

NATIONAL TRADE CORRIDORS FUND

APPLICANT'S GUIDE – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PHASE

Continuous Call for Proposals for Trade Diversification Projects



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

Canada

National Trade Corridors Fund expression of interest applicant's guide: Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects

Preface

On November 21, 2018, the Fall Economic Statement (FES) proposed an Export Diversification Strategy to increase Canada's overseas exports by 50% by 2025. One of the three components of the Export Diversification Strategy is investments in transportation infrastructure to support trade. This includes accelerating more than \$750 million in remaining National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) funding over the next five years for projects to address transportation capacity constraints and to diversify our trade with overseas markets such as Asia and Europe.

To that end, the NTCF Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects has been launched to expedite and prioritize projects that will support trade diversification and that provide the greatest economic benefits, based on data and analysis of key bottlenecks and supply chain challenges.

The Continuous call for proposals represents the next phase of the NTCF program and will specifically target projects that:

- improve the fluidity and/or performance of the transportation system to contribute to an increase in the value and/or volume of goods exported from Canada to overseas markets
- illustrate potential to increase existing or generate new overseas trade flows as a result of the investment
- add capacity or address bottlenecks near major ports, airports or along road and rail corridors in Canada that contribute to generating or increasing overseas trade

Unlike previous NTCF calls, this Continuous call for proposals does not have a submission deadline. Instead, applicants can submit an expression of interest at any time after the call opens on **January 15, 2019**. The Continuous call for proposals will stay open as long as there are funds available.

The Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects is a separate NTCF proposal intake process from the Northern call for proposals launched on November 19, 2018. The Northern call targets projects located in Canada's territorial North. Applicants with projects located in Canada's three territories should submit their application through the Northern call for proposals: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/infrastructure/apply-ntcf-northern-call.html>.

Continuous call applications – key points to remember

- New essential criteria: the Continuous call targets projects that will diversify Canada’s trade, and alleviate bottlenecks that constrain Canadian businesses from accessing global markets.
- An expression of interest submission is required to be considered for funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund Continuous call. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal.
- New for 2019: Expressions of interest for the Continuous call must now be submitted using an online application portal on the Transport Canada website. A GCKey is required to access and submit the expression of interest form. Detailed guidance on accessing and completing the expression of interest is provided in Part 2 – The expression of interest application of this guide.

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Part 1 – The Continuous call for proposals

1. About the National Trade Corridors Fund

The National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) is a dedicated source of funding that will help infrastructure owners and users to invest in the critical assets that support economic activity and the physical movement of goods and people in Canada. It represents a long-term commitment by the federal government to work with stakeholders on strategic infrastructure projects that help to address transportation bottlenecks, vulnerabilities and congestion.

The NTCF is one component of the Investing in Canada Plan, the federal government’s strategy for addressing long-term infrastructure needs in Canada and supporting middle class growth and jobs. At the same time, it is a key component of Transportation 2030, the Minister of Transport’s strategic plan for the future of transportation. The development of this vision, including the NTCF, has been informed by extensive engagement with Canadians from coast to coast to coast along with insights contained in the 2016 *Canada Transportation Act Review* report.

NTCF funding will be allocated to projects based on their individual merits, which will be assessed according to how they help to strengthen the efficiency and resilience of transportation assets that are critical for Canada’s continued success in international commerce. This includes, for example, ports, airports, roads and railways, international bridges and border crossings—assets that are the primary building blocks of supply chains that enable the physical exchange of goods around the world.

NTCF – National call for proposals

A total of \$2 billion has been allocated over 11 years for the NTCF. In the NTCF’s first round of funding (July 4 – November 6, 2017), Transport Canada committed more than \$800 million of this allocation to nationally significant projects across Canada. A list of projects funded by the NTCF to date can be found on the NTCF website: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/programs-policies/programs/projects.html>.

NTCF – Northern call for proposals

Up to \$400 million was set aside within the overall \$2 billion NTCF allocation to support trade and transportation infrastructure investments in Canada’s three territories: Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. The NTCF’s second call, launched November 19, 2018, is for proposals targeting Canada’s territorial North. Comprehensive project proposals for the NTCF Northern call must be submitted by March 29, 2019.

More information and guidance on applying for the Northern call can be found on the NTCF Northern call web page: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/infrastructure/apply-ntcf-northern-call.html>.

