Frequently Asked Questions
Advancing Ocean and River Alkalinity Enhancement Research in Canada 2027-28 Call for Proposals

Q: What should I know about the application process and its deadline?

a1. Applications are due 3 December 2026 at 11:59PM ET. You can submit your proposal here.
a2. The Project Lead (or Principal Investigator) must be eligible to hold a grant in their name at their organization.
a3. Please visit https://meopar.ca/oae-rae-research-call-for-proposals/ for further information.

Q: Where can I find guidance on how to use the online application portal?

a1. A detailed user guide for the SurveyMonkey Apply portal is available on the landing page of MEOPAR's online application portal: https://meopar.smapply.io. This guide is available in both English and French. To access it from the portal, look for the words "SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA) User Guide" and follow the links for the English or French version.
a2. The guide provides step-by-step instructions and visual cues on how to navigate the portal, complete your submission, add a collaborator (to complete some or all your application), and submit a request to a 'Recommender' for a letter of support.

Q: Who may serve as the Project Lead (or Principal Investigator) for the proposal?

a. The Project Lead (or Principal Investigator) is the individual responsible for leading the project and receiving the disbursed funds. This person must be eligible to hold a grant in their name at their organization. If your institution is a university, please note that Postdoctoral fellows, PhD, or Master's students are typically ineligible; check your university's policies to confirm eligibility.

Q: What types of organizations are eligible to receive this funding?

a. Eligible recipients of this funding include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks, 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.

Q: If I'm successful with my application, what are the requirements to receive the funding?

a. Each Project Lead (or Principal Investigator) receiving funding will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR (called an Ultimate Recipient Agreement [URA], in which the Primary Applicant is the Ultimate Recipient). The URA identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, project milestones and target completion dates.

Q: If I ask a 'recommender' to submit a letter directly to the online portal, do I need to wait for it to arrive before submitting my application?

a. You may submit your application prior to the receipt of all letters of support from recommenders. Upon submission of each letter of support, you will receive an email notification and if you wish, you can log into the portal to review the letter. Please note that

recommenders are unable to provide letters of support after the application deadline has passed.

Q: Can you submit multiple proposals?

a. Yes. However, the reviewers may decide to fund only one proposal or possibly none at all.

Q: What is the timeframe for funded projects?

a. Projects will begin on or after 1 April 2027 and must conclude by 31 October 2028.

Q: What should applicants include to demonstrate their relevance and impact for this Call for Proposals?

a. Applicants should clearly explain how their project addresses one or more of the OAE/RAE research priorities and identified knowledge gaps outlined in the Call. They should also describe how the proposed work contributes to MEOPAR's objectives and Science Strategy, including your project's potential scientific, environmental, societal, governance, and/or decision-making impacts. Applicants are encouraged to consult the Application Guide, particularly *"Section B. Guidance on the Research and Development Priorities for OAE/RAE in Canada".*

Q: Is this funding limited to supporting OAE/RAE projects that take place within Canada?

a. Yes. This Call for Proposals is intended to support research led by eligible Canadian organizations that addresses Canadian OAE/RAE research priorities. While international collaborations may be included where appropriate, proposals should demonstrate clear relevance to Canadian marine, coastal, estuarine, or marine-terminating river systems, communities, and decision-making needs.

Q: What types of expenses are eligible?

a. Eligible expenses include personnel costs (e.g., a portion of a technician's or administrator's salary who works in your organization and will be contributing to the project), direct costs (e.g., contracted services, equipment, materials and supplies, dissemination activities, and research-related travel and hospitality), and indirect costs (i.e., administrative overhead). Indirect (overhead) costs are eligible up to a maximum of 15%, at a rate appropriate to the context and scale of the project. Applicants requesting indirect costs must complete Appendix B1 (second tab) and provide a justification that explains how the funds will be used, how each expense is calculated, and why the costs are necessary. Rates should not be based solely on a standard flat percentage (e.g., 15%) without consideration of the project's specific circumstances.

