

Natural Sciences and
Engineering Research Council of
Canada

2024–25

Departmental Plan

The Honourable François-Philippe
Champagne,
P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

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At a glance

A departmental plan describes a department's priorities, plans and associated costs for the upcoming three fiscal years.

- [Vision, mission, raison d'être and operating context](#)
- [Minister's mandate letter](#)

[\[Read the full departmental plan\]](#)

[\[Print this page\]](#)

Key priorities

- Support research excellence that strengthens Canada.
- Expand, diversify and nurture Canada's talent pool.
- Translate discovery into impact.
- Mobilize knowledge on a global scale.
- Empower our organization and our people.

Refocusing Government Spending

In Budget 2023, the government committed to reducing spending by \$14.1 billion over the next five years, starting in 2023–24, and by \$4.1 billion annually after that.

As part of meeting this commitment, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) is planning the following spending reductions.

- **2024–25:** \$ 1,472,000
- **2025–26:** \$ 1,472,000
- **2026–27 and after:** \$1,472,000

NSERC will achieve these reductions by doing the following:

- \$932,000 ongoing, starting in 2024–25, in professional services operating reductions.
- \$540,000 ongoing, starting in 2024–25, in travel operating reductions.

The figures in this departmental plan reflect these reductions.

Highlights

A Departmental Results Framework consists of an organization's core responsibilities, the results it plans to achieve, and the performance indicators that measure progress toward these results.

Funding natural sciences and engineering research and training

Departmental results:

- Canada's natural sciences and engineering research is internationally competitive.
- Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the natural sciences and engineering fields.
- Canada's natural sciences and engineering research knowledge is used.

Planned spending: \$1,383,834,006

Planned human resources: 503

As the leading funder of natural sciences and engineering research in Canada, NSERC is committed to strengthening the national research foundation by supporting both fundamental and applied research. NSERC promotes research excellence by fostering a culture of interdisciplinarity, aligning with the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA), and fostering global collaboration, openness and [research security](#). In 2024–25, NSERC will further support Canadian researchers at every stage of their career by fostering a scientific culture and supporting high-quality research training while expanding eligibility, accessibility, equity, diversity and inclusion. The agency will also promote science literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers among young Canadians. NSERC’s collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders will continue to enhance research impact, with a strong emphasis on the importance of Open Science principles in the dissemination of research findings.

More information about Funding natural sciences and engineering research and training can be found in the full [departmental plan](#).

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

2024–25 Departmental Plan

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From the Minister

It is our pleasure to present the 2024–25 Departmental Plan for the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), which lays out the key priorities the Council is working to advance for the benefit of all Canadians.

In 2024–25, NSERC will continue working with the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Portfolio and other federal partners to bolster Canadian innovation by fostering competitive, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth.

NSERC will remain focused on supporting research excellence that strengthens Canada’s economy, society, and future. It will continue offering top-tier research funding and training opportunities for students, scientists, and engineers in Canada, and supporting innovative partnerships that translate research discoveries into meaningful impacts. NSERC will further its efforts to expand, diversify, and nurture Canada’s talent pool to ensure our country’s natural sciences and engineering research community remains internationally competitive and contributing to key priorities such as climate change, research security, and advancements in quantum and artificial intelligence research.

We invite you to read this report to learn more about how NSERC and the ISED portfolio is working with Canadians of all backgrounds and in all regions—urban and rural—to position Canada as a leader in the global economy.



The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

From the President

It is my pleasure to present the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)'s 2024–25 Departmental Plan. As Canada's leading funder of discovery and innovation, NSERC provides the means for researchers and trainees to develop the skills, experience, and expertise necessary to create breakthroughs that improve lives, enrich economies, help protect our environment and build a better future.

In 2024-25, NSERC will remain focused on delivering top-tier support for scientists and engineers at all stages of their careers to ensure that Canada and Canadians continue to benefit from the world-class research performed at universities and colleges in all regions of our country.

Discovery research forms the bedrock of Canada's research landscape and NSERC remains dedicated to collaborating with the research community to strengthen research excellence in Canada. We will continue to work closely with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to modernize and harmonize research funding opportunities and processes to create a research ecosystem that is more responsive to the needs of scientists, engineers, and Canadian society.

