



**MEOPAR**

**APPLICATION GUIDE**

**Expedition Fund:**

**Strategic Support Horizon**

**Fall 2025**

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## A. Introduction

This guide is designed to support applicants and principal investigators through each step of the application process. If you have questions that are not addressed in this guide, please contact [jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca](mailto:jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca) for further assistance.

A note on wording: Throughout the document, “project” is intended to mean the larger project to which the expedition is the time at sea for observations, sample collection, or training component of the whole that may include additional analyses, workshops, or synthesis following the expedition. Meanwhile, “expedition” refers to the components of the project that will be undertaken while at sea.

## B. Expedition Fund Overview

[MEOPAR \(Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network\)](#) is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that supports research, training, and communication related to the ocean through funding programs. MEOPAR is making it easier for Canadian ocean researchers to obtain funding for collecting observations at sea. With three different horizons (Rapid Response, Strategic Support, and Major Expeditions) the Expedition Fund addresses community needs on short to long timescales. Expeditions funded under the Strategic Support Horizon will typically have durations on the order of several days to several weeks, depending on the vessel size.

The [MEOPAR Expedition Fund](#) is intended to support multidisciplinary collaborations, including Indigenous owned and operated research vessels, in Canada. While we anticipate that some expeditions may leverage a complementary proposal to the NSERC Ship Time Program, eligibility for MEOPAR funding is greatly expanded under the Strategic Science Fund (SSF; see Section E below), extending opportunities to researchers who may have had limited access to vessel funding in the past, and opportunities for Indigenous owned research vessels to connect with the ocean research sector.

Specifically, key aspects of the Strategic Support Horizon include:

- Emphasis on Canadian leadership of multi-investigator expeditions, and Indigenous owned research vessels, where opportunities exist.
- Research that integrates multiple objectives, including ones that advance federal strategic priorities and responsibilities.
- Reserved funds for expeditions led by individuals from under-represented groups, or expeditions that show excellent commitment to inclusion.
- Projects that have matched funding from other programs or join existing expeditions to augment MEOPAR support.

- Vessels may be any size, but the expedition award is to support regular vessel operations. If no day rate exists, example eligible expenses include fuel, insurance, annualized maintenance costs, and crew fees.
- Expeditions may be composed of a single voyage or multiple voyages, depending on the scientific objectives.

### C. Alignment with MEOPAR Objectives and Science Strategy

MEOPAR has identified the following objectives for which targeted funding will be provided:

1. Strengthen the evidence base for decision making and adaptation through development of improved tools, techniques, and strategies for ocean and coastal observation, prediction, and information sharing.
2. Increase economic opportunity, coastal community resilience, and marine ecosystem protection in the face of climate and technological change through end-user-driven science and novel collaborative structures.
3. Improve access to and use of ocean research infrastructures.
4. Diversify, develop, and broaden deployment of Canada's ocean-related research and innovation talent.

Principle investigators are also encouraged to consult the [MEOPAR Science Strategy 2025–2030](#) for further context and to ensure alignment with MEOPAR's long-term vision and core priorities.

### D. Structure of the Call

MEOPAR expects to strategically fund **4-6 expeditions per year** with a **total annual budget of \$1M**. **New this year**, MEOPAR will accept applications for expeditions that can be carried out in 2026-27 *or* 2027-28 (principle investigators can request expedition funding between April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 *or* April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028). The scientific expedition(s) must take place during the requested funding period. Projects with **strong justification** for multiple years of funding may apply for expedition funding in both project years.

### E. Funding Eligibility

The Principal Investigator must be eligible to be a grant-holder within their organization. Eligible recipients of MEOPAR funds include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks<sup>1</sup>, companies that deliver public engagement activities, or start-up companies (including

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<sup>1</sup> Public engagement networks are entities involved in one or more of the following:

those housed in Canadian post-secondary-linked incubators). Eligible recipients do not include federal departments, agencies, or Crown Corporations of the Government of Canada.

## F. Requirements of Funding

Each Principal Investigator (PI) receiving MEOPAR funding will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR called an Ultimate Recipient Agreement (URA) in which the PI is the Ultimate Recipient (UR). The URA identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, expedition milestones, and key performance indicators (KPIs).

### Guidance Specific to Expedition Fund

It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all necessary certifications, permits, licenses and other necessary approvals have been obtained before any research is carried out in whole or in part (e.g. research involving human subjects, or research with effects on the environment, Indigenous peoples, and animals). If an environmental or ethics assessment is required for the proposal, MEOPAR will need a copy of the appropriate institutional certification committee approval before full funding is released.