NTCF – Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects (the Continuous call)

Launched on January 15, 2019, the National Trade Corridors Fund Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects, will accelerate investment of the NTCF’s remaining funding over the next five years, in line with the objectives of the Export Diversification Strategy that was announced in the 2018 Fall Economic Statement. This Continuous call for proposals has no fixed submission deadline and is

expected to commit more than \$750 million in remaining unallocated NTCF funding to trade-enabling projects that can be completed within the next five years. Applicants are welcome to submit their expression of interest at any time. Transport Canada will assess the expressions of interest as they are received. Applications that meet the eligibility criteria with a satisfactory trade diversification or trade generation component, and supporting data (more details are provided in [Part 1 – Section 4. Assessment criteria](#) of this guide), will be invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal within two months of being invited to do so.

The priorities of this Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects differ from those of the first national call, and from the recent northern call. It is imperative that applicants to the Continuous call for proposals use this guide (that is, the expression of interest applicant's guide: Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects) when preparing their expression of interest submission. A second, separate applicant's guide for the Continuous call for proposals will be made available for the comprehensive project proposal phase on February 1, 2019.

Canada Infrastructure Bank

As part of the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Plan, the Government established the Canada Infrastructure Bank. The Bank is investing up to \$35 billion from the federal government into transformative infrastructure projects. These investments are being made strategically, with a focus on large projects that will be in the public interest, such as:

- public transit systems
- green infrastructure projects
- transportation projects

At least \$5 billion will be invested through the Bank to address trade and transportation priorities across the country.

Projects submitted for consideration of funding under this NTCF Continuous Call for Proposals may be referred to the Canada Infrastructure Bank for further consideration. Please note the Bank's application process would be separate from the NTCF process.

To learn more about the Canada Infrastructure Bank, please visit the following web page:

<https://cib-bic.ca/en/>.

2. Objectives of the Continuous Call

The NTCF Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects will target projects that meet at least one of the following two criteria:

- improve the fluidity and/or performance of the transportation system to contribute to an increase in the value and/or volume of goods exported from Canada to overseas markets
- increase existing or generate new, overseas trade flows as a result of the investment

In addition, evaluations of proposed projects will consider the extent to which the project will add capacity or address bottlenecks near major ports, airports or along road and rail corridors in Canada that contribute to generating or increasing overseas trade.

Expression of interest submissions for the Continuous call must clearly demonstrate how a project will diversify trade and alleviate bottlenecks, by providing specific and quantitative evidence on the:

- economic sectors and commodities that would benefit
- traffic volumes and volumes/values of trade that would be served
- international markets that would be accessed

Projects funded under this Continuous call for proposals will help achieve the ultimate NTCF outcome, which is to make the entire Canadian transportation network (by rail, road, air, or water) more efficient, safe, and secure for the movement of international trade within and beyond Canada's borders.

The NTCF is guided by the following overall program objectives:

- support the fluidity of Canadian trade to improve supply chain performance
- increase the resilience of the Canadian transportation system in a changing climate and ensure it adapts to new technologies and future innovation
- address unique and urgent needs in Canada's territorial North related to transportation safety and economic and social development
- leverage investments from multiple partners as we work with provinces, territories, municipalities and the private sector

The following reflects the intended immediate, intermediate, and ultimate NTCF program outcomes:

- capacity added to the transportation system measured at the project level (for example, lane-kilometers added through highway twinning)
- change in the variability of supply chain performance, specifically the time it takes goods to move from the beginning of the supply chain to the end (for example, fluidity)
- volume of freight throughput per unit of time
- transportation system productivity, measured by annual changes of volume of freight throughput per unit of input (capital, fuel, and labour), measured for the transportation sector and by mode (for example, freight rail and air)
- basic northern transportation infrastructure and efficiency increased, as measured by reduced cargo off-load times for sealifts, and increased weather information availability and reliability

The NTCF overall program objectives and intended outcomes are important secondary considerations in the assessment of projects for each NTCF Call for Proposals. While the expression of interest should focus on demonstrating that your proposed project meets the specific objectives, and assessment criteria of the Continuous call for proposals described in [Part 1 – Section 4. Assessment criteria](#) of this guide, also be sure to consider how the project will help to achieve the overall program objectives and

outcomes, as you will be asked to substantiate these benefits in the comprehensive project proposal, if your expression of interest is screened in.