Canada's prosperity relies on our country's ability to connect research leaders with invested partners and NSERC will build on its networks to connect more researchers with more private, public and not-for-profit collaborators ready to turn ideas into innovations. Our partnership programs have already been adapted to serve as platforms for key research priorities, including the Government of Canada's National Quantum Strategy. In the year ahead, NSERC plans to deliver even more collaborations with other funding agencies nationally and globally to help Canadian researchers establish new partnerships and advance their research endeavours.

NSERC is highlighting the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and research through work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations, and we will continue to instill the fundamental importance of equity, diversity, inclusion across all our programs and throughout the research ecosystem. In 2024-25, NSERC continues to implement its Accessibility Plan, which aims to identify and remove barriers that hinder the full participation of persons with disabilities in research by 2040.

Finally, as NSERC settles into its new offices and embraces the hybrid work model, 2024-25 will see NSERC evolve into a more agile, responsive, and adaptable organization focused on boosting productivity and enhancing accessibility for the dedicated staff who support Canada's exemplary research community.



Prof. Alejandro Adem, FRSC
President
Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council

Plans to deliver on core responsibilities and internal services

Core responsibilities and internal services:

- [Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training](#)
- [Internal services](#)

Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training

In this section

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Description

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, through grants, fellowships, and scholarships, promotes and supports research and research training in natural sciences and engineering to develop talent, generate discoveries, and support innovations in pursuit of economic and social outcomes for Canadians.

Quality of life impacts

This core responsibility contributes to the “[Prosperity](#)” domain of the Quality of Life Framework for Canada and, more specifically, in “[Investment in in-house research and development](#),” “[Productivity](#),” “[Future Outlook](#),” and “Child, student and adult skills” (impact on students and trainees) through all of the activities mentioned in the core responsibility description.

Results and targets

The following tables show, for each departmental result related to Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training, the indicators, the results from the three most recently reported fiscal years, the targets and target dates approved in 2024–25.

Table 1: Indicators, results and targets for departmental result: Canada’s natural sciences and engineering research is internationally competitive.

Indicator	[2020–2021] result	[2021–2022] result	[2022–2023] result	Target	Date to achieve
Canada’s rank among OECD nations on the citation score of natural sciences and engineering research publications	17	17	18	At most 18	March 31, 2025

Indicator	[2020–2021] result	[2021–2022] result	[2022–2023] result	Target	Date to achieve
Percentage of funded research involving international collaboration	48%	47%	51%	At least 47%	March 31, 2025

Table 2: Indicators, results and targets for departmental result: Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the natural sciences and engineering.

Indicator	[2020–2021] result	[2021–2022] result	[2022–2023] result	Target	Date to achieve
Number of research trainees supported by NSERC through scholarships and fellowships	7,467	7,204	7,163	At least 6,800	March 31, 2025
Funding allocated to support research trainees through grants	\$440M	\$513M	\$526M	At least \$420M	March 31, 2025
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as women	35.2%	38.9%	37.5%	At least 36%	March 31, 2025
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as visible minorities	28.5%	32%	35%	At least 31%	March 31, 2025
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as Indigenous peoples	1.4%	2.1%	2.4%	At least 2.0%	March 31, 2025
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as persons with disabilities	2%	3.5%	4.2%	At least 3.5%	March 31, 2025

Indicator	[2020–2021] result	[2021–2022] result	[2022–2023] result	Target	Date to achieve
Percentage of previously funded graduate students and postdoctoral fellows that list Research and Development as the main activity in their current position	82%	n/a	83%	At least 80%	March 31, 2025

Table 3: Indicators, results and targets for departmental result: Canada’s natural sciences and engineering research knowledge is used.

Indicator	[2020–2021] result	[2021–2022] result	[2022–2023] result	Target	Date to achieve
Number of non-academic partners on research projects	3,348	2,677	2,644	At least 2,500	March 31, 2025
Percentage of funded projects reporting social and/or environmental outcomes for Canadians	77%	70%	62%	At least 60%	March 31, 2025
Percentage of funded projects reporting economic outcomes for Canadians	52%	52%	64%	At least 50%	March 31, 2025
Non-academic partner funding for research projects	\$352M	\$277M	\$323M	At least \$280M	March 31, 2025

The financial, human resources and performance information for NSERC’s program inventory is available on [GC InfoBase](#).

Plans to achieve results

Departmental Result: Canada's natural sciences and engineering research is internationally competitive.

