

## Questions and Answers

(Current as of March 13, 2026)

### 1 What is Canada LIFTs, and how is it different from FIT and Spur Change?

Canada LIFTs is a new multi-stream **funding and learning program** designed to support transformative, community-led international cooperation by Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) and their partners.

Canada LIFTs pairs flexible funding with practical resources, peer connection, and learning supports. Learn more about the three current streams of Canada LIFTs here: [LIFT Eligibility - Inter-Council Network](#)

### 2 What are the different funding streams under Canada LIFTs, and when will they open?

Canada LIFTs funding streams are being launched in phases: Additional intakes for each of the above streams announced on a regular basis.

Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund:	Canada LIFTs Momentum Fund:	Canada LIFTs Together Fund:
Registration: February 19 – March 30, 2026	Registration: April 1 – June 30, 2026	Registration: April 1 – June 30, 2026
Apply by: April 30, 2026	Apply in: September 2026	Apply in: September 2026
Decisions: July 2026	Decisions: November 2026	Decisions: November 2026

### 3 What is the registration process, and what are the application deadlines?

For the Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund:

Organizations must complete a **registration form by March 30, 2026**.

Registered organizations will be invited to apply on April 1, 2026.

Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2026.

Watch the ICN website for dates and information.

### 4 If we apply to the Catalyst Fund, does that affect our eligibility for other Canada LIFTs streams?

No. Applying to (or receiving) Catalyst funding does not prevent you from applying to other Canada LIFTs streams in the future.

However, organizations are limited to **one active Canada LIFTs project at a time**.

## 5 Who is eligible to apply as a Canadian SMO under Canada LIFTs?

To apply, an organization must:

Be a Canadian registered charity or non-profit, registered federally or provincially

Have consolidated annual revenue of \$10 million or less

Have annual overseas development assistance expenditures of \$2 million or less

Be incorporated in Canada for at least three years

Provide three years of financial statements (audited preferred, not required)

Demonstrate financial, ethical, and operational capacity to manage funds responsibly

You are not eligible if:

- you are a post-secondary institution or affiliated (meaning your registration number is the same as the university)

-you are a for profit entity

-you are receiving funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

## 6 What learning supports, communities of practice, webinars, or accompaniment opportunities are available?

Canada LIFTs goes beyond funding and includes:

- Learning resources
- Peer connection
- Communities of practice
- Webinars
- Accompaniment and technical support (stream-dependent)

The [February 18, 2026 launch webinar](#) provided an overview of program design, and additional learning sessions are expected.

## 7 Are diaspora-led, Indigenous, or First Nations–led organizations eligible?

Yes. Diaspora-led, Indigenous, and First Nations–led organizations are encouraged to apply, provided they meet the general Canadian SMO eligibility criteria.

## 8 What reporting and MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) requirements apply to funded projects?

The Canada LIFTs Program is in development. We expect that reporting requirements will be designed to be:

- Proportionate to the amount/size of funding
- Learning-focused
- Primarily narrative in nature
- Supported by a limited set of common indicators

## 9 Can organizations submit multiple applications or hold multiple active Canada LIFTs grants?

Organizations are only permitted to submit **one application per stream per intake**.

Organizations may apply to other streams and intakes over time but may hold **only one active Canada LIFTs funded project at a time**.

## 10 Can non-Canadian organizations apply directly, and under what conditions?

Lead applicants must meet Canadian SMO eligibility requirements.

Non-Canadian organizations are key partners for all international projects.

## 11 Is matching funding required?

Matching requirements vary by stream:

- Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund: No matching required
- Canada LIFTs Momentum Fund: 5% matching required
- Canada LIFTs Together Fund: 1:1 (100%) matching required eg. If SMO contributes 200,000 Canada LIFTs will contribute \$200,000 for a \$400,000 project.
- Organizations should confirm stream-specific requirements before applying. This information is [on the website.](#)

## 12 How much funding can organizations request under the Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund, and for how long?