3. Requirements to be eligible for funding

To be eligible for funding under the NTCF, the following requirements must be satisfied.

3.1 Eligible recipients

- provinces and territories, municipalities and local, regional, provincial and territorial entities
- Indigenous governments¹, tribal councils and other forms of regional government, national or regional Indigenous organizations or development corporations
- public sector organizations²
- federal crown corporations or agencies³
- not-for-profit and for-profit* private sector organizations
- Canada port authorities
- National Airport Systems airport authorities
- universities and colleges

* Please note: Contributions to for-profit private sector organizations through the NTCF will be considered only when they advance the Canadian public good.

3.2 Eligible activities for contributions

To be considered for funding, projects must support at least one of the specific objectives of the NTCF Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects (see [Part 1 – Section 2. Objectives of the Continuous call](#)). Contributions will be provided in support of the following eligible activities, when undertaken to complete a project objective:

- prepare (for example, plan, demolish, prepare site), construct, rehabilitate, and improve infrastructure assets related to transportation, such as:
 - infrastructure along corridors that involve more than one mode of transportation (for example, highways, bridges, interchanges, airports, ports, rail yards, facilities, access

¹ An Indigenous government means 1) a band council within the meaning of section 2 of the *Indian Act*; or 2) a government or authority established pursuant to a Self-Government Agreement or a Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and an Aboriginal people of Canada, that has been approved, given effect and declared valid by federal legislation; or 3) a government or authority that has been declared valid by provincial or territorial legislation.

² A body that is established by or under provincial/territorial statute or by regulation or is wholly owned by a province, territory or municipality (for example, commissions, boards, certain port authorities, provincial crown corporations).

³ Funding approved for capital projects led by a Federal Crown Corporation or agency would not be administered via a contribution agreement; rather, the funding would be vote transferred to the appropriate department/agency following Treasury Board approval. This funding would not be a substitute for financing ongoing operating costs.

roads), including those that provide access to border crossing facilities, and that make the best use of the overall transportation system to support international trade

- Grade separations that provide more efficient and safer road and rail interaction
- studies (feasibility, environmental, planning and integration), including computer and simulation modelling, to guide the development of infrastructure projects and technology applications
- acquire and install technologies and equipment that advance and support the efficient movement of goods to international markets and help integrate transportation modes in Canada's trade corridors (for example, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and radio frequency or optical identification readers)

3.3 Geographic location

The project must be located in Canada.

3.4 Project start and completion date

The project must be useable for its intended purpose no later than December 31, 2027. All final reports and project financial transactions on the part of the Government of Canada must be concluded by March 31, 2028.

3.5 Maximum contribution

The amount of funding provided under the NTCF will take into consideration other sources of funding (including funding from other Canadian government entities) available to the recipient and will be subject to the eligibility requirements, and maximum amounts payable for the program.

The maximum contribution amount requested per project **must not exceed \$500 million**. The maximum level of total Canadian government funding (municipal, provincial, territorial and federal) authorized by this program's terms and conditions must not exceed **100%** of total eligible expenditures for any project. Preference may also be given to applicants for projects that seek less than \$50 million from the NTCF program.

To ensure that NTCF funding commitments are the minimum necessary to complete eligible project activities, Transport Canada's maximum contribution will be up to **50%** of the total eligible expenditures for a project, with the following exceptions:

- public-private partnerships (P3) projects where the maximum contribution will be up to 33% of the total eligible expenditures
- transportation projects in the Territories, where the maximum contribution will be up to 75% of the total eligible expenditures (Note that applicants with projects located in the territories should submit their application through the Northern call for proposals)
- projects with Federal Crown Corporations where the maximum contribution will be up to 100% of the total eligible expenditures

3.6 Eligible and ineligible expenditures

Contributions will be made towards eligible expenditures directly related to eligible projects that, in the opinion of the Minister or his delegated representative, are reasonable, and required to achieve the objectives and results of the NTCF program. These expenditures must be incurred on or after the signature of a funding agreement.

A full list of eligible and ineligible expenses is provided in [Annex A – Eligible and ineligible expenditures](#).

