



2019-2021

APPLICANT'S GUIDE TO SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM FOR NON-PROFIT CONSUMER
AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

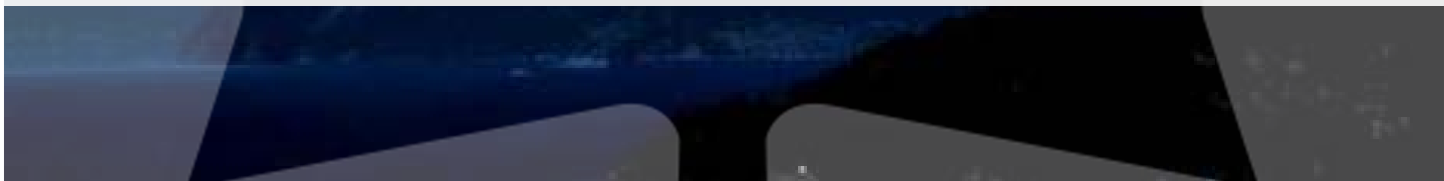




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1 - Introduction	3
1.1 Program objective	3
1.2 How to use the Applicant's Guide.....	4
1.3 Contacting ISED.....	4
Section 2 – Program overview	5
2.1 Eligibility	5
Who is eligible?.....	5
Who is not eligible?.....	5
2.2 Funding and project types	5
2.3 Research Project contributions.....	6
2.4 Development Project contributions.....	6
2.5 Program budget allocations.....	6
2.6 Project duration	8
Section 3 - Preparing an application	9
3.1 Application Form Submission requirements	10
Step 1 – Eligibility criteria.....	10
Step 2 – Organization information.....	10
Step 3 – Types of projects.....	11
3.2 Application deadline	12
3.3 Confirmation of receipt.....	12
Section 4 - Eligible costs for projects.....	13
4.1 Part A – Direct project costs for Research and Development Projects.....	13
4.2 Part B – Indirect costs for Research Projects Only.....	13
Section 5 – Assessment	14
5.1 Assessment criteria	14
5.2 How proposals are assessed	15
Annex 1 – Research Project questions included in the Application Form..	16
Annex 2 – Organizational Development questions included in the Application Form	22
Annex 3 – Consumer Movement Development questions included in the Application Form	25
Annex 4 – Frequently asked questions	28



Section 1 - Introduction

1.1 Program objective

The Contributions Program for Non-profit Consumer and Voluntary Organizations (the Program) was established by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED) Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) in order to support organizations in the production of high quality, independent and timely research on consumer issues.

The overall goal of the Program is to strengthen the consumer's role in the marketplace through the promotion of sound research and analysis, and by encouraging the financial self-sufficiency of consumer and voluntary organizations.

NEW! Two year call out for 2019-21

This year's call for proposal will span over two years. Note that there is no planned callout in 2019.

NEW! The per-project contribution limit has increased to \$250,000

For 2019-21, applicants can request funding of up to \$250,000.

NEW! The limit increase allows for robust two-year projects

Applicants are encouraged to apply for projects of longer duration (up to two years). This year's callout will span from 2019 to 2021. With the increase in duration and funding limit per-project, applicants are encouraged to undertake more ambitious projects that are national in scope, geographically representative and considerate of Canada's diverse population. This includes, but is not limited to, expanded surveys, more focus groups and broader communication activities reaching varying demographic groups.

Before submitting a proposal, it is recommended that applicants:

- 1) Review projects currently funded under the Program:
<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/oca-bc.nsf/eng/ca02974.html>
- 2) Review past projects funded under the Program. This information is located in ISED's Consumer Policy Research Database at: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/oca-bc.nsf/eng/h_ca02236.html
- 3) Review the **topics of interest** that will be given priority for 2019-21. They are as follows:
 - **Consumer interest in the electronic marketplace:** digital rights and responsibilities, use of digital media for buying and comparison shopping; Canadian attitudes towards cyber-security and data breaches; digital product labelling; consumer sentiment of Canada's Anti-Spam Law; privacy (e.g. trade offs involved in the personalization of services; generation-specific attitudes to privacy);
 - **Consumers and emerging trends in the communications sector:** awareness of competitive offers; barriers to switching providers and policy measures that



foster switching; accessibility of new technologies – in alignment with proposed Accessible Canada Act;

- **Consumers and the financial sector:** online and high cost lending products; financial advice (where consumers get advice, consumers' impression of advice); consumers' perception of financial advertising; international best practices for enforcement;
Disruptive technologies: blockchain, internet of things; artificial intelligence; big data and algorithms; use of consumer data to foster consumer choice;
- **Copyright:** consumer perceptions and attitudes towards online piracy; technological protection measures and use of virtual private networks; concerns about what is legal or not when consuming online content; Canada's notice-and-notice regime;
- **Advertising:** drip pricing; unexpected terms and conditions in fine print; general impression conveyed by advertisements; and
- **Sustainable consumption:** consumer understanding of environmental sustainability standards and business sustainable practices.

Applicants may also submit proposals on any other relevant consumer issue provided that they can demonstrate its importance. Priority for funding will be given to those proposals that align to the topics of interest outlined above.

NEW! Applicants may submit **up to a maximum of five** proposals.

1.2 How to use the Applicant's Guide

The Applicant's Guide explains the Program and has been developed to assist in the completion of a proposal. Please read all sections of this guide before preparing your proposal.