MEOPAR strongly recommends that any MEOPAR-funded activities follow the [First Nations Principles of OCAP](#) and/or the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#), where relevant. These principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) or Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics (CARE) assert that First Nations and Indigenous peoples have the right to control data collection processes, and that they own and control how subsequent data and information can be used. Expeditions occurring in Indigenous waters should contact the local Nation(s) to determine how the expedition may proceed in a responsible way. See Section I for more information.

Principle investigators are encouraged to review MEOPAR's Intellectual Property Policy as part of the application process. You can review [MEOPAR's IP Policy here](#). As outlined in that policy, the UR must provide MEOPAR with a copy of any intellectual property policy or agreement relating to ownership of Eligible Project Intellectual Property (EPIP). Such policies and agreements must:

1. permit exploitation of EPIP within Canada (including, without limitation, for the purpose of carrying out the Eligible Project),
2. not prevent the UR from fulfilling its obligations under the URA, and

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- Coordinating or supporting public-facing science or research engagement activities;
  - Facilitating partnerships between researchers and community groups;
  - Delivering programming that enhances public understanding or participation in science or policy.

3. ensure the confidentiality of sensitive and proprietary information.

## G. Voluntary Self-Identification Form (EDIA)

As part of MEOPAR's commitment to advancing EDIA, and in alignment with the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#), we invite all applicants to complete the voluntary self-identification form.

### Why We Collect This Information

This information helps us understand who our programs are reaching and informs efforts to improve access and representation. Completion of this section is entirely voluntary, and responses will be kept confidential and reported only in aggregate. Where applicable, responses may inform the assessment of applications under EDIA and Truth and Reconciliation evaluation criteria.

### Key Principles

- Voluntary: You may choose to answer all, some, or none of the questions.
- Confidential: Responses are confidential and will only be reported in aggregate.

### What the Form Covers

The form includes questions about:

- Indigenous identity (with options aligned to the Canadian Constitution and open-ended responses)
- If you self-identify as part of a racialized group
- Ethnic or cultural origins (with multiple-choice and open-ended options)
- Disability status (as defined by the Accessible Canada Act)
- Gender identity (including open-ended responses)
- If you self-identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community

### How to Use the Form

- Begin by indicating whether you wish to complete the form or prefer not to answer.
- Proceed through each section, selecting all applicable options or providing open-ended responses where relevant.

### Notes for Applicants

- The form is designed to be inclusive and respectful of diverse identities and experiences.
- You may select multiple options and/or provide your own descriptions where applicable.
- Your participation helps us build a more equitable and responsive program environment.

If you have questions or feedback about the form, please contact [jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca](mailto:jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca).

## H. Project Milestones and Deliverables

Please provide a list of your project’s milestones and deliverables, as well as their target completion dates.

When developing your list of project activities/deliverables and their target completion dates, you are encouraged to:

- *Be specific:* break your project into clear, trackable components (e.g., Workshop to organize planning, Days at sea, Sensors deployed / recovered, Expedition report complete, etc.).
- *Include deliverables:* identify what will be produced or achieved (e.g. sample types, training, days at sea)
- *Set timelines:* provide estimated completion dates for each activity. These don’t need to be exact but should reflect a schedule you can justify.
- *Think ahead to reporting:* you’ll be asked to confirm whether each activity was completed and to describe the results. Consider how you’ll document progress (e.g., photos, links, feedback).
- *Align with your goals:* make sure your activities support your expedition objectives and think about both quantitative and qualitative indicators of success (e.g., number of samples collected, students trained, unique opportunities capitalized upon).
- *Build in time for evaluation* so you can report not just what you did, but what you learned.

From these milestones, it should be clear to reviewers when the expedition(s) is/are anticipated to occur.

*Note: You will be required to report on the results of your activities/deliverables and their completion dates in your final report to MEOPAR. MEOPAR will provide reporting templates for submission through the MEOPAR [online portal](#) (downloadable versions will be available for offline work).*

## I. Research Team and Talent Development

The research team should be well suited to address all expedition and project objectives. Multi- and interdisciplinary expeditions should have a team that reflects diverse nature of the goals with a lens on taking advantage of opportunities that are provided by the expedition to the location of interest. Expedition organizers should consider EDIA principles when assembling the team to provide opportunities for a diverse research environment. This includes, but is not limited to, having a well-balanced team of both established and emerging leadership in the field. The Strategic Support Horizon encourages Canadian leadership in seagoing expeditions and providing opportunities to develop and retain strong Canadian research talent.

