New Frontiers in Research Fund
Fonds Nouvelles frontières en recherche

Special Call: 2022

Research for Postpandemic Recovery

Applicant Webinar

March 2022

CIHR IRSC NSERC CRSNG SSHRC CRSH

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada Canada

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Competition Timeline

Special Call: 2022

Research for Postpandemic Recovery

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Competition Timeline

Special Call: 2022

Research for Postpandemic Recovery

Two-stage competition

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)
2. Full Application

Fonds **Nouvelles frontières** en recherche
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Competition Timeline

Important dates

April 26, 2022	• Notice of Intent deadline
August 9, 2022	• Full application deadline
January 2023	• Results announced
February 2023	• Awards begin

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Funding Opportunity Description

Special Call: 2022

Research for Postpandemic Recovery

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Funding Opportunity Description

Special Call 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has had differential impacts on individuals, communities, and countries, intensifying the inequalities that existed before this crisis.

Globally, numerous voices have been advocating for “building back better” as the world emerges from the pandemic.

Goal

- To mobilize Canadian-led research efforts in support of a more **equitable**, **sustainable** and **resilient** postpandemic reality.

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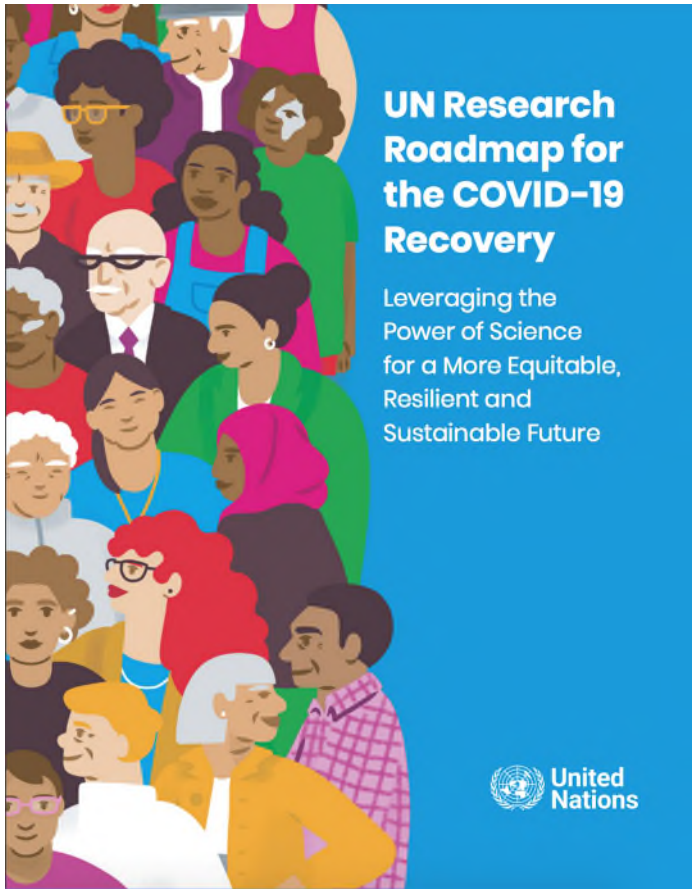
Funding Opportunity Description

Special Call 2022: The Roadmap

The United Nations Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery encourages “targeted research for data-driven responses that focus particularly on the needs of people being left behind.”

The Roadmap is built on the premise that **innovative and interdisciplinary solutions are needed** to account for the interdependence of people and recovery efforts.

Project grantees will be expected to attend a forum at the mid-term and conclusion of the grants to showcase their findings and highlight lessons learned.



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Funding Opportunity Description

Value and Duration

Value

The maximum budget for the direct costs of the research project is $200,000 per year, for up to two years.

Applicants may, in addition, request up to 25% of the value of the direct costs of research to cover indirect costs.

Duration

2 years, with an automatic 1-year extension

- Minimum of 48 grants
- A proportion of awards, equal to the proportion of applications received from Early Career Researchers, will be reserved for Early Career Researchers.

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Evaluation Criteria

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Evaluation Criteria

Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program

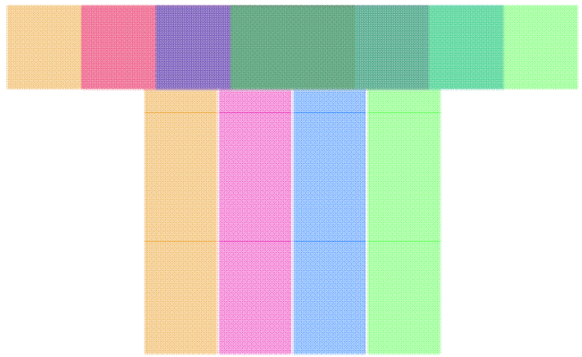
Applications must clearly demonstrate how they respond to **one or more priorities** identified in the Roadmap.

Research teams must include **at least one expert** in **socio/economic/socio-economic** and/or **implementation science** among the principal investigators (NPI or co-PI).