- Section 2 outlines the Program's eligibility criteria and explains its funding structure;
- Section 3 explains how to prepare an application;
- Section 4 provides information on eligible costs;
- Section 5 describes how ISED assesses proposals;
- Annexes 1-3 outline all questions, the amount of points each question is worth and how each question will be assessed in the Application Form for each type of proposal; and,
- Annex 4 provides frequently asked questions about Eligibility, the Application Form and Process, and the Assessment Process.

1.3 Contacting ISED

Inquiries regarding the Program should be addressed to:

Office of Consumer Affairs

Tel: 343-291-3051

Email: ic.ocacontributions-contributionsbc.ic@canada.ca



Section 2 – Program overview

2.1 Eligibility

Who is eligible?

Organizations that are incorporated as non-profit corporations in Canada and which can demonstrate that they:

- have a governance structure which assures accountability to a membership representing the consumer interest;
- have the structure, governance and funding arrangements which do not expose them to commercial influence on their research and policy positions;
- are capable of reaching Canadian consumers beyond members of the organization itself;
- are competent, credible, and accountable in carrying out the projects; and
- are guided by objectives which are consistent with the Program objective.

Who is not eligible?

Individuals, profit-oriented organizations, industry, trade and professional groupings, representatives of business or commercial interests, government departments, agencies and organizations, academic institutions and their associated research agencies, and political parties and organizations involved in partisan political activity do not qualify for Program support.

2.2 Funding and project types

The Program funds projects through non-repayable contributions. Two types of projects are available under the Program: Research Project contributions and Development Project contributions.



2.3 Research Project contributions

The purpose of Research Project contributions is to improve the capacity of consumer organizations to represent the interests of consumers in the marketplace decision-making process through sound research and analysis of consumer protection issues that are national in scope. For a list of the 2019-21 topics of interest, consult Section 1.1 of the Applicant's Guide.

Please note that research projects aimed at supporting educational activities, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and promotional materials, magazines, guides, folders, web sites, training programs and the like **are not** eligible.

2.4 Development Project contributions

Development Project contributions are aimed at capacity building for consumer organizations. They fall into two categories:

- **Organizational Development Project Contributions** aim to strengthen an organization's capacity to diversify revenue sources and increase its level of self-sufficiency. Projects may include preparation of **multi-year business plans**, **feasibility studies** (including online services) and **market analyses**, or **pilot projects** for developing and producing products or services with the potential to generate long-term revenues for the organization, or increase its visibility and/or the membership base.
- **Consumer Movement Development Project Contributions** aim to strengthen organizations' capacity to **work collaboratively** in the interest of Canadian consumers by developing joint plans and initiatives in the areas of policy research, analysis and development; by creating and implementing action plans to address issues of national concern; by making concerted international representations; and by establishing joint representation and communication initiatives with the public, with government, and with industry.

2.5 Program budget allocations

The total annual Program budget is \$1,690,000 and the maximum amount that can be awarded to a single organization per fiscal year is \$500,000.

NEW! The call for proposals will span from 2019 to 2021, thus the combined budget is \$3,380,000 and the maximum amount that can be awarded to a single organization is \$1,000,000 over the two fiscal years:

- 2019-20 fiscal year (April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020): annual budget \$1,690,000 and \$500,000 maximum to a single organization.
- 2020-21 fiscal year (April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021): annual budget \$1,690,000 and \$500,000 maximum to a single organization.

NEW! The maximum contribution limit per project is **\$250,000**.



Applicants should take into account that funding is subject to the above mentioned budget allocations. Applicants should be diligent when planning proposal timeframe(s) and budget(s) accordingly.



2.6 Project Duration

Projects can span a period of up to 24 months. Projects will begin no earlier than April 1, 2019, and must be completed by March 31, 2021, at the latest. It is crucial that the estimated project timeline does not exceed the March 31, 2021 completion date. For example, plan for either for a 15-month, 18-month or a full 24-months project. However, **under no circumstances can a project exceed a 24-month duration.**

NEW! Applicants are encouraged to consider and apply for projects of longer duration (up to 24 months) since the callout for projects will span from 2019 to 2021. **Note that there is no planned callout for 2019.** With the increase in duration and per-project funding limit, it is expected that applicants will undertake more ambitious projects that are national in scope, geographically representative and considerate of Canada's diverse population. This includes, but is not limited to, expanded surveys, more focus groups and broader communication activities reaching varying demographic groups.



Section 3 - Preparing an application

Proposals can be submitted electronically to ISED via the Portable Document Format (PDF) Application Form's "Submit" button.

A link to the PDF Application Form is available on the ISED website:

http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/oca-bc.nsf/eng/h_ca00175.html

Important information on using the Application Form:

- Make sure you have the latest version of a PDF reader. To view and download the Application Form, you must have a PDF reader installed. If you do not already have such a reader, the following ones are available to download free of charge:
 - Adobe Reader - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>
 - Foxit Reader - http://www.foxitsoftware.com/Secure_PDF_Reader/
 - Xpdf - <http://www.foolabs.com/xpdf/download.html>
 - eXPert PDF Reader - <http://www.visagesoft.com/products/pdfreader/>
- How to access and download the Application Form:
 - Go to the following website: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/oca-bc.nsf/eng/h_ca00175.html
 - Right click on the link to the PDF document and select "Save Target As" (Internet Explorer) / Save Link As (Firefox) from the drop-down menu.
 - Save the file to a directory on your computer by clicking "Save".