## J. Knowledge Mobilization Plan

While funds are not specifically available for knowledge mobilization (KM) activities under the Expedition Fund, the time at sea frequently presents opportunities to engage with diverse end users. From shoreside presentations engaging stakeholders and rightsholders in the research plan, to seagoing blogs or vlogs showing the science in action, there are numerous opportunities to engage audiences in the expedition. Reviewers will be evaluating the proposal, in part, based on the plans for knowledge mobilization activities and the breadth of audiences that they are likely to reach.

Some examples of KM activities include (but are not limited to):

- *Community co-creation workshops* that bring together researchers and end users to collaboratively shape knowledge products or solutions.
- *Creative storytelling* through visual arts, comics, photography, or video to illustrate science and spark engagement.
- *Data storytelling* that combines narrative and visualization to make complex findings relatable and actionable.
- *Educational resources* such as curricula, lesson plans, or informal learning materials based on research findings.
- *Policy-focused outputs* such as briefs, toolkits, or decision-support materials tailored to government or community use.
- *Translation and localization of content* into key audience languages (e.g., Inuktitut, French) to support accessibility and co-creation.

## K. Data Management Plan

Investigators are asked to describe the data management plan (DMP) that will be employed for the project. While this should be a living document that evolves over the course of the research project, the proposal description should include the types and volumes of data generated, how you will document the data (e.g. metadata) for future re-use, how the data will be stored in the near and long-term (e.g. budget, data types), and the considerations given to legal, ethical, and/or commercial issues (including Indigenous data sovereignty). Projects needing assistance in developing a data management plan are encouraged to engage with the [Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System \(CIOOS\)](#) or the [Digital Research Alliance of Canada](#) (the Alliance) who may help in the development. MEOPAR strongly encourages plans that result in data that are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) and follow the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#) and [First Nations Principles of OCAP](#), if applicable. Guides to develop DMPs are provided by [CIOOS](#) and the [Alliance](#). Expeditions occurring in Indigenous waters should contact the local Nation(s) to determine how the expedition may proceed in a responsible way.



Data obtained with MEOPAR funding should be made as open as possible, but as restricted as necessary in the relevant domain specific repository. In addition, metadata and a link to the data should be made available in CIOOS. Metadata should be findable through a repository within 6 months of the end of expedition funding. These steps will improve findability and accessibility of the data for future reuse of publicly funded observations. If restrictions are necessary, justify the reasoning.

We encourage you to have a complete Data Management Plan, of any length. However, for the benefit of reviewers, please summarize your DMP for observations, samples, and data collected or generated during this expedition and project.

## L. Budget

Detailed budgets, with accompanying justifications, are required. This includes an Expedition Budget ([Appendix B](#)) and a Partner Contribution Budget ([Appendix C](#)). Your budgets must be submitted using the provided templates.

Please name your budget files using the following format:

Appendix B: [PIFirstInitial][PILastName]\_EXS\_AppB\_[YYMMDD]

Appendix C: [PIFirstInitial][PILastName]\_EXS\_AppC\_[YYMMDD]

Note: you will replace the square brackets and italicized text with your specific information.

Example: If the Principal Investigator's name is Jordan Smith and Appendix B is being submitted on 5 August 2025, the file name should be:

JSmith\_EXS\_AppB\_250805

## Appendix B Guidance

- Only include the amount of funding requested from MEOPAR for the expedition, not the total funding for the project. (The total cost of the project will be reflected in the combination of Appendices B & C.)
- Funds requested under the Strategic Support Horizon are to cover vessel operations fees only.
- In Appendix B, all vessel fees fall under the **"Operations of core research facilities"** expenses category.
  - The rest of the spreadsheet should remain **EMPTY**.
- For vessels where no day rate exists, example eligible expenses include fuel, insurance, annualized maintenance costs, and crew fees. The sum of these components should be entered into Appendix B.
  - If you have questions about eligible expenses to include in these circumstances, contact Jonathan.Kellogg@meopar.ca.

