



# ICF Ideas Lab: Canada and the Circular Economy`

## SSHRC Webinar and Info-Session

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Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

# Presentation Outline

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- What is an Ideas Lab?
- ICF Ideas Lab: An Overview
- ICF Ideas Lab Goals
- Topic: Canada and the Circular Economy
- Peer Mentors and Merit Review
- Important Dates
- How to Apply
- Questions / Contact Us

# What is an Ideas Lab?

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- Ideas Labs are **interactive workshops** designed to stimulate innovative and interdisciplinary research leading to creative solutions for pressing global challenges.
- Ideas Labs (sometimes called “sandpits”) have been organised by research and funding agencies throughout Europe and the United States.
- By bringing together researchers from different disciplines and institutions, Ideas Labs support the creation of **new research collaborations** that transcend disciplinary silos. Participants are empowered to explore new approaches to research and the resulting projects are **innovative and ambitious**.

# ICF Ideas Lab: An Overview

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*The Imagining Canada's Future (ICF) Ideas Lab is an exciting, new two-year pilot program designed to encourage innovative research partnerships and projects.*

- The ICF Ideas Lab framework:
  - Stage 1: Virtual Workshop
  - Stage 2: Funding opportunity
  - Stage 3: Project development
- **30 Canadian researchers** from a variety of disciplines will be selected to come together in a virtual workshop to develop ground-breaking project ideas with the potential to inform policies and programs addressing the needs of diverse sectors.
- Up to **3 grants of up to \$250,000** will be awarded to teams for the purpose of developing the projects conceived at the workshop.

# ICF Ideas Lab Goals

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This pilot project has three principal objectives:

- Promoting **new, interdisciplinary** research collaborations
- Supporting **innovative** research
- Encouraging research that addresses **societal needs**

# Topic: Canada and the Circular Economy

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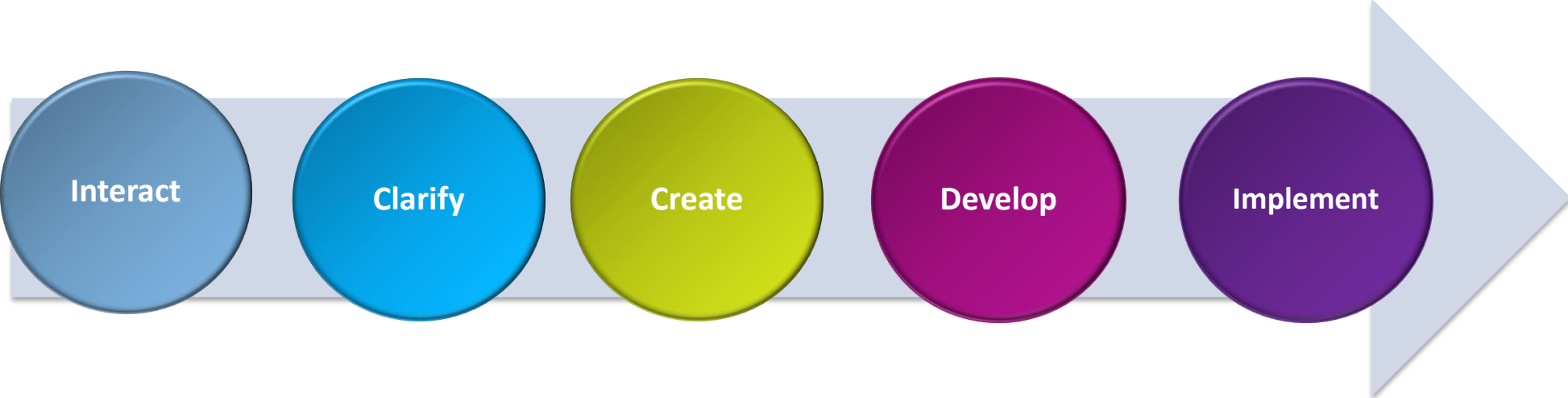
- Workshop participants will explore the theme of “**Canada and the Circular Economy**,” linked to the SSHRC global challenge of “[Living within the Earth’s Carrying Capacity](#)”
- Increasingly, Canadians are concerned about the environmental impacts of existing systems of production and consumption. The circular economy offers **a sustainable alternative to the current, linear model of production-consumption-waste**. The circular economy also addresses deeper issues around consumption, human behaviour and our relationship with the natural world.
- Subject matter experts will act as **peer mentors** and **guest speakers**
- Resulting projects will evaluate and/or support circularity in Canadian homes, businesses and public institutions

# Stage 1: Workshop

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- The ICF Ideas Lab workshop will take place **virtually** over a **two-week period in late October 2021**.
- Workshop activities will be broken into periods of online group engagement activities, and off-line individual and group work.
- Workshop is open to **all researchers from all disciplines** who are affiliated with an eligible Canadian institution (including Indigenous not-for-profits)
- By the end of the virtual workshop, participants will have come together to form interdisciplinary research teams and will have developed a preliminary project proposal.