Applications must combine elements from **at least two different disciplines**.

Interdisciplinary Teams

Individuals from different fields are expected to contribute ideas to the entire project



Members listen and learn from others

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Evaluation Criteria

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

EDI is a core element of the NFRF program; applicants must clearly demonstrate their commitment to EDI.

For each of these three key areas, applicants must explain:

Refer to the

NFRF Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

1. team composition and recruitment processes;
2. training and development opportunities; and
3. inclusion.

- ❑ what actions they will take,
- ❑ the outcomes expected, and
- ❑ the assessment planned

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Evaluation Criteria

High Risk

High Risk, in the context of this call, refers to the **novelty of the proposed approach to addressing one or more of the UN Roadmap priorities.**

Proposals should address:

- How the proposed approach is innovative as it relates to the latest methodologies and techniques;
- How the approach builds on and benefits from the expertise and perspectives of a wide range of regions, disciplines, and/or sectors of the international team, as appropriate; and
- Why the approach is expected to lead to change.

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Evaluation Criteria

High Reward

High Reward is defined as the potential for impact.

Applications must explain the anticipated change or impact that is likely to result and its significance.

Can be defined by elements such as:

- Having an economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological or health impact;
- Impacting and/or affecting large communities, or unique communities or subpopulations with the potential to provide lessons for other contexts; and/or
- Contributing to progress towards the achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals by significantly advancing current knowledge, methods and/or technologies, and positioning it for uptake.

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Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility

Feasibility considers **the plan** and **the ability** to execute the activities. It includes elements such as:

- Research challenge or priority being addressed;
- Knowledge, expertise and capacity of the research team;
- Current research in the field;
- Work plan and timeline;
- The plan for research uptake;
- Proposed approach, including GBA+ where appropriate;
- Project's engagement and reciprocity with First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis peoples (for Indigenous research), where appropriate; and
- Suitability of the research environment.

For more information on the criteria refer to the **evaluation matrices**

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Eligibility and Roles

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Eligibility and Roles

Project Team

Proposals must be submitted by research teams composed of at least two individuals:

- **A nominated principal investigator (NPI)**
- Either a **co-principal investigator (co-PI)** or a **co-applicant**.

Teams may include any number of co-PIs, co-applicants and/or collaborators.

All project teams must include at least one expert in social, economic, or socio-economic research and/or implementation science among the principal investigators (NPI or co-PI).

Research teams are expected to include **international members**. The inclusion of team members from lower middle or lower income countries is strongly encouraged. Exceptions to this will be considered for projects that address a uniquely Canadian context and provide an appropriate justification.

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Eligibility and Roles

Project Team Eligibility

Individuals may participate in **only one** application to this competition as either an NPI, co-PI or co-applicant. These restrictions do not apply to collaborators.

There are no restrictions to participation on an application or grant in any other NFRF competition.

Projects are expected to demonstrate **community engagement** and **partnership**, as appropriate.

National, international and cross-sector collaborations are encouraged.

Funds from Special Calls grants can be used to support the research activities of team members **within Canada or internationally**, except those affiliated with for-profit companies or federal, provincial or municipal governments.

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Eligibility and Roles

Early career researchers

All applications are encouraged to meaningfully integrate **Early career researchers (ECRs)** into the project team.

An ECR is defined as a researcher within **five years** of the start date of their first research-related appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (for example illness, maternity or parental), as of the first of the month of the competition launch (February 2022 for this competition).

- **"Research-related appointments"** are defined as those where an individual has the autonomy to conduct research independently;
- All **eligible leaves** (such as maternity, parental, medical or bereavement) are credited at twice the amount of time taken; and
- **Professional leaves** (such as training, sabbatical or administrative) are not credited.

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Eligibility and Roles

Team Roles

Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI)

- Responsible for the direction of the project and the coordination of proposed research activities
- Completes the NOI and full application in the Convergence Portal and submits them to their research administrator
- Assumes administrative and financial responsibility for the grant

Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs)

- Share responsibility with the NPI for the direction of the proposed activities
- May access grant funds

Co-Applicants

- Contribute to the execution of the project
- May access grant funds

Collaborators

- Can be any individual who will contribute to the project
- Contribute to the execution of the project
- Do not have access to grant funds

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Eligibility and Roles

Project team

The NPI and team members can be from **any discipline(s).**

The NPI must be considered an **independent researcher** at their primary affiliation, which must be a Canadian institution holding full eligibility with CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.

Other team members may be from any sector; however co-PIs and co-applicants **may not be affiliated with a government or for-profit company** (this restriction does not apply to collaborators).

Team members in academia must be considered independent researchers.

Full- or part-time students, postdoctoral fellows or research associates are **not eligible** to participate as NPIs, co-PIs or co-applicants.

