Toward a More Inclusive Quebec Society

Partnership Research Program

Deadline for submitting project proposals: January 31, 2023 at 5 pm

Results announced: March 2023

Document outline

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 which **aim to produce concrete changes in various aspects of the lives of people with disabilities, to accompany the transformation of associated ecosystems** (caregivers, community organizations, public organizations) **or to implement solutions that reduce the environmental and social obstacles that people with disabilities encounter in the realization of their life habits.**

This call for projects is funded by the Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation.
The current program will allow the funding of six research projects, with at least two targeting the needs of persons with autism or with intellectual disabilities.

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
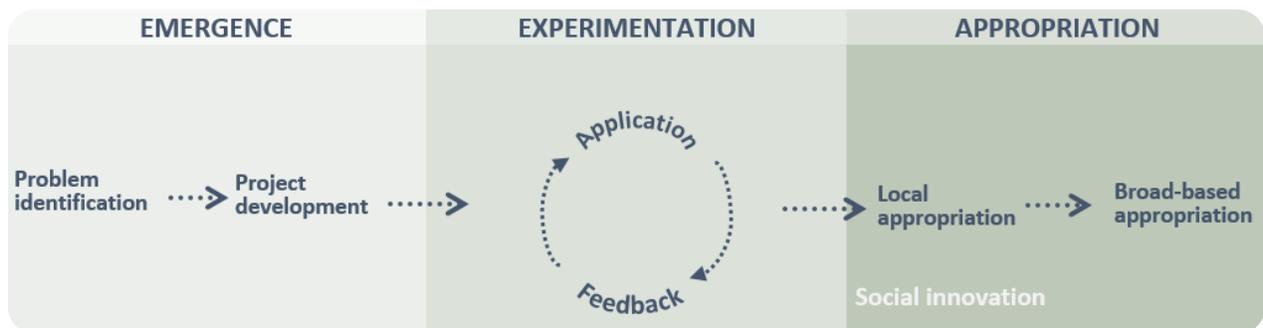
2. Eligibility and General Conditions

2.1 Meeting the needs of people with disabilities

Proposed projects must respond to a need expressed by one or more organizations directly related to the needs of people with disabilities. The main partner of the project must be a non-profit organization (NPO) and the results of the project must **aim to produce concrete changes in various aspects of the lives of people with disabilities, to accompany the transformation of associated ecosystems** (caregivers, community organizations, public organizations) **or to implement solutions**

that reduce the environmental and social obstacles that people with disabilities encounter in the realization of their life habits.

2.2 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).

Reference: 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. The use of scientific results must be clearly demonstrated as well as the transferability of knowledge. The selected projects must have established a plan for the dissemination of the results within the networks of the partner(s) involved as well as within their collaborators. The dissemination plan must allow a quantifiable dissemination of the results.
- **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.

2.3 Team and Collaborative Approach

A collaborative approach must be demonstrated. The lead partner must be a non-profit organization (NPO) that has a disability-related mission. We encourage the participation of multiple partners, but only one should be designated as the lead partner.

The research team submitting a project proposal includes two principal investigators, each representing a different scientific area. At least one of the principal investigators must be an academic researcher, clinical academic researcher or institutional researcher as defined by the FRQ. Postdoctoral fellows may not act as principal investigators, but may act as co-investigators on the research team.

2.4 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.

2.5 Funding and eligible allowable expenses[1]

1. The project can be funded up to a maximum of $35,000, which includes $25,000 for research activities and $10,000 to support the partner(s) involved in the project and in the ownership and implementation of the results. The funding to support the partner(s) will be paid to the main partner.