# Stage 1: Workshop



Present goals and outcomes + Networking

Explore the theme of the workshop

Encourage new partnerships and ideas

Develop, test and refine project ideas

Pitch project ideas to the merit review committee



# Stage 2 & 3

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## Stage 2: Funding

- Teams with projects that meet workshop evaluation criteria will be invited to submit a formal application for funding
- Two months for teams to put together and submit a written application, including work plans and budgets

## Stage 3: Project Development

- Successful teams will have **two years** to advance research projects
- Forum will be held during the two year funding period to reunite workshop participants, peer mentors and SSHRC staff. Funded teams will provide updates and will also have opportunities to discuss challenges with each other and the peer mentors. Information about next steps and potential funding opportunities will also be provided.

# Peer Mentors & Merit Reviewers

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- **Five subject matter experts** from different sectors and disciplines to be appointed as **Peer Mentors**
- In the peer mentor role, they will attend workshop activities and offer advice and feedback on emerging project ideas. They will also attend the forum after funding has been awarded to continue to provide support to successful research teams.
- Peer mentors will also serve as **merit reviewers** at three distinct stages:
  - Stage 1: Selection of Workshop Participants
  - Stage 1: Selection of Workshop Projects
  - Stage 2: Awarding of funds (with additional merit reviewers)

# Merit Review Processes: Stage 1A

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## Stage 1A: Selection of Workshop Participants

- Peer mentors identify meritorious applications
- Administrative review by SSHRC for final selection (if more than 30 applicants deemed meritorious)

## Evaluation Criteria:

- Research and interdisciplinarity (20%)
- Collaborations and partnerships (20%)
- Knowledge mobilization and communication (20%)
- Innovation and creativity (20%)
- Overall potential to contribute to workshop (20%)

# Merit Review Processes: Stage 1A

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## Research and interdisciplinarity (20%):

- relevance of research expertise for workshop theme; and
- evidence of interdisciplinary research and/or other multi- or interdisciplinary activities.

## Collaborations and partnerships (20%):

- experience working as part of a research team, and/or experience with co-design, co-creation and co-production of research and research-related activities; and
- experience with partnerships and collaborations in other professional activities involving academic and/or cross- sectoral stakeholders.

## Knowledge mobilization and communication (20%):

- demonstrated experience communicating with non-specialists; and
- evidence of knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration / other interactions with stakeholders, contributions to public debate and the media).

# Merit Review Processes: Stage 1A

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## **Innovation and creativity (20%):**

- evidence of highly original and forward-thinking research; and
- demonstration of creativity in research and other academic activities.

## **Overall potential to contribute to workshop (20%):**

- demonstrated interest in the theme of Canada and the Circular Economy;
- demonstrated interest in the co-creation process of innovative and interdisciplinary research;
- explanation as to how the ICF Ideas Lab workshop will contribute to research goals and benefit professional development; and
- overall ability to contribute to the workshop's stated objectives.

# Merit Review Processes: Stage 1B

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## Stage 1B: Section of Workshop Projects

- Research teams pitch project ideas to panel of all five peer mentors on last day of workshop
- Project ideas scored on pass-fail basis
- Following final review, all teams who receive a “pass” will be invited to apply for full funding

## Evaluation Criteria (on pass-fail basis)

- Innovation
- Interdisciplinarity
- Societal relevance
- Feasibility
- Capability

# Merit Review Processes: Stage 2

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## Stage 2: Awarding of funds

- Each team will appoint a Principal Investigator at the workshop, who will lead the proposal
- Peer mentors will be joined by additional merit reviewers to adjudicate on formal project proposals
- Up to 3 projects will be selected to receive funding

## Evaluation Criteria:

- Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%)
- Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (25%)
- Capability – The expertise to succeed (25%)

# Important Dates

Date	Description
<b>July 16, 2021 (8 p.m. EDT)</b>	<b>Stage 1: Workshop Application Deadline*</b>
Early September 2021	Stage 1: Workshop applicants notified of results
18-29 October 2021	Stage 1: Virtual Workshop
Mid-November 2021	Stage 1: Workshop participants notified of results
20 January 2022	Stage 2: Deadline for full project proposal
March 2022	Stage 2: Applicants notified of results
March 2022	First installment of funds
March 2023	Second installment of funds
May 2023 (TBC)	Forum
April 2024	End of program



# How to Apply

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[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



Government  
of Canada

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du Canada

Convergence Portal



Have questions?

## Applications

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Applications

Awards

Funding Opportunities



# How to Apply

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- Applicants must complete the application in accordance with the funding opportunity and online instructions.
- Applications must be submitted electronically by an authorized research grants officer, or equivalent, from the applicant's institution, or by a representative of the not-for-profit organization who has financial signing authority and is not participating in the project.
- **Deadline to apply for Stage 1: Workshop is July 16, 2021**
- To apply:
  - Complete applicant eligibility profile
  - Submit a letter of interest
  - Submit a CV

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

# Questions?



# Contact Us

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## Questions?

Imagining Canada's Future initiative

[ksg-ssc@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:ksg-ssc@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

**For more information:**

[ICF Ideas Lab webpage](#)

[Funding opportunity: ICF Ideas Lab](#)

# Thank you / Merci

[www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)



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