Toward a More Inclusive Quebec Society

Partnership Research Program

Deadline for submitting project proposals: December 18, 2020 at 5 pm

Results announced: End of January 2020

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1. Background

"Toward a More Inclusive Quebec Society" (Inclusive Society) is an intersectoral research initiative in habilitation-rehabilitation and in support of social integration.

The Inclusive Society Partnership Research Program (the Program) is intended to support, through financial, material and human resources, innovative research projects that encourage the creation of more inclusive physical and social environments for persons with disabilities.

This competition is funded with the support of the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec (OPHQ), the Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale (CIRRIS) and the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en réadaptation du Montréal métropolitain (CRIR). Applicants may apply to any of the following three competition options:

1- Option 1 - OPHQ

The maximum amount awarded is $12,500 per project.

2- Option 2 - OPHQ - CIRRIS

At least one principal investigator must be a regular member of the CIRRIS. The maximum amount awarded is $25,000 per project.

3- Option 3 - OPHQ - CIRRIS

At least one principal investigator must be a regular member of the CRIR. The maximum amount awarded is $25,000 per project.

Depending on the applications received, two or three projects may be funded for a total of $50,000 in grants.

This collaboration between the OPHQ and Inclusive Society is an opportunity to foster research activities related to the policy "*Equals in Every Respect: Because Rights Are Meant to Be Exercised[1]*" adopted in June 2009 by the Government of Québec. Proposals must highlight the connexion between the project and the priorities for action set out in the Equals in Every Respect policy (*À part entière*).

The projects funded by the Program must also fall under at least one of the following four themes targeted by Inclusive Society:

1. **Physical Environment and Personal Mobility**
    - Accessible premises, transport infrastructure, means of communication, consumer goods (e.g. stores)
    - Affordable access to mobility aids and assistive technologies

2. **Social Environment**
    - Access to housing and independent living
    - Access to (and stability of) employment and work
    - Access to education
    - Access to recreational, sport, tourism and cultural activities

3. **Health and Habilitation-rehabilitation**
    - Access to health services, taking the type of disability into account
    - Access to family support services
    - Access to a wide range of habilitation and rehabilitation services and programs, including the use of assistive devices and technologies

4. **Attitudes, Prejudice and Discrimination**
    - Raising societal awareness of the life experiences of persons with disabilities and promoting respect for the rights and dignity of disabled people
    - Raising awareness and providing training for employees who work directly with the public
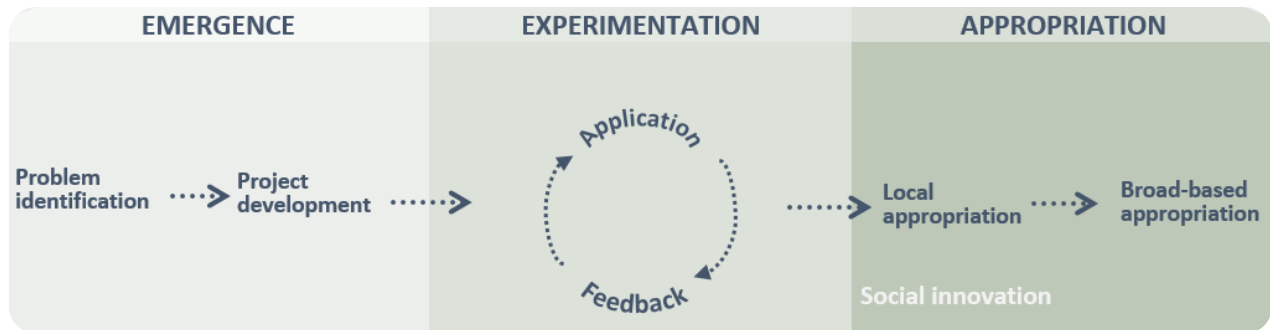
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[1] To read the government policy:
https://www.ophq.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/documents/DD2084_Politique_ENG_V7.pdf

2. Eligibility and General Conditions

2.1 Social Innovation and its impact on Inclusion

Projects submitted to the Inclusive Society Partnership Research Program must be part of a **social innovation process**. They may fall under one or more of the three phases of the process: Emergence (involving problem identification and project development), Experimentation (following an iterative scientific approach to applying knowledge and feedback) and Appropriation (local or broad-based knowledge appropriation).