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Eligibility and Roles

Independent researcher

An **independent researcher**

- Engages in research-related activities that are not under the direction of another individual; and
- Has an academic or research appointment that:
  - Begins by August 9, 2022 for this competition;
  - Allows the individual to pursue the proposed research project, engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, supervise trainees (if applicable) and publish the research results; and
- Obliges the individual to comply with institutional policies on the conduct of research, supervision of trainees (if applicable) and employment conditions of staff paid with tri-agency funding.

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Eligibility and Roles

Exceptions

A **federal government employee and adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose students are participating in the research project may be a co-applicant, with the use of funds limited to salaries or stipends and travel costs for the students.

A **federal government employee and adjunct professor at a Canadian institution** whose contributions to the project do not fall within the mandate of their federal organization and will not be performed within the employer's facilities or with the employer's resources may be a co-PI or co-applicant.

Individuals whose primary affiliation is with an Indigenous government are eligible to be co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators.

Refer to the **Eligibility** section of the competition description

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NOI Requirements

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NOI Requirements

Collection of personal information

Personal information is collected for the **purpose of program performance management.**

Self-identification data collected as part of the user profile is **not shared** with reviewers, and is limited to agency staff on a need to know basis.

Please consult the **data collection policy** for more information

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NOI Requirements

Notice of intent deadline

The NPI must submit a NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application.

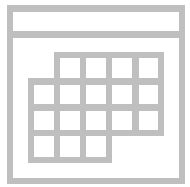
NOI deadline for submission to NFRF:

April 26, 2022

Check with the research grants office (RGO) at your institution for **internal deadlines**.

The RGO is responsible for submitting your NOI by **8:00 p.m. (ET)** on the deadline date.

- Late NOIs will not be accepted.
- An NOI cannot be changed after the RGO has submitted it.



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NOI Requirements on the Convergence Portal

- Application title
- Participants
  - Nominated Principal Investigator and, if applicable, co-PIs, co-applicants and collaborators
- Language of the application
- Indigenous research
  - Indicate if the project involves or has elements of or related to Indigenous research
- Keywords **(5-10)**
- Fields of Research **(up to 5)**
  - Select the fields of research from the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) codes that relate to the proposed research.
- UN Roadmap pillar(s) and priority(ies) **(at least 1 primary priority)**
- Summary of the proposal **(maximum 2,500 characters)**
- Suggested reviewers
  - A minimum of 10 (at least 5 from outside Canada)

If the NPI provides consent, this information can be shared with other funders

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NOI Requirements

Summary of the Proposal

Maximum 2,500 characters

The Summary of the Proposal should:

- Include the objectives of the proposed project and summary of the research approach; and
- Indicate which UN Roadmap priority or priorities the proposal addresses and how the anticipated changes and impacts will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Once submitted by the RGO, **it cannot be modified**.

If your application is successful, this summary may be used for promotional purposes outside the research community to inform the government, media and members of the public who request information about research funded by the NFRF program.

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NOI Requirements

Submitting the NOI

Review your NOI to ensure that it is complete.

From the **Finalize Application** section in the Convergence Portal, follow the prompts to submit the NOI.

After you accept the terms and conditions, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator.**

Once your research administrator has approved and submitted your application, the application status will change to **Received by Agency.**

No changes can be made at that point.

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Full Application Requirements

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Full Application Requirements

Full Application Deadline

The NPI must have submitted an NOI to be eligible to create and submit a full application.

Deadline for submission to NFRF:

August 9, 2022

Check with your RGO for **internal deadlines.**

The research administrator at your institution is responsible for submitting your application by **8:00 p.m. (ET)** on the deadline date.

Late applications will not be accepted.

An application cannot be changed after the research administrator has submitted it.

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Full Application Requirements on the Convergence Portal

Information from the Notice of Intent will automatically populate the Full Application on Convergence.

New team members (co-PIs and co-applicants) can be added at the Full Application stage. All team members must complete their Convergence profile.

Application components:

- Proposed budget
- Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+)
- Socio-economic objectives (SEO)
- Certifications, licenses and permits
- Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
- Research proposal
- Biographical information about the team
- Budget justification
- Literature references

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Full Application Requirements

Full Application Requirements on the Convergence Portal

Proposed budget

- Includes total amount requested for direct and indirect costs of research.
- Funds must be budgeted per year.

Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+)

- Indicate whether GBA+ considerations have been integrated into the proposed research.

GBA+
GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS

Certifications, licenses and permits

- Answer the questions as they relate to the proposed project.

Socio-economic objectives (SEO)

- Select the socio-economic objective from the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) codes that relate to the potential outcomes of the research. This selection is for information purposes only and will not be used in the review process.

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Full Application Requirements on the Convergence Portal

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In this section, provide the following:

I. Information about the team's specific circumstances related to EDI, including identification of structural biases that could affect members of underrepresented groups (character limit: 2500);
II. The best practices that will be applied for each of the following elements (character limit: 250)

- **team composition and recruitment processes;**
- **training and development opportunities; and**
- **inclusion**

For each, a brief explanation must be provided including: how each practice applies to the team's specific context; how it will be implemented; the expected impacts; and how the impacts will be measured (character limit: 2500).

