

RIISQ's SEVENTH CALL FOR PROJECTS 2026-2028

Application guide

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Risk cultures in Québec: history, knowledges, policies and intersectoral practices

I. Abstract

This RIISQ call for project proposals aims to explore how individual and social representations of risks (including flooding and other water related risks) have an impact on the societal decisions motivating the ways in which disasters are managed. There is a wide variety of risk management concepts and practices that vary by sector (health, transportation, natural sciences, construction, urban planning, insurance, etc.). These conceptualisations and practices are constantly evolving and interacting. This makes it difficult to determine how these "risk cultures" are created (or sometimes neglected) and how they have affected our decisions and continue to influence them. The notion of "risk culture" implies that risk is a dynamic social construct often with symbolic, technical, educational, scientific and artistic dimensions. It can be assumed that in Québec, climate, nature, traditional forms of land occupation, historical relationships between residents, water and space, and other geographical, demographic, and cultural traits have influenced—and continue to shape—individual and community knowledges, narratives, policies, and actions in the face of risks. As part of this call, proposals should consider intersectoral research projects that will try to answer these questions: how, specifically, have risk cultures developed in Québec? How are they defined and redefined through time? How do they transform the way we act? What are some concrete aspects of these risk cultures and how are they transformed by contemporary phenomena, such as climate change, economic crises, and political and geopolitical contexts?

II. Important dates

Launch of the 7 th RIISQ call for projects	December 18, 2025
Project networking workshop	February 6, 2026, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Submission of files and letters of commitment	April 13, 2026, 12 p.m.
Announcement of results	July 6, 2026
Project start-up	October 1, 2026
Project eligibility period	From October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2028

III. Contacts

Applicants are encouraged to contact us at recherche@riisq.ca with any questions regarding this call for proposals.

Documents available on the RIISQ website: <https://riisq.ca/fr/appels-a-projets/>

Registration for the networking workshop: https://uqam.zoom.us/meeting/register/rZAQLg-9SS6AdJsxn6YX_w

IV. Theme

Risk cultures, or representations, intersectoral scientific knowledge, practices and collective policies in the face of risks (linked to natural, technological, health, political or economic hazards) influence societal choices and intervention strategies before and after disasters. By risk culture, we refer to "all non-structural solutions for reducing the vulnerability and exposure of individuals and communities to a natural hazard that creates a risk. It includes all the knowledge and know-how relating to the field of risk management. The knowledge acquired and transmitted by an individual or a group, throughout his or her life and experiences, conditions individual behaviors in the face of the manifestation of risk" (Bier, 2019, 12, author's translation). According to this definition, the culture of risk is collective and individuals or communities appropriate and contribute to it in their own way. According to Bier (2019), risk culture evolves through three distinct dimensions: memory, consciousness and education. Thus, risk culture allows individuals and institutions to anticipate, interpret and respond to situations marked by uncertainty in distinct ways.

Rather than viewing disasters as exceptional events, some societies have developed risk cultures that are deeply rooted in daily life (Kitagawa, 2019). The Japanese concept of *bosai*, which can be translated as "culture of preparation", illustrates this approach. It is based on the intergenerational transmission of lessons learned from disasters, combining technical measures, laws, values and collective habits (Pastrana-Huguet et al., 2022). This conception of risk as continuous and shared learning suggests that preparation, memory and solidarity can form the foundations of a form of collective resilience, integrating the social, cultural and institutional dimensions of prevention.

It can be assumed that in Québec, this risk culture is developing in many specific ways, in relation to:

- its living environment and territory (vast, consisting of thousands of lakes and rivers and a high concentration of population in the south);
- its climate (humid continental, subarctic, and tundra, with a wide variety of climate extremes throughout the year);
- its culture (marked by an ancient and diverse indigenous and Inuit presence, coexisting with a Francophone Catholic majority and an Anglophone minority made up of diverse linguistic and cultural groups);
- its history (colonization, French and English colonial regimes, Confederation, regional development, particularly mining and forestry, urbanization, marked by disasters);
- its political and administrative structures (several levels of government with their jurisdictions and responsibilities, governance structures of indigenous peoples, civil law, etc.);
- its institutions (health, education, research, etc.);
- and several other factors (Rey & Defossez, 2019).