- The greyed-out cells contain formulas that automatically calculate totals based on what you enter in other cells and cannot be edited.
- In the narrative justification section of your proposal form, include specific breakdowns and explanations for vessel operations. For example, “Charter of M/V Boaty McBoatface will cost \$X /day. Charter fees include days for mobilization, demobilization, Y days at sea with accommodations for Z number of scientists.”
- Please note, all salaries (excepting crew fees for regular vessel operations), expenses for travel to and from the port, rental fees for scientific equipment, sample analyses, knowledge mobilization fees, etc. must be supported through other means.
  - All of these other expenses incurred by the project should be accounted for in Appendix C. Partner Contributions.
- MEOPAR can provide support for administrative overhead (‘C. Indirect Costs’) at a rate appropriate for the context of the expedition, up to a maximum of 15%. The rate must be established considering the scale of the expedition (i.e., not simply using a general flat-rate percentage charge [such as 15%] that does not consider context). Justification is required for use of this category in the form of a narrative description that explains how the funds will be used under this category, how each expense is calculated, and why it is required. If these costs are not being requested, this should also be clarified, so MEOPAR understands your administrative capacity. If you require administration, but do not request it in your expedition budget, it can be considered an in-kind (partner) contribution to assist with the matched funding requirement.
  - For the Strategic Support Horizon, organizations are asked to recognize that in some expeditions, they may be expected to pay just one invoice for the vessel charter. Given the minimal administrative time required for such accounting, MEOPAR recommends an indirect cost rate of 2.5% of the budget.
  - Note: Minimizing overhead costs are part of the evaluation criteria. To receive an Outstanding rating, a proposal will demonstrate that “Administrative costs are very well justified and minimized.”

## Appendix C Guidance

All anticipated project expenditures, except for vessel expenses requested from MEOPAR, should be captured in Appendix C. This includes all salaries (excepting crew fees for regular vessel operations), expenses for travel to and from the port, rental fees for scientific equipment, sample analyses, knowledge mobilization fees, etc. that are supported through means other than from MEOPAR.

For partner contributions, clearly identify the contributing partner, the value of the contribution, whether it is cash or in-kind, whether it is expected or secured, whether it is matched or leveraged, and how the contribution supports your project’s activities. Principal investigators are required to

secure matching contributions from non-federal sources that equal or exceed a ratio of 1:0.8 for every dollar requested from MEOPAR. Additional matching funds will receive credit for this in the evaluation criteria.

In addition to matched contributions, principal investigators may also report leveraged funds, which are existing contributions (cash or in-kind) that support the project but are not eligible to count toward the matched funding requirement. These may include donations, existing investments, or revenues from federal sources that enhance the overall scope or sustainability of the project. While leveraged funds cannot be counted toward the minimum 1:0.8 matched funding ratio, they are valuable indicators of broader support and alignment with your project's goals. [Click here](#) for further guidance on determining if your partner contributions are considered matched or leveraged.

It is possible for a partner organization to contribute both matched and leveraged funds. An example of this includes a university providing matching salary for faculty time while the student salary is leveraging a federal grant. Separate these funding streams in Appendix C by duplicating the partner organization, but denoting one Matched and one Leveraged to accurately account for the respective contributions.

As previously mentioned, if your expedition necessitates administrative support but you are not seeking MEOPAR funding for this purpose, those expenses can be considered an in-kind (partner) contribution to contribute to the matched funding requirement.

Examples of in-kind partner contributions might include staff time from partner organizations (including the Principal Investigator's own salary or the salaries of students), access to facilities, use of equipment, technical expertise or advisory support, or knowledge dissemination support (e.g., using a collaborator's mailing list, social media, or networks).

NOTE: All partner contributions documented should be incurred during the period of expedition funding. For example, if the expedition is taking place in FY26-27, partner contributions to the project should also be incurred in that fiscal year. Project expenses in other fiscal years are not eligible under the rules of matched and leveraged funds.

## **M. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) & Truth and Reconciliation Considerations**

When completing your application, please provide details about how you will integrate EDIA and Truth and Reconciliation principles into your expedition and project. MEOPAR is seeking details about how diverse individuals, inclusive of Indigenous peoples and members of equity-deserving groups (e.g., members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, persons with a disability, racialized individuals, and women), will be involved in your expedition and project, including leadership and decision-making, programming, communication and engagement, inclusive participation, and evaluation. A

foundational understanding of EDIA approaches may be necessary in the formulation of your EDIA plan. If you need more information about EDIA, you can consult [this website](#).

Understanding the Truth and Reconciliation process and its calls to action can effectively demonstrate your project's dedication to these initiatives. Information about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is available [here](#).

In the context of the Expedition Fund this is tangible by providing seagoing opportunities for both experienced and emerging leaders in the ocean science community and using an EDIA lens when recruiting members of the scientific crew. Examples of advancing Truth and Reconciliation Principles may include engaging with local Indigenous community organizations or leadership in the planning and operations of the expedition, establishing a data management plan that follows the [First Nations Principles of OCAP](#) or the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#), training Indigenous youth as part of the seagoing experience, and/or hiring Indigenous companies, including vessel operators.

