining a production mandate for a product that was manufactured outside Canada or is being produced for the first time
- Obtaining a research and development mandate that was originally held outside Canada or is being established for the first time

STREAM 4: COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION

This stream focuses on collaborative projects with a group of partners. The project is expected to support research, including activities related to the discovery of new knowledge that is intended to support the development of new technology-based products, processes, or services at early technology readiness levels. Activities under this stream are in TRL 1-7.

Example of projects could be:

- Developing and demonstrating pre-commercial technologies
- The development, by a Tier 1, of an original equipment manufacturer of a potential new product using university research results, in collaboration with SME suppliers and research councils.

STREAM 5: NATIONAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

The last stream support later-stage projects that have a focus on commercialization. Projects may include (but are not limited to):

- Developing and demonstrating pre-commercial technologies and
- Advancing new technologies into product-specific applications.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

For streams 1 to 3, small, medium and large businesses incorporated pursuant the laws of Canada and who propose to do business in Canada are eligible to apply.

For stream 4, the consortium may include Canadian universities, colleges, research institutes, for-profit corporation and/or not-for-profit organizations. The lead applicant must be incorporated pursuant to the laws of Canada and carry business in Canada.

If it's a network, the lead applicant must be a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Canada.

For stream 5, networks – the lead applicant can be a not-for-profit entity or a for-profit corporation incorporated in Canada, in collaboration with Canadian universities, colleges, research institutes, for-profit and/or not-for-profit organizations.

AWARD

Applicants must request a minimum contribution (repayable or non-repayable) of \$ 10 million with a total cost of at least 20 million. Strategic Innovation Fund provide up to 50% of project costs.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

For each stream, eligible expenses include the following non-recurring expenses:

- direct labour costs
- land and buildings
- direct material and equipment
- project overhead (program limits apply)
- subcontracts and consultants
- other direct costs

DEADLINE

Eligible applicants can apply anytime for stream 1, 2, 3 and 5. Organizations are required to complete a two-step application process, but proposals can be submitted throughout the year.

For stream 4, it operates on a competitive basis where EOIs are accepted following a call for proposals.

PROJECTS

Since its inception, the fund has funded 88 projects for streams 1 to 3 and 8 projects for streams 4 and 5, a total of 96 projects as of September 2021. The total contribution for these projects was \$4.8B. below are a few projects that received funding through the Strategic Innovation Fund.

The project below is an example of the type of projects funded under stream 4 of the Strategic Innovation program.

A Charlottetown-based not-for-profit organization, **Natural Products Canada (NPC)**, has received funding from the Federal government to connect innovators and organizations from across various sectors to accelerate innovation and commercialization of products that impact human, animal and plant well-being. NPC received a \$20 million investment and is expected to help the network expand to more than 2,500 organizations, accelerate the expansion of over 500 companies, enable \$28 million in programs to accelerate R&D and the commercialization of innovative natural products and technologies, and generate \$200 million in new investments for the Canadian natural products industry.

To date, the network has successfully assisted over 800 Canadian companies. In particular, it has completed the pilot phase of its commercialization programs, which helped 21 companies commercialize 25 new natural products, generating 48 new jobs, \$12 million in new revenue and \$22.9 million in new investment.

In June 2021, **Meltech Innovation Canada Inc.**, a newly division of **Medicom Group Inc.**, received in investment of \$28.99 million to establish a new factory in the Greater Montréal dedicated to manufacturing the specializes fabric required to produce life-saving respirators and surgical masks. Meltech Innovation will also establish a research and development lab and testing facilities to improve the material and develop innovative material options for PPE.

This is a \$38.754 million project that will create and maintain 21 jobs. It will also provide up to 16 student co-op opportunities. This project is an example of stream 3 project.

Another project funded under the Strategic Innovation Fund and is a good example of stream 2, is the investment made to **Resilience Biotechnologies Inc.** This company, located in Mississauga, Ontario, received in investment of \$199,16 million to increase its manufacturing and fill-finish capacity for a number of vaccines and therapeutics, including for those that

use novel technology such as mRNA and that are now being deployed to fight the COVID-19.