Québec's historical relationship with its natural environments has shaped local knowledge, community practices and shared narratives. The major disasters and crises of recent decades, such as the floods of 1996 (Saguenay), 2017, 2019 and 2024 (Debby), the forest fires of 2023, the ice storm of 1998, the Lac-Mégantic accident of 2013 or the COVID-19 pandemic, to name a few, have surely left their mark on collective memories and practices.

It can also be assumed that, in the face of climate change and the interactions between several risks, this culture is increasingly being tested and evolving rapidly. The intensification and combination of phenomena

(floods, fires, droughts, heat waves, health crises or technological breakdowns) are pushing us to rethink our ways of living with these multiple threats.

Objectives

RIISQ invites researchers to explore the way in which risk cultures are constructed, experienced, told, sometimes forgotten and transformed, as well as their influence on action, through the solutions, narratives and practices that emerge in the different regions of Québec. Since 2019, RIISQ's calls for projects and scholarship programs have revealed innovative practices, and this new call aims to explore how these innovations and practices can lead us towards a profound social transformation and a form of collective resilience in response to the plurality of contemporary risks. Creative, critical and participatory approaches are thus encouraged to understand how actors perceive, tell and shape their experiences of risk through the collective imagination. This approach contributes to strengthening the collective capacity to face contemporary upheavals with resilience. In line with a systemic approach to water and flood risks, projects can integrate various hazards and their socio-health impacts, as well as management strategies. They are a continuation of the intersectoral work of the RIISQ, which is structured around [five research areas](#).

As part of this call, RIISQ wishes to support intersectoral projects that cross at least two of the Fonds de recherche du Québec's sectors (Nature and technologies, Health, Society and culture) that explore the construction, mediation and transmission of the culture of risk through scientific research, art, professional practices and public interventions. These projects may include creative and participatory dimensions, mobilizing research-creation and co-creation methodologies to experiment with new forms of mediation between culture, environment and society. The objective is to promote citizen participation and non-academic partners, while integrating artistic and scientific expressions to enrich the understanding and management of risks (Paquet and Rouleau, 2022).

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- **Social and individual perceptions of disaster risk**, danger, threats to public health and safety;
- **The territory and its climate**: the physical particularities of Québec's territory and climate that distinguish it and have a direct impact on its risk culture;
- **The built environment and design**: architecture, places of memory, waterfront development, major infrastructure and public facilities;
- **Strategies, forms of leadership and collective governance**: shared governance, inter-agency coordination, citizen participation, community and Indigenous leadership, social innovation and collaborative risk management;
- **Health**: the impact of the culture of risk on mental and physical health, anxiety, the ability to recover, on organization and access to care in the Québec context;
- **Collective memory and identity**: how communities remember past disasters (whether floods, fires, health crises, or technological events) and how these experiences shape belonging, trauma, and resilience;
- **Education**: intergenerational transmission of the memory of disasters, risk pedagogies, community learning, integration of local and scientific knowledge in schools and museum or artistic spaces;
- **Cultural representations and artistic creations, including climate fiction and ecofiction**, developed in collaboration with scientists: cinema, photography, literature, stories, exhibitions, theatre

(documentary or other), et c.;

- **Communication:** risk mediation in the media, public and digital spaces, institutional and artistic discourses, participatory awareness-raising and collective mobilization mechanisms.

Expected benefits

Projects must contribute to:

- Enrich the understanding of risk, its conceptualization and possible theorization (if necessary, adapted to the Québec context, but which can be inspired by case studies taken outside Québec) and how to respond to it as a phenomenon of cultural and social transformation in Québec;
- Create bridges and exchanges between the arts, humanities, social sciences, health, and nature and technology;
- Mobilize knowledge through exhibitions, publications, public archives or educational tools;
- Promote action research, research-creation and co-creation with communities of interest.

Funding and duration

A total of **\$800,000** is available. Each project will be eligible to receive up to **\$200,000** for a two-year period **(2026-2028)**. Intersectoral and international collaborations are encouraged, provided that the principal investigator is a **regular member of RIISQ** at the time of submission.

V. Eligibility criteria

1. Eligible researchers

- To apply, the principal investigator **must be a regular member of RIISQ** (<https://riisq.ca/fr/devenir-membre-du-riisq/>), **be a professor in a Québec university and be qualified to supervise theses and dissertations**;
- For this call, researchers are allowed to submit **only one application** as a principal investigator. These individuals may be co-investigators in other projects.

