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Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund

2023–24 Call for Proposals

December 15, 2023

Housekeeping

- Keep your camera and mic off during the presentation.
- Submit questions during the presentation using the Q&A function
- During the question-and-answer (Q&A) period, you can use the “raise hand” feature to enter the queue to ask a question
- When called, unmute your mic and ask your question
- This presentation will be shared with participants following the information session



Purpose

Share details about the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF)
and the current call for proposals



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Introduction to CMIF



Overview

- Budget 2022 set aside \$1.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2023–24, for infrastructure investments that would support the development of critical minerals supply chains with a focus on priority deposits
- On March 24, 2023, the Government of Canada announced that Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) would lead the CMIF to support clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects necessary to increase Canada’s critical minerals production
- CMIF supports the “building sustainable infrastructure” pillar of the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy

The CMIF complements other federal clean energy, transportation and critical minerals supports

- Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program (led by NRCan)
- Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program (NRCan)
- Critical Minerals Research, Development and Demonstration Program (NRCan)
- National Trade Corridors Fund (Transport Canada)
- Strategic Innovation Fund (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada)
- Critical Minerals Investments (Canada Infrastructure Bank [CIB])
- Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative (CIB)



Funding streams

The CMIF has two contribution streams. Both streams include clean energy and transportation projects in Canada, whether at a mine site or on a regional scale.



Stream 1 – Preconstruction and Project Development supports predevelopment activities to advance projects towards a “shovel ready” state.



Stream 2 – Infrastructure Deployment supports “shovel-ready” mine-site and regional projects that have obtained all necessary regulatory approvals, permit and land-access rights

Note:

All applications will be shared with the CIB for assessment of private investment potential and CIB participation. In cases where financing could be made available via the CIB, the CMIF’s potential contribution to a project will be scaled accordingly.

Indigenous grants

- The CMIF also offers Indigenous grants to support engagement, consultation and capacity building of Indigenous groups around infrastructure projects and policy issues related to critical minerals development
- The first call for proposals for Indigenous grants is set to open in early 2024



Eligible projects

- Projects that advance the development of either clean energy or transportation infrastructure, which will enable an increase in the production of critical minerals resources in Canada
- Projects should support the upstream, mining portion of the critical minerals supply chain
- The CMIF support targets enabling infrastructure and will not fund mine construction itself

Project examples:

Clean energy

- Renewable and alternative energy generation projects
- Demonstration and deployment of renewable or alternative energy technologies
- Grid connection and transmission
- Battery storage
- Electric vehicle charging stations for mining equipment

Transportation

- Mine access infrastructure
- Regional infrastructure linking mines to processing facilities or to transportation systems that allow access to global markets
- Includes roads, rail and marine transportation infrastructure



Eligible recipients

- **Provincial, territorial, and municipal governments** and their departments and agencies
 - Includes provincial Crown corporations, public utilities and certain port authorities
- **Private businesses** and **not-for-profit organizations** legally registered in Canada
- **Indigenous recipients**, including:
 - Indigenous communities or governments
 - Tribal Councils or entities that fulfill a similar function
 - National and regional Indigenous councils and tribal organizations
 - Indigenous not-for-profit and for-profit organizations (51% or greater control by an Indigenous community/communities)



Funding limits

- The maximum funding per project will be:
 - **\$50 million for most applicants**
 - **\$100 million for provincial or territorial governments**
- The CMIF will fund up to 50% of total eligible expenditures in most cases, except the following:
 - Arctic and Northern projects (75%)
 - Indigenous-led projects (75%)
 - Public-private partnerships (33%)
- The maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial and municipal) permitted under the CMIF is 100% of total project costs
- If actual government assistance exceeds 100%, the CMIF will adjust its level of funding (and seek reimbursement, if necessary) so that the stacking limit is not exceeded



Contribution types

- The CMIF will provide **non-repayable** and **conditionally repayable** contributions.
 - Where the recipient is a non-Indigenous for-profit organization and the intent is to allow **profit** generation, contributions will be conditionally repayable.
 - Where the recipient is a provincial, territorial or municipal government or their departments and agencies, or a non-profit or Indigenous organization, contributions will generally qualify for non-repayable contributions
- CMIF-funded projects with conditionally repayable contributions will be monitored for up to 10 years following their commissioning to determine profitability and the amount to be repaid to Canada
 - The maximum repayment would be equal to the program's contribution, and no interest would be charged except in the case of default of payment

Profit encompasses profits generated over several years by both the infrastructure and any mining activities that it directly enables.



