

Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

REFERENCE:

FRIAA – RFEOI – FRIP FUNDS INITIATIVE – JANUARY 2026

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| Issue Date: | January 23, 2026 |
| Closing Date/Time: | March 20, 2026 – 14:00 hrs (MST) |
| Information Call: | February 19, 2026 – 14:00 hrs (MST) |
| Submission Portal: | https://friaa.ab.ca/program-submissions/ |
| Inquiry Email: | admin@friaa.ab.ca |
| Website: | www.friaa.ab.ca |
| Mailing: | Box 11094 Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3K4 |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (“**FRIAA**”) is inviting the submission of expressions of interest (“**EOI**”) for the Forest Resource Improvement Program (“**FRIP**”) funds initiative (“**FFI**”). The following information outlines the intent of this request for expressions of interest (“**RFEOI**”) and provides instructions to prospective Applicants.
- 1.2 EOIs pursuant to the FFI are limited to a maximum expenditure of up to \$4,000,000 per project with completion terms of up to 10 years in duration from the commencement of the project.
- 1.3 This RFEOI is broad based, meaning it is open to FRIAA members and non-members, consultants, academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations and other organizations who can meet the requirements set out in the Project Grant Agreement included in the package.
- 1.4 Any project that meets the FRIP program eligibility criteria will be considered under this RFEOI.

2. PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- 2.1 FRIAA was established in 1997 to promote and initiate programs that enhance Alberta’s forest resources. In keeping with this primary purpose, FRIAA is committed to the administration and delivery of FRIP. The purpose of FRIP is to benefit all Albertans by:
 - (a) Enhancing the forest resources of Alberta;
 - (b) Promoting the enhanced management of the forest resources of Alberta;
 - (c) Improving the sustained yield of the forest resources of Alberta; and
 - (d) Promoting integrated resource management.
- 2.2 The type of work carried out under FRIP covers a wide range of activities related to operational field activities, inventory and planning, applied research, education and public awareness and others.
- 2.3 EOIs pursuant to the FFI cannot be eligible for funding under any other FRIAA funding model including the FRIAA FireSmart, Community Fireguard, Caribou Habitat Recovery, Wildfire Reclamation, Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances programs, or any other existing FRIAA grant funding program.
- 2.4 Applicants are advised to pay careful attention to the information provided in this RFEOI. Failure to satisfy any term, condition or mandatory requirement of this RFEOI may result in rejection of the EOI.

3. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 EOIs must be clear and concisely describe the components of the proposed project, including each of the EOI Requirements set out in this section 3.
- 3.2 Applicants must use the Application Template provided in this RFEOI package.

- 3.3 Provide the following information where indicated on the first page (cover page) of the Application Template:
- (a) Applicant organization and mailing address;
 - (b) the name, title and contact information of the individual(s) authorized to represent the Applicant and commit the Applicant to the execution of a Project Grant Agreement;
 - (c) the name, title and contact information of the individual who will manage the project;
 - (d) project title, term and the total amount of funding requested;
 - (e) indicate if you participated in the Information Session, detailed in Section 7 of this RFEOI;
 - (f) briefly describe your understanding of the proposed project; and
 - (g) the Authorized Representative must sign the Application Template. Signing the Application Template binds the Applicant to the terms and conditions attached thereto.
- 3.4 **Project Objectives.** Describe the project objectives. Demonstrate the Applicant's understanding of the requirements presented in this RFEOI and how the proposed project aligns with these requirements.
- 3.5 **Project Background.** Describe background information and context relevant to the proposed project and its development. Describe prior project phases and other projects funded by FRIP or otherwise, that relate to the proposed project.
- 3.6 **Project Work Plan and Methodology.** Prepare a work plan and methodology to be used. This should include a description of the eligible activities proposed (see Program Description for eligible activities). Adequate detail must be provided so it is clear what activities are taking place and how they will be carried out. The work plan and project budget should be clearly linked.
- 3.7 **Project Outcomes and Deliverables.** Describe the Applicant's understanding of the expected outcomes and deliverables for the proposed project.
- 3.8 **Company Responsibility.** Describe how the proposed work is over and above any regulatory or legislative requirements that the Applicant must comply with. The project objectives must not absolve forest companies or the government of their respective responsibilities for sustained yield forest management.
- 3.9 **Project Timeline.** Provide a table that describes projected start dates, major milestones and project completion.
- 3.10 **Price and Budget.** Provide a maximum price to complete the proposed project. The proposed budget must include a cost breakdown with sufficient details to demonstrate an understanding of the various steps to complete the project.
- (a) Generalized administration fees, contingency fees, eligible GST, and "percentage markup" will not be accepted on a stand-alone basis and should be included into the maximum price.
 - (b) GST may be claimed on subcontractors and third-party invoices; however, Applicant resources are covered by grant funding (no GST is charged).