2. Research team

The research team **must be composed of:**

- a) A principal researcher from the university sector, who is a regular member of RIISQ;
- b) One or more co-researchers from the university and college sectors, who are regular members of RIISQ;
- c) One or more collaborators from partner sectors (see glossary). In addition, there may be collaborators from universities and colleges.

In addition:

- Members of the research team must come from **at least two distinct academic institutions in Québec** (universities, CEGEPs);

- Members of the research team must come from **at least two (2) of the FRQ's three main sectors**: 1) Health, 2) Nature and technologies (research in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering), 3) Society and culture (research in the social sciences and humanities, arts and literature, including education and management).

3. Geographic location of the project

The project must involve one or more **regions in Québec**.

4. Financial contribution from partners

- A **contribution of at least 20%¹ of the requested funds**, in cash or in kind, is required from a private partner or a government or public institution as part of this call. For example, if the request is for \$200,000, an additional contribution of at least \$40,000 must come from the partners.
- A letter confirming the contribution of each partner must be included in the submission.

5. Connection to RIISQ's research axes² and FRQ sectors

- The project must fall within **at least one of the five RIISQ research axes**;
- The project must be in line with RIISQ's [Scientific and strategic directions 2024-2028](#);
- The project must incorporate **at least two of the FRQ sectors** (Health, Nature and Technologies and Society and Culture).

6. Contribution to the training of future generations

- A minimum of 60% of the budget must support the training for future generations (for more details, see section IX. H.1 Detailed budget).

7. Completed and signed form

- The form must be complete and signed by the researcher and by an official research representative from the principal investigator's academic institution (Vice-Rector for research, Research service, Research Department, Dean, Director, etc.).

VI. Participation in the networking workshop

Date: February 6, 2026, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Montreal time)

Format: virtual (zoom)

Registration : https://uqam.zoom.us/meeting/register/rZAQLg-9SS6AdJsxn6YX_w

¹ If all the partners are non-profit organizations, a contribution of at least 15% may be sufficient.

² Descriptions of the RIISQ's research axes are available on the [RIISQ website](#) as well as the [2024-2028 Scientific and Strategic Orientations](#).

Objectives:

The workshop aims to:

- answer questions to clarify the call for projects and the submission process;
- promote dialog between members, partners and collaborators interested in submitting a proposal.

It is **strongly recommended** that you attend this workshop to:

- prepare well for the submission of a project;
- get to know the regular and associate members who wish to submit a proposal.

Program:

1. **Information session:** answers to questions about the call for projects and the preparation of applications;
2. **Thematic interventions:** presentation of potential research topics by RIISQ members and partners;
3. **Collaborative discussion:** exchanges around potential themes and the development of ideas for projects.

VII. Funding conditions and deliverables

The research team is committed to sharing the research results generated in the project, by transmitting them to the RIISQ, for dissemination for the benefit of the members involved with RIISQ. As such, the researchers are committed to:

1. **Submit a project summary** that will include a summary for the general public including the impact of the research (see glossary) envisaged, the disciplines involved, the location, 5 to 10 keywords and disciplines, the team members and partners, and at least one relevant royalty-free image, no later than two months after the funding is announced;
2. **Submit an interim activity report, letters of confirmation of the amounts received from the partners and an interim financial report³** to the RIISQ at the mid-term, no later than September 30, 2027;
3. **Submit a final activity report, letters of confirmation from the partners confirming the amounts received and a final financial report** from the RIISQ, no later than September 30, 2028;
4. **Present the results of the funded project as well as its progress (intermediate stage)** at a RIISQ webinar, a RIISQ symposium or at the RIISQ general assembly, to share the knowledge created with the network and wider public;
5. Share a list of publications and presentations resulting from the project with RIISQ within the first two years after the submission of the final report.

It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to ensure that all necessary permits, certifications, licenses, and other approvals have been obtained prior to commencing the research (e.g., ethics certificate for research involving human subjects or with effects on the environment, Indigenous peoples, and animals). If an environmental or ethics assessment is required for the application, RIISQ will require a copy of the approval of the institutional committee concerned.

Each funded principal investigator will enter into an agreement with RIISQ in order to receive the funding. This person will then be responsible for transferring funds to the co-investigators, if applicable. These

³ If applicable, if one or more financial transfers are made to one or more co-investigators, a financial report from each institution must be provided.

agreements will set out the terms and conditions for the disbursement of funds, as well as accountability obligations and deliverables.