Eligible activities – Stream 1

The **Preconstruction and project development stream** has following eligible activities:

- Infrastructure-specific consultation, knowledge sharing, capacity building, job training, and engagement with local and Indigenous communities and organizations
- Infrastructure-specific prefeasibility and feasibility studies; engineering; planning and design work, including appropriately scoped technology demonstration, testing and piloting activities; energy and resource modelling; environmental reviews; and assessments
- Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA) plans that support participation in the critical minerals sector



Eligible activities – Stream 2

The **Infrastructure deployment stream** has the following eligible activities: preparation, construction, rehabilitation and improvement of energy or transportation infrastructure assets, including:

- Creation or enhancement of fixed transportation infrastructure that enables the development or expansion of critical minerals resources production and/or connects resources to critical minerals value chains
- Clean energy production, distribution and/or storage infrastructure projects that supply non-emitting energy
- Construction or retrofit of energy infrastructure that provides a connection to an electrical grid, or retrofits of existing clean energy projects, including hardware and software, to enable them to provide grid services
- Engagement and related activities with impacted communities during project deployment



Eligible costs

- Salaries and benefits for employees
- Professional and technical services
- Expenditures related to public or Indigenous engagement and consultation
- Costs associated with Indigenous ceremonies
- Honoraria for Indigenous Elders
- Capacity building, workshop and training costs
- Expenditures related to environmental assessments, follow-up programs, remedial activities, mitigation measures, and follow-up identified in any environmental assessment
- Licensing and permit fees
- Travel expenses, including transportation, accommodation and meals
- Site preparation, construction, rehabilitation and improvement of infrastructure assets
- Data collection services
- GST, PST, and/or HST, net of tax rebates
- Overhead and administrative expenditures up to 15% of the eligible expenditures
- Costs associated with further distribution of funding, up to 15% of the eligible expenditures



Examples of ineligible costs

- Land acquisition and leasing land, buildings and other facilities
- Legal costs related to litigation
- Project application preparation or development
- Tax preparation
- Financing charges and interest payments on project loans
- Salary, benefits and incentives unrelated to the project
- Fossil-fuel energy generation equipment
- Purchase of rolling stock or mobile equipment
- General repairs or maintenance of project work and related structures
- Services or works normally provided by the recipient
- Hospitality
- Costs incurred after project completion or after March 31, 2030, whichever is earlier



Outline of the 2023–24 call for proposals



2023–24 call for proposals is now open

- On November 20, 2023, NRCan launched the first call for proposals (CFP) with **up to \$300 million in contribution funding available**
- Information on this funding opportunity and the Applicant guide are now available online
- Applications will be accepted through NRCan's online portal until February 29, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (PST)



Preconstruction and project development stream

applications will be assessed and ranked as a cohort after the CFP window closes



Infrastructure deployment applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis for the duration of the CFP window, or until funding has been allocated

Getting ready to apply

- Attend a CMIF session (optional)
- Read the [CMIF Applicant guide](#) to determine eligibility and application requirements
- Log on to the CMIF online portal