This section must not include any self-identifying information about members of the research team.

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Full Application Requirements – Supporting Documents

Research proposal (5 pages including diagrams and illustrations)

- Describe the Roadmap priority that is being addressed and how the project responds to it
- Describe the proposed research project outlining the expected outcomes
- Describe the research methodology and design
- Work plan and timeline
- Measures the project will use to position the research for uptake
- Approaches to Indigenous research (if appropriate)

GBA+ Analysis (1 page)

Biographical information about the research team (3 pages)

- Research team's knowledge, background and expertise, and planned contributions

Budget justification (2 pages)

- Breakdown and explanation of the direct costs of the research project.

Literature references (5 pages)

Applications submitted in French may increase the maximum page count by 20 percent.

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Full Application Requirements

Submitting the Full Application

Review your application to ensure that it is complete.

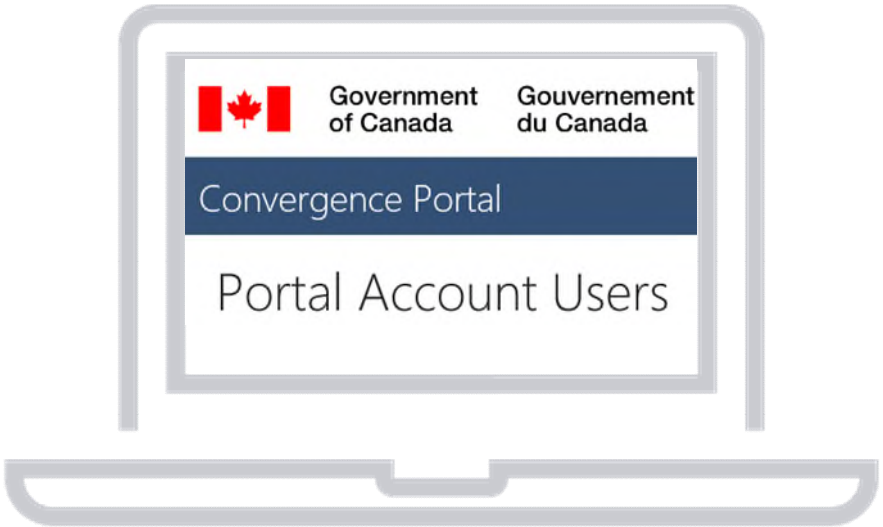
From the **Finalize Application** section, follow the prompts to submit your application.

After you accept the terms and conditions, the status of your submission will change to **Received by Administrator**.

If you want to make **any changes at this point**, you may request that your research administrator return the application to you.

Once your research administrator has approved and submitted your application, the application status will change to **Received by Agency.**

No changes can be made at that point, and your application will not be returned to you.



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Information for RGOs

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Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can, in the **Convergence Portal**:

- **View** NOIs and full applications from NPIs at their institution (including those that are expired, in progress, and submitted)
- **Return** submitted NOIs and full applications **to the NPI**
- **Forward** submitted NOIs and full applications **to the agency**

Before forwarding an application to the agency, **the RGO will be asked to confirm:**

- That the **participants** meet the eligibility requirements
- That the **proposed research project** meets the eligibility requirements

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Information for RGOs

RGO role

By forwarding the application, the RGO will also be certifying on behalf of the institution,
that the NPI

- Is (or will be) affiliated with the institution or organization;
- Has the necessary time and resources to carry out the activity;
- Will email NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca of any changes during the tenure of the grant, including changes in the composition of the team, such as the addition of new co-PIs, co-applicants, or collaborators.

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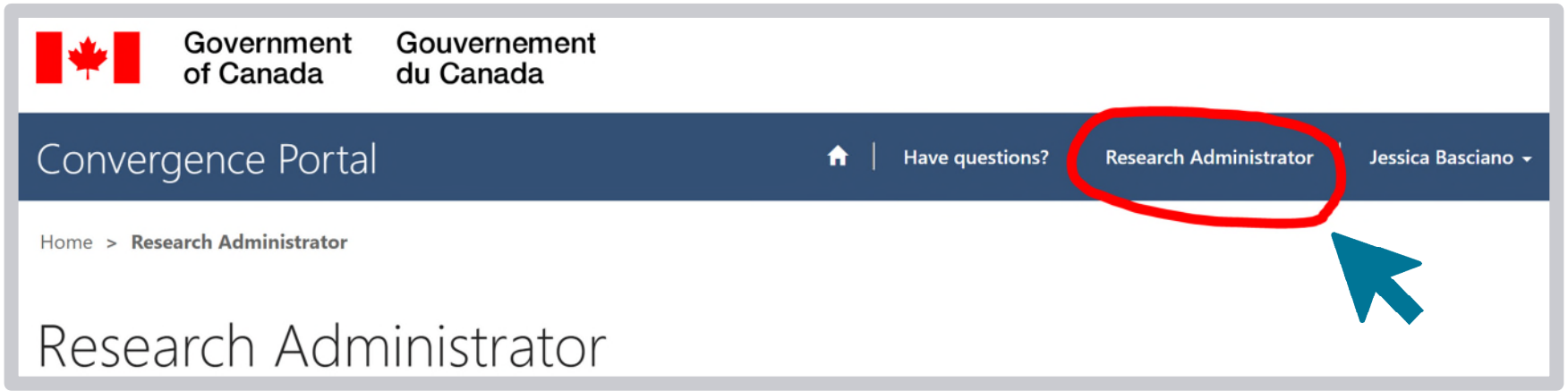
Information for RGOs

RGO role

RGOs can use the **Research Administrator** button to access their institution's applications.



