

PROGRAMME IMPULSION

Version anglaise

IMPULSION PROGRAM

Competition year: 2021–2022

Deadline (application): April 29, 2021, 4 p.m.

Amount: up to \$100 000

Funding period: 1 year

Announcement of results: July 2021

This program refers to the [Common General Rules](#) (CGR) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ), which apply to all FRQ programs. Only the specific conditions with respect to the **IMPULSION** program are detailed here and take precedence over the CGR.

The links to the [Electronic Portfolio](#) (E-portfolio) and competition forms are available in the [Portal access](#) tab of the website. Further details are available in the [About FRQnet](#) section. **It is the entire responsibility of the applicant to select the right form.** In the event of an error, the Fonds shall not transfer any form from a program or call for proposals to another and shall deem the application ineligible.

Applicants are required to add their [Canadian Common CV](#) (CCV) and detailed contributions (in PDF format) to their E-portfolio. **Note: Applicants must ensure that all CCVs are in the format of the Fonds that is managing the call for proposals.** Please refer to the FRQNT's presentation standards document ([Normes de présentation des demandes – FRQNT](#)) in the program toolbox for submission instructions.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE COMPETITION DEADLINE OF APRIL 29, 2021, AT 4 P.M. SHALL BE DEEMED INELIGIBLE.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed the lives of Quebecers. The implications of the health crisis have had an impact on many aspects of our society and undermined key pillars, including the province's economy and financial health. To support the pandemic exit, it is important to create concrete initiatives that will underpin Québec's research strengths and help rebuild the economy. With that in mind, the three Fonds de recherche du Québec are joining forces to launch the **IMPULSION** program, which targets four priority areas.

1- OBJECTIVES

The **IMPULSION** program chiefly aims to create favourable conditions and an environment that supports the post-pandemic economic recovery. Funded projects must provide solutions to a range of societal issues and establish or develop collaborations in the very short term with

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community organizations, private companies and other user communities in Québec to foster the quick and proper ownership of knowledge that addresses their needs.

Under the **IMPULSION** program, four calls for proposals will be launched to support the development of rapid deployment research projects rooted in one of these areas and managed by one of the FRQ :

1. Agri-food (FRQNT)
2. Education (FRQSC)
3. Green energy (FRQNT)
4. Ageing (FRQS)

Projects funded under the **IMPULSION** program must:

- explore a research issue that is aligned with the needs of community organizations, private companies and user communities by drawing on current knowledge;
- generate results and benefits in the very short term in the form of concrete solutions that community organizations, private companies and user communities can quickly make their own; and
- create added value for Québec (improvement of processes, resource optimization, enhanced well-being, inclusion, development of intellectual property, job creation and support, etc.).

RESEARCH AREA: AGRI-FOOD

Québec's bio-food industry is crucial to ensure a strong post-pandemic socioeconomic recovery. The province aims to broaden its food self-sufficiency and become resilient with respect to food production, supply, processing and distribution. Québec's bio-food system must begin the transition to make its agriculture more sustainable by focusing on equitable access to healthy and nutritious food, reducing losses and waste and minimizing the environmental impacts of its activities. Technological innovation is also essential in food production and processing in order to enhance occupational health and safety, autonomy, supply chain security, big data management and decarbonization.

Owing to the complexity of the bio-food sector, stakeholder contributions are vital to ensure quick results in support of a greener and more autonomous food economy.

Priority will be given to these research themes:

- Food safety and self-sufficiency;
- Development of healthy, nutritious and high added value products;
- Technological innovation including automation and robotics;
- Occupational health and safety;

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- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions across the entire chain (production to processing).

2- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The research team must include at least three (3) individuals:

- One principal investigator with status 1, 2 or 3* under the [CGR](#);
- One co-investigator with status 1, 2 or 3* under the [CGR](#); and
- One co-investigator with status 4a), 4b) or 4c) under the [CGR](#) who represents a user community.

*As part of this call for proposals, a college researcher (status 3) in a sector relevant to the natural sciences and technologies may hold a doctoral or master's degree or obtain recognition of equivalence of either degree from a Québec university. The college researcher shall have the professional independence to lead research projects and supervise students.

Including early career researchers (less than 5 years in a position on January 1, 2016) shall be considered an asset.