To support natural sciences and engineering research in Canada, NSERC reinforces the country's research foundation through its suite of [Discovery Research Funding Opportunities](#). Recognizing the evolving nature of research, NSERC remains dedicated to collaborating with the research community to strengthen research excellence in Canada. This involves ongoing efforts to modernize programs and peer review processes, in alignment with research practices and principles set forth in the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA). NSERC will continue to foster interdisciplinarity, promote open science and improve transparency to ensure continued relevance and responsiveness to the diverse and evolving needs of the Canadian research ecosystem. NSERC celebrates exceptional examples of Canadian research excellence with a wide range of [prizes](#) ranging from innovative discoveries by young researchers to lifetime achievement and influence.

NSERC will continue to work with research funding agencies globally, helping Canadian researchers establish international partnerships through [Alliance International](#) for a range of research across the natural sciences and engineering, including a dedicated focus on [quantum](#) as part of NSERC's commitment to support the [Government of Canada's National Quantum Strategy](#).

In addition, NSERC supports international consortia such as the [National Science Foundation Global Centres](#) initiative and the [Human Frontier Science Program](#). NSERC aims to safeguard Canadian knowledge, data, and intellectual property from foreign threats, thus ensuring Canada's economic prosperity, national security, and the integrity of the research enterprise. In 2024-25 NSERC will continue to implement policies that support research security in a global context, with other federal departments and agencies.

Departmental Result: Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the natural sciences and engineering.

NSERC acknowledges its vital role in attracting and retaining talented individuals in the Canadian research ecosystem. To achieve this, NSERC will continue to support researchers at every stage of their career. This includes fostering a scientific culture, promoting open science practices, and encouraging high-quality training and mobility to prepare researchers for rich, productive careers across Canada's economy. To this end, NSERC will enhance efforts to collaborate with SSHRC and CIHR to modernize and harmonize [talent funding opportunities](#) for Canadian students and researchers.

In 2024-25 NSERC is committed to highlighting the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and research through work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations. NSERC will continue to seek guidance from the Indigenous Leadership Circle for Indigenous Research for the implementation of the tri-agency strategic plan: [Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada: Strategic Plan](#). Co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, the plan will guide development of new models of support of Indigenous research and research training in Canada.

NSERC is committed to applying an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) lens to programs, policies, and processes to eliminate barriers to participation from underrepresented groups. With the [Chairs for Women/Inclusion in Science and Engineering](#) funding opportunities, NSERC will continue to promote the participation and retention of women in science and engineering, while expanding the objectives to further address issues faced by a broader range of underrepresented groups. Finally, NSERC will promote science literacy and STEM careers among young Canadians through [Science Promotion activities](#).

Departmental Result: Canada's natural sciences and engineering research knowledge is used.

NSERC emphasizes the importance of collaboration and evidence-based decision-making in Canada's research ecosystem. It will continue to jointly administer many [funding opportunities](#) with SSHRC and CIHR, to maximize outcomes for Canadians. In 2024-25 NSERC will foster partnerships with various stakeholders, including domestic and international public, private and not-for-profit partner organizations to increase research impact and benefits for Canada.

NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR will review the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#), with the goal of requiring that any peer-reviewed journal publications arising from agency-supported research be freely available, without subscription or fee, at the time of publication. The renewed Tri-Agency Open Access Policy will be released by the end of 2025.

In 2024-25, NSERC will accelerate the application of research results for societal, economic, and environmental benefits for Canada by promoting strategic collaborations and supporting the dissemination of research findings through the [Alliance Program](#). In 2024-25, NSERC will continue implementing new funding announced in Budget 2023 to expand college applied research capabilities through the tri-agency [College and Community Innovation Program](#).

Snapshot of planned resources in 2024–25

- Planned spending: \$1,359,044,904
- Planned full-time resources: 341

Related government priorities

Gender-based analysis plus

Since 2018, NSERC has been collecting self-identification data to identify obstacles related to EDI, that will empower the application of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) to NSERC's policies, plans, programs, and processes. Using this data, the [Canada Research Coordinating Committee](#) publishes an [annual report](#) on the progress of EDI initiatives from Canada's research funding agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, with the goal of influencing the achievement of an inclusive post-secondary research ecosystem and culture in Canada.

Expanding on the [Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan](#) and the internal People Strategy, NSERC continues to implement its [Accessibility Plan](#) which aims to identify and remove barriers that hinder the full participation of persons with disabilities in the research ecosystem, and in the achievement of NSERC's results by 2040.