If Transport Canada determines that an application does not have sufficient information to make a decision on whether the project meets the requirements to be eligible for funding outlined in Section 3 of the guide above, the applicant may be asked to revise and resubmit their application with new information. In these cases, Transport Canada will only review the responses given for the questions pertaining specifically to these requirements (Sections 1, 2, 4, and 5 of the application questionnaire). This review would not consider, and does not preclude the possibility of, any additional errors or missing information elsewhere in the submitted application.

4. Assessment criteria

4.1 Essential criteria

In addition to satisfying the requirements in [Part 1 – Section 3. Requirements to be eligible for funding](#), the following will be used to assess the application for funding:

- the relevance of the project outcome(s) to the specific Continuous call for proposals' priorities identified in [Part 1 – Section 2. Objectives of the Continuous call](#) of this guide, and described in more detail in the table below
- the quality and completeness of the information in the expressions of interest form that you submit, as well as the subsequent comprehensive project proposal (if you are invited to provide one)

The priorities targeted in the Continuous call for proposals are identified below. Project evaluation will consider the extent to which the proposed project satisfies **one or both** of the following criteria:

Table 1: Continuous call essential criteria

Continuous Call Selection Criteria	Evaluation Details
<p>1) Improves the fluidity and/or performance of the transportation system to contribute to an increase in the value and/or volume of goods exported from Canada to overseas markets</p>	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to supply chain improvements and increases in fluidity for exports of goods to overseas markets • result in additional volumes or values of overseas trade (e.g., xx% increase in international trade, and information on potential associated trade values) <p>Strong proposals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe supply chain investments that would improve the efficiency and reliability of the transportation network and contribute to trade with overseas markets • define a problem for existing trade patterns that would be overcome by the project
<p>2) Increases existing, or generates new overseas trade flows as a result of the investment</p>	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a catalyst to new / incremental overseas trade <p>Strong proposals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quantify the benefit to new trade flows, backed by data, including with respect to specific sectors, commodities, regions, and markets served • include evidence of the proven or forecast demand for goods to be moved through the supply chain • propose a cost-effective project

4.2 Additional assessment considerations

In addition to alignment with the criteria above, assessment of expressions of interest will also consider the extent to which a project will add capacity or address bottlenecks near major ports, airports, or along road and rail corridors in Canada that contribute to generating or increasing overseas trade.

Examples might include:

- improvements to transportation infrastructure along existing major corridors (e.g., by expanding capacity or improving reliability) that is currently a constraint on overseas trade
- demonstrating a clear connection to existing road, rail, marine and associated corridors that serve overseas trade

Preference may also be given to projects that:

- align with regional priorities
- already have approvals in place

- have a possible 2019/2020 start date, and completion date in 2025/2026
- are requesting less than \$50 million from the NTCF Program

Part 2 – The expression of interest application

1. Expression of interest review process

Applications for NTCF project funding through the Continuous call for proposals must be screened in through this expression of interest process. Applicants must demonstrate that the project meets the required eligibility criteria (provided in Part 1 – Section 3. Requirements to be eligible for funding of this guide) and that it aligns with the Continuous call for proposals’ objectives and essential assessment criteria (provided in Part 1 – Section 4.1 Essential criteria of this guide).

Transport Canada will review and assess expression of interest applications to determine whether projects move forward for further funding consideration in the comprehensive project proposal phase. Below is an outline of the expression of interest process:

1. Applicant(s) can complete and submit an expression of interest form to be considered for funding in the Continuous call for proposals process any time after the call opens on January 15, 2019. Applicants are permitted to submit multiple projects via the online application portal, but each proposed project must be provided through a separate expression of interest submission.
2. Applicants will receive an automatic email message acknowledging receipt of their expression of interest from Transport Canada after they have submitted their expression of interest. Transport Canada will screen the expression of interest submission for completeness and determine whether the project meets the essential assessment criteria described in Part 1 – Section 4. Assessment criteria of this guide.
3. Transport Canada will notify applicants by email, as to whether a submission has been:
 - accepted and will move forward for further consideration beyond the expression of interest phase;
 - has been screened out of the process; or
 - is incomplete

Applicants with incomplete submissions may revise and resubmit their expression of interest application incorporating any feedback received from Transport Canada concerning application requirements and expectations. As this is a Continuous call for project proposals, resubmitting an application may result in the applicant losing their position in priority sequence for expression of interest review and decision.