## N. Supporting Materials

### 1. Letters of Support

- We encourage you to include letters of support that demonstrate your partnerships, community relationships, anticipated impacts, and/or the commitment of cash or in-kind contributions. These letters may provide additional context or endorsement for either the project as a whole or the expedition specifically. While **one letter of support is required**, there is not a limit on the number of letters. We recommend that letters of support are no more than 2 pages.

If you are unable to include letters of support, you may instead upload a statement explaining any barriers, hardships, or challenges you faced in obtaining them. To upload a statement, use the "Letters of Support | Attach a file(s)" form in the [online portal](#).

Supported file formats include PDF (.pdf), Word documents (.doc, .docx), or image files (.jpg, .jpeg, .png).

You can submit letters of support in two ways:

- Upload directly: use the "Letters of Support | Attach a file(s)" form in the [online portal](#).
- Submit via Recommender: invite a 'Recommender' to submit a letter of support directly into the portal using the "Letters of Support | Request a recommendation(s)" form in the [online portal](#).

*Note: The portal will not allow final submission of a proposal until initiated letters of support have been submitted. Ensure letter authors have ample time to upload their letters before the deadline.*

## 2. Optional Multimedia Submission

You may also choose to submit a short video or audio file to complement your written responses. This is an opportunity to share your vision, community connections, or other elements of your expedition that may be more effectively conveyed through spoken or visual storytelling.

### Submission guidelines:

- Maximum length: 5 minutes
- Maximum file size: 1000MB
- Accepted video formats: .avi or .mp4
- Accepted audio formats: .mp3 or .wav
- Accepted linked media: YouTube or Vimeo

This submission is entirely optional and will be considered alongside your written responses based on the same evaluation criteria.

## O. Submission Procedure

The application deadline is **12 December 2025 at 23:59 EST**.

Submit your proposal in the Expedition Fund online portal: <https://meopar.smapply.io/>. Keep submission sections to the word limits indicated. Reviewers will not receive or review information after the noted limit.

A working version of the proposal is provided [here](#) to offer the option of working offline and copying/pasting completed sections into the online portal when convenient.

NOTE: MEOPAR reviews proposals for compliance in the week following the deadline. Applicants and collaborators of non-compliant proposals may be asked to provide clarification or revisions within a short window (typically 24-48 hours). Absent a timely response to revision prompts, original submissions will be used in decisions.

## P. Inquiries

[Attend an info session](#) on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am PDT for prospective applicants and principal investigators (or watch the recording) to help with proposal development.

For questions regarding this Call for Proposals contact [jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca](mailto:jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca).

## Q. Proposal Evaluation

MEOPAR will review and evaluate proposals using the following rubric:

## Evaluation Criteria – Expedition Fund – Strategic Support Horizon

		OUTSTANDING	VERY STRONG	STRONG	MODERATE	INSUFFICIENT
Project goals and quality (25%)	6.25%	Project is <b>very well</b> described.	Project is <b>well</b> described.	Project is <b>satisfactorily</b> described.	Project is <b>somewhat</b> described.	Project is <b>poorly</b> described.
	6.25%	Project is <b>highly</b> original/innovative	Project is original/innovative	Project is <b>moderately</b> original/innovative	Project is <b>somewhat</b> original/innovative	Project is <b>not</b> original/innovative
	6.25%	Project <b>will</b> contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project <b>will likely</b> contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project <b>may</b> contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project is <b>unlikely</b> contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project <b>will not</b> contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.
	6.25%	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is <b>explicit and will advance</b> federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is <b>clear and is likely</b> to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is <b>evident and may</b> advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is <b>unclear and is unlikely</b> to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is <b>undefined and will not</b> advance federal priorities.
Excellence of Research Team (20%)	5%	<b>Canadian leadership</b> of an <b>interdisciplinary</b> research team	<b>Canadian leadership</b> of a <b>multidisciplinary</b> research team	<b>International leadership</b> of a <b>inter-, multidisciplinary</b> research team	<b>Canadian</b> leadership of a <b>single-discipline</b> research team	<b>International</b> leadership of a <b>single-discipline</b> research team
	5%	Team involves <b>many partners</b>	Team involves a <b>few partners</b>	Team involves a <b>couple partners</b>	Team has a <b>partner</b>	Team is <b>without partners</b>
	5%	Team is <b>clearly suited</b> to address <b>all</b> the project objectives.	Team is <b>well suited</b> to address <b>most</b> of the project objectives.	Team is <b>suited</b> to address <b>many</b> of the project objectives.	Team <b>may</b> address <b>some</b> of the project objectives.	Team is <b>not suited</b> to address the project objectives.
	5%	<b>Highly attractive</b> project that <b>will</b> develop and retain talent	<b>Attractive</b> project that <b>will likely</b> develop and retain talent.	Project that <b>may develop</b> and retain talent.	Project <b>unlikely</b> to develop and retain talent.	Project is <b>will not</b> develop and retain talent.
Plan, budget, matching contributions (30%)	5%	Plan and budget elements are <b>very clearly</b> described.	Plan and budget elements are <b>clearly</b> described.	Plan and budget elements are <b>adequately</b> described.	Plan and budget elements are <b>partially</b> described.	Plan and budget elements are <b>unclear</b> .
	5%	Plan and budget elements align with <b>realistic and appropriate</b> timelines.	Plan and budget elements align with <b>realistic</b> timelines.	Plan and budget elements are <b>likely to support a realistic</b> timeline	Plan and budget elements are <b>weakly connected</b> to a timeline that <b>may not be realistic</b> .	Plan and budget elements are <b>unconnected</b> to timelines that are <b>unrealistic</b> .
	5%	Plan and budget elements <b>strongly support</b> outcomes.	Plan and budget elements <b>support</b> outcomes.	Plan and budget elements <b>may support</b> outcomes.	Plan and budget elements are <b>unlikely to support</b> outcomes.	Plan and budget elements are <b>unable to support</b> outcomes.

	5%	Data management plan <b>comprehensively addresses</b> expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan <b>provides details</b> of expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan <b>describes</b> expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan <b>lacks clarity of</b> expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan is <b>unclear and/or missing one or more of the following:</b> expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.
	5%	The budget includes <b>excellent</b> matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources ( <b>ratio</b> >> 1:1.25).	The budget includes <b>very strong</b> matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources ( <b>ratio</b> ≈ 1:1.25 or higher).	The budget includes <b>strong</b> matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources ( <b>ratio</b> 1:1 - <1.25 ).	The budget includes <b>moderate</b> matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources ( <b>ratio</b> 1:0.8 - <1)	The budget includes <b>poor</b> matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources ( <b>ratio of</b> <0.8).
	5%	Administrative costs are <b>very well justified and minimized</b> .	Administrative costs are <b>well justified and minimized</b> .	Administrative costs are <b>justified</b> .	Administrative costs are <b>poorly justified</b> .	Administrative costs are <b>not justified</b> .
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility & Knowledge Mobilization (25%)	5%	Expedition crewing <b>applies an EDIA lens</b> to all its activities.	Expedition crewing is made with <b>EDIA in mind</b> .	Expedition crewing <b>references EDIA</b> policy.	Expedition crewing <b>references EDIA</b> policy.	<b>No EDIA policy</b> is referenced.
	5%	Team is <b>well-balanced</b> between established and emerging leaders.	Team <b>will have representation</b> of both established and emerging leaders	Team <b>may have representation</b> of both established and emerging leaders	Team has <b>unclear composition</b> for leadership balance.	Team has <b>unbalanced composition</b> .
	5%	Team <b>includes</b> equity deserving groups in the <b>expedition leadership</b> .	Team <b>includes</b> equity deserving groups in the expedition.	Team <b>may include</b> equity deserving groups.	<b>Unclear</b> if team will include equity deserving groups.	Team <b>lacks</b> equity deserving groups.
	5%	The project <b>will advance</b> Truth & Reconciliation objectives by <b>including Indigenous partners and businesses</b> (e.g. Indigenous owned vessels) as well as priorities/perspectives.	The project has <b>strong potential to advance</b> Truth & Reconciliation objectives through inclusion of Indigenous priorities/perspectives.	The project <b>may advance</b> Truth & Reconciliation objectives through aspects of its design and implementation.	The project is <b>unlikely to advance</b> Truth & Reconciliation Objectives.	The project will <b>not advance</b> Truth & Reconciliation objectives.
	5%	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and post-expedition has <b>potential for mainstream media interest in addition to reaching diverse communities</b> .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition <b>will likely reach outside scientific community</b> .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition is <b>typical for scientific community</b> .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition may reach <b>select audiences</b> . <b>No plans for post-expedition</b> .	<b>No knowledge mobilization strategy</b> is mentioned.