

FRIAA FRIP Funds Initiative - Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI)

Developing Enhanced Wildfire Knowledge and Predictive Capabilities

November 2025



Q&A Information Session

Date: **December 8, 2025**

Time: **2:00 p.m. MST**

RFEOI Due – **January 30, 2026, 2:00 p.m. MST**

Any additional questions can be submitted in writing to admin@friaa.ab.ca until 2:00 pm on January 28, 2026. Answers will be posted to the FRIAA website within 48 hours after receipt.

General FRIAA Comments:

- To be considered under this RFEOI, projects must fit within the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP) eligibility criteria, within the theme of wildfire knowledge, modelling or predictive capabilities and not be an eligible activity within another FRIAA program (i.e. FireSmart, or planting of wildfires). Prospective applicants are encouraged to read the FRIP Program Description and familiarize themselves with FRIAA's other grant funding programs to ensure eligibility.
- Please read the RFEOI and application template carefully when developing Expressions of Interest (EOI) and complete all sections of the application template.
- Please ensure that EOIs are clear and concise to facilitate the review process and are a maximum of 12 pages.
- Examples of projects related to the theme Developing Enhanced Wildfire Modelling and Predictive Capabilities, may include activities related, but not limited to:
 - Improved landscape lightning prediction models;
 - Enhanced wildfire weather stream modeling;
 - Enhanced wildfire fuels mapping and inventory;
 - System development for gathering wildfire data; and
 - Review and enhancement of the Provincial Fire Ban system.
- Funding through the FRIP Funds Initiative is different from the standard FRIP project approval stream. Through this funding initiative there is no requirement for company sponsorship. Additionally, the EOIs will be evaluated by a review panel (the "**Panel**"). The EOIs will be screened to ensure they align with the wildfire theme and meet the FRIP Program Eligibility Criteria. The Panel will then evaluate the EOIs based on their merit in a competitive process and rank each EOI against the Evaluation Criteria.
- Projects must not exceed a 10-year term with a maximum budget of up to \$5 million.
- The EOIs will be reviewed shortly after the closing date. The Panel will likely meet early to mid February and make their recommendations to the FRIAA Board for consideration. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected to move to the Request for detailed Proposals (RFP) stage likely in March.

Questions from Information Session

QUESTION #1: Do the Expressions of Interest have to be related to the theme of wildfire knowledge and predictive capabilities, or will there be a broader call for expressions of interest?

For this RFEOI, Expressions of Interest do have to fit within the wildfire theme. However, FRIAA will be posting another FRIP Funds Initiative Request for Expressions of interest with a broad theme where

projects that align with the FRIP Program Eligibility Criteria will be considered. This broad themed RFEOI FRIP Funds Initiative will be posted soon.

QUESTION #2: Can a project already underway apply for funding under this RFEOI, or must it be a new project?

A project topic may have already started, however, the project should be proposed as a new phase or components that are not already included or completed with an existing project. That is, the EOI submitted can build on an existing project, but FRIAA will not reimburse for projects already underway or completed.

QUESTION #3: If phase one of a project is already funded under FRIP, can a new, different component be submitted to this call?

Yes, if it's a new phase or component that has not been started, it can be submitted as a separate project under this RFEOI.

QUESTION #4: Are collaborations (with researchers, government, Indigenous communities) important or required?

Collaborations are encouraged and viewed favorably but are not required.

QUESTION #5: Are projects related to post-secondary education (e.g., wildfire prevention) eligible?

Yes, education projects can be eligible so long as they are related to the wildfire theme and are above and beyond FRIAA FireSmart Program community education type activities and meet the eligibility criteria of FRIP.

QUESTION #6: Building off question #5, would extension products or activities (e.g., field tours, practitioner engagement) that build off the modelling and research knowledge eligible?

Yes, as it would fall within enhancing the knowledge pertaining to wildfire, once again, so long as it isn't an activity that would be eligible under the FRIAA FireSmart Program and can meet the eligibility criteria of FRIP.

QUESTION #7: How are multi-agency grants administered—does all money go to one organization or can the funding be split between the multiple partners.

If a project involves multiple organizations, the project will require one of the organizations to be the Applicant for the project who would enter into an Agreement with FRIAA through the Project Grant Agreement. That organization would then be responsible for the submissions of the progress reports and would receive the payments. They would also be required to meet the clauses of the agreement, which does have other provisions such as safety, and insurance requirements. It is recommended that all potential applicants review the Project Grant Agreement prior to submission. It is important that all collaborators be identified as this may be taken into consideration within the evaluation criteria when the Panel evaluates the EOIs.