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[1] As a recipient of funding from the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), Inclusive Society adheres to the common rules for funding and eligibility of FRQ expenditures: https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/app/uploads/2021/05/rgc_2020_va.pdf

2. The research project must take place over a period of 12 to 18 months. An additional 6 months may be granted to facilitate the dissemination of results by the partner(s).
3. Only costs directly related to carrying out the project are eligible for funding:
    - costs associated with the project, from the lead partner,
    - costs related to the compensation and benefits of the personnel involved,
    - Scholarships or supplements to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (postdoctoral fellows acting as co-investigators are not eligible to receive scholarship or salary support)
    - For the scholarships, students must be supervised by a researcher who is a member of CIRRIS, CRIR, INTER or REPAR and who is part of the project team,
    - In addition, for scholarships, students enrolled in an undergraduate or professional master's program may be eligible, provided that participation in the research project is not a required activity or internship in the course of training. The limit for this category (undergraduate or professional master's students) is $5,000,
    - Fees for consultants and professionals associated with the study,
    - Training and development costs for personnel who must use specialized equipment 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,
    - Other expenses deemed eligible by the evaluation committee.

2.6 Cumulative valued budgets

Budgets enhanced through complementary funds will be valued. These requests can be made in collaboration with the Intersectoral Collaboration Agent (ICA) (see 2.8). Please note that in the form, an additional half a page will allow teams to describe additional objectives that would be achieved through additional funding (Optional).

We thus encourage teams to submit, in parallel, their projects to the Mitacs Acceleration program. This program will allow for a budget increase of up to $22,500 to allow students and postdoctoral fellows to complete an internship in the lead partner's organization, in connection with the submitted project. Applications to the Mitacs Accelerator program can be submitted at any time. For more information on this program: https://www.mitacs.ca/fr/programmes/acceleration.

For INTER members, one possibility is to submit a complementary component of the submitted project for INTER mandate funding. Deadlines for INTER mandate calls are usually in November, February, and June of each year.

2.7 Indirect costs of research (ICR).

Funding received under the Program cannot be used to pay for indirect costs of research (ICR).

2.8 Support from intersectoral collaboration agents (ICA)

We strongly encourage teams interested in submitting a research project to contact an ICA at the beginning of their project (or as soon as possible) in order to benefit from their support in developing the project and the partnership as well as to support its realization. ICA are mandated to ensure links between partners and researchers, to follow and document the evolution of projects and to disseminate tools, results and best practices to members of Inclusive Society. They can also help establish requests for additional funds, new partnerships or collaborations (if relevant). They are experts in good practices in intersectoral research and in the partnership monitoring process. The may help with knowledge mobilization and with the writing of reports and synthesis documents.

To contact an ICA, simply send an email to info@societeinclusive.ca and an ICA will be assigned to your research project.

2.9 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[2]

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

1- Letter from the lead partner explaining their need, the intended use of the results and the number of people who will be affected by this research project.
2- 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
3- The collaboration letter(s) from the partner(s) (if applicable)
4- The Canadian Common CV (FRQ, SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR format) of the two principal investigators
5- Tables and figures
6- The bibliographical references

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

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The application can be written in English or in French. If written in English, then a French summary must be provided.

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[2] As part of the project development process, the research team may request the assistance of a intersectoral collaboration agent (ICA) to assist in the design of the project. To do so, the team should send an email to info@societeinclusive.ca and an ICA will be assigned to the project.

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 grid is available on this page: [https://societeinclusive.ca/en/proj/appels-de-projets/]

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the priorities of the Inclusive Society initiative
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. Anticipated impact in terms of improved social inclusion, knowledge transfer and expected ownership by the partner(s).

5. Conditions of Funding

1. Once the project is accepted, the signed Application for Funds form acts as a Memorandum of Understanding between the lead partner (and possibly other partner organizations), the principal investigators and Inclusive Society, outlining the parameters of the project and the obligations of the parties. The award letter formalizes the granting of funding by Inclusive Society.
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 English or 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 on a regular basis. These follow-ups will be posted to the www.societeinclusive.ca website and disseminated through other means.

6. In the interest of knowledge sharing and transfer, the funded team commits to presenting the progress and results of their research project at Inclusive Society activities (e.g., networking, knowledge transfer or exchange forum).

7. The funded team, and more specifically the partner(s), commit to disseminate the results of the research project within their networks.