Q: What's the difference between matched and leveraged funding?

a1. Matched funds are new, incremental contributions (cash or in-kind) that are secured from non-federal sources, and are essential to meeting the minimum 0.3:1 matching requirement for this Call. These funds must be directly tied to your project's activities and should represent new contributions that would not be available without MEOPAR & Carbon to Sea Canada's funding support. Examples might include staff time from a provincial partner, venue space donated by a university, or cash from a private foundation.

a2. Leveraged funds are existing investments or additional contributions that support the project but do not count toward the required match. These may come from federal sources (e.g., NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, CFI-funded equipment) or other pre-existing initiatives that align with the project's goals. While not eligible for matching, leveraged funds demonstrate broader support and can strengthen your application.
a3. When determining whether a contribution is matched or leveraged funding, follow the flow of funds to its original source. For example, if a project partner is partially supported by a federal grant and is contributing staff time or other in-kind support to your project, the portion ultimately funded by federal sources would generally be considered leveraged rather than matched funding. Contributions supported by non-federal sources may be eligible as matched funding, provided they meet the other requirements outlined above.
a4. For additional guidance about this, click here.

Q: Can funding from international sources be used towards the matched funding requirement?

a. Yes, international funding is eligible if it is directly related to your project. Verification of matched funding may be included with your application through a letter of support or another relevant funding verification document.

Q: What is the timeline for securing matching funds?

a1. Ideally, matching funds will be secured prior to submitting your application, but we recognize that isn't always possible.
a2. For all matched funding, please ensure you identify the contributing partner, the value, and whether the contribution is expected or secured in your budget submission (via Appendix C and the accompanying narrative section in the application form).
a3. You have the option to invite expected contributors to submit a Letter of Support that outlines the anticipated value and form of their contribution (e.g., cash or in-kind). If obtaining a letter is not feasible, you may choose to instead upload a written statement describing the expected support and briefly explaining why obtaining a formal letter wasn't feasible.

Q. Is leveraged funding required?

a. No, unlike matched funding, there is no requirement associated with leveraged funding.

Q: I see that applicants are asked to provide details about how they will integrate Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) and Truth and Reconciliation principles into their projects. What should we do if we don't know enough about EDIA and/or the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action?

a1. To ensure your project meaningfully incorporates EDIA principles, it may be helpful to build a foundational understanding of inclusive approaches that foster equity, diversity, accessibility, and the active participation of people from all backgrounds. This includes intentionally creating space for leadership, decision-making, communication, and engagement that is representative of, and responsive to, a wide range of voices and experiences. If you require further information or resources about EDIA, you can consult this website.

a2. 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.
a3. You can watch MEOPAR's webinar on exploring inclusion and reconciliation in proposals here.

Q: I am interested in studying headwater contributions to baseline river alkalinity over large areas. Would this be eligible under the call?

a. For projects focused on River Alkalinity Enhancement (RAE), the focus must be on marine-terminating rivers. While research on upstream or headwater processes may be included, the proposed work must ultimately relate to a river that flows into the ocean, and some aspect of the project must focus on the downstream marine environment.

Q: Are projects that address all three OAE/RAE research priorities more competitive, or is it acceptable to focus deeply on a single priority area?

a. The intent of the call is to support focused, in-depth research within a priority area. The illustrative examples are provided to highlight high-priority topics and stimulate ideas, not to suggest that projects must address multiple themes. Projects that demonstrate depth and a strong rationale within a single priority area will be evaluated favourably. However, if a project meaningfully connects multiple priority areas, applicants should clearly articulate those linkages, as well-integrated interdisciplinary approaches may also strengthen a proposal.

Q: For the social and community-focused component, is there a preference for projects that include on-the-ground engagement activities versus projects that focus on developing engagement frameworks or approaches?

a. No. Both approaches are valuable and there is no preference for one over the other. Projects may focus on developing frameworks and approaches, conducting engagement activities, or combining both. Applicants should clearly articulate the rationale for their approach and how it will contribute to the project's objectives and anticipated outcomes.

Q: Who can I contact with other questions?

b. Contact Kristi Carter at kristi.carter@meopar.ca and Kohen Bauer at kohen@carbontosea.org.