If you are an RGO and you don't see the button, please contact **websupport@chairs-chaires.gc.ca**

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Review Process

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Review Process

Overview

NOI

Full Application

Internal Review
To help staff identify reviewers

External Reviewers
Comment on high risk, high reward and feasibility

Reviewer report

Multidisciplinary/ multisectoral review panel evaluation

EDI	p/f
Interdisciplinarity/ Fit to Program	p/f
High Risk	30%
High Reward	40%
Feasibility	30%

Steering Committee
Makes funding decisions based on the review panel's recommendations

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Review Process

Evaluation matrices

High Risk, High Reward and Feasibility are evaluated using a seven-point scale

For more information on the criteria refer to the **evaluation matrices**

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Review Process

Supplemental Funds – Eligibility

- To be considered for supplemental funds, a project must meet the criteria set out by one or more of the partner organizations.
- Supplemental funds will only be considered for projects that have been selected for funding through the merit review process for the NFRF 2022 Special Call.
- **All proposed projects must be fully executable within the NFRF budget.**

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Review Process

Supplemental Funds – Process

- NFRF will share the applications for successful projects that meet the criteria set out by the partner organization.
- The partner organization will identify projects that they are willing to support.
- Process will vary by partners, but in most cases will require at minimum the submission of:
  - A revised budget
  - The explanation of how project will be expanded with supplemental funding
- Supplemental funds will be provided directly to the project team from the partner organization according to their own policies, guidelines, and processes.

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Review Process

Supplemental Funds – Partner organizations

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

- IDRC will provide up to $200,000 in supplemental funds per project.
- To be eligible for consideration, projects must fulfill the following criteria:
  - Have a strong focus on lower middle-income countries (LMIC) and least developed countries and/or be co-led by institutes or researchers based in these countries;
  - Demonstrate an equal footing partnership modality, i.e., strong preference given to an LMIC partner with a legal identity that allows it to receive funds directly from IDRC;
- Applications with a primary focus on research priorities under Pillar 1 – Health Systems and Services **are not eligible.**

IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

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Review Process

Supplemental Funds – Supporting organizations

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – German Research Foundation

- Researchers eligible for DFG funding can liaise with the NFRF call through an independent Individual Research Grant proposal to the DFG referencing a related collaboration.
- There are no special funds available for these efforts.
- The review process is carried out separately from the NFRF Special Call according to the DFG's criteria for the Review of Research Grant.

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

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Resources and Questions

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Resources and Questions

Resources

Program-related questions:

NFRF-FNFR@chairs-chaires.gc.ca

Convergence Portal help:

websupport@convergence.gc.ca

613-995-4273

Program Links:

NFRF Website

Competition Overview

NOI Guide

Full Application Guide

Reviewer Manual

Evaluation Matrices

FAQs

Supplemental Funding

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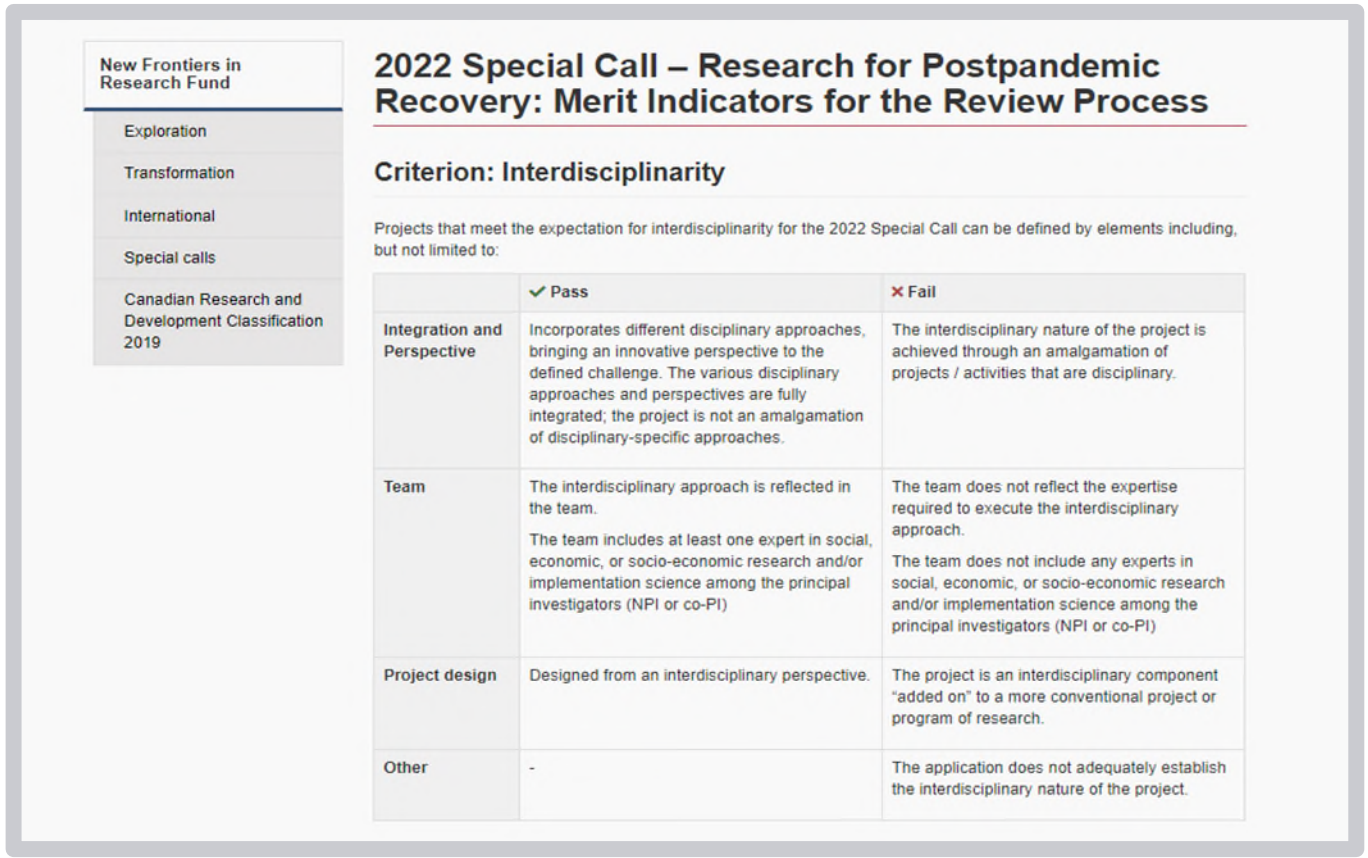
Resources

Evaluation Matrices



New Frontiers in Research Fund

- Exploration
- Transformation
- International
- Special calls
- Canadian Research and Development Classification 2019

2022 Special Call – Research for Postpandemic Recovery: Merit Indicators for the Review Process

Criterion: Interdisciplinarity

Projects that meet the expectation for interdisciplinarity for the 2022 Special Call can be defined by elements including, but not limited to:

	✓ Pass	✕ Fail
Integration and Perspective	Incorporates different disciplinary approaches, bringing an innovative perspective to the defined challenge. The various disciplinary approaches and perspectives are fully integrated; the project is not an amalgamation of disciplinary-specific approaches.	The interdisciplinary nature of the project is achieved through an amalgamation of projects / activities that are disciplinary.
Team	The interdisciplinary approach is reflected in the team. The team includes at least one expert in social, economic, or socio-economic research and/or implementation science among the principal investigators (NPI or co-PI)	The team does not reflect the expertise required to execute the interdisciplinary approach. The team does not include any experts in social, economic, or socio-economic research and/or implementation science among the principal investigators (NPI or co-PI)
Project design	Designed from an interdisciplinary perspective.	The project is an interdisciplinary component "added on" to a more conventional project or program of research.
Other	-	The application does not adequately establish the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

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Resources

Interdisciplinary Research

Reflective questions to ask when planning an interdisciplinary research collaboration:

- Does everyone know who all the partners are and what they will bring to the project? Have all partners been able to contribute to the design of this project? Do the research questions frame the topic in ways that are engaging and fruitful for all partners? Has a shared understanding of the project's aims and purpose been explicitly stated and agreed upon?
- Is the research design predefined in the project proposal or to be negotiated among the group? Will there be opportunities for partners to learn about each other's research methods and perspectives on the topic? How will you avoid making assumptions about partners' approaches to the topic?
- How will you ensure that no one group or perspective dominates the research process? Are there mechanisms in place to enable the ongoing exchange of ideas and opinions across disciplines and sectors? Will there be regular meetings that all project partners are expected to attend? Will all partners have the opportunity to provide feedback on project development and outputs? What happens if they cannot reach consensus?

