Q: At which stage will ECR eligibility be confirmed?
   A: That will be up to the RGO to determine at which stage they wish to verify eligibility.

   A: Early career researchers (ECRs) must be included as confirmed members in all teams. RGOs must confirm that the participants meet the eligibility requirements at each stage.

Q: Can any funds be allocated for necessary replacement of infrastructure or new purchases? or $0 for infrastructure?
   A: There is no set limit, but the intention is not to fund infrastructure purchases.

Q: At which stage will NFRF confirm "interdisciplinarity eligibility" WRT the project meeting the mandate of more than one Tri-Agency? And who will determine this eligibility?
   A: This will be done by the multidisciplinary review panel members at the LOI stage.

Q: Is there an upper limit on team size?
   A: No.

Q: Does there need to be a min % of time dedicated to this project by the PI?
   A: There is no set minimum. However, the members of the multidisciplinary review panel will need to be convinced that sufficient time is dedicated to achieve the results of what is expected to be an ambitious research project.

Q: Can a NPI or co-PI on one proposal be a co-applicant on another proposal?
   A: Yes.

Q: Can ECR team member be based at an international institution?
   A: There is no restriction re: where the ECR works.

Q: Will the evaluation of the team be blind?
   A: No stage of evaluation will be double blind for the Transformation stream. It is okay to identify the names of the team members in the proposal text.

Q: If patient partners are included as co-PIs or collaborators, can they be paid out of the grant - compensation for time and expertise?
   A: The rules as outlined in the tri-agency guide on financial administration apply for NFRF grants.

Q: Can investigator's role change between NOI and LOI stage? E.g. from co-invest to co-PI.
Q: Can co-applicants and collaborators be added between the NOI and LOI stage?
A: Hello, yes co-applicants and collaborators can be added between the NOI and LOI.

Q: Can funds be given to Canadian or International collaborators by the NPI or co-PI?
A: Collaborators are not eligible to receive NFRF funds.

Q: Do you have targets for the percentage/number of applications that will advance through each stage of the competition?
A: We anticipate 20-30 being invited to the Full Application stage (depending on the amount of funding requested); 10-20 will go to the Jury.

Q: Will the NOI be made available to the Multidisciplinary review panel and to external reviewers?
A: Yes. The LOI includes all information submitted in the NOI (updated as necessary).

Q: Did you say that the leading researchers in each discipline have to be from Canadian institutions?
A: I was saying that if there were NO international team members/collaborators, the applicants will have to justify that all the world-leading experts are in Canada.

Q: We will be alerted at the NOI stage if another group submits a similar proposal?
A: No. We can't share this information.

Q: Can Co-PI be removed at LOI stage?
A: You will be able to add people but not remove.

Q: Can NPI, co-applicant and collaborator all be from different countries?
A: Yes, but the NPI must be from an eligible Canadian institution.

Q: The content eligibility must meet two of the three mandates for CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC, could this be elaborated on?
A: Projects may involve any discipline, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for funding across the three federal research funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC). Projects should engage the full range of disciplines required to achieve the project goals.

Q: Can you clarify how my team members need to be "international"?
A: Projects are expected to be world-leading, drawing on global research expertise, when relevant. There are no set requirements.

Q: Does the project have to be cross-council?
A: No, Transformation projects must propose an interdisciplinary approach that integrates different disciplinary approaches to bring a novel perspective to address the research challenge.

Q: Will there be a portion of the funds allocated to ECR led projects as in Exploration stream?

A: No, but every team is expected to have ECR as part of their core team.

Q: Co-applicants need to be defined as an "independent researcher". Can you please provide additional information as to how an Indigenous Elder be defined as an "independent researcher".

A: Please see the definition of independent researcher in the competition description: 

A: Co-applicants can be practitioners, policy-makers, educators, decision-makers, health care administrators, Indigenous elders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, patients, community leaders, individuals working for a charity, and a range of other individuals.

Q: By "in all teams" do you mean that ECR's must appear at all stages of the application process - NOI, LOI and Full application?

A: It will be a requirement to submit a full application.

Q: At the LOI stage, aside from a budget table, is there more required for the budget?

A: For the LOI stage, only the budget table is required.

Q: What will the CV requirements/format be?

A: No, there are no CV requirements for NFRF.

Q: If their primary affiliation is with a government lab?

A: Individuals affiliated with a government are only eligible to be collaborators.

Q: Does the problem being address have to have impact for Canada or can it address challenges elsewhere or should it do both?

A: It is not an absolute requirement that it have impact for Canada.

Q: Can it be interdisciplinary within the same council?

A: Projects that fall under the mandate of only one federal research funding agency are not eligible.

Q: Interdisciplinary: it's a pass/fail, so if two agencies then it's OK (pass), or will proposals that cover three agencies receive a more positive assessment?

A: 2 of 3 agencies may receive a pass. However, one that spans three agencies might score higher in the high risk and high reward criteria.
Q: Say more about how interdisciplinarity of a project will be evaluated at the LOI stage... surely it must be more than just cross-council Co-PIs? -

A: Yes - it has to do with the approach/method/etc. as well as the anticipated outcomes.-

Q: If we submit a name as a co-applicant, can we change to co-PI later? -

A: You will have to contact us to have it done.-

Q: Are there any partnership/matching funds/contributions required? -

A: No, this is not expected in the Transformation stream- 

Q: Can suggested reviewers submitted at NOI be revised at LOI? -

A: Yes.-

Q: Can an NPI or Co-PI identified at the NOI or LOI be included in the full application of another application that was invited if their application was not invited? -

A: Yes.-

Q: Is preference given to projects that have a Canadian impact only? Or is preference given to projects that have international impacts as well. What about a solely international impact? -


Q: Do we need to address the multi-disciplinary criteria in full at the NOI stage or can this be done at the LOI stage? -

A: NOI content (section 2) may be updated at the LOI stage.-

Q: Reviewers cannot be in conflict with even collaborators? -

A: That's correct.-

Q: How many of the 5 (or more) team members can be from outside Canada? -

A: There can be as many as your program/project needs.-

Q: Is there an expectation that NFRF funds be leveraged or matched with institutional funds, industry funds, or other cash or in-kind contributions to the project? -

A: There is no expectation for matching funds.

Q: Can you provide any guidance on priority areas? -

A: There are no priority areas identified for Transformation.