4. The comprehensive project proposal applicant’s guide will be made available February 1, 2019, on Transport Canada’s website and may be considered by applicants while completing their

expression of interest submission. Applicants with successful expressions of interest will be required to submit a comprehensive project proposal within **two months** of receiving notification that their expression of interest was successful.

Transport Canada will accept submissions until the remaining NTCF funds have been allocated. Expressions of interest will be reviewed and decisions on which applicants will be invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Transport Canada reserves the right to accept or reject any submitted applications.

2. How to apply for the Continuous call

Applicants must use the online National Trade Corridors Fund application portal to submit an expression of interest for the Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects. The application portal can be accessed at this web page: <https://gart.tc.gc.ca/secure/NTC-CCN/Home>

A Government of Canada-issued GCKey is required to access and use the NTCF online application portal.

2.1 Obtaining a GCKey

Every applicant must obtain a GCKey **prior** to submitting their expression of interest submission using the NTCF online application portal.

A GCKey is a unique electronic credential provided by the Government of Canada that allows you to communicate securely with online enabled Government programs and services.

1. click on 'Continue to GCKey' to proceed to the registration page
2. read and accept the GCKey Terms and Conditions of Use
3. create a username and password
4. applicants will be required to create three security questions

For more information and FAQs about GCKey, please visit the GCKey information page: <https://clegc-gckey.gc.ca/j/eng/AB-01>.

2.2 Expression of interest online application

To facilitate a more efficient and effective application process, Transport Canada has introduced a new online application portal to be used for all expressions of interest for the NTCF Continuous call for proposals.

To access the expression of interest online application portal and submit an expression of interest form, click on the following link: <https://gart.tc.gc.ca/secure/NTC-CCN/Home>

The information contained in an application to the NTCF Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects may be shared with, or referred to, other Government of Canada departments and agencies, including crown corporations.

A list of the questions that will appear on the online expression of interest form is provided in Annex B – NTCF Continuous call online application question list of this guide.

The expression of interest application form on the online portal can be saved and returned to at any time using the 'Save for Later' function at the bottom of the web page.

The final screen of the application form is a summary of all the information provided in the application. To print a PDF copy of this screen for your internal review, you must use your web browser's 'print to PDF' function.

Please note: if the length of your entry in a text box on the application form exceeds its default size, you will need to adjust the sizing of each text box at the review screen to ensure that all of your entered text appears in the PDF file. To increase the size of a text box, click and drag the bottom right hand corner of each text box (denoted with two small diagonal lines) to the desired size before following the steps above.

Once the expression of interest has been submitted, the applicant will be provided by email with a link to access their submitted expression of interest application form.

The submitted application is tied to the GCKey of the individual who submitted it; the submitted application can only be accessed by that specific individual using their own GCKey.

After an expression of interest has been submitted, it cannot be withdrawn or deleted by the applicant. If changes are required, the applicant must resubmit a new, completed application form. Applicants must contact and notify Transport Canada at tc.ntcf-fncc.tc@tc.gc.ca if a resubmission is required, or if they have decided to withdraw their submitted expression of interest from the application process.

If you have difficulties accessing or using the Continuous call for proposals online application portal system, please contact us at tc.ntcf-fncc.tc@tc.gc.ca.

2.3 Comprehensive project proposal

If an applicant's expression of interest meets the essential assessment criteria and is deemed successful by Transport Canada, applicants will be invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal. The comprehensive project proposal will provide, among other information, a more detailed description of the project and will be used by Transport Canada to evaluate the proposal in terms of its strengths and merits against all program objectives and for the purposes of final funding decisions.

More details on requirements for the comprehensive project proposal can be found in the comprehensive project proposal applicant's guide for the Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects, when it becomes available February 1 2019. For those applicants invited to submit a comprehensive project proposal, it is important to note that project details may be shared with the Provincial or Territorial government of the province/territory where the project is located.

3. Contact information

If you have any questions about the Continuous call for proposals for trade diversification projects, the Continuous call expression of interest submission, or the online application portal, please contact Transport Canada at the email address below.