This investment is part of a project of \$401,52 million and will help create and maintain 500 full-time jobs in Canada and create 50 co-op positions for students. Once completed, the facility is expected to allow for the manufacturing of approximately 112 million to 640 million doses of mRNA vaccines per year.

In New Brunswick, the federal government announced in investment of \$47,5 million to **Moltex Energy Canada Inc.** this contribution will allow Moltex to develop a Stable Salt Reactor – Wasteburner (SSR-W) that will produce emissions-free energy through the Waste To Stable Salts (WATSS) process that recycles existing used nuclear fuel to produce non-emitting energy. Moltex has committed to create and maintain 48 full-time jobs.

D-Wave Systems Inc. of Burnaby, British Columbia received a \$40 million investment to develop quantum computer hardware and software systems, ensuring that Canada remains at the forefront of quantum technology development.

This project has a total cost of \$120 million and will help creating and maintaining up to 200 jobs as well as hiring up to 10 co-op students annually. The project also received assistance from Sustainable Development Technology Canada and the Government of British Columbia.

SOURCES:

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/125.nsf/eng/00022.html>

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/125.nsf/eng/00012.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-to-help-over-500-innovative-companies-develop-natural-products.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/investment-to-increase-the-resilience-of-canadas-supply-of-critical-personal-protective-equipment.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-continues-to-strengthen-canadas-biomanufacturing-sector.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-and-technology-to-create-jobs-and-produce-non-emitting-energy.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-contribution-strengthens-canadas-position-as-a-global-leader-in-quantum-computing.html>

Foundations Delivered in Crisis

Joseph Phelan



The pandemic brought uncertainty to all organizations. Priorities shifted. Focuses needed to be specific. Foundations experienced these similar issues with a necessary question of: where should the money go? Unsurprisingly, foundations stepped up in the face of the pandemic, and continue to do so. Many organizations across Canada made money available to help with the on-going fight against the COVID-19, aiming to help the most vulnerable populations.

At a federal level, the Emergency Community Support Fund, an over \$350 million investment, led the way. The fund, administered by Community Foundations of Canada, required two rounds of funding applications. In total, 183 foundations across Canada received funding for their communities to utilize. Community Foundations of Canada provided the most money to individuals living at or below the poverty level with just under \$45 million. Children and youth organizations saw under \$40 million, while veterans organizations and seniors/elders received over \$22 million among the funding pool.

The projects were endless, touching all facets of everyday life. Funding went to summer day camps and laptops for remote learning in Manitoba. In Yellowknife, funds went to replace a delivery van to ensure services could be met for countless individuals in need.

In a Prince Edward Island town, tablets were given to isolated seniors so they could communicate with their loved ones.

Another PEI community received funding for an overdose prevention project. In Saskatchewan, virtual courses were offered that promoted mental health wellness.

The challenges of the pandemic knew, and still know, no boundaries. Mundane citizen struggles seemed to be even more paramount, and that meant funds became vaster. So many different groups of people had hardships. What was once considered simple, like seeing a grandchild or attending school, became difficult. Already challenging things became even more so.

The Emergency Community Support Fund became a lifeline for community foundations across Canada. It's where some of the funding community foundations employed to organizations within their region originated, but it wasn't the only funding mechanism.

The Yellowknife Community Foundation had their most giving year ever in 2020, granting over \$680,000 directly or contributed through partnerships such as the Community Foundations of Canada. Wood Buffalo Community Foundations granted over \$1 million to 36 organizations. These are just a couple examples of community foundations that made a difference. Larger foundations, such as the Calgary Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, have had plenty of success helping others as the pandemic persisted.



Calgary Foundation adapted the Pandemic Recovery Program at the onset of the pandemic. In total, over \$14 million went directly to charities within Calgary. These funds went to organizations for technology services and the re-opening of a zoo. Around \$6,500 went to Calgary Philharmonic Society for a web series for children, while \$42,000 went to an organization for mental health psychosocial support. Grants helped schools with remote learning and emergency assistance for those most in dire need.