Ref.: Réseau québécois en innovation sociale, Acteurs et processus d'innovation sociale au Québec, 2007

The projects must be aimed at reducing obstacles to the social participation of persons with disabilities, but they must also be:

> **Transferable**, meaning that it must be possible to use the knowledge acquired to foster the social inclusion of persons with disabilities;

> **Innovative**, meaning that they must propose a new idea, approach or service, a new product or a type of organization that more appropriately and more sustainably meets a well-defined need than the existing solutions.

This conception of social innovation is marked by the breaking with or the significant improvement of an approach, a service, a product or type of organization that already exists. The team will have to demonstrate how their project is socially innovative.

The team will also have to explain how their social innovation project will meet a well-defined need, and will have an impact on the social inclusion of people with disabilities. This impact on social inclusion will not necessarily be immediate. If the impact on social inclusion is not immediate but expected, the team will have to describe the steps they plan to take as to achieve it.

2.2 Team and Collaborative Approach

The research team submitting a project proposal shall have two principal investigators, each representing a different scientific sector. The principal investigators must be regular

members of **CRIR**[2], **REPAR**[3], **INTER**[4] or **CIRRIS**[5]. However, a researcher with the status of associate member may serve as a principal investigator as long as the other principal investigator is a regular member of one of the four enabling organizations. Postdoctoral research fellows may not serve as principal investigators, but can serve as co-investigators in a research team.

The adoption of a **collaborative approach** must be demonstrated. The research team shall include at least **one principal partner** (from a community organization, a public body, a private organization, a clinical setting, the municipal sector, a cultural organization, etc.). We value the participation of multiple partners within a project; but one principal partner must be designated.

A principal investigator and a principal partner may not apply to more than one proposal in the same call for proposals as principal investigator or principal partner.

2.3 Justification of the Intersectorality

The proposed project must cover at least **two of the following three scientific sectors**: Nature and Technology; Health; and Society and Culture.

The team should clearly describe how the project meets the conditions related to the intersectorality criterion, both at the team and project level. As such, the team must insist on the relevance of the mobilization of the targeted scientific sectors and the added value that the meeting of these sectors brings to the project. The evaluators will review the Principal Investigators' profiles (CV) and the rationale for intersectorality to determine if there is a meeting of two sectors, their differentiation and complementarity.

2.4 Funding and eligible allowable expenses[6]

1. The maximum amount awarded is $12,500 (OPHQ only) or $25,000 per project (OPHQ-CIRRIS or OPHQ-CRIR).
2. The project shall run for a period not to exceed 18 months.
3. Inclusive Society does not cover indirect costs of research (ICR). If ICRs are required by the institution administering the funds, they must be included in the budget.
4. Only costs directly related to carrying out the project are eligible for funding:
    - Costs related to compensation and benefits of research personnel,
    - Costs related to freeing up partners from tasks,
    - Fees for consultants and professionals associated with the study,

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[2] Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire du Montréal métropolitain
[3] Réseau provincial de recherche en adaptation-réadaptation
[4] Regroupement stratégique Ingénierie de technologies interactives en réadaptation
[5] Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale
[6] Since the Inclusive Society is funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), it abides by common FRQ rules concerning funding and the eligibility of expenses:
http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca/documents/10191/1800731/FRQ_common-general-rules.pdf/cdda5d0c-132d-45be-bda3-64033c8122b7

- Training and professional development costs incurred for the staff who must use specialized devices or facilities,
- Amounts or compensation paid to persons participating in the study that have been approved by the ethics committee,
- Material, equipment and resources directly related to the research activities, in an amount not to exceed $500 per project,
- Travel and accommodation expenses related to carrying out the project (travel costs to attend conferences are not eligible),
- Costs related to knowledge dissemination and transfer,
- Indirect costs of research (ICR), if required by the institution,
- Other expenses deemed eligible by the evaluation committee.