Under the Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund, organizations may request:

- **\$10,000–\$50,000 per year**
- For **1–3 years**
- Up to a maximum total of **\$150,000**

Renewal is possible but not guaranteed annually, up to the stream maximum.

### 13 Can funds be used for public engagement activities in Canada?

Yes. Public engagement activities in Canada are eligible and may form part of — or in some cases the primary focus of — a Canada LIFTs project.

### 14 What are the expectations regarding gender equality, inclusion, ethics, and Do No Harm?

All projects must:

- Support **equal opportunities for people of all genders** and make sure everyone feels included.
- Recognize and address **unfair power dynamics and barriers** that prevent some people from participating fully.
- Follow a strong **Do No Harm approach**, making sure actions do not cause unintended harm to people or communities.
- Respect **environmental protection, ethical practices, and human rights** in all activities.

These principles are **key factors used by Canada LIFTs when evaluating projects**.

## 15 How does Canada LIFTs define and assess localization and power-sharing with partners?

- Projects should be **designed with partners and informed by the needs and knowledge of the community.**
- **Decisions and leadership should be shared** among partners.
- Everyone involved should have clear roles and responsibilities.
- **Community members should be meaningfully involved** in the project.
- Partnerships should be **fair, with shared resources and balanced relationships.**

Canada LIFTs looks at **how well applications explain and put these ideas into practice** when assessing localization and power-sharing.

This includes looking at:

- **Localization** — whether local organizations and communities have real leadership and decision-making roles.
- **Power-sharing** — whether partners share decisions, resources, and responsibilities fairly.

## 16 What thematic areas or types of projects are eligible for funding?

All Canada LIFTs projects should have an overarching goal of poverty eradication or reduction and the promotion or advancement of gender equality, which can be done in many ways.

Canada LIFTs is therefore not limited to specific thematic areas or project type. We are interested in understanding what the community priorities are. Eligible projects may include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Climate and environment
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Public engagement

Projects must align with Canada LIFTs values, including community-centred approaches, localization, equity, and ethical practice.

## 17 Is there a concept note stage, or is the application fully application-based?

There is no concept note stage for the Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund. The process includes registration followed by a full application.

## 18 Are post-secondary institutions or university-affiliated organizations eligible?

Universities and colleges are not eligible as lead applicants.

University-affiliated organizations may be eligible if they independently meet Canadian SMO eligibility requirements.

## 19 Are environmental, climate-related, construction, or renovation projects eligible?

**Environmental and climate-related projects** are eligible.

**Construction or renovation** eligibility depends on the stream:

Under the **Canada LIFTs Catalyst Fund**, construction and refurbishment projects are not eligible.

Other streams (Momentum or Together) may permit construction, subject to stream-specific parameters.

## 20 Are there specific project country requirements?

Yes. All Canada LIFTs projects (excluding public engagement-only projects based in Canada) must be undertaken in ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) eligible countries: [ODA recipients: countries, territories, and international organisations | OECD](#)

## 21 Please clarify the definition of overseas expenditures.

Expenses incurred in Canada—such as headquarters salaries, administrative support, and overhead—are not considered direct overseas program costs.

However, in practice many NGOs/SMOs include these expenses in their financial statements as part of overall program costs because they are integral to delivering and supporting the overseas programs. Activities such as program management, financial oversight, monitoring, and administrative coordination often occur in Canada but are essential to the implementation of the programs abroad.

As a result, while they may not be direct in-country expenditures, these costs are frequently reported as program-related expenses since they directly support program delivery.

### Endnotes

1. Canada LIFTs Program Overview – <https://icn-rcc.ca/programs/lift/>
2. LIFT Program Description – <https://icn-rcc.ca/lift-description/>
3. LIFT Eligibility & Funding Parameters – <https://icn-rcc.ca/lift-eligibility/>
4. Canada LIFTs Launch Webinar (Feb 18, 2026) – <https://icn-rcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Canada-LIFTs-Launch-Webinar-Feb-18-2026.pdf>
5. Catalyst Registration Form – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WB9Z833>

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