Note: The Application Form from previous years will not be compatible with the 2019-21 call for proposals and will be rejected by the intake system.

- **Saving your proposal:** The Application Form allows you to save the draft proposal, at any time, so you can return to it at a later time. Once your proposal is complete, you can print a copy for your records and then submit to ISED.
- **Multiple proposals:** The Application Form has a feature that allows you to clear the "Proposal" section in Step 3 of an already completed proposal, while retaining all of the information from Steps 1 and 2. Start by re-saving the completed Application Form with a different name. You can then clear the proposal section by using the "Reset" button and prepare another proposal using the same Application Form.
- **Proposals have a maximum character length:** Each question in the Application Form will display a maximum number of characters allowed. Please note that spaces and hard returns are counted as characters and add to the total number of characters.
- **Active Internet connection:** You need to be connected to the Internet in order to submit an Application Form to ISED.

Note: Although you must be connected to the Internet to submit your proposal to ISED, you can edit and complete the Application Form offline using your PDF reader software.



- **Submit early:** It is strongly recommended that you submit your proposal early. When approaching the deadline, please allow **at least 1 hour** for submission **prior to the closing deadline** to account for any unforeseen transmission delays. The intake system closes automatically and late proposals will not be accepted.

3.1 Application Form submission requirements

This section is an overview of Steps 1 to 3 only of the Application Form. The questions for the three projects types are annexed to this Applicant's Guide (Annexes 1 to 3).

Step 1 – Eligibility criteria

This section is designed to help applicants determine if they are eligible for funding under the Program. Once this step is completed and validated, then you will be able to proceed to Step 2 -Organization information.

Please refer to Section 2.1 of the Applicant's Guide for the eligibility criteria.

Step 2 – Organization information

This section asks for the applicant's contact information, membership and donor information, and publications details (e.g. magazine, newsletter or blog).

The applicant must provide supporting documentation. If you do not currently have electronic versions of the required supporting documentation (budget forecast, lobbyist declaration, etc.), you may scan the hard copies and attach them. The following image formats are accepted: BMP, JPEG, PDF and GIF.

Use the "+" and "-" buttons to add or remove an information line. If you have multiple items and want to change the order in which they appear, you can use the arrows (▲▼) to move them.

The applicant must answer the following **declarations**. If the answer is "Yes" to one or more of the following declarations, it will be required to attach a document for:

- **Lobbying Act:** in your organization, do you presently employ persons to lobby on your behalf? If yes, please provide assurance that, where lobbyists are used, they are registered in accordance with the *Lobbying Act* and that no actual or potential conflict of interest exists nor any contingency fee arrangement.
- **Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service:** in your organization or on your Board of Directors, do you presently employ a former public servant who left the federal government in the last twelve months? If yes, please provide assurance that the public servant is in compliance with the *Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service*.
- **Conflict of Interest Act:** in your organization or on your Board of Directors, do you presently employ a former public office holder who left the federal government in



the last twelve months? If yes, please provide assurance that the public office holder is in compliance with the *Conflict of Interest Act*.

In Question #20 of the Application Form, applicants are required to **attach** the following **six documents** in order to proceed:

- statement of incorporation (i.e. proof of provincial or federal non-profit incorporation, or both, if applicable);
- the latest audited financial statement* prepared by a Chartered Accountant which comprise the organization's statement of financial position as of March 31, 2018 (i.e. independent auditor's report);
- the current year budget forecast (for 2018-19);
- a background statement on the organization's aims, objectives and structure;
- the list of the current Board of Directors members; and
- the organization's current by-laws.

The audit provides reasonable assurance that the entity's financial statements present fairly its financial position, financial performance and its cash flows in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework (Chartered Accountants of Canada. *Understanding Reports On Financial Statements*. Available online at: <https://www.cpacanada.ca>.)

The maximum file size accommodated on the network is **10 MB**. To ensure that the uploading process runs smoothly, please click "Save" after attaching each file.

Ensure that all required documents have been attached to the Application Form. To display a list of your attachments, click the paperclip icon on the left side of the Application Form.

Step 3 – Types of projects

Select proposal type

One type of proposal must be selected: Research, Organizational Development or Consumer Movement. The questions in the Application Form are based on the type of proposal selected.

NEW! Once this section has been completed applicants may submit **up to a maximum of five** proposals.



3.2 Application deadline

Applicants have until **3 pm EST, January 30, 2019**, to submit **up to a maximum of five** proposals. Please submit proposals via the Applicant Form online. If this method of transmission poses any issues, please notify ISED as soon as possible (contact information in Section 1.3). The online submission system closes automatically and will decline any late proposals. Incomplete proposals will not be assessed.

NEW! The 2019-21 call for proposals is a two year call out. Note that there is no planned call for 2019. It is encouraged that organizations keep this in mind when planning their submissions.

3.3 Confirmation of receipt

Once the proposal has been successfully submitted using the “Submit” button, a confirmation is displayed on the screen. It is recommended applicants keep a copy of the confirmation document for record purposes. If a confirmation page is not displayed, there might have been a problem successfully submitting the proposal.

If a problem occurs, verify that all the required documentation is attached (and that they do not exceed the combined maximum file size of **10 MB**) and that all fields are filled in. Any concerns, should be addressed to ISED **before the closing deadline** to ensure the proposal has been successfully submitted. See Section 1.3 for details on contacting ISED.



Section 4 - Eligible costs for projects

NEW! For 2019-21, the maximum contribution limit is \$250,000 per project.

