

Call for Solutions

INTRODUCTION

Climate Solutions Prize Organization (“**CSPO**”) is pleased to invite teams from qualifying organizations in Quebec to participate in its inaugural Climate Solutions Prize – Quebec Prize (the “**Prize**”).

The primary goal of the Prize is to help solve the climate crisis by galvanizing students in Quebec to develop innovative climate solutions. Selected teams will use awards from the Prize to further and, in due course, publish their research.

This Call for Solutions (“**Call**”), together with the Climate Solutions Prize – Terms and Conditions located [<https://climatesolutionsprize.com/competitions.asp?id=94>](the “**Terms and Conditions**”) and other applicable terms referenced herein or therein, govern the participation of qualifying teams in the Prize. Please review these documents carefully before registering for the Prize. **BY PARTICIPATING IN THE PRIZE, YOU AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, WHICH MAY BE MODIFIED BY JNF CANADA FROM TIME TO TIME AS DESCRIBED IN THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OR THE CALL, YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PRIZE.**

To contact CSPO for further information about the Prize, please contact info@climatesolutionsprize.com.

1. Objectives and Consequences of the Prize

- 1.1 Spurring increased funding and investment in innovation in Quebec to solve the climate crisis through breakthrough solutions that will decrease carbon emissions and/or increase carbon sequestration.
- 1.2 Promoting the best ideas to speed the process of implementing the global and practical solutions that will most reduce climate change.
- 1.3 Positively impacting Quebec's economy and global image by being a leading source of impactful solutions for the world's most pressing issue.

2. The Prize

The total funding for the Prize in 2024 is CAD \$160,000 (the "**Award**"), consisting of CAD \$80,000 contributed by CSPO and CAD \$80,000 contributed by Mitacs Inc. ("**Mitacs**"). The receipt of the Award is conditional upon full compliance with this Call and the Terms and Conditions, including, but not limited, the winning Team executing an award agreement with CSPO (the "**Award Agreement**") that includes commitments to continue to advance and publish research on the solution (as more particularly described below and in the Terms and Conditions). For greater certainty, the Award Agreement will provide for the payment of CSPO's portion of the Award to the winning Team, and the winning Team must apply to Mitacs separately, and agree to Mitacs' terms and conditions separate and apart from its agreement to the Call and the Terms and Conditions, as described herein, in order to receive Mitacs' portion of the Award from Mitacs.

The winner of the Award will be announced on June 18, 2024. Other important dates are set forth below.

3. Eligibility – Proposed Solution

- 3.1 To be eligible for consideration, the climate solution proposed by a Team must focus on one or more of the following areas:
 - (a) innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄));

- (b) innovations to improve energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or energy storage; and/or
- (c) innovations to increase carbon sequestration, whether by forests or other natural systems or innovations in artificial carbon sequestration.

3.2 In addition:

- (a) the solution's proof of concept must have been validated;
- (b) the solution must be in or entering its developmental stage; or
- (c) the solution must be on the verge of being ready for commercialization.

3.3 Each Team may only propose one climate solution. As more particularly described below, a Team will propose its solution in an initial application (each, a "**Initial Submission**"), and if it is selected to participate in a subsequent round of the Prize competition, in a detailed application together with a recorded video "pitch" (each, a "**Detailed Submission**"). After reviewing the Detailed Submissions, certain Teams will be selected to participate in interviews with the International Prize Jury. For purposes of this Call and the Terms and Conditions, the Initial Submission and the Detailed Submission are collectively referred to as a "**Submission**" and the contents of a Submission as the "**Submission Materials**".

4. Eligibility - Teams

4.1 The Award will be made to a Team from a Qualifying Organization only. For purposes of this Call and the Terms and Conditions, "**Qualifying Organizations**" consist of Quebec-based universities and colleges who are "qualified donees" as that term is defined in the (Canada) *Income Tax Act*.

4.2 In order to participate in the Prize, a Qualifying Organization must register a team through the Climate Solutions Prize website [www.climatesolutionsprize.com] (the "**Website**") (each, a "**Team**") by April 7, 2023. For greater certainty, references in this Call or Terms and Conditions to a "Team" are to be construed as references to the Qualifying Organization (i.e., the legal entity) that the Team Leader (on his/her/their own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the applicable Team) registered the Team. A Qualifying Organization may register more than one Team, provided at least half of the members do not overlap with any other Team. If a

Qualifying Organization registers a Team where more than half of the members overlap with another Team, the Team that registered first will be allowed to continue and the Team that registered second will be disqualified. The sole determinant of

the time for the purposes of the Prize will be the official time-keeping device(s) used by CSPO.