To keep the public informed of research funding results, NSERC presents application rates and competition outcomes for all NSERC funding opportunities through the [Self-Identification Data Dashboard in support of equity, diversity and inclusion](#). This data presents applicants' responses to self-identification questions such as gender, visible minority and disability status, and Indigenous identity, while preserving privacy.

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
More information on NSERC's contributions to Canada's Federal Implementation Plan on the 2030 Agenda and the [Federal Sustainable Development Strategy](#) can be found in our [Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy](#).

Program inventory

Funding natural sciences and engineering research and training is supported by the following programs:

- Discovery Research
- Research Partnerships
- Research Training and Talent Development

Supporting information on planned expenditures, human resources, and results related to NSERC's program inventory is available on [GC Infobase](#).

Internal services

In this section

- [Description](#)
- [Plans to achieve results](#)
- [Snapshot of planned resources in 2024-25](#)
- [Related government priorities](#)

Description

Internal services are the services that are provided within a department so that it can meet its corporate obligations and deliver its programs. There are 10 categories of internal services:

- management and oversight services
- communications services
- legal services
- human resources management services
- financial management services
- information management services
- information technology services
- real property management services
- materiel management services
- acquisition management services

Plans to achieve results

NSERC fulfills its mandate with efficiency and effectiveness by remaining an agile, responsive, and adaptable organization, dedicated to the well-being and productivity of its workforce in a constantly evolving work environment. The focus for 2024–25 will centre around three key areas: work tools, workforce, and workplace dimensions.

Collaborating with SSHRC and CIHR, NSERC will support the finalization of the Tri-agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS) Discovery phase and commence the Implementation phase, pending confirmation of project authorities. This cloud-based solution will replace the multiple existing grants management systems of the three federal research granting agencies with a one-stop shop to interact with the agencies. It will be flexible to meet the diverse needs of the research community and enhance Canada's competitiveness in the global research landscape. Implementation of this solution will align the agencies with Government of Canada policies, particularly in terms of digital and client-centric service design and delivery, and it will contribute to dismantling systemic barriers that affect access by the research community. In addition, NSERC will migrate its data centre to a new hosting solution, in support of the Government of Canada's effort to increase efficiency.

NSERC will continue to eliminate barriers and to promote EDI within its workforce. In line with its inaugural [Accessibility Plan](#). The agency will execute its multiyear action plan and initiate the implementation of accessibility measures touching, for example, employment, information and communications technology, the built environment, procurement of goods and services, and facilities and travel.

As NSERC continues to transition to its newly constructed, modern offices, it will focus on critical enhancements to the new workplace to boost productivity, enhance accessibility, and maintain the technology infrastructure that supports the hybrid work model. This may involve security enhancements, addressing accessibility barriers, configuring and upgrading audio-visual capabilities, and providing ongoing change management and technology support.

Snapshot of planned resources in 2024-25

- Planned spending: \$24,789,102
- Planned full-time resources: 165

Related government priorities

Planning for contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

NSERC is dedicated to enhancing the involvement of Indigenous businesses in the realm of federal procurement, aligning with the objectives outlined in the [Directive on the Management of Procurement](#). Within the framework of the recently introduced Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Businesses (PSIB), government departments and agencies are mandated to set a minimum target of 5% of federal contract values to be awarded to businesses owned and operated by Indigenous individuals. NSERC aims to achieve this goal through a phased approach that is slated for full implementation by 2024-25.

NSERC has been designated as part of Phase 2, which commenced in April 2023.

In the fiscal year 2024-25, NSERC has pledged to meet the 5% target for the total value of contracts allocated to Indigenous businesses. NSERC will also take tangible actions in line with the Government of Canada's substantial commitment to increasing Indigenous business participation in federal procurement. These actions include providing training, planning for early engagement in the PSIB initiative for procurement requests, creating a guide for internal stakeholders to optimize Indigenous involvement, and advocating for the utilization of the Indigenous Business Directory when assessing Indigenous capacity.

Planned spending and human resources

This section provides an overview of NSERC’s planned spending and human resources for the next three fiscal years and compares planned spending for 2024–25 with actual spending from previous years.

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- [Funding](#)
- [Future-oriented condensed statement of operations](#)
- [Human resources](#)

Spending

Table 4: Actual spending summary for core responsibilities and internal services (\$ dollars)

The following table shows information on spending for NSERC’s core responsibility and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years. Amounts for the current fiscal year are forecasted based on spending to date.