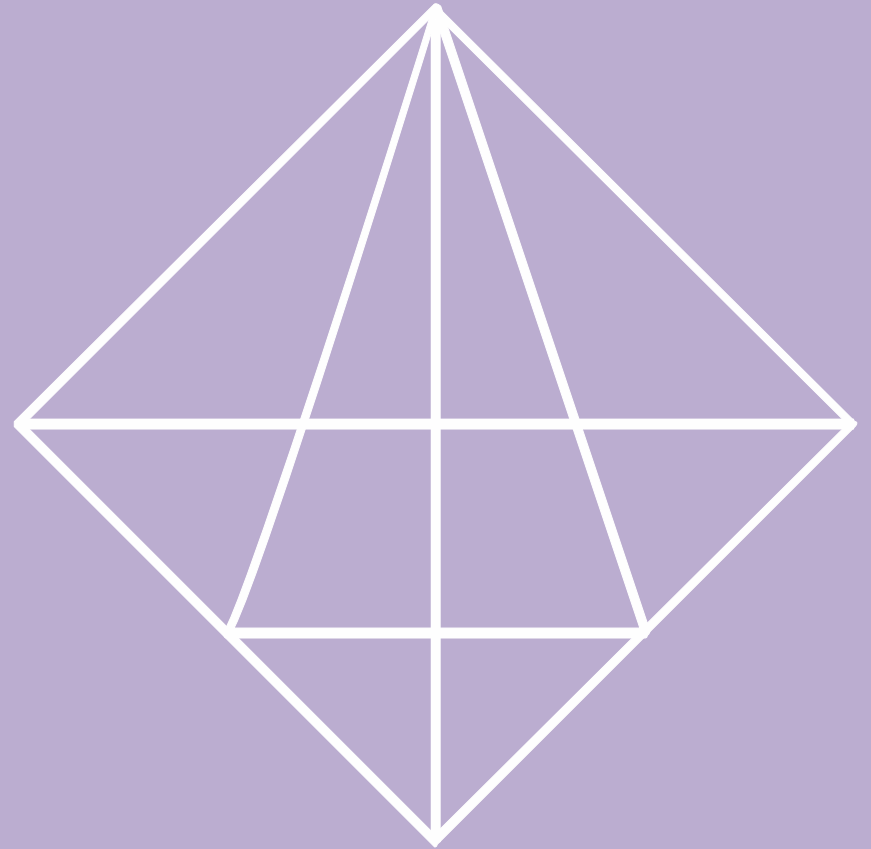
Using the online portal

1. Visit the [NRCan funding portal](#)
2. Register for a GCKey account if you do not already have one
3. Log into the NRCan funding portal using your credentials
4. Click on “My Applicant Profiles” and create your applicant profile if you do not already have one
5. Click on “Current Funding Opportunities”, then on “Apply” in the “Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund Program” line to start your application
6. Prepare your application, consulting the step-by-step application guide in Annex B of the Applicant guide regularly
7. Review your application before submitting
 - An application can only be updated or changed before it is submitted



After you apply

- You will receive an email confirming submission of your application (this will mean that your application is under review)
- **Reminder:** Your CMIF application will be referred to the CIB for assessment of private investment potential and CIB participation
- CMIF project assessments will involve an interdepartmental process engaging expertise from relevant federal partners (assessments include an initial screening and a full application review)



Screening

All applications will be screened for basic completeness and eligibility.

Applications that do not pass this screening will be returned to the applicant along with an indication of the area(s) of insufficiency



Preconstruction and project development stream applicants will be notified shortly after the call for proposals window closes as to whether their application has passed this screening and been retained for a full project assessment



Infrastructure deployment applicants will be notified shortly after submitting their application (for stream 2 applicants who do not pass this screening, they may choose to revise and resubmit their application, provided the CFP is still open)



Assessment

Full application review will include three key elements:

1. An assessment of expected support for critical minerals production in Canada
2. A due diligence assessment to evaluate the quality of the application, project feasibility and project risks
3. An assessment of the project's expected economic, environmental, and Indigenous reconciliation benefits and impacts
 - When assessing projects, the CMIF will rely on information submitted in the application and other information available via public or other government sources
 - Assessments will consider both the infrastructure and the mining activities it will support



Project approval and contribution agreements

- Projects that receive a positive funding decision will be informed of conditional funding approval in writing (this will begin the process to negotiate a contribution agreement)
- Costs incurred prior to conditional project approval will not be considered as part of total project costs for the purpose of reimbursement
- Until a written contribution agreement is signed by both parties, no commitment or obligation exists on the part of NRCan to make a financial contribution to any project, including any costs incurred or paid prior to the signing of the agreement