Eligible costs for contributions will be those costs that are incurred by the recipient and which, in the opinion of the Minister of ISED, are reasonable and required to carry out the eligible activities to which they relate. Only costs that are reasonable and which relate directly to the eligible activities will be allowed.

Eligible project costs fall into two categories: Part A and Part B. Eligible costs listed under Part A are considered to be direct costs chargeable to the project. **Eligible costs listed under Part B can be claimed for research projects only**, and are comprised of indirect costs that may be chargeable to research projects. Up to 15 percent of the total eligible costs for the project can be comprised of overhead expenses.

4.1 Part A – Direct project costs for Research and Development Projects

These include:

- Direct labour and salaries (salaries and benefits of employees working on the project);
- Subcontract and consultants (research, data collection, surveys, discussion groups, special assistance, contract employees, etc. – please clearly identify the type of service, and the name of the contractor, if available);
- Direct materials (includes office supplies, printing, postage); and
- other (can include accounting (bookkeeping and audit fees relative to the contribution only,) travel expenses (for persons working on the project) translation fees, methodology review of project results and final report, communication activities, etc.)

4.2 Part B – Indirect costs for Research Projects only

These include:

- Overhead (rent and utilities- office rental, hydro, heat, telephone, etc.);
- Equipment (rental of office — may include computer equipment); and
- other (related to project's objective only; can include liability insurance).



Section 5 – Assessment

Applicants compete for Program funding, and should bear in mind the competitive nature of the application process. All proposals for funding are reviewed in accordance with the general Program objective as well as the specific eligibility criteria of the particular type of funding sought.

Consult Section 1.1 for Program objective.

5.1 Assessment criteria

ISED assesses **research project** proposals for:

- the timeliness and relevance of the consumer issue;
- feasibility of the methodology and work plan;
- capability of the research team; and
- communications effort on distribution of project results and final report.

Organizational development project proposals are assessed on:

- the ability of the organization to reach greater financial self-sufficiency;
- feasibility of the work plan;
- capability of the project team to carry out the project and objectives; and
- how it will assist the organization to fulfil its mandate.

Consumer movement development project proposals are assessed on:

- the organization's capacity to work collaboratively on policies to represent the best interest of Canadian consumers;
- feasibility of the work plan;
- capability of the project team to carry out the project and objectives;
- communications effort on distribution of project results and final report.



5.2 How Proposals are assessed

Each proposal is scored on a total of 100 points and ranked by overall score, from highest to lowest (see Annexes 1-3 of the Applicant's Guide for details on the amount of points each question is worth). In making final recommendations for funding, the Government of Canada reserves the right to give higher consideration to those proposals that include factors such as: geographical representation and [Gender-Based Analysis+](#) to ensure research reflects impacts to Canada's diverse populations and demographics; the 2019-21 topics of interest; and the communication effort on distribution of project results.

For more information on Gender-Based Analysis+, please visit the Status of Women website at: <https://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/gba-acis/index-en.html>

The assessment process comprises the following steps and factors:

- Applicants are subject to an eligibility assessment to ensure they are eligible under the Program. If an applicant fails to meet the eligibility criteria the applicant will be notified and their proposal(s) will not be considered.
- All proposals are assessed by ISED policy analysts, and other relevant departments and agencies as appropriate. Analysts from provincial and territorial consumer protection bodies may also be called upon for their assessment of proposals within their jurisdiction and area of jurisdiction.
- Proposals dealing with financial issues are assessed by representatives from the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada and ISED.
- Proposals are assessed according to the overall assessment criteria laid out in Section 5.1.
- The assessments of all proposals, as well as specific comments from the evaluators, are reviewed by the OCA who will make funding recommendations.
- Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals once the competitive assessment process is complete.



Annex 1 – Research Project questions included in the Application Form

All questions are mandatory.

Project proposal title: _____

Other requested source(s) of funding:

Applicant must identify all sources of funding related to the proposal (or similar topic) that you are seeking funding for from the OCA Contributions Program. This means, if you have received or are applying for project funding with any other federal, provincial or territorial government department or agency, you must provide the name of the source, the current status, the date requested, the amount and the project title for the funding.

- Source (level of government and name of department or agency):
- Title:
- Status: Pending, Refused or Approved
- Date requested:
- Amount:

A - The applicant

- Completed by (name of the individual):
- Telephone:
- Email:

B - Project summary

Provide a concise description of the project. This summary will be used to formulate the contribution agreement, if the proposal is funded. The description should include:

- Research to be undertaken (including consumer issues to be addressed) *;
- Summary of key project tasks and milestones;
- Expected outcomes of this project*;
- Brief description of the methodology and techniques to be used; and
- Summary of communication strategy to promote the research results/recommendations to the selected target audiences.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page).

Ensure the research to be undertaken (including the consumer issues to be addressed) and the expected outcomes of the project are clear. A chance to elaborate on the other components is provided in other sections of the Application Form.



C - The proposal

All proposals will be assessed based on the completeness, quality, and content of your responses to each question below. Insufficient or poorly drafted responses will result in low overall assessment scores. Referring to an external link/page will not be considered a complete answer.

1. Importance of the Consumer Issue: Describe the importance of the consumer issue, with evidence (e.g. consumer complaints, media coverage, statistical or anecdotal data, other policy or regulatory/legislative developments, etc.).