Ontario Trillium Foundation created the Resilient Communities Fund, which has already supported 1000 projects and counting. Through two rounds of funding, over \$42 million has been given to over 500 non-profit organizations across Ontario. These organizations used funds to buy air purifying systems and person protective equipment. They improved digital infrastructure in order for programs and services to be available online. Additional funds went to the installation of room dividers and plexiglass to enhance safety and limit COVID-19 exposure. Awarded amounts range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. This program is still open, too, with a December 8 deadline

coming up next. Projects should accomplish one of five outcomes, which include: equipping employees with supports to implement new approaches; improve and increase ability to access financial resources and develop new alternative sources of revenues; adapt the delivery of programs and services to meet community needs; procure equipment or renovate spaces to meet organizational requirements and create and/or adopt approaches for organizations to work together to meet community needs.

The Max Bell Foundation, as a private foundation, showed it wasn't just community foundation organizations committed to pandemic funding as they added nearly 20 percent to their grants budget in 2020, partnering with United Ways, to support community-based funds throughout Canada. A communality among private foundations was that. Many halted programs, or altered established ones, with the main focus being emergency funds for pandemic-related activities.

Foundations of all shapes and sizes demonstrated that one certainty could shine amongst the uncertainties.

Overview of K-12 Education Funding in Canada

Stephanie Cesar

For the 2018-2019 school year, there were a total of 4,917,435 students enrolled in Elementary and Secondary Schools in Canada. In most of the provinces, the school year begins at the end of August/beginning of September and ends at the end of June. In all provinces and territories, the total duration of elementary and secondary education is 12 years, except in Quebec where students graduate after 11 years of elementary and secondary education. Following this, students go to CEGEP for two or three years depending on their program of study.

Public education is free for all Canadians, permanent and temporary residents who meet certain conditions regarding residency and age. In the case of temporary residents, free education may not be granted. In the majority of provinces and territories, primary schools cover between 6 to 8 years of schooling and then students go to secondary school. The age of compulsory schooling in Canada varies by province/territory, but most require students to attend school between the ages of 6 and 16. In some cases, compulsory schooling begins at age 5 and in other cases it lasts until the age of 18 or until the student graduates from secondary school. This disparity is simply the result of each province and territory deciding how to administer education.

In some areas, parents can choose the school they want their child to attend, but in the vast majority of regions, the student must attend the public school that serves the area where they live, and it is often difficult to enroll the student in a school that is not in their area. Some public schools and the majority of private schools require students to wear a uniform.

There are also private schools. Students must pay a fee to be admitted to these schools. The list of private schools includes those with a religious vocation, with the exception of Catholic schools, which are public in the following provinces: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. There are also one-sex schools,



schools for gifted students, those with learning disabilities and international schools. Very often, these schools are considered rigorous and demanding. It is often necessary to have an average of B+ to stay in the school. The vast majority require an entrance exam for students prior to acceptance. The cost for private schools varies and certain factors such as the reputation of the school, can play on the price.

Education is governed at the provincial/territorial level, which means that each province/territory has a minister, or department, of education who ensures that education in their province/territory somehow reflects the reality of the province. Some of the provinces/territories have a minister responsible for elementary and secondary education, another minister for post-secondary education, and another for adult education and vocational training. Each province provides funding directly to school boards/school districts and the boards redistribute the funds to each school. These payments are generally of two types: basic grants and equalization. The basic grants are lump sums usually associated with the number of students or sometimes with the number of teaching classes. On the other hand, equalization serves to mitigate the inequalities that arise in the autonomous funding portion of school boards. The government uses tax dollars to fund education. Some municipalities collect a property tax dedicated to education.

Aboriginal schools are funded by the federal government. In the 2016-2017 school year, the Government of Canada invested \$1.94 billion in First Nations elementary and secondary schools. Federal government grants support approximately 107,000 students between the ages of 4 and 21. These students often live on reserves and are enrolled in an eligible elementary or secondary program. The objective of these investments is to create a quality and safe environment and to contribute to positive educational outcomes for First Nations students.

