

Departmental evaluation plan 2025-26 to 2029-30

2024-25 highlights

Completed evaluations

- National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) IP Assist
- The NRC's international strategy
- Horizontal evaluations (not led by the NRC):
 - Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan
 - Youth Employment Strategy

Evaluations informed decision-making

-  Clients confirmed that evaluations addressed important questions
-  Evaluations provided evidence to support strategic or operational decisions
-  The quality and timing of evaluation products met client needs
-  Clients gained insights and provided feedback throughout the evaluation process

Leadership in practice

- **Community engagement:** Participated in the 2024 Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) national conference and 2024 annual learning event, delivering 6 presentations.
- **Professional development:** Supported the organization of the 2024 CES Student Case Competition, 2024 CES national conference and Credentialed Evaluator designation process.
- **Impact measurement:** Implemented the NRC's impact framework and tools, including the client impact survey, with the Performance Measurement and Accountability Reporting (PMAR) team.
- **Advisory role:** Trusted advisor to NRC research centres, branches and IRAP, including providing guidance on reviews, analytical and reporting processes to the National Program Office and others.

Continuous improvement

- Piloted impact pathways and impact case studies
- Piloted and implemented new:
 - staff career path development
 - calibration methods
 - earlier client engagement
 - approaches to more extensively considering federal priorities in evaluations
- Continued exploration of the NRC's AI Zone and participated in the Microsoft 365 Copilot trial
- Engaged in the federal community of practice for artificial intelligence (AI) and related training

Priorities and actions for 2025-26

Evaluations in progress

- Clean Energy Innovation Research Centre
- Construction Research Centre
- Digital Technologies Research Centre
- Medical Devices Research Centre

Upcoming evaluations

- Automotive and Surface Transportation Research Centre
- Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics Research Centre

Other key activities

- Harmonizing with upcoming Treasury Board (TB) Policy and Directive on Results changes and new central initiatives
- Renewing the NRC's performance information profile and advancing its impact framework and tools with PMAR

Planned evaluation resources

Financial resources (2025-26 budget)

Salaries	\$1,800,000
Operations and maintenance	\$165,000
Total planned spending	\$1,965,000

Human resources



The NRC's evaluation function

What we do

- Deliver evaluations and advisory services supporting the NRC's mandate
- Serve as a trusted advisor by providing independent, timely insights on performance and strategic direction
- Deliver evaluations in accordance with professional standards and TB Policy on Results

How we do it

- Focus on priorities and strive to add value
- Optimise the use of resources and innovate
- Look for ways to reduce burden on research centres, branches and NRC IRAP, as well as on external stakeholders
- Prioritize employee well-being through work-life balance, recognition and advancement

Developed in collaboration with the NRC's Senior Executive Committee, this plan aligns with the Government of Canada's [Policy on Results](#) and the [Financial Administration Act](#). It also adheres to Treasury Board Secretariat commitments, considering program spending, risks, needs and priorities.

2026-30 evaluation schedule

Programs (as per departmental results framework inventory)

Divisions and evaluations		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Digital technologies	Digital Technologies					
Emerging technologies	Canadian Photonics Fabrication Centre				TB	
	Herzberg Astronomy and Astrophysics		FAA			
	Metrology					
	Quantum and Nanotechnologies					
	TRIUMF			FAA		
Engineering	Clean Energy Innovation					
	Critical Battery Materials Initiative					
	Construction					
	Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering					
NRC IRAP	NRC IRAP (core)			FAA		
	NRC IRAP AI Assist					FAA
Life sciences	Aquatic and Crop Resource Development					
	Human Health Therapeutics					
	Medical Devices					
Transportation and manufacturing	Aerospace					
	Automotive and Surface Transportation					
Enabling services and other	Biologics Manufacturing Centre (Inc.)				FAA	
	CSTIP				FAA	
Horizontal (not led by the NRC)	Adaptation to Climate Change (ECCC)			TB		
	Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy (NRCan)					
	Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (Phase V) (ECCC)					
	Supporting Climate Resilient Infrastructure Initiative (HICC)					

Legend

- Evaluations led by the NRC's Office of Audit and Evaluation
- Horizontal evaluations not led by the NRC
- AI** Artificial intelligence
- CSTIP** Collaborative Science, Technology and Innovation
- ECCC** Environment and Climate Change Canada
- FAA** Required for compliance with *Financial Administration Act* Section 42.1(1)
- HICC** Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada
- IRAP** Industrial Research Assistance Program
- NRC** National Research Council of Canada
- NRCan** Natural Resources Canada
- TB** Required for compliance with a Treasury Board submission