



APPLICATION GUIDE
Expedition Fund:
Strategic Support Horizon
Fall 2026



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A. Introduction

This guide is designed to support applicants through each step of the application process. If you have questions that are not addressed in this guide, please contact 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 two different horizons (Strategic Support and Major Expeditions) the Expedition Fund facilitates community access to seagoing vessels. 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 seagoing collaborations that advance Canada’s ocean priorities. While we anticipate that some expeditions may leverage a complementary proposal to the NSERC Ship Time Program, eligibility for MEOPAR funding under the Strategic Science Fund (SSF; see Section E below), extends 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 collaborations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, organizations, 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.

Project leads should 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**. This year, MEOPAR will accept applications for **expeditions that will be carried out in FY 2027-28** (i.e. taking place between April 1, 2027 and March 31, 2028). **NEW – Scientific mobilization/demobilization costs for the lead organization are now eligible.** Applicants may allocate up to 5% of the overall budget (requested to MEOPAR) for costs related to mobilization and demobilization of scientific equipment and personnel (including shipping and/or travel) to or from the vessel's port for expenses incurred by the lead organization.

E. Funding Eligibility

The project lead must be eligible to be a grant-holder within their recipient organization. Eligible recipients of MEOPAR funds include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks¹, companies that deliver public engagement activities, or start-up companies (including 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

The organization, and project lead, of each applicant receiving MEOPAR funding will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR called an Ultimate Recipient Agreement (URA) in which the applicant is the Ultimate Recipient (UR). The URA identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, and expedition milestones.

Guidance Specific to Expedition Fund

It is the responsibility of the project lead to ensure that all necessary certifications, permits, licenses, approvals and institutional authorizations are obtained before any research activities begin and maintained throughout the project as applicable. This includes compliance with relevant policies, regulations, and ethical standards governing research involving human participants, animals, biohazards or infectious agents, radioactive materials, environmental impacts, and research conducted in Northern Canada. Research involving Indigenous Peoples, communities, knowledge, data, lands, or waters must be conducted in accordance with applicable ethical and community protocols, including [Chapter 9 of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research](#)

¹ Public engagement networks are entities involved in one or more of the following:

- 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.



[Involving Humans](#). Where required, copies of relevant ethics, animal care, environmental, or other institutional approvals must be provided to MEOPAR before funding is released.

It is expected that projects which involve Indigenous Peoples, communities, knowledge, data, lands, or waters, will follow [First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#), the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#), and/or a comparable, relevant framework. The First Nations Principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) or the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics) affirm the rights of First Nations and Indigenous peoples to govern the collection, management, use, and sharing of data relating to their communities, knowledge, lands, waters, and resources. For projects conducted in marine or offshore environments, project leads are expected to take reasonable steps to identify relevant Indigenous rights holders and communities and document the steps taken to determine appropriate engagement. Applicants should describe the communities considered, any engagement undertaken, and how community perspectives informed the project design and proposed activities. See Section M for more information.

Project leads are encouraged to review MEOPAR's Intellectual Property Policy as part of the application process. You may 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
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.

H. Research Plan

The research plan is composed of two sections,

a) the Plain Language Summary

The summary should be brief (250 word max) and accessible to a science interested audience, but free from highly technical language that may be specialized to your discipline.

b) and the Research Proposal.

The Research Proposal, on the other hand, is where that rich detail about the project should be included. MEOPAR makes every effort to have at least one subject matter expert reviewer assigned to each proposal to facilitate the conversation.

This document should be no more than five (5) pages, including any graphics or references. The proposal must be uploaded to the portal as a .pdf, must be single spaced (with no more than six lines per inch), 12 point font, and have margins of at least 0.75".

The research proposal should:

- Provide background context for the problem, knowledge gap, or technology gap that this project will aim to address, highlighting how this topic is critical to the health, economic, and/or social well-being of Canadians.
- Provide a detailed explanation of the methods your project will employ to address the stated objectives. Identify any barriers that your methodology may present to inclusion of under-represented groups in your field of study, and any strategies employed to mitigate these barriers.
- Explain how the objectives of this project align with or support Federal objectives supported by MEOPAR Program under the SSF (see for example: [Blue Economy](#), [Oceans Protection Plan](#), [Climate Science 2050](#), [National Adaptation Strategy](#), the [2030 Nature Strategy](#), and the [Truth and Reconciliation Report](#)).
- Describe how your project aligns with MEOPAR's objectives and [scientific strategy](#).
- Describe how your methods will increase collaboration (e.g. among academia, research institutes, non-profit, private or public sector, and/or diverse international or community organizations)
- Describe the projected impact of this project, emphasizing how it will increase the quality of internationally competitive leading-edge research in Canada, and may lead to economic, societal, and/or health benefits for Canadians.
- Identify any linked expedition proposals (e.g. NSERC Ship Time), and describe how MEOPAR's Expedition Fund will contribute to existing or anticipated, [matched or](#)



leveraged, partner contributions (either cash or in-kind) for the project as a whole during the funding period.