In 2018, 44% of First Nations students had completed high school compared to 88% of other Canadians. The Government's goal is to provide quality education to students living on reserves. The federal government has several projects in the area of first nations school infrastructure.

The various ministries of education are those that define the educational services provided as well as the policy and legislative frameworks for education. They also provide educational, administrative and financial management in order to support school functions. Local management of education is generally entrusted to school boards, school districts, school divisions or district education boards. Provincial and territorial governments delegate certain powers to local authorities, including: the operation and administration of the group of schools within their board or division, the implementation of the curriculum, the responsibility of staff and the enrolment of students to name a few.

Canada has two official languages: English and French. Therefore, both French and English schools are found throughout the country. In French-speaking schools English is taught as a second language and vice versa. In the English-speaking provinces, there are French immersion schools where students are taught entirely in French. There are also English immersion schools in Quebec, but only students whose parents have been educated in English can enroll in these schools.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular

activities of their choice. They may decide to be part of the school's sports team, the orchestra and any other activities offered by the school they attend. They can also be part of clubs like the drama club, the newspaper team and so on.

At the end of high school, students must pass their provincial exams for certain subjects. Very often the exams are to check the knowledge at the level of the language (English and French), mathematics, science and history. The purpose of these exams is to ensure that the student has learned everything that the government deems important to know. Passing these exams is often a condition for continuing college education.

Since the vast majority of funding comes from provincial governments, it is rare to find government grants dedicated to schools. Schools can apply to foundations for additional funding for any project.

SOURCES

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710000701>

<https://thecanadaguide.com/basics/education/>

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100033676/1531314895090>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/01/new-funding-and-policy-approach-for-first-nations-kindergarten-to-grade-12-education.html>

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1523814808542/1523815053376>

<https://thecanadaguide.com/basics/education/>

<https://www.canadaeducation.info/k12>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3710000701>

<https://www.cmec.ca/299/education-in-canada-an-overview/index.html>

<https://ncee.org/country/canada/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/01/new-funding-and-policy-approach-for-first-nations-kindergarten-to-grade-12-education.html>

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1540407472983/1540407529448>

<https://cirano.qc.ca/files/publications/2019RP-08.pdf>



Canada Program Snapshot

Grants for Space STEM Initiatives for Youth

SUMMARY

The grants provided through this announcement opportunity (AO) will support initiatives that include a focus on or an element related to STEM and the Moon that contribute to increased awareness, knowledge and/or experience of the space-related disciplines among Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) (Maternelle-CEGEP in Quebec) youth and educators. Priority will be given to projects focusing on robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), health, nutrition, lunar rovers missions.

The objective of this AO is to invest in the development, the delivery and the promotion of activities that engage Canadian youth in space-related initiatives to increase their level of interest and involvement in STEM.

AWARD AMOUNT:

Maximum Amount per Project: \$50,000

The total maximum funding available per fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) for grants for this AO is as follows:

- 2021-2022: \$200K
- 2022-2023: \$200K
- 2023-2024: \$300K

The total maximum funding amount given per project will be \$50,000, over a maximum period of two (2) years.

Each eligible recipient can be funded for three (3) project(s) per fiscal year under this AO.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible recipients will include:

- Canadian elementary, secondary and post-secondary institutions;
- Not-for-profit organizations established and operating in Canada.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Grants under this Program will be made towards initiatives that contribute to increase interest, knowledge and/or experience in STEM using space-related disciplines among youth (K-12) and educators.



To be eligible, the proposed projects must include the following elements:

- Activities that contribute to increase the awareness, interest, knowledge and/or experience in STEM using space-related disciplines among youth (K-12) and educators;

Activities such as, but not limited to, the following will be considered eligible for these grants:

- development and delivery of information, materials, products, activities, and events that use the context of the Canadian Space Program to expand the scientific literacy of Canadian youth (K-12) and/or educators;
- development of activity and promotion to increase reach and impact; delivery of activity to youth (K-12) and educators;
- production, distribution and presentation of Canadian space-related information, products and materials in written, audiovisual and multi formats, for awareness purposes (e.g. virtual presentation, videos, teacher toolkit, digitization of exhibits, etc.);
- design and delivery of Canadian space-focused youth or educator workshops and hands-on activities (e.g. series of talks, virtually or in person, school programming, etc.).
- Activities will be delivered at no cost to the participants during the agreement period. For the activities planned to be offered in locations where entry or other standard fees are required, no additional cost will be charged for participation in the activities supported by the grant.