Maximum of 2000 characters (approximately half of page). 10 points

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided on consumer issue's scope and/or current or potential impact on consumers. The Government of Canada reserves the right to give higher consideration to the proposals that include factors such as: as geographical representation and [Gender-Based Analysis+](#) to ensure research reflects impacts to Canada's diverse populations and demographics; and, that tie into the Government of Canada's priorities and/or the topics of interest for 2019-2021:

- **Consumer interest in the electronic marketplace:** digital rights and responsibilities, use of digital media for buying and comparison shopping; Canadian attitudes towards cyber-security and data breaches; digital product labelling; consumer sentiment of Canada's Anti-Spam Law; privacy (e.g. trade offs involved in the personalization of services; generation-specific attitudes to privacy);
- **Consumers and emerging trends in the communications sector:** awareness of competitive offers; barriers to switching providers and policy measures that foster switching; accessibility of new technologies – in alignment with proposed Accessible Canada Act;
- **Consumers and the financial sector:** online and high cost lending products; financial advice (where consumers get advice, consumers' impression of advice); consumers' perception of financial advertising; international best practices for enforcement;
Disruptive technologies: blockchain, internet of things; artificial intelligence; big data and algorithms; use of consumer data to foster consumer choice;
- **Copyright:** consumer perceptions and attitudes towards online piracy; technological protection measures and use of virtual private networks; concerns about what is legal or not when consuming online content; Canada's notice-and-notice regime;
- **Advertising:** drip pricing; unexpected terms and conditions in fine print; general impression conveyed by advertisements; and
- **Sustainable consumption:** consumer understanding of environmental sustainability standards and business sustainable practices.

2. Timeliness of the Consumer Issue: Indicate why it is important to study the described consumer issue at this time, in terms of its scope or impact, current or potential (e.g., the issue affects a large number of consumers, involves substantial harm to consumers or addresses an important marketplace failure, etc.).

Maximum of 2000 characters (approximately half a page). 5 points



Include how the consumer issue could be used to support policy-making. For example, will the project results be available in time to input into decision making processes (legislative, regulatory, task force, consultation, etc.)?

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided on the importance and timeliness of the consumer issue and how it will support consumer education, protection, or awareness on current/ongoing/or potential consumer issues.

3. Summary of Supporting Research: Provide a list or summary of relevant existing research on the issue. Projects proposing a literature survey as a component should include a description of the sources that would be used (be as specific as possible) and evidence of an initial scan to confirm the existence of relevant sources.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **5 points**

The answer will be assessed on the completeness and concise summary of existing research in support of additional research on the consumer issue identified from the consumer perspective. Or, if it is a new emerging issue, it will be assessed on how the applicant demonstrates that no relevant previous research exists by academics, consumer organizations, government, or industry on the consumer issue from the consumer perspective. Higher scores are allotted to academic supported research.

4. Value of Proposed Research: Explain how your proposal will add to said body of knowledge (demonstrate the value that your proposed research would provide over existing research).

Maximum of 2000 characters (approximately half a page). **5 points**

The answer will be assessed on how well it explains and demonstrates how the project results will enhance relevant previous research work of academics, consumer organizations, and, or government and industry on this issue. Or, given it is a new emerging consumer issue, the answer provided demonstrates that no relevant previous research done on the consumer issue exists, and that the proposed research opens a new field of research and area of expertise.

5. Identification of Stakeholders: Identify the relevant stakeholders and key informants who will participate and/or be consulted to provide expertise/views on the issue proposed in this proposal. Also, please identify the stakeholders who were contacted and the stakeholders to be consulted during this project. If contact with a stakeholder has not been made yet, indicate when it will be done and indicate what impact non-participation by a stakeholder will have on the project.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **10 points**

This answer will be assessed based on completeness and relevancy of the identification of stakeholders in relation to the consumer issue.

6. Research Questions: Please formulate concisely the research question and sub-questions to be answered by your methodology and that your research project seeks to answer.



Maximum of 2000 characters (approximately a page). **10 points**

This answer will be assessed on the relevancy of the research questions to be addressed and answered by the research project in depth in relation to the consumer issue.

7. Methodology: What is the proposed methodological approach for this project?

Demonstrate that it is feasible and that it will address the research question/sub questions articulated in Question #6. Provide details on each of the methods to be employed and note whether you will require external resources such as consultants or survey firms to assist or lead this task.

NEW! Each category selected has a maximum of 1000 characters, **20 points**

NEW! There are separate categories for each methodological approach. Applicants may select as many as required and, at least one method must be selected. For each category, clearly describe the objective, and if applicable, the type/number of participants to be involved, demographics, and geographic regions. Ensure to indicate if the methodological approach will require external resources as indicated in the question. As a reminder, research projects and analysis is directed at consumer protection issues which are national in scope. As such, the methodological approaches should be geographically representative and consider Canada's diverse population. If you are doing surveys or focus groups, ensure that they are representative of Canada's official languages communities.

This answer assesses the feasibility of how the methodological approaches will address the research question and consumer issue in order to produce a quality report. In making final recommendations for funding, the Government of Canada reserves the right to give higher consideration to those proposals that include factors such: as geographical representation and [Gender-Based Analysis+](#) to ensure research reflects impacts to Canada's diverse populations and demographics.

8. Work plan: Provide a detailed work plan, which lists the key milestones and the sequence of tasks necessary to implement the methodology and produce relevant project outcomes. This information must be presented by quarter.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **5 points**

The work plan will be assessed on how clearly it presents in detail the required actions and the chronological sequence to be undertaken to thoroughly implement the methodology and produce relevant project outcomes.