I. Project Milestones and Deliverables

Please provide a list of your project's milestones and deliverables (min 3, approximately 5), 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).

J. Research Team and Talent Development

The research team should be composed of individuals with the discipline, expertise, and experience to address all expedition and project objectives. Expeditions should have a team who reflect the diverse nature of the expedition goals and who may take advantage of opportunistic sampling that may arise. Project leads should consider EDIA principles when assembling the team and designing expedition activities to help foster a diverse, inclusive, and accessible research environment. This includes, but is not limited to, assembling a team that provides meaningful opportunities for participation, mentorship, and leadership by students, early career researchers, and individuals from equity-deserving groups. The training opportunities provided while at sea should be clearly described and their value should be evident to reviewers. The Strategic Support Horizon encourages Canadian leadership in seagoing expeditions and providing opportunities to develop and retain strong Canadian research talent.

List the members of the expedition, to the best of your ability. It should be clear to reviewers from the names and associated curricula vitae (CV) for the expedition team that the team is well suited for the stated objectives, diverse in its composition, and that expedition will provide opportunities for growth in the next generation. If expedition members have not yet been identified by name (e.g. personnel not yet hired or fully committed) please use placeholder language (e.g. BiologistHQP1, MappingTechnician2, etc) that will indicate to reviewers the anticipated role and career stage that is anticipated for that berth.

Also list the project collaborators who will be contributing to the project during the period of funding. These may be shore-based support for the expedition, sample analysts, or researchers who will be



sending a representative on the expedition instead of attending themselves. As with the expedition members, use placeholder language where necessary, but based on the names and CV of the collaborators, it should be clear to reviewers that the collaborators are complementary to the expedition and overall project objectives.

MEOPAR will be asking for a revised accounting of expedition members and project collaborators at the time of final reporting. Expedition members and project collaborators may be from an academic institution, government agency, industry partner, Indigenous organization, non-governmental organization, etc.

K. Knowledge Mobilization

Expeditions frequently provide opportunities to engage with a range of audiences and support knowledge mobilization before, during and after time at sea. Activities may include presentations on the research objectives and anticipated outcomes, as well as blogs, vlogs or other communications that share the research process, foster dialogue, and increase awareness of expedition activities and outcomes. Reviewers will evaluate the proposed knowledge mobilization activities and the extent to which they are likely to effectively reach and engage their intended audiences. Although support is not specifically intended for knowledge mobilization activities under the Expedition Fund, applicants are encouraged to identify opportunities for knowledge exchange and engagement that can be integrated into expedition activities.

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.

L. Data Management Plan

Project leads 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.

M. 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: [PLFirstInitial][PLLastName]_EXS_AppB_[YYMMDD]

Appendix C: [PLFirstInitial][PLLastName]_EXS_AppC_[YYMMDD]

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

Example: If the Project Lead (PL) name is Jordan Smith and Appendix B is being submitted on 5 August 2026, the file name should be:

JSmith_EXS_AppB_260805

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 and scientific mobilization and demobilization costs only.
- In Appendix B,
 - all vessel fees, including vessel mobilization and demobilization charged under the contract, fall under the **“Operations of core research facilities”** category.
 - 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.
 - scientific mobilization and demobilization costs include travel and shipping costs of getting staff, equipment, and materials to and from the vessel port:
 - expenses in this category **MUST BE INCURRED BY THE LEAD ORGANIZATION**
 - travel related expenses, including airfare, hotel, and per diem / food expenses fall under the **“Research related travel”** category,
 - “Research related hospitality” should remain **EMPTY**. This category is for reserved for providing food and beverage to workshop or meeting participants; ineligible expenses under this fund.



- shipping expenses should go under the “**Professional and technical services**” category
- Scientific mobilization and demobilization costs (travel and shipping) must be **less than 5%** of the overall budget request.
- 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 vessel mobilization, demobilization, Y days at sea with accommodations for Z number of scientists.”
- Please note, all salaries (except crew fees for regular vessel operations), 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, in the form of complete calculations and accompanying narrative in the **Appendix B1 tab** of Appendix B, is required for use of this category based on the administrative support required for the project. 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 $\leq 2.5\%$ of the budget.