DEADLINE

The next call for proposal will be announced in November 2021 and the anticipated application deadline will be in February 2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/funding-programs/funding-opportunities/ao/2021-grants-space-stem-youth.asp>

Grants VS Contributions

Stephanie Cesar

Have you ever read the description of a grant program and when you get to the part where it addresses financial assistance that will be awarded you read something like this: \$100,000 per grant or \$150,000 per contribution? What does that mean?

Differentiation between grants and contributions is unique to the Canadian funding landscape. If you read the descriptions of the Government of Canada's grant programs, you have probably read this but not paid much attention to it. Yet very little space is dedicated in the directions of these funding programs to distinguish between a grant and a contribution. This omission can leave applicants in a confusing position - unsure of which option for financial assistance is best suited for their project.

To begin understanding key components of grants and contributions, let us start with their definitions:

- A **grant** is an unconditional payment. Grants are awarded to applicants who meet all eligibility criteria and submit a strong proposal. Grant funding may be provided to applicants as a single disbursement or over multiple installments, depending on the program.
- A **contribution** is a conditional payment. Applicants for contributions must still meet all eligibility criteria and submit a strong proposal. Once awarded, however, these recipients are also required to meet specific conditions before their award costs will be reimbursed by the funder. What's more, selected applicants may receive only a portion of their requested contribution amount. Individual funders will make this decision based on the organization's cash flow needs as well as an assessment of its risk. The level of risk assessed will also play a role in determining the requirements for a provision to be included in the agreement. Some programs can also have repayable contribution.

To dive deeper on these two types of financial assistance, consider the example programs listed below:

The first program we will consider is the Cyber Security Cooperation Program¹. In the application guide it is written that an organization can receive a maximum of \$300 000 in grants or contributions. In the case of for-profit, the maximum contribution is \$100 000 per year or \$150 000 per year per grant. The grant payment will be issued in the form of installments



unless the full amount is required in a single payment to meet the objectives of the grant. The contribution payment, including advance payment, will be issued to recipients pursuant to the provisions of the Treasury Board Policy on transfer payment and based on the reimbursement of eligible expenditures. Provided that the recipient has met the Terms and Conditions of the Contribution Agreement, a final payment will be made only upon receipt and acceptance of a final financial statement covering the duration of the project. When deemed necessary by the Risk Assessment, audited financial reports will be requested for the project.

It is possible for payments to be made upon a portion of the grant/ contribution amount based on a cash flow requirement and on a risk assessment of the recipient. Recipients must meet and continue to meet the Specific Terms and Conditions of the grant/ contribution agreement prior to payment being made.

1. Cyber Security Cooperation Program (publicsafety.gc.ca)

The second example is the Strategic Innovation fund². This program offers contribution only and they can be:

- Conditionally or unconditionally repayable
- Non-repayable
- A combination (repayable and non-repayable)

Repayments will be performance-based and reflect a risk-sharing approach. Non-repayable contributions will only be considered for eligible activities that demonstrate strong economic, innovation and public benefits with clear strategic value or global significance. The amount and terms of repayment will be determined during the due diligence review.

List of reporting requirements during the projects:

- periodic reports,
- annual consolidated financial statements,
- repayment forecasts (if applicable),
- project status updates and reports of project benefits.

After completion of the project, recipients may be required to submit annual consolidated financial statements and, annual reports on project benefits including fulfilment of specific commitments. If it's a repayable contribution, the recipient will be required to report on an annual basis for a specified period until all contractual obligations have been met. In the context of a non-repayable contribution, recipients will be required to report, on an annual basis, for a minimum period of five years after completion of the project.