VIII. Application procedure

To submit an application:

1. Complete the following documents, available on the [RIISQ website](https://riisq.ca) and send them without protection at recherche@riisq.ca, no later than April 13, 2026, 12 p.m. (EST):
 - a) the Project Application Form (.pdf);
 - b) the "Budget" worksheet (.xlsx);
 - c) the "Short CV"⁴ (.pdf) file.
2. Obtain the signature of an official research representative of the principal investigator's academic institution (Vice-Rector of research, Dean, Director, etc.).
3. Provide letters of contribution from partners that clearly indicate their contribution and the nature of their collaboration by April 13, 2026.

The following sections outline the information that must be included in each part of the forms. The application for financial assistance **must be written in French or English**. Any incomplete or late applications will not be considered. No submissions by post will be accepted.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED to submit a complete application form (without any protection):

- ☐ The completed and signed **application form** (available on the [RIISQ website](https://riisq.ca))
- ☐ The completed **Excel file** in the section **H.1 – Detailed Budget** (available on the [RIISQ website](https://riisq.ca))
- ☐ Short **CVs** of a maximum of two (2) pages (template available on the RIISQ website) for all the researchers involved in the application, in PDF format, which summarize, respectively : (a) academic or professional training; (b) scientific or professional background; and (c) relevant skills and achievements related to the project.
- ☐ Contribution and support letters from partners.

We invite you to identify the files as presented below:

RIISQ_Beausoleil_FormulaireDemande.pdf | RIISQ_Beausoleil_Budget.xlsx | RIISQ_Beausoleil_CVs.pdf
(attach all resumes in one file) | RIISQ_Beausoleil_LettresEngagement.pdf (attach all letters in one file).

IX. Application form (instructions)

The project application form must be completed using Aptos font, size 11, or Times New Roman, size 12, with single line spacing and 2 cm margins. The first and last name of the principal investigator and their affiliation must be entered in the footer and the form must be submitted **in PDF format**. The form must be signed by an official research representative of the affiliated institution.

⁴ A common Canadian CV is not required. Simply provide a brief, two-page CV (FRQ format) for each of the researchers participating in the project presenting the skills needed to justify their ability to achieve the project's objectives. A template is available on the RIISQ website (<https://riisq.ca/fr/appels-a-projets/>).

Part A – Project identification

A.1 – Principal investigator

- Name and professional title (for example, professor)
- Identification of the institution and department to which they belong
- Contact details (email address)

A.2 – Project title, keywords and disciplines and abstract (in French and English)

- Include an application title (in French); used for publication purposes. The title must be short and clear;
- Provide 5 to 10 keywords and identify the disciplines involved in the project;
- Include a brief description of the proposed research. Indicate the project's research significance, its anticipated impacts and benefits regarding flood management, along with its anticipated spin-offs for Québec. This plain language summary will be made available to the public if funding is approved. (Maximum 300 words)

A.3 – Co-investigators

Co-investigators are co-leads of the application and may receive grant funds through a transfer from the applicant's institution. Co-investigators must meet the first three statuses relating to grants and career awards (1- University researcher; 2- Clinical university researcher; 3- College researcher) as defined in the FRQ's common general rules (https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/app/uploads/2025/10/rgc_2025.pdf).

A.4 – Collaborators

In accordance with FRQ standards, a collaborator is a person recognized by the principal investigator to bring specific expertise to the project or research program. They do not provide a CV and cannot be responsible for project or budget management (FRQ, 9, 2025, https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/app/uploads/2025/10/rgc_2025.pdf).

A.5 – RIISQ research axes

Check the box(es) that correspond to the project's relevant RIISQ research axes.

Please summarize how the project contributes to RIISQ's research axes and the way in which it responds to RIISQ's [scientific and strategic orientations for 2024-2028](#) (only in French).

A.6 – Ethics and the environment

Ethics (checkboxes):

- Human participants
- Biological material (product or tissue)
- Data from human participants
- Animals

Environmental impacts and biohazards: Provide a brief description of the environmental impacts related to the research project (if relevant).

Permits required: Identify the permits needed to carry out the project (if relevant).

A.7 – Québec's geographic environment

Identify the geographic environment of Québec of interest to the project and explain the alignment with the objective of the call for projects.

Part B – Project description

Describe the project in the following format, **5 pages maximum**, excluding references.