Source: Healy, Catherine, Catherine Lyall and Isabel Fletcher. "All together now: how to write an interdisciplinary research proposal," Times Higher Education, January 20, 2022, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/all-together-now-how-write-interdisciplinary-research-proposal

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Resources - Interdisciplinary Research

Ten tips for preparing interdisciplinary research proposals:

1. Remember that your proposal will be read by a range of people, not just those within your research area: don't assume knowledge of your discipline – describe (concisely) why your research is important, innovative and impactful.
2. Don't just describe your proposal as interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary. Explain why an inter- or transdisciplinary approach is necessary to achieve the intended research outcomes.
3. Inter- and transdisciplinary proposals may be evaluated by those with expertise in collaborative research rather than your discipline. Write clearly for a general reader – use the minimum of technical language and abbreviations and define specialist terms when they are first used.
4. Collaboration and integration take many forms and work to achieve. Outline what kind(s) of collaboration or integration you envisage (theoretical, methodological, etc) and the specific ways in which you hope to achieve this.
5. Explain the methods that you plan to use and, if they are novel, give examples where they have been successfully used in other fields.

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Resources – Interdisciplinary Research

Ten tips (cont'd):

6. Bear in mind the extra costs associated with inter- or transdisciplinary research, such as additional network building, and budget for them accordingly.
7. If the research involves new collaborations, assume that these relationships will take time to develop and provide opportunities, both formal and informal, for this to happen, especially at the start of the project.
8. If the research includes different types of stakeholders, describe what they bring to the research, what and when they are expected to contribute, and how they will benefit from taking part.
9. Plan for a range of outputs to be produced across the lifetime of the project – this protects against failure and satisfies the needs of different collaborators. Academic publications are usually of little importance to societal partners who will often need more focused outputs – a programme of activities or a new tool to pilot – to justify their continued involvement in the project.
10. Criteria for authorship vary considerably across disciplines. Describe how authorships for project outputs will be allocated – or a process for agreeing on this early in the project – otherwise this can become a major problem.

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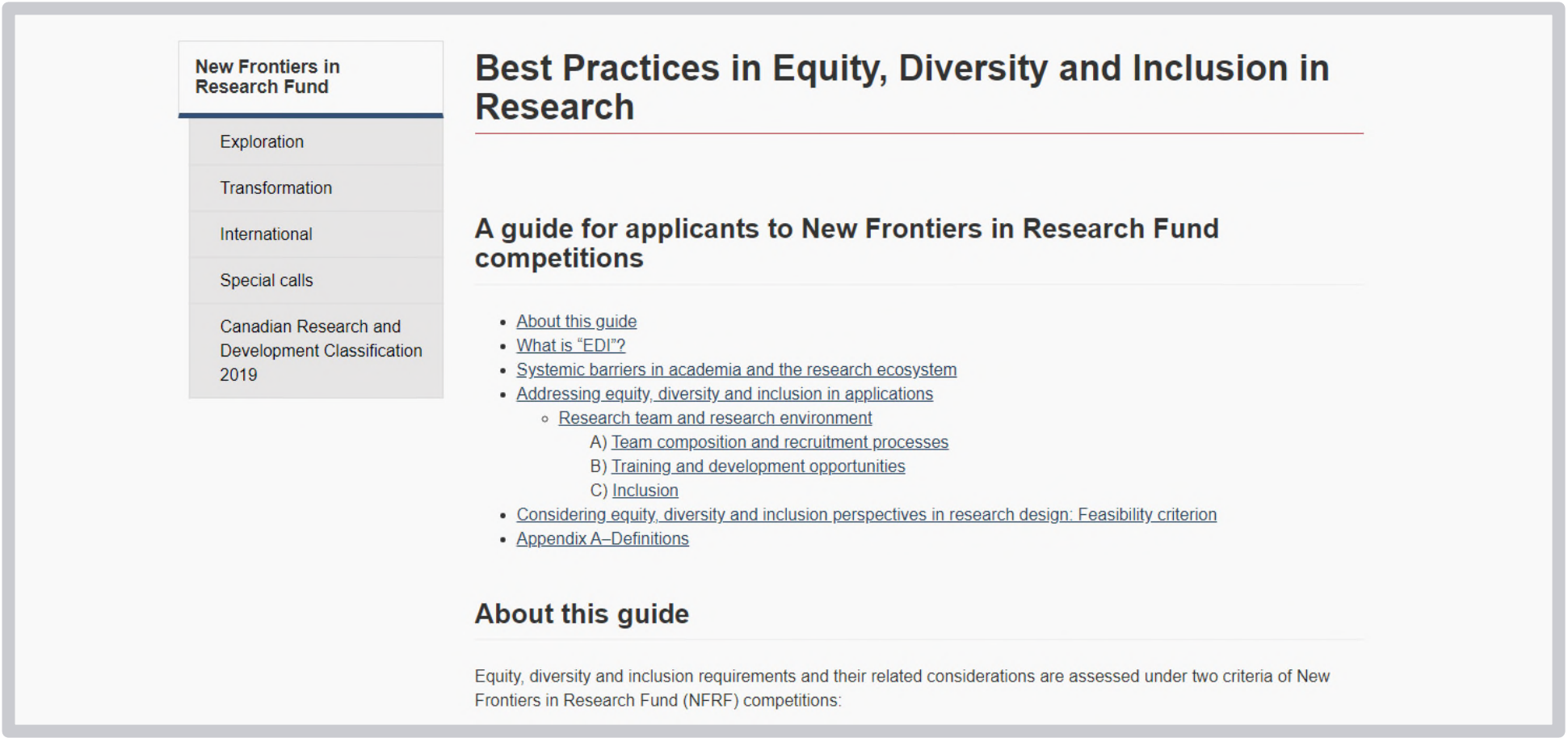
Resources