Core responsibilities and internal services	[2021–2022] actual expenditures	[2022–2023] actual expenditures	[2023–2024] forecast spending
Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training	\$1,386,588,430	\$1,358,206,400	\$1,353,514,416
Subtotal	\$1,386,588,430	\$1,358,206,400	\$1,353,514,416
Internal services	\$26,686,490	\$23,322,234	\$25,605,162
Total	\$1,413,274,920	\$1,381,528,634	\$1,379,119,578

Spending has decreased mainly due to the transfer of the [Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence](#) and the [Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research](#) programs to the [Strategic Innovation Fund](#) managed by [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#). Increase in internal services is mainly due to the economic salary increases signed in November 2023.

Table 5: Budgetary planning summary for core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

The following table shows information on spending for NSERC's core responsibility and for its internal services for the upcoming three fiscal years.

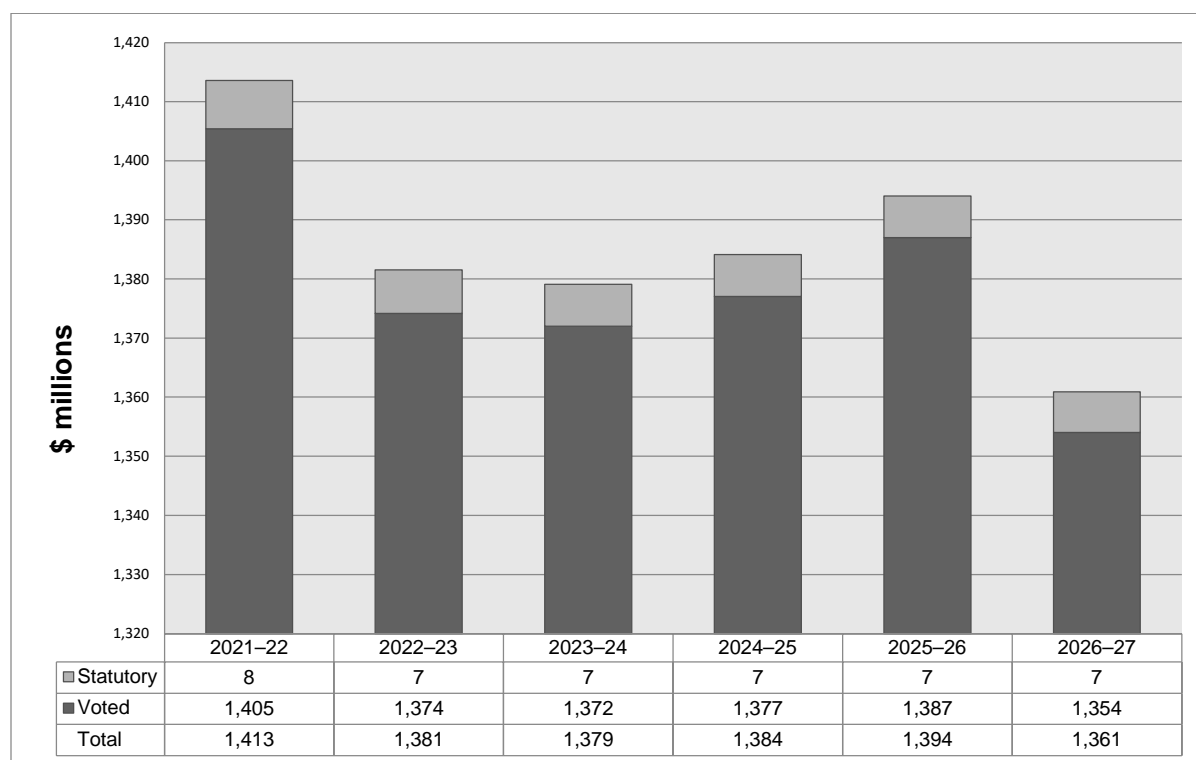
Core responsibilities and internal services	[2024-25] budgetary spending (as indicated in Main Estimates)	[2024-25] planned spending	[2025-26] planned spending	[2026-27] planned spending
Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training	\$1,359,044,904	\$1,359,044,904	\$1,369,430,026	\$1,336,871,499
Subtotal	\$1,359,044,904	\$1,359,044,904	\$1,369,430,026	\$1,336,871,499
Internal services	\$ 24,789,102	\$ 24,789,102	\$ 24,629,755	\$ 23,969,180
Total	\$1,383,834,006	\$1,383,834,006	\$1,394,059,781	\$1,360,840,679

NSERC, in carrying out its functions may expend, for the purposes of the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Act](#), any money appropriated by Parliament for the work of the Council or received by the Council through the conduct of its operations; and publish and sell or otherwise distribute such scholarly, scientific and technical information relating to the work of the Council as the Council considers necessary. These revenues are primarily for SharePoint services offered to other government departments.