- a) **Introduction and problem:** conduct a literature review, describe the originality, relevance and scope of the problem, as well as the knowledge gaps and their importance in the field.
- b) **Objectives and questions:** state and describe the research objectives related to the problem described in a).
- c) **Methodology:** describe the methodology chosen to meet the research objectives described in b).
- d) **Timeline:** present a clear work plan and realistic timeline (for example, you may include a Gantt chart).
- e) **Networking and partnerships:** clearly describe how the project will strengthen links or develop new collaborations (ministries, practice settings, organizations representing communities, national and international research communities, etc.) and explain the links between the disciplines involved in the project.
- f) **Scientific, environmental and socio-economic benefits of the project:** describe the project's benefits for Québec, including the links with RIISQ's objectives and mission, as well as the knowledge contribution and the added value of the intersectoral approach developed and the potential results.
- g) **References:** list all bibliographic references cited in the application.

Part C – Team

Demonstrate the excellence, complementarity and synergy of the research team, including collaborators. Also describe the specific expertise and contribution of each member. (**Maximum 1 page**)

Part D – Intersectorality and co-construction

D.1 – Participation of actors from the FRQ's recognized funding sectors

In the form, list the name of each researcher and their affiliation with one or more of the FRQ sectors. CVs should illustrate their expertise in the declared sector.

D.2 – Co-construction and the intersectoral approach

Indicate the progress and co-construction of the project's intersectoral approach. On what basis and how did the project's research team develop the research question and the project's methodology? How will it build in a concerted, integrated and scalable way the actions to be deployed or the solutions to be implemented? This section aims to clarify the path that underpins the development and joint implementation of the project. Specify how the employees were identified. (**Maximum 1 page**)

Part E – Equity, diversity and inclusion

Describe the concrete steps you will use to create and promote an equitable and inclusive research and training environment during the preparation, implementation, and post-project phases. Your reflection must take into account the particular context of your project (field of research, participants, etc.). (Maximum 1/2 page)

Part F – Training for the next generation

Describe the team members' experience in supervising the next generation of researchers, the contribution of the project to their training, the quality of the training environment offered to them, their ability to integrate into the labour market and the identification of measures to offer an inclusive and equitable training environment and an existing or proposed implementation strategy. (Maximum 1 page)

Part G – Knowledge mobilization and transfer plan

Present a plan for the mobilization and transfer of knowledge and technologies resulting from the proposed project (means envisaged for the dissemination and sharing of data and results, for the appropriation and valorization of knowledge by communities). Demonstrate the impact of the research, how the project meets the needs of the partners or users, and the relevance of knowledge mobilization strategies for the development, dissemination and dissemination of project results. The knowledge management plan must include the exchange, transfer, application, and valorization of the results obtained to the target audiences. Identify the employees who will be involved in the transfer activities. (Maximum 1 page)

Part H – Budget framework

H.1 – Detailed budget

- Download the table in Excel format from the RIISQ website [[link](#)], fill it in and attach it to your signed application.
- Break down your budget by identifying expenses for the two one-year (12-month) funding periods. The amounts requested under this call for projects **cannot exceed \$100,000 per funding period (\$200,000 over 2 years)**. With justification, a budget difference of 10% between the two funding periods is acceptable.

Project funds may be used from October 1st, 2026, to September 30th, 2028. The amount granted must therefore be used before the 30th of September 2028. We invite you to use the different columns to indicate the use of funds by the different co-investigators by identifying the names of the people at the top of each column. Add columns as needed. Please note that no extension request can be made for this portion of the funds.

Indicate the in-kind or cash contributions of the project partners. Please note that a letter of confirmation of contributions from each partner or institution of the collaborators must be attached to the application. It must clearly indicate the amounts and types of contributions, in kind or in cash, and be signed by an official representative of the partner. Please ensure that the budget and letters are consistent with each other and with what is written in the application form. Use the columns to indicate the use of funds from your project's funding partners. Identify the partners at the top of each column. Add columns as needed. Please note that there are no eligible indirect costs with funding from RIISQ.

