

NFRF Transformation Competition: tips for success

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Acknowledgements

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all treaty people.

There are three key components to the statement. The first is particular acknowledgement that the land Dalhousie sits on is part of Mi'kma'ki, the territory of the L'nu'k. The second is the acknowledgement of the territory as both ancestral and unceded — recognizing that the Peace and Friendship treaties signed between the British Crown and the Mi'kmaq (unlike many other historic treaties in Canada) did not involve surrender of land. Finally, “We are all Treaty people” reflects that the Peace and Friendship treaties apply to all parties involved, Indigenous and settler alike.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

Having resided in the region for over 400 years, African Nova Scotian contributions to Nova Scotia and Canada began over 150 years before Canada became a country. African Nova Scotians came to the province through enslavement or through fleeing enslavement elsewhere, and continue to experience all manner of structural, systemic and individual discrimination. Until 1961, more than half of all Black people in Canada were African Nova Scotian. The Province of Nova Scotia identifies African Nova Scotians as a founding culture.



About NFRF Transformation

Transformation stream grants will support projects that:

1. tackle a **well-defined** problem or challenge;
2. propose a **novel world-leading** approach that is different from the current state-of-the-art approaches to the issue;
3. are **interdisciplinary**, bringing different perspectives to the defined problem; and
4. have the potential to be **transformative**, defined as the potential to **create a significant and real change or impact**—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance.

- ❖ 6 years
- ❖ Up to \$24,000,000
- ❖ Novel, world-leading
- ❖ High risk, high reward
- ❖ Interdisciplinary
- ❖ Significant impact



Notice of Intent



ORS deadline: October 17, 2023

NFRF deadline: October 24, 2023

NOI pieces

- Completed profiles of at least 5 team members
- Project title (short, descriptive, cannot change)
- Outline of challenge
- Overview of approach and potential changes

ORS review process

- NOIs will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility

NFRF review process

- Internal review by NFRF for eligibility and to start recruiting reviewers



Letter of Intent



ORS deadline: December 6, 2023

NFRF deadline: January 10, 2024

NFRF webinar TBD

LOI pieces

- Profiles of additional team members
- Budget table
- interdisciplinarity
- EDI in research design
- EDI in research practice
- Early career researchers
- Research proposal (10 pages)

ORS review process

LOIs will receive feedback from ORS; ORS will support a peer-review process

NFRF review process

Review by members of the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel



Full Application



ORS deadline: Summer 2024

NFRF deadline: September 5, 2024

Full application pieces

- Information from the LOI
- Profiles of additional team members (if applicable)
- Budget
- Proposal (18 pages)

ORS review process

Full applications will receive multiple rounds of feedback from ORS; additional support TBD

NFRF review process

- Review by experts as well as the multidisciplinary/multisectoral review panel
- Top ranked applications will be invited to present to the multisectoral jury

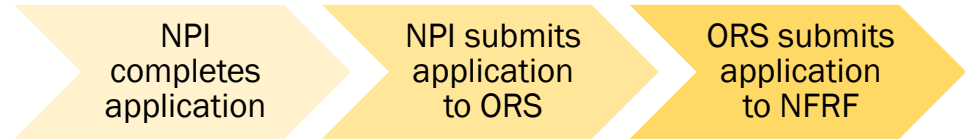


Submission Process



The [Convergence](#) portal is used for all submissions

- NPI, Co-PIs, and Co-applicants will need to complete eligibility profiles



- Application should be complete in Convergence one business day before the deadline
- A ROME0 checklist is required at each stage to confirm Department/School/Faculty approvals
- Results at each stage are communicated to the NPI



Project design



- ❖ Projects must be truly interdisciplinary – representation from across SSHRC/NSERC/CIHR fields as well as community or industry as appropriate
- ❖ Think global – Canadian-led teams that include the global expertise needed to address the challenge
- ❖ Tackle a big challenge – be sure to clearly communicate the potential impact of your project for society

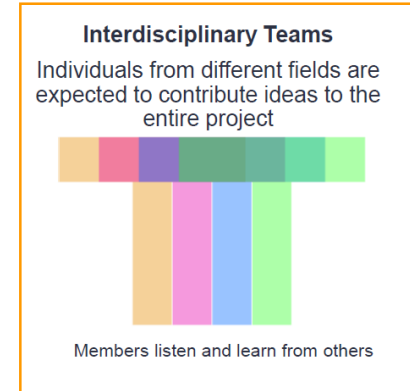
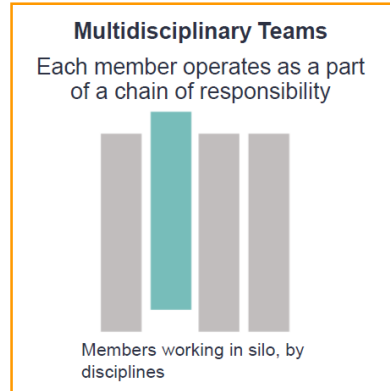


Project design



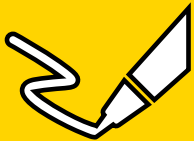
NFRF representation of interdisciplinarity

Multidisciplinary versus Interdisciplinary Teams





Writing tips



- ❖ Write for a multidisciplinary audience – don't assume subject matter experts at the LOI stage
- ❖ Write for an educated but general audience – avoid jargon and highly technical language
- ❖ Follow NFRF formatting [guidelines](#) from the start – ORS almost always finds issues with font, margins, etc.!



Think like a reviewer



- ❖ Start the LOI right away – proposal plus interdisciplinarity and EDI sections will determine invitations to the full application

LOI review:

- interdisciplinarity (pass/fail)
- EDI-RP/ECRs (pass/fail)
- high risk (20%)
- high reward (60%)**
- feasibility (20%)

- ❖ Consult the **Merit Indicators** to understand what reviewers are looking for – LOIs will need to be rated as ‘very good’ or ‘exceptional’ to be invited to the full application
- ❖ Review what’s been funded in previous calls



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



- ❖ Consult the Best Practices in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in research [guide](#) – focus on actions when writing these sections
- ❖ EDI needs to be considered in both the project design and the research environment – how is EDI a factor in the research? And, how will you build and maintain an equitable, diverse, and inclusive team?
- ❖ Incorporate EDI considerations throughout the proposal – demonstrate understanding of the EDI context of the project



Resources



NFRF NOI Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opPkzETTfUQ>

ORS internal deadlines

https://www.dal.ca/dept/research-services/about/Deadlines%20and%20Events/2023/10/24/deadline_noi_new_frontiers_in_research_fund_nfrf_transformation_stream.html

NOI Instructions

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2024/guide_NOI-guide_AIPD-eng.aspx

LOI Instructions

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2024/guide_LOI-guide_LI-eng.aspx

Full application Instructions

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2024/guide_application-guide_demande-eng.aspx

2020 Projects

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/award_recipients-titulaires_subvention-eng.aspx

2022 Projects

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2022/award_recipients-titulaires_subvention-eng.aspx



Reach out with questions!

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