EDI Best Practices Guide



New Frontiers in Research Fund

- Exploration
- Transformation
- International
- Special calls
- Canadian Research and Development Classification 2019

Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research

A guide for applicants to New Frontiers in Research Fund competitions

- About this guide
- What is "EDI"?
- Systemic barriers in academia and the research ecosystem
- Addressing equity, diversity and inclusion in applications
  - Research team and research environment
    - A) Team composition and recruitment processes
    - B) Training and development opportunities
    - C) Inclusion
- Considering equity, diversity and inclusion perspectives in research design: Feasibility criterion
- Appendix A–Definitions

About this guide

Equity, diversity and inclusion requirements and their related considerations are assessed under two criteria of New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) competitions:

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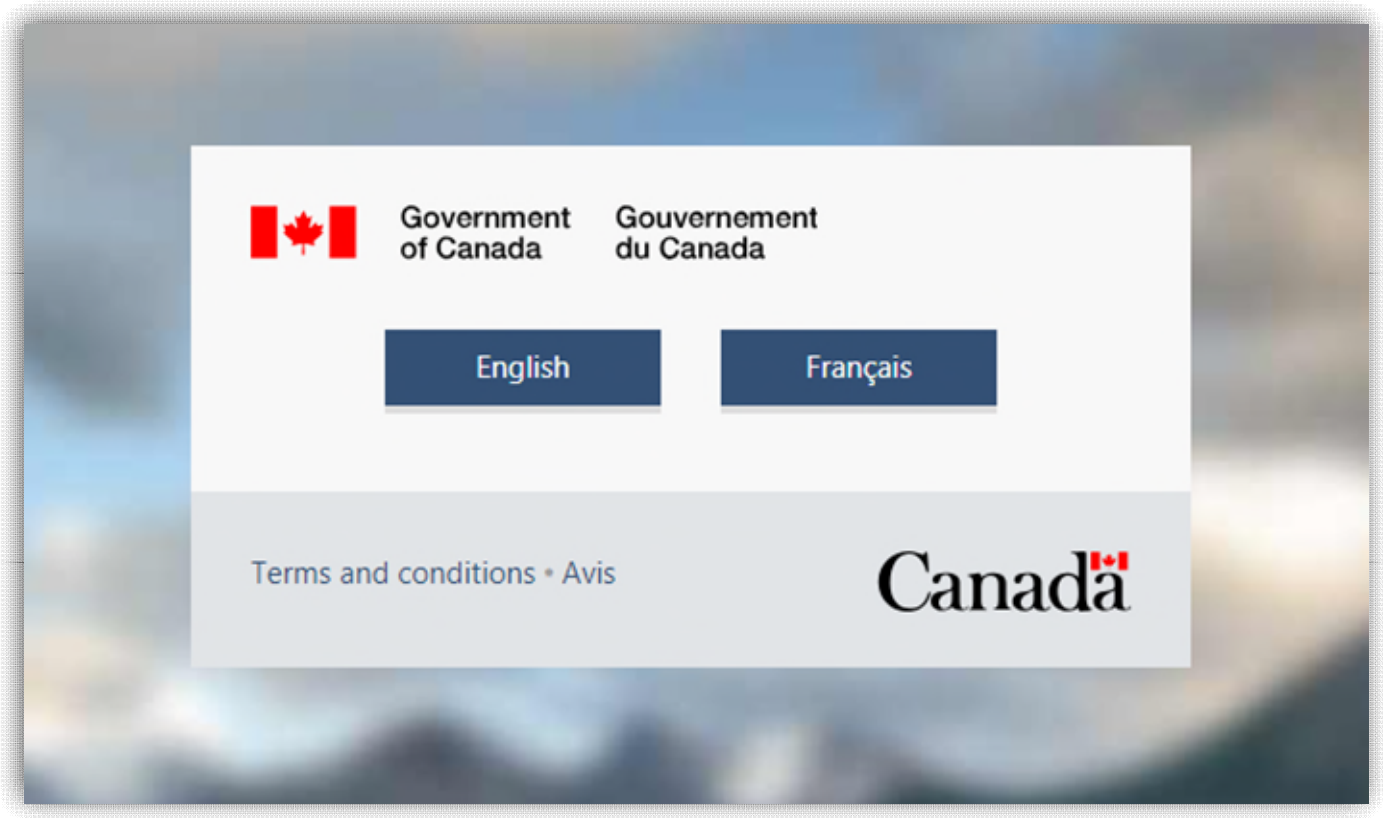
Resources and Questions

Video Capsule

[NFRFE 2020 NOI Convergence Walkthrough]



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Resources and Questions

Questions?