Smart Prosperity Institute
1 Stewart Street, 3rd Floor | Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5
institute.smartprosperity.ca

Institut pour l'IntelliProspérité
1, rue Stewart, 3e étage | Ottawa (Ontario), K1N 6N5
institut.intelliprosperite.ca

Call for Research Proposals:

Strengthening Canadian Clean Growth, Competitiveness and Economic Resilience

Submissions due: 20 January 2026

The Economics and Environmental Policy Research Network (EEPRN) is launching a new request for research proposals (RfP) targeting policy-relevant academic **research that strengthens the evidence base for Canada's clean growth and competitiveness strategies in a decarbonizing economy.** This RfP is designed to feed into emerging policy-oriented research needs on a clean energy transition that ensures Canada's continued competitiveness, prosperity and resilience in a low-carbon future.

The following themes illustrate key areas of interest for this funding round. Proposed research may address one or more of these themes, or related questions, provided that projects clearly contribute to understanding how Canada can align clean growth, competitiveness and economic resilience strategies. Examples of questions within each theme are provided, but submissions are not limited to these suggestions and other related proposals will also be welcomed:

1. **Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness in a Clean Growth Economy**

- What are the productivity and competitiveness impacts of firm-level adoption of low-carbon technologies in Canada, and what barriers or enablers shape uptake across sectors?
- What evidence exists from theory, practice, modelling or case studies that low carbon policies or clean growth regulatory approaches can increase Canadian productivity, particularly in resource-intensive sectors? How can this evidence be applied to inform clean industrial or major project investments?
- What challenges exist for local and regional governments in the establishment of clean energy and/or low-carbon industrial value chains? Are there examples of successful approaches or governance innovations that could be scaled up to support local/regional efforts to inform federal policy design or investments for greater competitiveness and economic resilience?
- How do different or novel approaches to measuring productivity or competitiveness impact our understanding of or responses to the questions above, vs more conventional metrics? Is there evidence that reliance on more conventional productivity metrics may miss key insights related to enhancing clean productivity or competitiveness outcomes in Canada?

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2. Enhancing Climate Policy Resilience and Robustness in Canada

- What evidence exists regarding the nature and magnitude of spillovers (positive or negative) arising from Canadian climate and industrial policies or policy "packages" (e.g. combinations of carbon pricing, regulations and subsidies) to date, and how have governance arrangements shaped which emerged?
- What policy frameworks or institutional arrangements can strengthen Canada's capacity to generate, diffuse, and capture positive clean innovation spillovers from clean industrial or major project investments? Is there evidence from theory, practice, modelling or cases studies that climate or clean growth policies can improve industrial or trade competitiveness?
- What strategic approaches to policy development or implementation can best align Canada's climate/industrial/trade policies to maximize positive spillovers and minimize negative ones? Given Canada's strong integration with U.S. and global markets, as well as the importance of federal-provincial/territorial coordination, there is particular interest in how multi-level governance (federal, provincial/territorial, Indigenous) and international policy developments (e.g. U.S. or EU measures) shape Canada's ability to generate and capture positive spillovers.
- What evidence exists from theory, practice, modelling or case studies of the impacts of increasingly ambiguous or uncertain policy environments on the nature or magnitude of spillovers arising from Canadian climate or clean growth policies to date?
- What new metrics or indicators are needed to inform decision-making, set targets and track progress on clean industrial or major project investments? Are there opportunities for big data or AI applications to support these objectives?

3. Centring Indigenous Rights and Title in Canadian Clean Growth Research, and/or Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Outcomes while Strengthening Canadian Clean Growth, Competitiveness and Economic Resilience.

- What innovative regulatory, institutional, or governance reforms are needed to ensure recognition of Indigenous rights and title within clean growth and major industrial or natural resource projects/investments? For example, proposals could explore UNDRIP and UNDA/FPIC implementation in major projects, recognition of Indigenous rights in regulatory or project governance frameworks, or mechanisms for revenue sharing or co-management.
- What are the short or long-term impacts (positive or negative) of policies or approaches to drive resource efficiency and lower environmental footprints of major industrial or natural resource projects on Indigenous peoples, equity-deserving groups, and/or low-income Canadians?
- What policy innovations can strengthen the resilience (understood broadly, and including Indigenous and non-Indigenous understandings of 'economic resilience') and long-term sustainability of remote Indigenous and/or resource-based communities facing the combined pressures of climate change, economic transition, and demographic change?

