



1. Program Overview & Structure

a. 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](#)

b. 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:

Registration: February 19 – March 30, 2026

Registration now Closed
Decisions: July 2026

Canada LIFTs Momentum Fund:

Registration: April 1 – June 30, 2026

Apply in: July 2026
Decisions: Nov 2026

Canada LIFTs Together Fund:

Registration: April 1 – June 30, 2026

Apply in: July 2026
Decisions: Nov 2026

c. How many applications are expected for this Catalyst funding round, and how many will be funded?

Over the whole program we plan to distribute \$8.5M through Catalyst grants. In the first intake (2026) we expect to distribute between \$1.5M to \$2M. The number of grants depends on how many we fund at the lower amounts vs higher amounts. Possibly between 40-65 grants.

d. When will the next Catalyst stream open?

We expect to have our next Catalyst intake in 2027. A calendar will be shared later this year.

2. Application Process & Timeline

a. 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 May 6, 2026, by 1pm Central Time.

Watch the [ICN website](#) for dates and information.

b. 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.

c. Do we have to submit our applications early?

No. We only recommend it in case you encounter technical difficulties to give you time to adapt. Note that late submissions will not be accepted.

d. Can more than one email address have access to the application?

Three distinct names and email addresses can be tied to the application. These are the main contact, signatory, and international partner.

3. Application Review Process

a. Will you distribute funding equally across the different provinces and territories?

Our application review process aims for a balanced portfolio across themes, partner countries and regions, including in Canada.

4. Eligibility (Organizations & Applicants)

a. 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)

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. Our organization managed a one off project that has made us look like a larger organization than we typically are, moving us outside the definition of a medium organization based on past financials, but we are returning to our medium size this fiscal year. Are we still eligible?

You are not eligible. However if your financials change, you can apply in a future intake.

5. Funding & Financial Requirements

a. 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.

b. For streams with matching contributions: Is there a specific percentage to be respected between cash and in-kind contributions?

We do not have a specific percentage for cash or in-kind contributions. This depends on your project and how you present it. However, we will require confirmation of both cash and in-kind contributions.

c. 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.

d. Does the money have to be used in this calendar year or can it extend to the following year?

Funding is intended to fund a 12-month project (not necessarily calendar year). Or if your project period is 10 months then it would be for 10 months.

e. 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.

f. Should the application include a year-by-year budget breakdown?

When you go to input your budget in the application system, you'll find that the budget sheet allows you to break your budget up over multiple time periods. For the Catalyst fund, only one period (your project start date through to end date) is required. This guidance can be found in the Canada LIFTs Fund Guided Application Form, in the Budget section.

g. Does the money have to be used in this calendar year or can it extend to the following year?

Funding is intended to fund a 12-month project (not necessarily the calendar year). Or if your project period is 10 months then it would be for 10 months.

6. Project Design & Eligibility

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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](#)

e. Does the project have to run for a full year?

Your project does not need to run for a full year.

7. Partnerships & Collaboration

a. Can an organization use a multi partner or integrated approach across sectors to apply for support rather than one organization?

Yes, however one Canadian SMO must be the main contact, applicant and contract holder.

b. What is the difference between an international partner and a local partner? Are these two different groups / organizations?

The terms 'international partner' and 'local partner' are used throughout the application and our resources. They refer to the same organization: the international partner that is locally based in the country where the project will be implemented.

c. Is supporting small private sector international partners acceptable? Is having multiple international partners acceptable?

Yes, private sector international partners are acceptable. And while multiple partners are acceptable, we request that one partner complete the international partner section, and your other partners be mentioned in the "People" section of your application.

d. Is the international partner section only in English and French? Can we complete the international partner sections on behalf of our partners, in cases of connectivity challenges, language differences, etc?

Applications will be reviewed in English and French. International partners may receive support from their Canadian partner (e.g., translation or copying/pasting content). However, Canadian partners should not complete responses on behalf of international partners.

8. Program Rules & Participation Limits

a. Can I apply to two different funding streams in the same year?

Yes you can, but you won't be able to receive funding from 2 streams at the same time. We recommend you select the fund that best responds to your project needs.

Canada LIFTs plans on having multiple intakes over the next 5 years. Later this year, we will have a public calendar outlining the timing.

b. 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.

c. Can an organization use a multi partner or integrated approach across sectors to apply for support rather than one organization?

Yes, however one Canadian SMO must be the main contact, applicant and contract holder.

9. Learning, Webinars & Support

a. 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.

b. Will there be webinars to support the application process?

If you have registered to apply for a fund, you will be emailed with information regarding a webinar to support the application process once the application process for that fund has been opened. You must register to attend this webinar. All those who register for the webinar will also have access to the recording of the webinar.

c. Will there be webinars for each funding stream and call?

Yes, webinars will be planned for each funding stream and call. Details for these will be announced on the Canada LIFTs webpage and via email.

The webinars will be recorded and saved [on the Canada LIFTs website](#).

10. Technical Questions (Application & Platform)

- a. I am trying to register for one of the future funding streams and have set up my account in Fluxx. Is that all I need to do in order to register?**

Yes. At this stage, registration for the Momentum and Together Funds is simply creating a Fluxx account and accessing the portal.

The Survey Monkey registration process was only for the Catalyst Fund, and this has since closed.

- b. How long will we have to complete the application?**

While completing the application, the system shouldn't time out while you're still active in the application. We highly encourage consistent saving as the system does not autosave. Longer periods of inactivity within the system may result in lost work.

- c. Can more than one email address have access to the application?**

Three distinct names and email addresses can be tied to the application. These are the main contact, signatory, and international partner.

- d. If we put the same project twice by mistake how do we delete the other one?**

Applicants cannot delete applications in the fluxx system. Please reach out to the Canada LIFTs team for technical support at info@icn-lift.ca.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Standards

a. 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

b. 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.

c. What is a PSEAH?

This refers to a policy on protection against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH). All organizations and partners will be required to have one in place before the start of the project. Resources to support the development of these policies will be provided as needed.

12. Additional Program Clarifications

a. If our organization becomes a recipient of the LIFT program, could this limit or prevent future access to other Global Affairs Canada funding mechanisms?

While we cannot respond on behalf of Global Affairs Canada, we do not believe that this would limit or prevent your access to Global Affairs Canada funding.