Funding

Figure 1: Departmental spending 2021–22 to 2026–27

The following graph presents planned spending (voted and statutory expenditures) over time.



Increasing funding for new initiatives such as [Lab to Market](#) and the [Sustainable agriculture research initiative](#) starting in 2023-24 are offset by a realignment of the [Canada First Research Excellence Fund](#) between NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR. In 2026-27 the [College and Community Innovation Program](#) funding from Budget 2023 will expire.

Estimates by vote

Information on NSERC's organizational appropriations is available in the [2024–25 Main Estimates](#).

Future-oriented condensed statement of operations

The future-oriented condensed statement of operations provides an overview of NSERC's operations for 2023–24 to 2024–25.

The forecast and planned amounts in this statement of operations were prepared on an accrual basis. The forecast and planned amounts presented in other sections of the Departmental Plan were prepared on an expenditure basis. Amounts may therefore differ.

A more detailed future-oriented statement of operations and associated notes, including a reconciliation of the net cost of operations with the requested authorities, are available at [NSERC's website](#).

Table 6: Future-oriented condensed statement of operations for the year ending March 31, 2025 (dollars)

Financial information	[2023–24] forecast results	[2024–25] planned results	Difference ([2024–25] planned results minus [2023–24] forecast results)
Total expenses	1,382,645,125	1,392,096,151	9,451,026
Total revenues	203,223	203,223	-
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	1,382,441,902	1,391,892,928	9,451,026

Total expenses are expected to increase by approximately 0.7% (\$9.5 million). This increase is primarily attributable to funding for the Lab to Market grants from Budget 2022 to launch a new national program to help students and researchers take their work to market.

Human resources

Table 7: Actual human resources for core responsibilities and internal services

The following table shows a summary of human resources, in full-time equivalents (FTEs), for NSERC's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years. Human resources for the current fiscal year are forecasted based on year to date.

Core responsibilities and internal services	[2021–22] actual FTEs	[2022–23] actual FTEs	[2023–24] forecasted FTEs
Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training	351	350	338
Subtotal	351	350	338
Internal services	152	152	165
Total	503	502	503

The decrease in FTEs for funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training is primarily due to the Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution definition phase ending. The increase in FTEs for internal services forecasted for 2023-24 is a result of funding received from Budget 2021 and Budget 2022 to support the quantum research community, to pursue large-scale academic research domestically, to enhance research security and to support Black students and postdoctoral fellows.

Table 8: Human resources planning summary for core responsibilities and internal services

The following table shows information on human resources, in FTEs, for NSERC's core responsibility and for its internal services planned for 2024–25 and future years.

Core responsibilities and internal services	[2024–25] planned full-time equivalents	[2025–26] planned full-time equivalents	[2026–27] planned full-time equivalents
Funding Natural Sciences and Engineering Research and Training	341	341	334
Subtotal	341	341	334
Internal services	165	165	163
Total	506	506	497

In 2024-25, NSERC expects a slight increase in FTEs, primarily driven by the [Lab to Market](#) initiative's expansion (a net gain of 3 FTEs from 2023-24). The FTEs count remains steady until 2026-27, at which point the funding from Budget 2023 for the [College and Community Innovation Program](#) top-up is set to end, resulting in a reduction of 8.5 FTEs.

Corporate information

Organizational profile

Appropriate minister(s): Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Institutional head: Prof. Alejandro Adem, FRSC (President)

Ministerial portfolio: The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.

Enabling instrument(s): [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Act](#)

Year of incorporation / commencement: May 1, 1978

Organizational contact information

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Website(s): https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp

Supplementary information tables

The following supplementary information tables are available on [NSERC's website](#):

- [Details on transfer payment programs](#)
- [Gender-based analysis plus](#)
- [Horizontal initiatives](#)
- [Up front multiyear funding](#)

Information on NSERC's departmental sustainable development strategy can be found on [NSERC website](#).