9. Research Team and Expertise: Please identify the individual names of those who will be working on this project and how their expertise relates to this project. Demonstrate that the project research team is qualified and capable of producing quality work. Also indicate when external contractors will be used to perform certain tasks and provide details (e.g. name, firm name, etc.), when available.

Example: "Mr. A. Person will lead the research team; he is a consumer advocate of long standing, and led research on (related topic) resulting in representations before the XX Committee. He led and wrote research papers on XXX and participated in initiative X on X topics. A contractor with specific



public opinion research expertise will be hired to design, conduct, and analyze a survey/focus groups.”

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **10 points**

The research team and expertise will be assessed on their qualifications and extensive research experience in the research area, as well as their experience writing research papers and policy-oriented documents.

10. Communication Strategy: Provide a preliminary communications plan for this project that clearly outlines how you will use the project results and provide details on how you will communicate the research findings for this project. Please include stakeholders and target audiences, tactics to be used in a communications approach and how you will evaluate and report metrics to be used as success indicators.

Please use the following headlines to respond to the question:

- **Target audience of your project results:** please identify all the relevant stakeholders who you will approach to communicate your research results;
- **Communication tactics and channels used to diffuse project results:** outline all tactics to be used such as posting the final report on your website, alerts on social media, direct distribution of final reports to stakeholders, speaking engagements to share results, presentations at various events (conferences, seminars, presentations, etc.), results presented or references at parliamentary committees, announcing the results at a press conference, news release on your website and in mainstream media, etc.;
- **Timelines of communication tactics:** identify when the communication / dissemination activities will take place; and
- **Evaluation and tracking of results:** how will you track and evaluate the results of your project? For example, media monitoring, website statistics, tracking of reports shared with decision-makers, invitations to conferences / meetings, etc.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **10 points**

Ensure the answer provided is developed using the proposed headlines. Failure to use the headlines could result in lower scores. This answer will assess how well the communication strategy is detailed, the types of communication activities to be carried-out, how and when they will be disseminated to inform relevant stakeholders and target audiences of projects results and final report. It is expected that recipients will track and be able to report on results.

11. Project Costs: Provide the projected costs required to undertake the project in the budget template. No other document will be accepted. Also, provide details of project costs/resources committed to the project by your organization or by other individuals or organizations in addition to the amount requested under the Program. Both direct and indirect costs are acceptable for research projects. Up to 15 percent of the total eligible costs supported can be comprised of indirect expenses.

The budget template is included in the Application Form. **10 points**

For a list of eligible costs see Section 4 of the Applicant’s Guide.



Provide details for expenses when possible. For example, if any contracts for services will be required for your projects, please clearly identify them (contractor's name, if available, and per diem, if relevant).

NEW! Maximum funding for a single project is up to \$250,000. For projects with a projected time frame of longer than 12 months, two separate budget grids will be required – one for each fiscal year. Year 1 is from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, and Year 2 is from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. If you are submitting multiple proposals, remember that an organization may receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Please ensure the total amount requested from the Minister does not exceed \$250,000 with both budget grids combined. Avoid the use of cents in your cost estimate(s). Either round up or down to the nearest dollar.

Use the "+" and "-" buttons to add or remove a text field associated to each of the cost categories. If you have multiple items and want to change the order in which they appear, you can use the arrows (▲▼) to arrange them.

The project costs will be assessed on how the budget breakdown supports the work plan and clearly outlines all the funds required to undertake project activities



Annex 2 – Organizational Development questions included in the Application Form

All questions are mandatory.

Project proposal title: _____

Other requested source(s) of funding:

Please identify all sources of funding related to the proposal (or similar topic) that you are seeking funding for from the OCA Contributions Program. If you have received or are applying for project funding with any other federal, provincial or territorial government department or agency, please provide the name of the source, the current status, the date requested, the amount and project title for the funding.

- Source (level of government and name of department or agency):
- Title:
- Status: Pending, Refused or Approved
- Date requested:
- Amount:

A - The applicant

- Completed by (name of individual):
- Telephone:
- Email:

B - Project summary

Provide a concise description of the project that will be used for the contribution agreement. The description should include:

- Activity to be undertaken
- Expected outcomes
- Summary of key project tasks and milestones
- Summary of communication efforts

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page).

Ensure the activity to be undertaken and the expected outcomes of the project are clear. A chance to elaborate on the other components is provided in other sections of the Application Form.



C - The Proposal

Please select a type of Organizational Development Project:

- Pilot Project
- Feasibility Study
- Market analyses
- Multi-Year Business Plans

1. How and why will undertaking this project increase the organization's ability to:

- Better fulfill its mandate? and/or
- Increase its visibility and membership? and/or
- Reach greater self-sufficiency?

Explain why undertaking this activity will help your organization reach its long term self-sufficiency strategy. If funds are requested to undertake a feasibility study, please justify why the product or service was selected for the feasibility study (Was it identified in your business plan as a potential source of revenue? What makes you think it has revenue potential? etc.). If funds are requested for a pilot project, please demonstrate the viability of the product or service under consideration (e.g. feasibility study, analysis of demand, projection of costs and revenues).

Maximum of 8000 characters (approximately two pages). **20 points**

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided to support that the development activity to be undertaken (pilot project, feasibility study or multi-year business plans) will help the organization reach its long term self-sufficiency strategy.