Appendix C Guidance

All anticipated project expenditures, except for vessel expenses and scientific mobilization/demobilization expenses requested from MEOPAR, should be captured in Appendix C. This includes all salaries (excepting crew fees for regular vessel operations), any travel costs not supported by MEOPAR, rental fees for scientific equipment, sample analyses, knowledge mobilization fees, etc. that are supported through means other than from MEOPAR funding.

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. Project leads 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, applicants 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 project lead'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 FY27-28 (April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028), 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.*

N. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) & Truth and Reconciliation Considerations

Please provide details about how EDIA and Truth and Reconciliation principles have been considered in the planning and implementation of both your expedition and your project. This should include how the expedition team, activities, and engagement approaches will help foster a diverse, inclusive, and accessible research environment. Considerations may include team composition, leadership and decision-making opportunities, training and professional development, communications and engagement activities, accessibility, and approaches to accountability and evaluation.

A description of any measures that will be taken to create meaningful opportunities for participation, mentorship, and leadership, particularly for individuals from equity-deserving groups (e.g., First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, persons living with disabilities (including invisible and episodic disabilities), racialized persons, and women) should be provided in this section.

Examples of advancing Truth and Reconciliation principles may include taking active steps to identify and engage with Indigenous rights holders and communities connected to the project area, recognizing that these connections may extend beyond the immediate research location, including for projects conducted in offshore or remote marine environments. This might include building respectful relationships that support meaningful engagement and cultural safety throughout project and expedition development, planning and implementation; involving Indigenous organizations, businesses, or vessel operators; creating opportunities for Indigenous youth and trainees; and establishing a data management plan that follows the [First Nations Principles of OCAP](#) or the [CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance](#).

For additional information on EDIA, individuals can consult [this website](#), and can access the reports created and issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) [here](#). MEOPAR's webinar on EDIA and Truth and Reconciliation considerations in proposals can be viewed [here](#).

O. Supporting Materials

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV)



Please upload the CV of each project lead or co-lead (researchers who are involved in the research expedition and will receive funding), and any collaborators who are playing a major role in the project.

We ask proponents to submit a CV in the format they best feel highlights their contributions to the field, and ability to conduct the research. It may be of any length, but the file must be a .pdf and is limited to 25 MB.

2. 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.

3. 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.

P. Submission Procedure

The application deadline is **30 October 2026 at 23:59 EST**.

Submit your proposal in the Expedition Fund online portal: <https://meopar.smapplify.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.

Q. Inquiries

[Attend the information session](#) on September 17th at 10 am PDT for prospective applicants (or watch the recording) to help with proposal development.

For questions regarding this Call for Proposals contact jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca.

R. Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by MEOPAR's independent review committees. The Research Management Committee will evaluate: Expedition Goals and Quality, Excellence of Research Team and Talent Development, Knowledge Mobilization, and the Plan and Budget (75%). MEOPAR's EDIA and Truth and Reconciliation expert panel will evaluate that section (20%). MEOPAR's Program Manager will evaluate the matching contributions (5%).

Evaluation Criteria – Expedition Fund – Strategic Support Horizon (evenly weighted within categories)