- 4.3 The Team registration must be completed by a “**Team Leader**” who: (a) is a professor or supervisor at the Qualifying Organization and is eligible to receive research funding from Mitacs; (b) has the authority and permission from the Qualifying Organization to participate in the Prize on behalf of the Qualifying Organization, as well as on behalf of all other members of the applicable Team; (c) has the authority to legally bind the Qualifying Organization to this Call, Terms and Conditions and any other required documentation contemplated in this Call and Terms and Conditions; and (d) is supervising the proposed research activities at the Qualifying Organization throughout the term of the Award Agreement. If a Team Leader ceases to meet the criteria described in subparagraphs (a), (b), and (c) at any time during the Prize competition (e.g., because they have moved to another institution), the Team will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to designate a new Team Leader who meets the foregoing criteria.
- 4.4 A Team must be comprised of the Team Leader and one or more students at the Qualifying Organization. Further, in order to remain on a Team, a student must remain a student at the Qualifying Organization for the term of the Award Agreement (which is anticipated to be at least two years from the date of the Award).
- 4.5 As part of the registration process, the Qualifying Organization will need to disclose and obtain each Team Member’s consent to disclose the names, contact information of each Team member. All Team members must (a) be above the age of majority, and (b) agree in writing to abide by this Call and Terms and Conditions in the form of acknowledgement made available by CSPO (each, a “**Team Member Acknowledgement**”) as part of the registration process. Team Leaders will be responsible for ensuring that all Team members have agreed to and submitted the Team Member Acknowledgement and for communicating with and receiving communications from CSPO.
- 4.6 Please review the Terms and Conditions for other details about Teams.

5. Competition Phases

In accordance with the timelines herein, the Prize competition will take place in the following phases:

5.1 Eligible Teams will submit a Detailed Submission, not exceeding ten (10) A4 pages, with Times New Roman or David 11 or 12 fonts and with 1.5 spacing, and a recorded video “pitch”. The Detailed Submissions must be submitted in English or French, and must include the following elements:

- (a) a general description of the proposed solution that JNF Canada can make public;
- (b) a description of the working plan for the proposed research and development including:
 - (i) background information, including a description of the current situation and knowledge, applicable experience of the Team and its capacity to bring the project to implementation;
 - (ii) a description of the method and/or the technology;
 - (iii) a working plan and development schedules, minimum one (1) year and maximum three (3) years;
 - (iv) measuring tools for success, including specific estimates of annual tons of greenhouse gases either sequestered or removed from production with calculations of cost per ton related to other market solutions;
 - (v) the importance of development and innovation in the specific field and in general; and
 - (vi) budget details (in CAD) according to the working plan divided to years, description, with explanation of how the Award would be spent;
 - (vii) a description of any initial development and early results, if any; and

- (viii) financing from other sources, if any; and

The deadline for submitting Detailed Submissions is June 14, 2024.

5.5 In addition, the Teams that submitted the top 10 Initial Submissions will each be invited to apply to Mitacs for Mitacs' share of the Award and will be provided with links to the applicable Mitacs forms for completion.

5.6 The odds of being selected to receive the Award depend on the number and calibre (based on the judging criteria) of eligible Submissions and virtual interviews submitted and received by CSPO.

5.7 The winning Team will be announced on June 18, 2024, and the Award will be awarded at an award ceremony in Montreal Quebec, Canada at the Grand Quai that the winning Team must attend as a condition of receiving the Award. Without limiting the foregoing, CSPO, Mitacs, and any other Prize or related event sponsors, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively, the "**Released Parties**") will not be in any way responsible (and

for greater certainty, are not obligated to offer any substitute Award) in the event that any part of the Prize, Award or award ceremony is delayed, postponed, rescheduled or cancelled for any reason whatsoever (including, without limitation, due to illness or health risks, or any governmental or health authority orders, measures, directives or guidance in response to such illness or risks, such as, without limitation, those that may be implemented to mitigate COVID-19 transmission, or due to any other cause of any kind or nature whatsoever).

5.8 Please review the Terms and Conditions for other details about the Award.

6. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the Scientific Evaluation Committee, Enhanced Evaluation Committee, and International Prize Jury, in evaluating Submissions:

6.1 To be considered, all Submissions must conform with the requirements of this Call and the Terms and Conditions.

6.2 The Submissions will be judged and scored according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Breakdown of Scoring
Amount of expected impact, in terms of tons of greenhouse gases, with focus on ability to scale and deploy the solution in a timely manner	30%
Level of innovation and breakthrough	20%
The ability to develop and implement the solution in Quebec	15%
The cost-effective ratio of the proposal to ensure affordability in implementation	15%
Ability to execute and meet project schedules and budgets	10%
The professionalism of the submission	10%
Total Scoring	100%

6.3 The chances of being selected depend upon the number of Teams and the calibre (based on the judging criteria) of the eligible Submissions that are submitted and received by CSPO. In the event of tied scores for Submissions at any phase of the Prize, the Committee or Jury, as applicable, will be asked to vote again (by secret ballot) until the tie has been broken.

7. Funding Partners

Note: Additional partners/internal collaborators, including from industry and the private sector, may join this funding initiative over the coming year.

7.1 General

In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between this Call, the Terms and Conditions and disclosures or other statements contained in any Prize-related materials, including, but not limited to: television, print or online advertising and/or any instructions or interpretations of these Terms and Conditions given by any representative of JNF Canada; the Terms and Conditions shall prevail, govern and control to the fullest extent permitted by law. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Call or the Terms and Conditions shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. In the event that any provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable or illegal, the Terms and Conditions and this Call shall otherwise remain in effect and shall be construed in accordance with the terms as if the invalid or illegal provision were not contained herein.

8. Contact Us

8.1 If you have comments or questions about the Prize, please send us an email at info@climatesolutionsprize.com