2. Provide a detailed work plan which clearly presents the required actions to be undertaken, key milestones, and the project's time frame. Are they reasonable for the scope of the project? Provide a quarterly breakdown of project work, and demonstrate how project work will make it possible for the organization to increase its membership capacity and/or reach greater self-sufficiency.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**

The work plan will be assessed on how clearly it presents in detail the required actions and the chronological sequence to be undertaken to thoroughly implement the project and produce expected project outcomes.

3. Why is it important to undertake this development activity? Why at this time? Is it part of your business plan / long term self-sufficiency strategy? Clearly demonstrate why undertaking this activity at this time is part of your organization's overall self-sufficiency strategy and business plan.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**



The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided on the importance and timeliness of undertaking the development activity and how it supports the organization's self-sufficiency strategy.

4. Who will actually be doing the work? What are the qualifications of the project team to undertake this work and reach project objectives? Who in your staff or which consultant will do the project work and write the report? Why were they selected? Please provide the name(s) of the person(s); and, a brief description of their qualifications to undertake such work. Be prepared to provide recent previous examples of their work upon request.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**

The project team will be assessed on their qualifications and experience in the development activity to be undertaken as well as their proven ability to reach the project objectives.

5. Provide the projected costs required to undertake the project

Provide the projected costs required to undertake the project in the budget template. Also provide details of project costs/resources committed to the project by your organization or by other individuals or organizations in addition to the amount requested under the Program. Note that Development contributions are provided only for direct costs associated with the development related activities.

The budget template is included in the Application Form. **10 points**

For a list of eligible costs see Section 4 of the Applicant's Guide.

The project costs will be assessed on how the budget breakdown supports the work plan and clearly outlines all the funds required to undertake project activities.

NEW! Maximum funding for a single project is up to \$250,000. For projects with a projected time frame of longer than 12 months, two separate budget grids will be required – one for each fiscal year. Year 1 is from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, and Year 2 is from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. If you are submitting multiple proposals, remember that an organization may receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Please ensure the total amount requested from the Minister does not exceed \$250,000 with both budget grids combined. Avoid the use of cents in your cost estimate(s). Either round up or down to the nearest dollar.

6. Provide an external and/or internal communications plan for this project with clear measurable objectives.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **10 points**

The communication plan will be assessed on the clear measurable objectives provided and how it will make it possible for the organization to increase its membership capacity and/or reach greater self-sufficiency.



Annex 3 – Consumer Movement

Development questions included in the Application Form

All questions are mandatory.

Project proposal title: _____

Other requested source(s) of funding:

Please identify all sources of funding related to the proposal (or similar topic) that you are seeking funding for from the OCA Contributions Program. If you have received or are applying for project funding with any other federal, provincial or territorial government department or agency, please provide the name of the source, the current status, the date requested, the amount and project title for the funding.

- Source (level of government and name of department or agency):
- Title:
- Status: Pending, Refused or Approved
- Date requested:
- Amount:

A - The Applicant

- Sponsoring consumer organizations
- Lead organization that will administer the contribution agreement:
- Completed by:
- Telephone:
- Email:

B - Project Summary

Provide a concise description of the project that can be used for the contribution agreement.

The description should include:

- Activity to be undertaken (including roles of key organizations)
- Expected outcomes
- Summary of key project tasks and milestones
- Summary of communication efforts

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page).

Ensure the activity to be undertaken (including roles of key organizations) and the expected outcomes of the project are clear. A chance to elaborate on the other components is provided in other sections of the Application Form.



C - The Proposal

1. How will undertaking this project strengthen the Canadian consumer movement? Why? Explain why it is important for the Canadian consumer movement that the participating organizations work collaboratively on this issue, collaborative structure, etc.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided on how and why the project will strengthen the Canadian consumer movement. Ensure the answer clearly describes why collaborative work is important to achieve the expected outcome. For example, do the collaborating organizations have two different expertise that are both essential to the outcome of the project?

2. Why is it important for the Canadian consumer movement that participating organizations work collaboratively on this issue at this time? What event, regulatory review, etc. justifies investing time and money to address the issue collectively, undertake a common communication strategy, etc.?

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided on the importance and timeliness of undertaking the consumer movement collaboratively, and how it will support a specific event (regulatory review, consultation etc.).

3. Which organization or organizations will have the lead, provide financial management, and accountability? What will be the contributions of each of the organizations participating in this project? How were they chosen? Why is their participation essential? Who will do the project work (among the sponsoring organizations, and/or outside participants or consultants)? Please provide the name(s) of the person(s); and, a brief description of their qualifications to undertake such work. Be prepared to provide upon request recent previous examples of their work.

Maximum of 8000 characters (approximately two pages). **20 points**

The answer will be assessed on the evidence provided that there is a structure to provide project direction, financial management and accountability, that participating organizations have the expertise required to address the issue and the capacity to work together to reach project objectives, and that the appropriate organizations were selected. The project team will be assessed on their qualifications, experience and ability to undertake such work to reach the project objectives.

4. Provide a detailed work plan (quarterly breakdown of activities) which clearly presents the required actions to be undertaken, key milestones, and the project's time frame. Are they reasonable for the scope of the project?

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **20 points**



The work plan will be assessed on how clearly it presents in detail the required actions, key milestones and the project time frame relative to the scope of the project.

5. Provide a communications plan for this project with clear measurable objectives and demonstrate how this plan will strengthen the consumer movement in Canada.