2.5 Support from intersectoral collaboration agents

The teams may benefit from the involvement of intersectoral collaboration agents (ICA) who can provide support to the teams as they carry out their projects. ICAs are charged with maintaining links between the researchers and the partners; monitoring and documenting progress in the projects; and disseminating tools, results and good practices to the members of the Inclusive Society. ICAs will also be able to help develop new partnerships or collaborations (if relevant). They are experts in best intersectoral research practices and develop monitoring tools, document the partnership-based approach and help with mobilizing knowledge and drafting reports and summary documents.

2.6 Research ethics

Each research team that receives a grant must subscribe to exemplary practices in research ethics and scientific integrity.

All projects involving human beings, biological materials or administrative, scientific or descriptive material related to human beings must be approved by the research ethics committee of the principal investigator's university or by an ethics committee recognized by this institution.

3. Submit a Research Proposal[7]

Research teams interested in submitting a project proposal must provide the following documents:

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[7] As part of developing a project, the research team may ask an intersectoral collaboration agent (ICA) for assistance with project design. To this end, the team should send a request to Inclusive Society's scientific director, Dr. Philippe Archambault.

1- The duly completed application form [https://societeinclusive.ca/en/proj/appels-de-projets/], which includes the following sections: 1.Presentation of the Partnership Project, 2.Timetable, and 3.Budget
2- The collaboration letter(s) from the partner(s)
3- The Canadian Common CV (FRQ, SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR format) of the two principal investigators
4- The bibliographical references

Project proposals shall be emailed to: info@societeinclusive.ca

The deadline for submitting project proposals is December 18, 2020, at 5 pm.

It is preferable that the application be written in French (if the application is written in English, a French summary must be provided).

4. Evaluation of the Project Proposals

First, projects are evaluated to determine their eligibility for the Program. Then the projects deemed eligible are submitted to the evaluation committee formed by the Inclusive Society Partners Committee. The evaluation of the project proposals relevance to the *Equals in Every Respect* policy will be carried out in collaboration with the OPHQ.

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the priorities of the Inclusive Society initiative and the *Equals in Every Respect* policy.
2. Demonstrated innovation in terms of the approach, execution and expected results.
3. The actual participation of the partners throughout the project.
4. The expertise of the research team and the complementarity of the researchers and the partners.
5. The quality of the project's scientific approach.
6. The project's feasibility based on the timetable presented.
7. The expected outcomes in terms of improved social inclusion, knowledge transfer and expected appropriation.

5. Conditions of Funding

1. A memorandum of understanding signed by the OPHQ and the institution responsible for administrating the funds will formalize the funding and identify the parameters for carrying out the project as well as the obligations of both parties.

2. The funding will be non-renewable and non-transferrable.
3. The research teams that will have obtained Program funding must submit a work progress report at the end of the project. This report must be produced in French and include the following: a summary presentation of the project (300 words), a budget status report, the results obtained, the deliverables delivered and the project's outcomes, as well as next steps (if any). Any request for an extension will need to be submitted as a status report and be supported by a reasonable justification.
4. Each funded team must acknowledge, in all reports, publications, presentations and papers arising from the funded project, the funding received from Inclusive Society.
5. Each funded team will need to follow up with an intersectoral collaboration agent and the OPHQ on a regular basis. These follow-ups will be posted to the www.societeinclusive.ca website and disseminated through other means.
6. To ensure knowledge transfer and sharing, the funded team will present the project progresses and results at dissemination activities and at the annual Exchange Forum of Inclusive Society.