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Proposals should describe work that is focused on informing Canadian policy discussions, with projects starting no earlier than 01 January 2026 (backdating of expenses to this date is allowed). Projects may address federal, provincial, or regional policy challenges, but should clearly articulate how the research will inform decision-making relevant to Canada's clean growth, competitiveness and economic resilience objectives. Applications are welcome that consider Indigenous-defined indicators of sustainability, prosperity and relational accountability in addition to or instead of Western economic metrics.

Proposals led by Indigenous researchers or researchers who identify as members of minority or equity-seeking groups are particularly encouraged. Funding recipients retain full ownership of all intellectual property (including their research, conclusions, and materials published), but grant licence for the Smart Prosperity Institute to publish all final papers, reports and other submitted deliverables on the SPI website, so that they may be disseminated to the Economics and Environmental Policy Research Network.

HOW TO APPLY:

Research proposals are due no later than 5pm PT on 20 January 2026, with a complete submission comprised of two parts:

- Submission of a completed proposal (see template below) to research.network@smartprosperity.ca
- Completion of the following Microsoft Form

Types of Proposals: Proposals describing full research projects (i.e. original research, data analysis, case studies) or research development work (i.e. literature synthesis, dataset development) will be considered for funding.

- **Research development activities** can apply for funding generally not exceeding CAD$10,000, for research scoping, dataset development, or other research development work to be completed no later than 31 March 2027.
- **Full research projects** can apply for up to CAD$30,000, with projects again to be completed no later than 31 March 2027. To ensure timely delivery and completion, full proposal applicants are particularly encouraged to consider how to initiate their projects during the Winter 2026 academic term, noting (as outlined below) that expenses back-dated to 01 January 2026 are eligible.

Funding Eligibility: Proposals should describe work that is focused on informing Canadian policy discussions, with **projects starting no earlier than 01 January 2026** (backdating of expenses to this date is allowed, to include costs of student RA time in developing proposals, or initial (advance) project work).

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In both cases (i.e. for research development activities or full research projects), proposals can only request funding for research activities up to and including a **project end date of 31 March 2027 (at the latest),** with all deliverables to be submitted within 30 days of the project end date.

Requests for funding extensions past 31 March 2027 will not be considered, and all project funds not expended by this date will be forfeit by the project and returned to the sponsor.

Deliverables: All proposals should specify intermediate deliverables and/or updates to be submitted every 6 months, such as draft working papers, presentation of interim results, interim literature review findings, status reports or other summaries of preliminary findings.

All proposals should also specify final deliverables to be submitted at the end of the project. While a variety of deliverable formats are welcome (e.g. webinars, presentations, policy briefs, videos, op-eds, shareables, other online or social media content), at a minimum all projects must include **BOTH**:

- **A final report**: such as a published academic journal article, a working paper published in the Smart Prosperity Clean Economy Working Paper Series, or a background literature review/synthesis/report on dataset development (in the case of research development projects)
- **A short, policy-maker oriented blog post** summarizing key findings.

Project proposals that leverage other sources of funding or build on current pilot projects or other research initiatives are encouraged (but not required). Research proposals may be submitted by faculty, graduate students, or post-doctoral fellows. (Proposals by graduate students must include a signed letter from a permanent faculty member agreeing to supervise the proposed research).

We will endeavour to make funding decisions promptly, with successful applicants notified in early February, to allow for engagement of students or other project expenses in the Winter 2026 term. If you have any questions, please submit them to research.network@smartprosperity.ca

RESEARCH PROPOSAL TEMPLATE:

*[This research proposal must not exceed **2 pages, excluding the deliverables and budget tables shown below.** Please submit this completed template as a pdf to research.network@smartprosperity.ca and **complete the 2nd part of your submission via this Microsoft Forms** feel free to delete any instruction text in blue when completing this template.]*

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Title of Research Project: *[Provide brief title describing your proposed project]*

Keywords: *[Provide several keywords describing your proposed project]*

Name of Research Supervisor(s)/Principal Investigator(s): *[Name, Position, Department/Institute/etc., University, E-mail]*