Researchers may only submit one application to the **IMPULSION** program (all areas) as a principal investigator. However, there is no limit to the number of proposals an individual may contribute to as a co-investigator.

Research teams may include an unlimited number of additional members:

- **Co-investigators** with status 1, 2, 3, 4a), 4b), 4c) or 4d) under the [CGR](#);
- **Collaborators:** individual with one of the four research statuses under the [CGR](#). However, individuals with the statuses applicable to training awards are ineligible (page 7 and following of the [CGR](#)).

The role and status of each team member must be clearly stated in the application documents. All team members must adequately demonstrate their active contribution to the proposed project and indicate their level of involvement. The engagement of user communities must also be detailed.

The Fonds de recherche strongly encourage collaborations between researchers with expertise in different research areas.

3- SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The form for calls for proposals in agri-food and green energy is only available through an FRQNT E-portfolio, for calls for proposals in education through an FRQSC E-portfolio and for calls for proposals in ageing through an FRQS E-portfolio.

As indicated in the [CGR](#), the form may be filled out in French or English. However, the title and abstract must be in French, since they may be used by the Fonds for promotion and dissemination purposes.

Only the forms accessed, completed and submitted via the FRQnet platform are eligible. Any information in excess of the maximum number of pages for each section of the application shall be removed from the submission and shall not be considered in the review process. Any attachment to the application that is not required under the competition rules shall not be submitted to the review committee. Any documents received after the competition deadline shall not be considered. The Fonds reserve the right to validate the authenticity of any document or information provided in the application with relevant authorities.

Applicants must submit these documents:

- Online application form, including the tabs:
 - Project description based on the evaluation criteria (up to 6 pages);
 - Teaching release – Colleges : identification of the team members impacted and justification of the release from teaching duties (1 page)
 - Budget to account for planned spending (2 pages);
 - Other documents:
 - A. For clinical researchers: a letter from the clinical department director or faculty dean stating the number of hours for which the applicant shall be released from her/his clinical obligations to lead the research project;
 - B. Canadian Common CV of the status 4a) researcher in the format of the Fund managing the targeted call for proposals and detailed contributions in the format of one of the FRQ;
 - C. Abridged CV (2 pages) of status 4b), 4c) and 4d) co-investigators.
- Canadian Common CV of the principal investigator and all team members, except co-investigators with 4b), 4c) and 4d) status;
- Detailed contributions from all team members, except for co-investigators in 4b), 4c) and 4d)

Co-investigators and collaborators with 4a) status must provide the principal investigator with their CCV and detailed contributions in PDF format. Those with 4b), c) and d) status must provide the principal investigator with their abridged CV (2 pages) in PDF format.

IMPORTANT NOTE

All team members with status 1, 2 or 3 must fill in their CCV (updated in the 12-month period preceding the competition deadline) in the format required by the Fonds that is managing the call for proposals. The detailed contributions must be filled in the format required by one of the Fonds and included with the submission in the relevant section of the E-portfolio. For more information, read the Drafting a CV for the Fonds (Préparer un CV pour les Fonds) in the program toolbox. Any changes to the format of a CV (for a different Fonds) must be made at least **24 hours prior to the competition deadline** or the application shall not be submitted.

To ensure its successful submission to the FRQNT, the detailed contributions of team members must be in PDF format (.PDF) and sent through the Canadian Common CV section of the FRQnet portal of the FRQ.

Each co-investigator must consent to being part of the team prior to the deadline set by the managing institution, if applicable, or the form shall not be submitted. Co-investigators who have not created an FRQnet account should follow the steps to create one in the toolbox.

4- REVIEW PROCESS

As stated in Section 4 of the [CGR](#), the Fonds receive applications, determine the eligibility of the applications and submit them for review by committees assembled for this purpose. When necessary, the Fonds may also call upon external experts. The reviewers may be from Québec, Canada or elsewhere.

To be recommended for funding, the application must earn an **overall score of at least 70%**.

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Applications are evaluated according the following criteria, sub-criteria and weightings.