- 3.11 **In-Kind Activities.** Include a description of the leverage by way of in-kind contributions of labour, or other resources by the Applicant. Previously completed work, or projects being funded under other FRIAA programs are not considered “in-kind”. The proposed budget cannot include FRIAA funds to be used for existing staff or resources of the Applicant.

4. EOI EVALUATION

- 4.1 EOIs will be evaluated by a Review Panel (the “**Panel**”) based on the EOI Adjudication Criteria and the requirements set out in this RFEIOI, the completion of the Application and available funding.
- 4.2 EOIs submitted to FRIAA shall be ranked by the Panel based on the following criteria and the EOI Requirements set out in Section 3.
- 4.3 EOIs must contemplate the carrying out of one or more Eligible Activities as defined in the FRIP Program Description. Any activities related to the following items are not eligible for funding:
- (a) facility construction, improvement or operations;
 - (b) product research and development;
 - (c) road construction, repair and maintenance;
 - (d) the purchase of any capital assets; and
 - (e) project work carried out prior to project approval unless, in FRIAA’s sole opinion, justified for operational circumstances.
- 4.4 Projects will not require company sponsorship, as per the program description. However, Applicants may seek additional funding above the \$4 million per project maximum through additional company sponsorship. This should be clearly identified in the proposed budget.
- 4.5 FRIAA members will only be able to access the FFI if they have no funds remaining for sponsorship within their allocation. Funding maybe provided so long as they use their allocation of funds first and outstanding balance of the project can then be funded through the FFI.
- 4.6 The expenses set out in the EOI must be reasonable in all the circumstances and must not exceed the fair market value of the goods and services being provided.
- 4.7 The EOI must not be contrary to the provisions of relevant regulations or legislation or the objects of FRIAA, or FRIAA’s bylaws, including but not limited to the following:
- (a) any work that, in the opinion of FRIAA is, a responsibility of a disposition holder or constitutes a subsidy to the forest industry, energy industry or other industry; and
 - (b) must not, in the opinion of FRIAA, have a significant adverse impact on other forest resources or the environment as a whole and the Applicant must agree to carry out the proposed project in an environmentally responsible manner.
- 4.8 The Applicant must be able to complete the proposed project economically and efficiently and in considering this criterion, FRIAA may take into account any factor that is relevant in FRIAA’s opinion, including without limitation:
- (a) the Applicant’s experience in performing such projects,

- (b) the availability of resources to the Applicant,
 - (c) the amount of leverage by way of in-kind contributions of labour, equipment or other resources by the Applicant that are directly applicable to the proposed project, and
 - (d) whether the Applicant has in the past complied with the *Forest Resources Improvement Regulation* and other requirements and obligations as determined by FRIAA including making prompt payment of all required timber dues and FRIAA dues and fees.
- 4.9 EOIs that leverage FRIAA funds with funds from other sources to complete the proposed project or associated with the proposed project will be prioritized.
- 4.10 Only projects providing benefits to Albertans in terms of the enhancement of public forest resources or the understanding of forest resources or their management will be considered.
- 4.11 Projects that involve local communities, including Aboriginal communities and organizations, will be favoured.

5. FOREST RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- 5.1 The full text of the Program Description for the FRIP is available on FRIAA's website (www.friaa.ab.ca).

6. LEGAL NOTICE

- 6.1 By submitting an EOI, you confirm that you have read, understand and accept the information contained in this RFEOI and, that each of you, the Applicant and all individuals and entities that collaborate or are otherwise involved in the preparation of the RFEOI or the delivery of the proposed project ("**Project Partners**") agree as follows:
 - (a) FRIAA may at any time withdraw, suspend, cancel, terminate, amend or alter all or any portion of this RFEOI, including but not limited to the EOI Requirements and the EOI Adjudication Criteria.
 - (b) FRIAA will, in its sole discretion, determine which EOIs, if any, will be accepted and approved for funding under the FFI, and how much funding to allocate for approved EOIs.
 - (c) FRIAA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject any or all EOIs for any reason. FRIAA is not required to accept any EOIs, or the highest ranking EOI, nor is it required to accept any EOI for advancement to the full project proposal stage.
 - (d) FRIAA's evaluation of the EOIs may be based on, but is not in any way limited to, the criteria set out in this RFEOI. FRIAA may consider any criteria determined by FRIAA to be relevant to FRIAA's mandate, regardless of whether such additional criteria have been disclosed to the Applicant.
 - (e) No conduct, act or omission of FRIAA, or its directors, officers, consultants, project advisors, members, agents, servants and their respective successors and assigns (collectively the "**FRIAA Parties**") other than a written notice to the Applicant signed by an authorized person for FRIAA, will constitute an acceptance of an EOI.