QUESTION #8: Can academic institutions receive funds?

Yes, applicant eligibility is broad-based and open to any organization that is able to meet the requirements of the Project Grant Agreement.

QUESTION #9: Are study locations in national parks eligible, or only provincial lands?

Projects can be on public land in Alberta, including federal parks, however, applicants would be responsible for obtaining any permits or approvals that maybe required, and project outcomes and deliverables must be applicable to Alberta Crown Land.

QUESTION #10: Is company sponsorship required?

No, company sponsorship for FRIP Funds Initiatives is not required. Organizations may collaborate with companies, and companies can contribute to projects, even though sponsorship is not required.

QUESTION #11: Can projects build on previous FRIAA/FRIP-funded work, and is there a list of past projects?

Projects can build on previous work if new and not duplicative. Please contact FRIAA at admin@friaa.ab.ca for a list of past projects. Completed project abstracts can be searched on our website at the top of the [programs](#) page by keyword.

QUESTION #12: How are Indigenous data, OCAP principles, and community ceremonies handled?

Sensitive data typically remains with the community as per the clauses within the Project Grant Agreement (template available in the RFEOI package). Applicants should clarify in their project outcomes what type of data will be collected, specify which data will remain with the community, and which data will be provided to FRIAA. All data collected, products created, and deliverables funded by FRIAA become the property of FRIAA, however there are provisions for Indigenous knowledge. Ceremonies and land-based teachings may be eligible, so long as they relate to the wildfire theme and are above and beyond FRIAA FireSmart Program eligible activities.

QUESTION #13: Who is responsible for securing land access and permits?

The Applicant is responsible for obtaining any required licences, permits, or approvals. If the project involves work with a community, park, etc. and they are not the grant applicant, a letter of support is required.

QUESTION #14: If a project is tested in one community but has broader application, is that a limitation?

Broader applicability is viewed favorably; local pilots are acceptable but would be viewed more favourably if knowledge can be generalized and applied broadly. The program objectives of FRIP are to enhance the forest resource for the benefit of all Albertans.

QUESTION #15: Is the total budget public, and will FRIAA fund one large or several small projects?

The total funding budget is not publicly available currently. The maximum per project budget is up to \$5 million; the number of funded projects depends on available funds and size of project budgets.

QUESTION #16: Who are considered stakeholders for sharing outcomes as per the project template?

Stakeholders include FRIAA and its members, the provincial government, industry, academia, interested communities, and the public. FRIAA Final Technical Reports and data can be made available to interested parties upon request.

QUESTION #17: Are in-kind contributions accepted, or must they be cash?

In-kind contributions are accepted and viewed favourably. Applicants are encouraged to present any “in-kind” contributions such as non-FRIAA funding, discounted costs, volunteer hours, or other services provided. They are contributions to the projects that FRIAA would not be paying for. FRIAA funding from FRIAA programs, including FRIP, are not considered “in-kind”.

QUESTION #18. Does “forest resource” mean only harvestable (fibre) resources?

The term “forest resource” within FRIP is a board term to include a wide range of values within the forested landscape such as forests, trees, water, soil, vegetation, recreation, wildlife, and any other forest resource.

QUESTION #19: Are endangered species projects eligible?

Endangered species projects can be eligible so long as it is linked to the theme of wildfire. Alternatively, FRIAA will be putting out an additional FRIP Funds Initiative that will have a broad theme and be open to any project that meets the FRIP program eligibility criteria and the requirements of the FRIP Funds Initiative.

QUESTION #20: What expenses and project types are not approved?

Eligible Expenditures are described in the FRIP Program Description available within the FRIP Funds Initiative RFEI package. Types of expenses that are generally not allowed include capital assets, road/facility construction, product research, and activities that are legislated responsibilities of forest companies are not eligible. For example, FRIAA would not be able to fund projects relating to reforestation if the company is required to complete that reforestation as part of their tenure agreement.

For this funding call we also would not fund any projects that would be covered under other FRIAA grant programs such as FRIAA FireSmart Program, Community Fireguard Program, Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances, or the Wildfire Reclamation Program.

FRIAA also expects projects to be completed at fair market value.

QUESTION #21: For research projects, what should be included in Section 5 (objectives/methodology vs. company responsibility)?

Section 5 pertains to forest company responsibility. The section is looking for clarification surrounding any project (including research) that may relate to existing forest tenure, regulatory or legislative responsibility of any timber disposition holder. If you are an academic institution or non-industry member, then simply confirm and state the project is not a forest tenure, regulatory or legislative responsibility.