Federal tax expenditures

NSERC's Departmental Plan does not include information on tax expenditures.

Tax expenditures are the responsibility of the Minister of Finance. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for government-wide tax expenditures each year in the [Report on Federal Tax Expenditures](#).

This report provides detailed information on tax expenditures, including objectives, historical background and references to related federal spending programs, as well as evaluations, research papers and gender-based analysis plus.

Definitions

appropriation (crédit)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

budgetary expenditures (dépenses budgétaires)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, organizations or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

core responsibility (responsabilité essentielle)

An enduring function or role performed by a department. The intentions of the department with respect to a core responsibility are reflected in one or more related departmental results that the department seeks to contribute to or influence.

Departmental Plan (plan ministériel)

A document that sets out a department's priorities, programs, expected results and associated resource requirements, covering a three-year period beginning with the year indicated in the title of the report. Departmental Plans are tabled in Parliament each spring.

departmental result (résultat ministériel)

A change that a department seeks to influence. A departmental result is often outside departments' immediate control, but it should be influenced by program-level outcomes.

departmental result indicator (indicateur de résultat ministériel)

A factor or variable that provides a valid and reliable means to measure or describe progress on a departmental result.

departmental results framework (cadre ministériel des résultats)

A framework that consists of the department's core responsibilities, departmental results and departmental result indicators.

Departmental Results Report (rapport sur les résultats ministériels)

A report on a department's actual performance in a fiscal year against its plans, priorities and expected results set out in its Departmental Plan for that year. Departmental Results Reports are usually tabled in Parliament each fall.

full-time equivalent (équivalent temps plein)

A measure of the extent to which an employee represents a full person-year charge against a departmental budget. Full-time equivalents are calculated as a ratio of assigned hours of work to scheduled hours of work. Scheduled hours of work are set out in collective agreements.

gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) (analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus])

An analytical tool used to support the development of responsive and inclusive policies, programs and other initiatives. GBA Plus is a process for understanding who is impacted by the issue or opportunity being addressed by the initiative; identifying how the initiative could be tailored to meet diverse needs of the people most impacted; and anticipating and mitigating any barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus is an intersectional analysis that goes beyond biological (sex) and sociocultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography, language, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

government-wide priorities (priorités pangouvernementales)

For the purpose of the 2024–25 Departmental Plan, government-wide priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government’s agenda in the 2021 Speech from the Throne: building a healthier today and tomorrow; growing a more resilient economy; bolder climate action; fighter harder for safer communities; standing up for diversity and inclusion; moving faster on the path to reconciliation and fighting for a secure, just, and equitable world.

horizontal initiative (initiative horizontale)

An initiative in which two or more federal organizations are given funding to pursue a shared outcome, often linked to a government priority.

Indigenous business

As defined on the [Indigenous Services Canada website](#) in accordance with the Government of Canada’s commitment that a mandatory minimum target of 5% of the total value of contracts is awarded to Indigenous businesses annually.

non-budgetary expenditures (dépenses non budgétaires)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

performance (rendement)

What an organization did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the organization intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

plan (plan)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how an organization intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen and tend to focus on actions that lead up to the expected result.

planned spending (dépenses prévues)

For Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports, planned spending refers to those amounts presented in the Main Estimates.

A department is expected to be aware of the authorities that it has sought and received. The determination of planned spending is a departmental responsibility, and departments must be able to defend the expenditure and accrual numbers presented in their Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports.

program (programme)

Individual or groups of services, activities or combinations thereof that are managed together within a department and that focus on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

program inventory (répertoire des programmes)

An inventory of a department's programs that describes how resources are organized to carry out the department's core responsibilities and achieve its planned results.

result (résultat)

An external consequence attributed, in part, to an organization, policy, program or initiative. Results are not within the control of a single organization, policy, program or initiative; instead, they are within the area of the organization's influence.

statutory expenditures (dépenses législatives)

Expenditures that Parliament has approved through legislation other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose of the expenditures and the terms and conditions under which they may be made.

target (cible)

A measurable performance or success level that an organization, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period. Targets can be either quantitative or qualitative.

voted expenditures (dépenses votées)

Expenditures that Parliament approves annually through an Appropriation Act. The vote wording becomes the governing conditions under which these expenditures may be made.