- (f) EOIs that do not comply with the requirements described in this RFEOI may be rejected in whole or in part or not considered. FRIAA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject a non-compliant EOI.
- (g) This RFEOI is an invitation for EOIs only. It is not an offer and the submission of an EOI does not create a contract or agreement of any kind between FRIAA and the Applicant.
- (h) Acceptance of an EOI does not create a binding contract between FRIAA and the Applicant. FRIAA shall not be obligated in any manner whatsoever to any Applicant until a written agreement between FRIAA and the Applicant (“**Project Grant Agreement**”) has been duly executed relating to an approved EOI.
- (i) As between the parties, the EOI and all documents and materials you submit to FRIAA in connection with the EOI and this RFEOI and all intellectual property in and to the foregoing are the exclusive property of FRIAA immediately upon delivery to FRIAA. Intellectual property developed during the course of the project will be addressed through the Project Grant Agreement.
- (j) You, the Applicant and any Project Partners will keep this RFEOI confidential and will not use, reproduce or distribute it, any portion of it, or any data, information, drawings, or specifications included in or provided with it except as necessary to prepare an EOI to FRIAA in response to it or to apply for additional third party funding for the project.
- (k) You, the Applicant and any Project Partners will not make a claim against FRIAA or the FRIAA Parties for any reason whatsoever relating to this RFEOI. You are undertaking the expenditures required to prepare and submit an EOI entirely at your own risk, and you waive any right and release FRIAA and the FRIAA Parties from any demands, liability, claim or recovery for costs, expenses, or damages incurred whatsoever and howsoever arising out of or relating to this RFEOI or any EOI prepared in response to it, whether such right or claim arises in contract, negligence or otherwise.
- (l) FRIAA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied during this RFEOI process by FRIAA or the FRIAA Parties.
- (m) Neither FRIAA nor any of the FRIAA Parties will have any liability whatsoever to you, the Applicant, or any Project Partners, or any of them, in connection with this RFEOI or any EOI prepared in response to it.
- (n) All matters of administration and accountability for a project shall be the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

7. INFORMATION SESSION

- 7.1 FRIAA will hold an Information Session to address questions that may arise with respect to this RFEOI on **February 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. (MST)**. Contact details, the time of, and how to participate in the Information Session are included in the RFEOI documents and will be posted on FRIAA’s website. Interested Applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. Applicants are encouraged to request

clarifications and submit any pre-questions in writing regarding this RFEOI, by **10:00 a.m. (MST) on February 17, 2026**, to admin@friaa.ab.ca.

- 7.2 Additional questions related to this RFEOI will be accepted until **10:00 a.m. (MST) on March 16, 2026** to admin@friaa.ab.ca.

8. EOI SUBMISSIONS

- 8.1 EOIs may be submitted on FRIAA’s website portal at: <https://friaa.ab.ca/program-submissions/>. In the Submission Portal, select “**RFEOI – FFI -January 2026**” as the application opportunity.
- 8.2 Only documents formatted in PDF will be accepted.
- 8.3 EOI submissions must include a completed Application using the Application Template provided.
- 8.4 EOIs sent directly to any FRIAA representatives will not be accepted, unless the applicant is unable to submit through the portal then FRIAA is willing to accept via email to admin@friaa.ab.ca.

9. DEADLINE FOR EOIs

- 9.1 **DEADLINE FOR EOIs:** Only those EOIs received prior to **2:00 p.m. (MST) on March 20, 2026**, will be accepted for evaluation. EOIs received any time thereafter will not be accepted for evaluation.
- 9.2 FRIAA is not responsible for EOIs that are not received as the result of technological issues, attachment size or any other logistical barrier which may impede electronic submission.

10. NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 Applicants whose EOIs are selected by the Panel will be invited to submit a full project proposal to FRIAA. Further information regarding full project proposal submissions, including evaluation criteria and timelines, will be made available at the time full project proposal invitations are made.
- 10.2 Applicants whose EOIs are not short-listed for full project proposal invitation will be notified when the RFEOI review process is completed. Applicants who wish to receive feedback regarding their EOI can set up a short debrief phone call with FRIAA. Information about arranging this discussion will be provided in the notification letter.