It should be noted that the FRQ expects RIISQ to focus its project funding on concertation, networking, facilitation, strategic monitoring and analysis, and knowledge transfer activities. The project grants can also cover the implementation of intersectoral projects and salaries or scholarships for students. **Within the framework of this call, at least 60% of the total amount must be devoted to training (e.g., research grants for students, Masters, PhD scholarships, postdoctoral fellowships, research assistant salaries et c.). The salaries of research professionals cannot be counted in this 60%.**

H.2 – Description and justification of expenditures

Describe how you intend to use the confirmed funds and financial contributions from the partners identified in each of the budget items in the previous table. For more information on eligible and ineligible expenses under this call, please consult the [FRQ's Common General Rules](#). (Maximum 1/2 page)

Part I – Engagement and signatures

Have the completed application signed by the principal investigator and an official research representative of the principal investigator's academic institution (Vice-Rector, Research, Research Department, Dean, Director, etc.). The date, name and title of the person must be clearly indicated.

Note that the representatives certify that all the information provided is accurate and complete.

The project's researchers are committed to respecting the rules and principles set out in the FRQ's policies:

- [Common General Rules \(version updated the 30th June, 2025\)](#);
- [Responsible Conduct of Research](#);
- [Research Ethics Policy](#);
- [Intellectual property](#);
- [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Principle](#).

Researchers agree that the information in the funding application may be shared for evaluation or study purposes. Persons who may have access to it undertake to respect the rules of confidentiality.

By virtue of their research, training and/or public service mandates, RIISQ members grant each other, and RIISQ, a license to use the results of the project for research, teaching and public information purposes.

Part J – Other documents in the application package

J.1 – Curriculum vitae

All researchers must provide a short CV with the application form **of no more than 2 pages in PDF format**, summarizing the following points in this order:

- Academic or professional training;
- Scientific or professional experience;
- Relevant expertise and achievements related to the project.

You can use this [short CV template](#) proposed by the FRQ and adapted by the RIISQ for your application.

J.2 – Engagement letters from project partners

The applicant must provide engagement letters from each partner involved in the project. Each letter must clearly indicate:

- The name and contact information of the organization;
- A description of the organization's support for the research activities and its involvement in the project activities;
- The financial amount if it is a "cash" contribution;
- The description and its dollar value (\$), if it is an "in-kind" contribution;
- The anticipated benefits to the partner organization; and
- The dated signature of the official representative of the partner.

Contributions should be broken down and explained in the **Part H – Budget Framework**.

X. Assessment

Evaluation criteria

Submitted projects will be evaluated based on the criteria and dimensions contained in Table 1.

Table 1. Evaluation criteria (and its dimensions) for funding applications.

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation criteria dimensions	Weighting
1. Quality of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality, rigour and innovation of the project. • Clarity of the project presentation, including the research problem, objectives, methodology, schedule, budget and deliverables. • Demonstrated alignment of the project's objectives with the priority themes set out in this call for projects and with the values and objectives presented in the Scientific and strategic orientations 2024-2028 of the network. • Adoption of an intersectoral approach at all stages of the project. • Demonstration of a co-construction process involving all stakeholders. The co-construction process may have already been implemented as early as the development of the project proposal or be planned for its later stages. • Adoption of a diversity and inclusion approach at all stages of the project. 	40%
2. Budget and schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility of the schedule in relation to the planned work and the results to be achieved. • Feasibility and coherence of the budget with all the activities of the project. • Relevance and alignment of financial contributions (in cash and in-kind) from partners with project activities and the proposed budget. 	10%

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation criteria dimensions	Weighting
3. Knowledge mobilization and transfer and other impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance and feasibility of the knowledge mobilization and transfer plan. • Expected contributions to the needs of practice or decision-making. • Consistency with the Québec context in terms of current research and practice aimed at sustainable development focusing on scientific, environmental and socio-economic issues, for example. • Explicit link between practical and scientific learning acquired in Québec with Canadian and international knowledge. • Other benefits. 	20%
4. The team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance and adequacy of the skills, experience and achievements of the team members. • Demonstration of the complementarity and synergy of the team (existing or potential) to co-construct the project and its progress. • Contribution of all stakeholders to the research project and the degree of involvement of partners at the different stages. • Identification of measures to deliver an inclusive and equitable research team and an existing or proposed implementation strategy. 	15%
5. Training for the next generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of the training plan for the next generation (students and interns) and quality of its contribution, including opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, intersectoral engagement and professional development. • Demonstration of the quality of the training environment. • Identification of measures to provide an inclusive and equitable training environment and an existing or proposed implementation strategy. 	15%

Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5, with one decimal place allowed to modulate the assessment (**Table 2**). The overall score of an application depends on the weighted results obtained in the evaluations according to the five (5) evaluation criteria and its dimensions. To be funded, a project must obtain a **minimum score of 4** on the "Project quality" criterion.