Following the analysis of these two programs, we can now understand not only the difference between grant and contribution but also the reporting requirements according to the type of funding.

In summary, the difference between a grant and a contribution is that the grant is unconditional. The organization will receive the money, according to the terms and conditions, once it has signed the agreement with the department that issued the program. The contribution, on the other hand, has conditions to meet. The organization will have to provide the required documentation indicated in the agreement and the money will be paid once the expenses have been made.



2. [Home - Strategic Innovation Fund](#)

The Influence of Green Infrastructure

Joseph Phelan

In recent years, Canada has proven itself to be a forward-thinking country, ensuring a positive and innovative future. The attention to green infrastructure, highlighted with the 2016 budget's Investing in Canada Plan, has been imperative to the overall message on all things green. In total, \$180 billion over 12 years has been invested by the government for green initiatives under the 2016 initiative.

At the time, Infrastructure Canada, the federal organization responsible for administering programs, entered bilateral agreements with the country's 13 provinces and territories. These agreements allow the provinces and territories to dictate where funding will best serve their specific region. Ultimately, Infrastructure Canada provides the funding, but these agreements give each representative a voice at the table.

These bilateral agreements, according to Infrastructure Canada, are arranged for the federal government to invest up to 40 percent of the cost of municipal and not-for-profit infrastructure projects in provinces; up to 50 percent of the cost of provincial projects; up to 75 percent of the costs of projects in territories and Indigenous-led projects and up to 25 percent of the cost of for-profit private sector projects. Additionally, provinces must cover at least one-third of eligible costs for municipal projects.

For infrastructure projects in rural and northern communities, the federal government will cover up to 60 percent of the cost of municipal projects where municipalities have fewer than 5,000 residents and up to 50 percent of the cost for provincial, municipal and not-for-profit projects. For public transit, the federal government will invest up to 40 percent of the cost of new public transit construction and expansion projects and up to 50 percent of the cost of rehabilitation projects.

From Investing in Canada, five streams were unearthed from the 2016 budget under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Public Transit; Green Infrastructure; Social; Trade and Transportation and Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure. The Investing in Canada Plan strive to incorporate goals such as promoting economic growth and jobs, supporting low-carbon economy and building inclusive communities. As of mid-2021, over \$96 billion has been invested under the program, totaling 73,000 projects. These projects range in size and scope, taking place in the most remote areas of the Northwest Territories to the heavily populated major cities in the East.

These projects reduce air and water pollution; add more energy



efficient buildings; upgrade wastewater infrastructure; enhance access to clean energy transportation. They might improve broadband connectivity; heighten road infrastructure; upgrade recreational facilities or increase natural capacity to adapt to extreme weather situations. The five streams mentioned continue to be a focus within Infrastructure Canada, but similar with most federal agencies and organizations worldwide, COVID-19 became a seemingly sole priority. With this shift, Infrastructure Canada introduced COVID-19 Resilience Stream, falling under the Investing in Canada Plan.

This stream, with over \$3 billion in existing funds, was created as a way to provide quick funding for short-term projects that might not have been eligible under the original five funding streams. Some of the projects the Resilience Stream funds include retrofits; measures to support physical distancing at schools and in municipalities; active transportation infrastructure; disaster mitigation and adaption projects and ventilation improvements. So far, over 1700 projects have been awarded—from an installation of a sidewalk in Big River, Saskatchewan to upgrading a boiler room in Montréal—with more expected as the funds continue to be available.

Green infrastructure remains an important, vital aspect of Canadian life. The government will continue to invest in programs meant to fight climate change. The Investing in Canada Plan is one major example. There's sure to be more as future budgets are passed.

THREE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. [Green and Inclusive Community Buildings](#)
2. [Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund](#)
3. [COVID-19 Community Resilience Stream](#)



BIG NEWS!

Grants Office is now supporting 12 countries in 3 continents!

*Get a sneak peak of our Netherlands location at www.grantsoffice.nl
and check out the [map](#) of our worldwide coverage!*



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