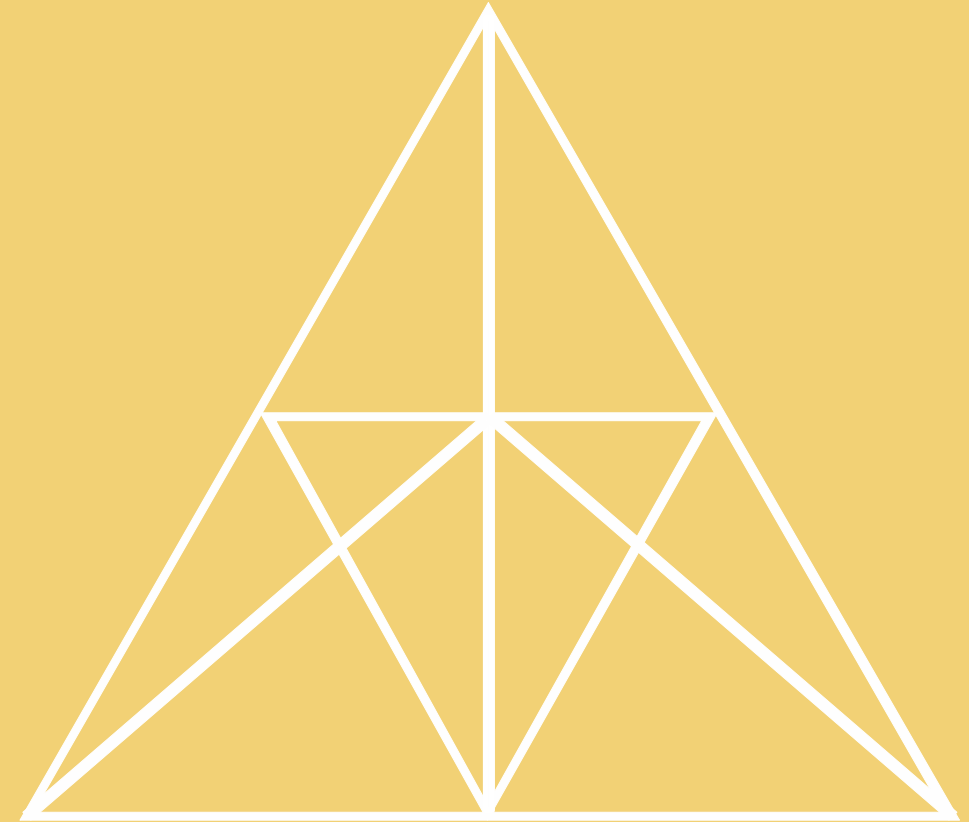
Reporting

- Contribution agreements will detail reporting requirements for each project
- To have expenditures reimbursed, recipients must submit an expense report, updated project cash flow statements and/or budget for the upcoming quarter, and an update on project activities
- At the end of the project, recipients will submit a financial report on how the CMIF contribution was spent, a narrative report on project activities, and where applicable, a commissioning report
- Recipients will also be required to report on performance and progress during the project and for 5–10 years following project completion
- **Reminder:** Recipients of conditionally repayable contributions must report annually on infrastructure- and mining-related profits for up to 10 years following project commissioning or completion

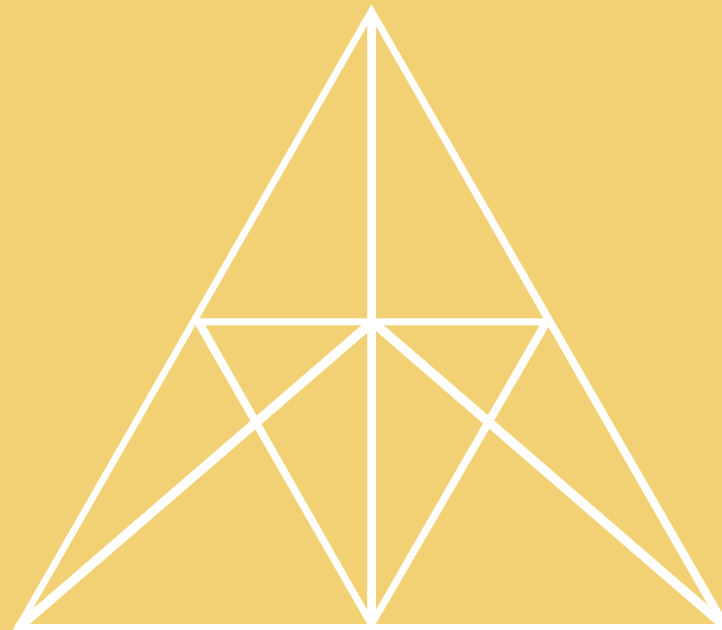


Other useful resources:

- [CMIF program page](#)
- [CMIF applicant guide](#)
- [Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy](#)
- Contact the CMIF team by email:
cmif-fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca



Q&A Period



Canada 

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