Table 2. Scores associated with each evaluation criterion (e.g., quality of the project).

Note	Details
0	The criteria cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The application inadequately meets several dimensions of the test.
2	Satisfactory. The application generally meets all dimensions of the criteria, but there are significant gaps.
3	Good. The application adequately meets all dimensions of the criteria, but weaknesses are present.
4	Very good. The application meets all dimensions of the criteria very well, but some minor deficiencies remain.
5	Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criteria and its dimensions.

Evaluation process

The committee is composed of reviewers from outside the RIISQ. The number of members composing the committee is proportional to the number of applications submitted. Any person called upon to sit on the evaluation committee is bound by the strictest confidentiality regarding the files evaluated, the deliberations and the recommendations made. The Chair and members of the evaluation committee will not be eligible to submit proposals to the current competition. They must declare any conflict of interest and sign a written declaration to that effect before they can access the applications.

XI. Research ethics and compliance

Any research project involving participants, biological material, data from individuals, animals, products or human or animal tissues requires the approval of the relevant ethics committees. In addition, when the situation allows, researchers must include in the application form (Section VII. Form (instructions) A.6 – Ethics and the environment) the environmental impacts related to their research project and make reasonable efforts to minimize them. To this end, they must obtain and submit the required permits and authorizations to RIISQ before the start of the project.

By signing the application, researchers agree to respect the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion set out in the FRQ's policies.

XII. Glossary

Principal investigator

The principal investigator must: 1) be a member of the faculty of a university or college and hold a doctorate or equivalent status, or 2) hold a position equivalent to that of a professor for whom the university or college recognizes the ability to supervise or co-supervise students. The salary of this person is covered by his or her institution or other granting agencies or other sources. The principal investigator cannot hold both researcher and postdoctoral student status at the same time.

Co-construction

Knowledge co-construction is an interactive and evolving approach, in which members and partners are involved in a participatory knowledge production process, i.e. research is developed in collaboration with the communities concerned by the object of study. This process may include sharing knowledge to clarify the research theme, as well as to define the research process.

Interdisciplinarity

Interaction between several disciplines and/or fields of study, i.e., the mobilization of knowledge from two or more disciplines in an integrated approach.

Intersectorality

Intersectorality is defined by the chief scientist of Québec and the FRQ as a research and collaboration process that, to place common or shared research issues in a new light, brings together researchers from disciplinary fields or research practices from at least two of the three major sectors covered by the FRQ on the same subject, problem, method or research question (Nature and technologies; Society and culture; and Health).

It is a question of going beyond the simple grouping or juxtaposition of several disciplines and sectors (or even the instrumentalization of one discipline or sector by another) to solve a problem or take up a research object. From an intersectoral perspective, disciplines and sectors are resolutely committed to a joint, co-created "research approach" whose mode of operation is outside the hierarchy of fields of knowledge. Additional information can be found on the FRQ website: <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/recherche-intersectorielle/>.

Partners

Any public, private, community or civil society non-academic group and any other stakeholder concerned by the issues of this call that contributes to a project financially (in cash or in kind).

Research impact

RIISQ defines the impact of research as the effects or benefits on individuals, communities, the economy, society, culture, public policy, the activities of public authorities, the environment or the quality of life. Impact is achieved when knowledge or research meets the need of a user or recipient (e.g., government departments, public or private sectors, not-for-profit organizations, etc.) and is applied by those individuals or organizations.

Risk

"The possibility of negative consequences for human or ecological systems, recognizing the diversity of values and goals associated with these systems. In the context of climate change, risks can arise from the potential impacts of climate change as well as human responses to climate change. Relevant adverse impacts include those on lives, livelihoods, health and well-being, economic, social and cultural assets and investments, infrastructure, services (including ecosystem services), ecosystems and species. In the context of climate change impacts, risks result from dynamic interactions between climate-related hazards and the exposure and vulnerability of the affected human or ecological system to these hazards." (IPCC, 2023: 128).

Systemic risk

For the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), "[t]he systemic risk is associated with cascading impacts that propagate within and across systems and sectors (e.g. ecosystems, health, infrastructure and the food sector) through the movement of people, goods, capital and information within and across borders (e.g. regions, countries and continents). The spread of these impacts can lead to potentially existential consequences and the collapse of systems at different time horizons. » (Sillmann et al, 2022, translated from English).

XIII. References

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