Email: tc.ntcf-fncc.tc@tc.gc.ca

ANNEX A – Eligible and ineligible expenditures

Eligible expenditures include, but are not restricted to:

- expenditures related to preparation (for example, site preparation), construction, rehabilitation and improvement of assets
- professional fees for contracted services*
- costs of engineering and environmental reviews, including environmental assessments, follow-up programs, and the cost of remedial activities, mitigation measures and follow-up identified in any environmental assessment*
- costs of environmental consultations*
- expenditures for Aboriginal consultations, specifically project-related consultation activities pursuant to the Crown’s legal duty to consult*
- expenditures related to public outreach and Indigenous engagement, dissemination of information, communications materials and other associated costs*
- staff salaries and benefits such as: wages; employer’s portion of Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan, and disability insurance; private insurance; and benefits paid to staff working on the project/activities where the recipient can demonstrate value for money
- expenditures related to telecommunication, data analysis, and data validation services
- purchase or lease of technologies, equipment, software, data and systems
- licenses and permits
- training costs related to new technologies, equipment, software and systems
- travel expenditures (including the cost of accommodations, vehicle rental and kilometric rates, bus, train, airplane or taxi fares, allowances for meals and incidentals in accordance with established policies and directives)*
- administrative expenditures (including expenditures for general administration, rent, insurance and office equipment rental)*
- rental of meeting rooms and audio/video equipment*
- hospitality, in accordance with federal government policies and directives^{4*}
- honoraria payments for Indigenous persons
- for projects administered as a P3, expenditures for the development of a P3 business case and other costs related to the delivery of a project through a P3

For capital infrastructure projects, no more than 15% of NTCF funding will be provided for expenditures identified with an asterisk (*).

⁴ Expenditures related to hospitality are eligible but must form part of the recipient’s share of the total eligible expenditures for the project.

Where Transport Canada's contribution is less than 100% of the total eligible expenditures, the above eligible expenditures may include those associated with in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions may take the form of:

- goods, services or assets consumed by the recipient for which costs are incurred and no cash is exchanged
- donations of goods, services or assets to the recipient, for which no costs are incurred and no cash is exchanged

Donations are not eligible for reimbursement but may form part of the recipient's share of the total eligible expenditures for the project/activities.

Ineligible expenditures include, but are not limited to:

- costs incurred before the signing of the contribution agreement and after the project completion date with the exception of expenditures related to audit and evaluation requirements pursuant to the agreement
- expenditures related to purchasing land, buildings and associated real estate and other fees, financing charges and interest payments on loans
- expenditures related to leasing land, buildings, and other facilities except for equipment directly related to the construction of the project
- legal fees
- expenditures related to developing a business case or proposal for funding
- taxes for which the recipient or a third party is eligible for a tax rebate and all other costs eligible for rebates
- general repairs and maintenance of a project work and related structures, unless they are part of a larger capital expansion project
- services or works normally provided by the applicant (e.g., employee wages, benefits, overhead costs or any other direct or indirect operating, maintenance or administrative costs) incurred in the course of implementation of the project except those specified as eligible costs
- expenditures related to any goods and services which are received through donations or in-kind

ANNEX B – NTCF Continuous call online application question list

Please find below a list of the questions that you will need to answer in the expression of interest submission form on the online application portal: <https://gart.tc.gc.ca/secure/NTC-CCN/Home>.

All applications to the NTCF Continuous call for proposals must be submitted using the online application portal.

Section 1A – Applicant organization information

- full legal name, mailing address, city, province or territory, postal code (A1A 1A1)
- applicant type (e.g. government, Indigenous organization, private sector entity, etc.)

Section 1B – Contact information

Primary contact

- first name, last name, job title
- telephone number (999-999-9999), email address

Secondary contact

- first name, last name, job title
- telephone number (999-999-9999), email address

A valid email address for both primary and secondary contacts is required to submit the expression of interest. The expression of interest online application portal will generate an automatic email to the email address(es) provided, confirming receipt of the expression of interest. The email notification will provide the applicant with a link to their expression of interest submission.

Section 2 – Project overview

- project title
- population centre (city, village, town, etc.) nearest to the project

Project start point/end point, or location (GPS coordinates)

- latitude/longitude (for projects in Canada, latitude is always a positive value, and longitude is always a negative value)
- identify the province or territory where the project will be primarily located

For the purposes of the application form, the accepted format for latitude and longitude values is numerical numbers only (e.g. 45.425178, -75.699943). Letters (e.g. N, W, E, S) are not accepted.