Maximum of 4000 characters (approximately one page). **10 points**

The communications plan will be assessed on the clear measurable objectives provided and how it will strengthen the consumer movement in Canada.

6. Provide the projected costs required to undertake the project in the budget template*. Also provide details of project costs/resources committed to the project by your organization or by other individuals or organizations in addition to the amount requested under the Program. Note that Development contributions are provided only for direct costs associated with the development-related activities.

The budget template is included in the Application Form. **10 points**

For a list of eligible costs see Section 4 of the Applicant's Guide.

The project costs will be assessed on how the budget breakdown supports the work plan and clearly outlines all the funds required to undertake project activities.

NEW! Maximum funding for a single project is up to \$250,000. For projects with a projected time frame of longer than 12 months, two separate budget grids will be required – one for each fiscal year. Year 1 is from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, and Year 2 is from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. If you are submitting multiple proposals remember that an organization may receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Please ensure the total amount requested from the Minister does not exceed \$250,000 with both budget grids combined. Avoid the use of cents in your cost estimate(s). Either round up or down to the nearest dollar.



Annex 4 – Frequently asked questions

About Eligibility

Who is eligible?

Organizations that are incorporated as non-profit corporations in Canada. They must also show that they:

- have a governance structure which assures accountability to a membership representing the consumer interest,
- have the structure, governance and funding arrangements which do not expose them to commercial influence on their research and policy positions,
- are capable of reaching out to Canadian consumers beyond members of the organization itself,
- are competent, credible, and accountable to carry out the projects, and
- uphold objectives which are consistent with the objectives of the Program.

Who is not eligible?

Individuals, profit-oriented organizations, industry, trade and professional groupings, representatives of business or commercial interests, government departments, agencies and organizations, academic institutions and their associated research agencies, and political parties and organizations involved in partisan political activity do not qualify for Program support.

What costs are eligible costs?

For list of eligible costs, please consult Section 4 of the Applicant's Guide.

About the Application Form and Process

What type of funding is available under the Program?

The Program funds projects through non-repayable contributions. For a description of the types of projects please consult Section 2 of the Applicant's Guide.

How can I access and download the Application Form?

Please consult Section 3 of the Applicant's Guide.

What should I put in the Membership Information section?

This section requires applicants to enter their membership details. For example, does the organization have individual, institutional or academic members? If so, identify each category of members along with their respective fees (membership fee per year) and how many members are in this category.



I attached all the required documentation but I get an error message asking me to check the size of my attachments. What should I do?

It is possible that the maximum file size limit was exceeded. Ensure the combined file sizes uploaded in Step 2 is **less than 10 MB**.

I cannot view the attachments which I attached in the Application Form. How can I see them?

To display a list of attachments, click the paperclip icon on the left side of the Application Form.

How can I ensure my proposal was received by ISED if I did not receive a confirmation page?

A confirmation is displayed on the screen right after the "Submit" button has been pressed on the Application Form. If a confirmation message is not displayed, try to resubmit. If this problem persists there is a strong possibility that the proposal was not received. Contact ISED via email at ic.ocacontributions-contributionsbc.ic@canada.ca or by phone at 343-291-3051.

When I paste content into a text box in the PDF Application Form, the text cuts off. Why?

All fields in the Application Form have a maximum character length which is displayed in each question. The character count feature takes into account all spaces and hidden characters, including hard returns. If text is being inputted from a word processing file (e.g. Microsoft Word, Notepad, etc.) and there is a difference between the Application Form and the one included in the word processing document, the Application Form's count will prevail. It is always a good practice to remove unwanted spaces as this can help lower the character count.

I have encountered problems opening the Application Form. How can I access it?

When I try to open the Application Form with **Safari** as the browser, a new screen opens and displays a message saying "Please Wait" indicating that my PDF viewer may not be able to display the content. What do I do?

- Move the mouse to the bottom-middle on the page, a new menu with four icons will appear that provides the option to save it and download it to your computer.

When I try to open the Application Form using **Chrome** as the browser, a new screen opens and displays a message saying "Please Wait" indicating that my PDF viewer may not be able to display the content. What do I do?

- Move the mouse to the bottom-right on the page, a new menu with six icons will appear that provides the option to save it and download it to your computer.

When trying to open Application Form using **Firefox** and/or **Opera** as the browser, a pop-up window will be displayed asking to Open or to Save (download) the form to your computer.

- Please choose the option that is most convenient for you.



Can I submit more than one Application Form?

Applicants may submit up to a maximum of five proposals each.

About the NEW! Program Components

What does the two year call for proposals mean?

The 2019-21 two year call for proposals means that there is no planned call for proposals for 2019. The two year call out still provides the opportunity to submit a proposal for the two fiscal years (2019-20 and 2020-21). As such, ISED encourages proposal(s) work plans and budgets span up to a 24-month period.

How to manage the NEW! per project increase of \$250,000?

- Allocate project budget costs according to fiscal years (2019-20 and 2020-21).
- The increase in per project funding limit allows for more robust two year projects (i.e. expanded surveys, more focus groups and broader communication activities reaching varying demographic groups.)
- Keep in mind that each applicant may receive a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year.

For further details, consult Section 2.5 and the Annexes 1-3 (Project Costs) of the Applicant's Guide.

About the Assessment Process

How are proposals assessed?

Proposals are assessed on a competitive basis and are reviewed in accordance with the Program objective as well as the specific eligibility criteria of the particular type of funding sought. Further details are provided in section 5.2 of the Applicant's Guide.