Name of Researcher(s)/Student(s) (if known at this time): *[Name, Degree sought, Department/Institute/etc., University, E-mail]*

Type of Proposal: ☐ Full research project (to be completed by 31 March 2027)

[select one] ☐ Research development activities (to be completed by 31 March 2027)

Total funds requested: *[Not exceeding $30,000 for a full research proposal and $10,000 for research development activities]*

Details on any additional leveraged funding that will also support this project: *[Applicants are requested to disclose additional research funding received for this project from outside sources]*

Anticipated end date of project: *[When all funds will be spent by: must be no later than 31 March 2027]*

Background/Problem Description: *[Provide background and/or description of the research problem, along with a brief overview of the relevant literature.]*

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Objectives and Research Question(s): *[Clearly state the research objectives of your proposal. What research questions is your project seeking to answer? How does this contribute to the existing research literature?]*

Methodology: *[Explain how you plan to answer these research questions.]*

Activities and Timeline: *[Explain what activities you plan to undertake and outline your expected timeline for these activities.]*

Summary of Outputs: *[Please fill out the table below, indicating both the type of intermediate and final outputs you expect to produce (e.g. working papers, policy briefs, detailed literature reviews, blog posts, webinars, conference presentations etc.) and an estimate of when they are expected. All successful applicants will be expected to present their final research results at either our network Research Symposium or other related event organized by SPI, as timing aligns.*

All proposals should specify intermediate deliverables and/or updates to be submitted every 6 months, such as draft working papers, presentation of interim results, interim literature review findings, status reports or other summaries of preliminary findings. All proposals should also specify final deliverables to be submitted at the end of the project, including:

i. ***A final report****: such as a published academic journal article, a working paper published in the Smart Prosperity Clean Economy Working Paper Series, or a background literature review/synthesis/report on dataset development (in the case of research development projects)*

ii. ***A short, policy-maker oriented blog post*** *summarizing key findings*

Deliverable(s)	**01 January 2026 to 31 March 2027**	
	Jan 2026 – Oct 2026	**Nov 2026 - March 2027**

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Required project update calls with Smart Prosperity	Sept 2026	Mar 2027
Intermediate deliverables (insert type and expected dates) *(please specify interim deliverables – at least one by the project mid-point -- to allow progress to be evaluated)*		
Final Blog Post (expected date)		
Final Report (expected date)		
Other final deliverables *(please specify, including type and expected date(s))*		

Cost Breakdown: *[Please fill out the table below detailing the various budget components of your proposal:*

- *Budgets must explicitly reflect the proportion of funds to be spent per fiscal year (i.e. between 01 January 2026 and 31 March 2026; and between 01 April 2026 and 31 March 2027).*
- ***All awarded funds not expended by 31 March 2027 will not carry over to the following year but will be required to be returned to the funder. Absolutely no requests for project extensions or continuation of funding past 31 March 2027 will be considered.***
- *Please do not include university overhead costs in the cost breakdown - the terms of the funding agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada do not allow us to fund overhead.*
- *Successful applicants will be expected to present their research (once completed) either in-person in Ottawa or virtually, as invited by SPI. If relevant, travel costs to attend the symposium will be provided separately (do not include this travel in your proposed budget).*
- *While we encourage applicants to include plans in their proposal to present their research at other academic or related conferences and events, please do not include funding for conference travel in your proposed budget. Funding for such travel will be awarded on a competitive basis with proposals to be submitted to SPI for consideration once project results have been obtained.*
- *Travel expenses directly related to research activities (e.g. project group meetings, interviews etc.) are eligible for funding and may be included in the budget template.*

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Item *For each item, provide further cost breakdown if necessary*	01 January 2026 to 31 March 2026			01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027		
	Requested from EEPRN	**Provided (cash or in-kind) by researcher or other funders**	**Total**	**Requested from EEPRN**	**Provided (cash or in-kind) by researcher or other funders**	**Total**
Student / Research Assistant Stipend(s)						
Research-related Travel & Accommodations						
Purchase of Data or other Data Access Costs						
Other (e.g. Software, survey expenses, materials or other supplies) *Please specify.*						
TOTAL	***$ (CAD)***	***$ (CAD)***	***$ (CAD)***	***$ (CAD)***	***$ (CAD)***	***$ (CAD)***

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