Section 3 – Delivering the objectives of the NTCF

Questions 1 to 3 below aim to solicit general information and context on the impacts of your project on trade in terms of transportation issues and implicated industries.

1. Which of the following known trade-related transportation issues will your project address?

- diversification of imports or exports via marine, rail, air, or road facilities
- under-utilization of existing capacity at a specific transportation facility such as a marine port
- bottlenecks at modal interfaces
- accommodation of growing volumes, such as road-rail grade separations or access routes to a port of entry
- congestion on the Core National Highway System
- conflicts between commercial/trade traffic and residential/commuter traffic in urban areas
- first mile/last mile challenges
- mitigation of, or adaptation to, the effects of climate change and extreme weather events related to a trade asset or corridor
- provision of new service/access to a facility, site or region to enable major substantiated private or public investments
- other (please describe)

Please provide details (maximum 2000 characters)

2. Which industries in Canada will your project primarily support?

- agriculture
- automotive
- energy
- forestry
- information technology
- manufacturing
- mining
- transportation, warehousing and logistics
- other (please describe)

Please provide details (maximum 2000 characters)

3. Where are the key beneficiary industries of the project located?

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Northwest Territories
- Nova Scotia
- Nunavut
- Ontario

- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Yukon

Please provide details (maximum 2000 characters)

Question 4 below aims to address Criterion 1 – “Improving the fluidity and/or performance of the transportation system to contribute to an increase in the value and/or volume of goods exported from Canada to overseas markets”.

4. How will the project contribute to increasing the fluidity of the transportation system for export of goods to overseas markets?

- increase the capacity of the transportation system
- increase the reliability and/or efficiency of the transportation system
- increase the resilience of the transportation system to a changing climate and/or its adaptability to new technologies and future innovations
- reduce/mitigate bottlenecks
- improve the supply chain
- other (please describe)
- not applicable

Please provide details, including traffic volumes and/or values of trade, if appropriate (maximum 2000 characters)

Questions 5 through 7 below aim to address Criterion 2 – “Illustrating potential to increase existing or generate new overseas trade flows as a result of the investment”.

5. As a result of your project, which international markets are expected to experience new or increased exports from Canada?

- Asia
- Europe
- USA
- Mexico
- Middle East-North Africa
- Latin America
- other (please describe)
- not applicable

Please provide details, such as specific target markets (maximum 2000 characters)

6. As a result of your project, which international markets are expected to experience new or increased imports into Canada?

- Asia
- Europe
- USA
- Mexico
- Middle East-North Africa
- Latin America
- other (please describe)
- not applicable

Please provide details, such as specific target markets (maximum 2000 characters)

7. How will the project enable trade?

- allows existing trade volumes/values to continue
- increases existing trade volumes/values
- creates new trade volumes/values
- other (please describe)

Please provide details, including volumes and/or values of trade, as appropriate (maximum 2000 characters)

Questions 8 and 9 below aim to address Criterion 3 – “Adding capacity or addressing bottlenecks near major ports, airports or along road and rail corridors in Canada, that contribute to generating or increasing overseas trade”

8. What is the primary mode of transportation that will be serviced or improved by this project?

- road
- rail
- air
- marine
- other (e.g., multimodal, distribution centre, etc.)

Please provide details (maximum 2000 characters)

9. How will your project add capacity or address bottlenecks on major transportation corridors to help generate or increase overseas trade?

Please provide details (maximum 2000 characters)

Section 4 – Project schedule and details

- design start/end date (yyyy-mm-dd)
- construction start/end date (yyyy-mm-dd)
- provide an overview of the proposed project, including a description of the major components (maximum 2000 characters)
- identify all other project funding partners (maximum 2000 characters)
- is the project a private-public partnership (P3)?
- does the organization own the land?

Section 5 – Project costs

- total project costs (\$)
- total National Trade Corridors Fund contribution requested (\$)
- total contributions from all organizations other than Transport Canada (eligible, ineligible costs)
- is funding from organizations other than Transport Canada secured?

In most cases, Transport Canada's maximum contribution is up to **50%** of the total eligible expenditures for a project under the NTCF (See [Part 1 – Section 3.5 Maximum contribution](#) for further information). If invited to the comprehensive project proposal phase, applicants must provide confirmation of secured funding as part of their comprehensive project proposal submission.