Criteria	Weighting
Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project’s ability to adequately meet the need(s) identified by targeted user communities in innovative ways; Clarity of the issue addressed by the project and methodological rigour; Feasibility and realism of the project timeline. 	25
Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance and complementarity of the project-related expertise and output of team members; Team’s ability to collaborate with community organizations, companies and other user communities; Integration of students, and post-doctoral trainees. 	25
Short-term benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of applicability of the proposed solution or approach and significance of potential benefits for user communities; Efficiency of the planned strategy to mobilize and transfer knowledge to user communities and ability to foster the appropriation of the solutions developed as part of the project; Concrete contribution to the post-pandemic economic recovery, especially through value creation. 	50

Review committee members will give special consideration to the relevance of projects in relation to the specific objectives and themes of the program areas and benefits in the very short term.

5- DESCRIPTION AND NATURE OF THE FUNDING

The funding period is one (1) year with no extension.

Type of funding	Maximum budget per project (including IRC)	Period
Research project	\$100 000*	1 year
Maximum number of projects funded in each research area	5	
Total budget for the four (4) calls (green energy, agri-food, ageing, education)	\$2 000 000	

**The amounts may be revised at any time and without notice depending on factors including the credits available under the program.*

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Refer to Section 8 of the [CGR](#) for information on eligible expenses. Under the **IMPULSION** program, the indirect research costs (IRCs) are considered as an eligible expense, according to the following breakdown.

Status of the principal investigator	Maximum amount in funding	Maximum amount in IRC
Status 1 or 2	\$78 740	\$21 260**
Status 3	\$100 000	\$0***

** IRC represent 27% of the total funding.

***IRC do not constitute eligible expenses for status 3 principal Investigators.

Terms of salary support for eligible college researchers (status 3) in CCTTs with no teaching duties

Part of the FRQNT grant may be paid out as salary support for a **college researcher** with no teaching duties. **This amount must be entered in the budget and may be transferred by the principal investigator’s institution** directly to the college institution or the college institution to which the CCTT is affiliated (for CCTT researchers).

ADDITIONAL amount for eligible college researchers (status 3) with teaching duties (Teaching release - Colleges)

For a **college researcher with teaching duties who is a team member**, an additional amount of up to \$10 000 shall be transferred directly to the college institution to compensate for part of the salary meant to cover the release from teaching duties.

6- FOLLOW-UP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with sections 6.2 and 7.1 of the [CGR](#), the grant holder shall approve the annual financial reports submitted by the managing institution in the three months following the end of the Fonds’ fiscal year ending on March 31 of each year, before June 30.

By accepting the grant, the grant holder agrees to submit a scientific report. The terms and conditions of accountability and content of the report shall be detailed in the grant letter.

The FRQ may use the scientific report for reproduction, adaptation, publication, translation and communication to the public through any means, in compliance with copyright and for non-commercial purposes only.

In all releases, reports, articles and communications, the grant holder shall acknowledge that the research was funded by the FRQ.

7- ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS

The grants awarded by the FRQ are conditional upon the allocation of credits by the National Assembly of Québec and the decisions of the boards of directors of the FRQ. They are therefore subject to change without notice.

For information on the results of the competition, contact the program manager or consult the website of the Fonds.

8- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

In addition to Section 5.6 of the [CGR](#) on intellectual property, the following elements and clarifications shall be considered.

Recognition of intellectual property rights – The FRQ recognize the rights of the grant holder and managing institution to the intellectual property of the research, including the original raw data, interim research, progress report, scientific report, final report and research results, in any form, resulting from the work funded under this program ([CGR](#), section 5.6).

Sharing of intellectual property rights and exploitation rights – The sharing of rights must respect the principles established by the Québec government in its intellectual property management plan, the *Plan d'action: gestion de la propriété intellectuelle dans les universités et les établissements du réseau de la santé et des services sociaux* (MRST, 2002), as well as the [CGR](#).

Adherence – Grant holders shall adhere to the practices in effect in their respective institutions. Team members and partners shall also comply with them. Researchers and their institutions shall therefore negotiate intellectual property clauses that are in line with the basic principles set out in the *Plan d'action: gestion de la propriété intellectuelle dans les universités et les établissements du réseau de la santé et des services sociaux* (MRST, 2002), as well as the [CGR](#), with partners.

Rights of the FRQ with respect to the use of the research – All requests related to the use of the research, including reproduction, translation, performance and public communication of the work, through any means, shall be submitted directly to the grant holder or managing institution. The grant holder or managing director shall consider their obligations, including those related to the protection of research and compliance with intellectual property policies as they apply to the research.

9- CONTACT PERSON

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