	OUTSTANDING	VERY STRONG	STRONG	MODERATE	INSUFFICIENT
Project goals and quality (25%)	Project is clearly described.	Project is well described.	Project is adequately described.	Project is partially described.	Project is poorly described.
	Project is highly original/innovative	Project is original/innovative	Project is moderately original/innovative	Project is somewhat original/innovative	Project is not original/innovative
	Project will contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project will likely contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project may contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project is unlikely contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project will not contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.
	Project alignment with federal objectives and MEOPAR strategies is explicit and will advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and MEOPAR strategies is clear and is likely to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and MEOPAR strategies is evident and may advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and MEOPAR strategies is unclear and is unlikely to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and MEOPAR strategies is undefined and will not advance federal priorities.
Research Team & Talent Development (20%)	The team is composed of individuals with the discipline, expertise, and experience to achieve all of the project components.	The team is composed of individuals with the expertise and experience to achieve most of the project components.	The team is composed of individuals with the expertise and experience to achieve many of the project components.	The team is composed of individuals with the expertise and experience to achieve some of the project components.	The team is composed of individuals with the discipline, expertise, and experience that is unlikely to achieve the project components
	Expedition experience will significantly improve training and will result in skills that would not have been gained otherwise .	Expedition experience will improve training and result in skills that may not have been gained otherwise .	Expedition experience may result in training and skills that may not have been gained otherwise .	Expedition experience may result in skills that could have been gained otherwise .	The expedition access will not provide notable training opportunities for participants.
Plan, budget, matching contributions (30%)	Plan and budget elements are clearly described .	Plan and budget elements are well described .	Plan and budget elements are adequately described .	Plan and budget elements are partially described .	Plan and budget elements are poorly described .
	Plan and budget elements align with realistic and appropriate timelines.	Plan and budget elements align with realistic timelines.	Plan and budget elements are likely to support a realistic timeline	Plan and budget elements are weakly connected to a timeline that may not be realistic .	Plan and budget elements are unconnected to timelines that are unrealistic .
	Plan and budget elements strongly support outcomes.	Plan and budget elements support outcomes.	Plan and budget elements may support outcomes.	Plan and budget elements are unlikely to support outcomes.	Plan and budget elements are unable to support outcomes.
	Data management plan comprehensively addresses expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan provides details of expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan describes expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan lacks clarity of expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, legal and ethical considerations.	Data management plan is unclear and/or missing one or more of the following : expected data, metadata, near- and long-term storage, and legal and ethical considerations.
	The budget includes excellent matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources (ratio >> 1:1.25).	The budget includes very strong matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources (≈ 1:1.25 or higher).	The budget includes strong matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources (ratio 1:1 - <1.25).	The budget includes moderate matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources (ratio 1:0.8 - <1).	The budget includes poor matching contributions (cash or in-kind) from non-federal sources (ratio of <0.8).
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility & Truth (30%)	The project intentionally addresses EDIA considerations and provides clear evidence of weaving EDIA principles into everyday project activities. These principles guide decision-making, engagement, and the project's evolution . Accountability is embedded through ongoing reflection, shared responsibility, and transparent practices.	The project demonstrates a clear commitment to EDIA, with some evidence of using these principles in project activities. EDIA principles are integrated into core activities, with mechanisms for accountability and continuous improvement.	The project incorporates some consideration of EDIA principles in its structure and activities. There is a stated commitment to accountability , though mechanisms may be emerging or inconsistently applied.	The project shows minimal consideration of EDIA principles and might show some initial steps toward inclusion. Accountability measures are minimal or unclear .	The project lacks evidence of EDIA integration. There are no mechanisms for accountability in place.

	Leadership and crewing are intentionally structured to include diverse perspectives, with strong representation from equity-deserving groups, including in meaningful leadership and decision-making roles.	Leadership and crewing reflect clear consideration of diversity and inclusion, with some representation from equity-deserving groups and evidence of intentional efforts to build an inclusive team.	Leadership and crewing show an understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion, and there is some indication that equity-deserving groups have been considered, though representation or implementation is still limited or not fully demonstrated.	Leadership and crewing show minimal diversity, with little evidence of engagement from equity-deserving groups. Inclusion may be intended but actions are underdeveloped or vague.	Leadership and crewing lack diversity, with no indication of inclusion of equity-deserving groups. Accessibility and cultural safety are not addressed .
	The project demonstrates a deep, respectful understanding of the TRC's Calls to Action and cultural safety. These principles are co-developed with Indigenous partners and are foundational to the project's leadership, values, and direction.	The project clearly aligns with relevant TRC's Calls to Action and shows a strong commitment to cultural safety. Indigenous perspectives inform the project's values and approach.	The project references TRC's Calls to Action and acknowledges the importance of cultural safety. There is a stated commitment , though integration may be partial or emerging .	The project mentions reconciliation or cultural safety, but the connection to TRC's Calls to Action is vague or underdeveloped .	There is little or no evidence of understanding or integrating TRC's Calls to Action or cultural safety principles.
	The project includes sustained, reciprocal engagement with Indigenous communities. Actions are co-developed, culturally safe, and supported by clear accountability mechanisms (e.g., shared decision-making, feedback loops, long-term relationship building).	The project demonstrates meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities, includes specific actions to ensure cultural safety during engagement and knowledge sharing activities. Accountability is addressed through planned reflection or reporting .	The project includes some engagement with Indigenous communities and outlines actions to support cultural safety. Accountability is acknowledged but may be limited in scope .	Engagement with Indigenous communities is minimal or one-directional . Actions are limited , and accountability mechanisms are unclear .	No meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities is described, and there are no actions or accountability measures in place.
Knowledge Mobilization (5%)	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and post-expedition has potential for mainstream media interest in addition to reaching diverse communities .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition will likely reach outside scientific community .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition is typical for scientific community .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition may reach select audiences. No plans for post-expedition .	No knowledge mobilization strategy is mentioned.