

FRIAA FRIP Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI)

FRIP Funds Initiative – January 2026



Q&A Information Session

Date: **February 19, 2026**

Time: **2:00pm MST**

- Interested Applicants are highly encouraged to participate in the Q & A Information Session.
- Additional questions may be submitted after the info call and will be received until **April 15, 2026** at 10:00 am MDT.
- RFEOI Due – **April 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m. MDT**

General FRIAA Comments:

What is the Forest Resource Improvement Program (FRIP)?

The Forest Resource Improvement Program (“FRIP”) uses funds collected from the forest industry for activities that sustain and enhance Alberta’s forests and are over and above the mandated requirements of these companies. FRIP projects enhance forest resources and improve the integrated resource management of Alberta’s forested lands for the benefit of Albertans. FRIP projects include activities that enhance the forest resources of Alberta; promote the enhanced management of the forest resources of Alberta; improve the sustained yield of the forest resources of Alberta; and promote integrated resource management. For this Request for Expressions of Interest (“RFEOI”), expressions of interests (“EOI”) must fit within the FRIP eligibility criteria. An eligible activity is an activity related to timber and non-timber resources that enhances the forest resources of Alberta and that is not the existing tenure, regulatory or legislative responsibility of any timber disposition holder. Additionally, the purchase of capital assets, road construction, facility construction and product research and development are not eligible activities. Prospective Applicants are encouraged to read the FRIP Program Description to familiarize themselves with the program to ensure eligibility and review the Project Grant Agreement (“Agreement”), which outlines the terms of the funding Agreement.

FRIP Funds Initiative (Open Funds)

Funding through FRIP typically requires Applicants to obtain company sponsorship in order to access funds. FRIP Funds initiatives are calls for proposals or EOIs where the company sponsorship component is not required, and Applicant eligibility is broad based. Projects must fit within the FRIP eligibility criteria as mentioned above and as described in more detail in the FRIP Program Description. Specifics relating to this RFEOI include a maximum individual project value of up to \$4 million, and project terms of up to 10-years.

Elements of a Successful RFEOI

- Please read the RFEOI documents and the RFEOI Application Form & Template (“**Template**”) carefully when developing EOIs and complete all sections of the Template.
- Please ensure that EOIs are clear and concise to facilitate the review process and are a maximum of 12-pages inclusive of application form and attachments.
- Address all information requested in the RFEOI document.
- Use the provided Template and remove and delete all underlined sections that describe what should be included in the document.
- Comments on specific application sections include:
 - The project workplan should link tightly to the project budget.
 - Project outcomes should include the tangible items (reports, models, shapefiles, etc.) that FRIAA will receive and any metrics or other outcomes completed during the project (# of workshops, # of participants educated, etc.).

- Company Responsibilities section should include details on how the project tasks are not required by a tenure holder, regulatory or legislative responsibility, or description of how the work is incremental to or different from any existing company responsibility.
- Timeline should include anticipated project start date, end date, and all major milestones.
- Budget should include a breakdown of anticipated expenses required to complete the project.
 - Showing in-kind contributions can be beneficial to the consideration of your project (e.g., volunteer hours, other funding sources)
 - Rates need to be reasonable and represent fair-market value.

RFEOI Process

- The RFEOI is a competitive process where the EOIs will be ranked based on their strengths and weaknesses, fit with the FRIP mandate, and value for funding by a Review Panel (the “Panel”).
- The Panel will be comprised of a FRIAA Board member, representatives from the Government of Alberta, and representatives from industry.
- Successful Applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal by invitation. Unsuccessful Applicants will be notified within a similar timeframe.
- The Panel is expected to meet in early May to review, evaluate and rank proposals, and will make their recommendation for EOIs to be invited to submit detailed proposals. Applicants will likely be notified in June if their proposal has been selected and will have a few weeks to respond to feedback provided and prepare detailed proposals. Detailed proposal submissions will, once again be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by the Panel, with recommendations for approval to the Board. Communication of successful and unsuccessful proposals is likely in July but could be as late as September.

Pre-submitted Questions:

Question #1: General project specific questions on project eligibility. Ie. Is this project eligible?

When evaluating if a project is eligible, it is about connecting the dots from your proposal to the mandate of FRIP and FRIAA in general. How does your proposal connect to enhancing the forest resources of Alberta, promoting enhanced management of the forest resources of Alberta, improving the sustained yield of the forest resources of Alberta, promoting integrated resource management, or improving the understanding of the forest resource? If you can link the proposal to at least one of these concepts, then it is likely to be considered eligible within the RFEOI.

Question #2: In reviewing the application materials, I see that one criterion for eligibility for funding is that the Applicant must be a Member of FRIAA and it appears Membership is limited to timber companies. Am I understanding this correctly?

Applicant eligibility is broad-based and open to any organization that is able to meet the requirements of the Project Grant Agreement. Through FRIAA’s regular FRIP proposal intake process, there is a requirement for company sponsorship of proposals, however, sponsorship is not a requirement of FRIP Funds Initiatives (Open Funds). The Project Grant Agreement template is provided in the RFEOI package on FRIAA’s website available for download.

Question #3: We are exploring partnerships with local and Indigenous communities. Is there a specific threshold or preferred structure for community involvement to be "favoured" during evaluation?

Regarding partnerships with local and Indigenous communities, there is no specific threshold, or preferred structure for community involvement. If you are involving a community, FRIAA would request a letter of support from that community to ensure they are aware of the proposed project, and that it is in fact something they are interested in.

Question #4: Can you please provide a timeline for expected approvals for FRIP open funds?

The Panel is expected to meet in early May to review, evaluate and rank proposals, and will make their recommendation for proposals to be invited to submit detailed proposals. Applicants will likely be notified in June if their proposal has been selected and will have a few weeks to respond to feedback provided and prepare detailed proposals. Detailed proposal submissions will, once again be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by the Panel, with recommendations for approval to the Board. Communication of successful and unsuccessful proposals is likely in July but could be as late as September.

Question #5: Is there a geographical limit to where the projects can occur? Can a project be located outside of Alberta? If it is based in the boreal but the accessible site is outside Alberta - is that allowed?

Locations outside of Alberta would depend on if the project learnings would be directly applicable to Alberta and meets FRIP eligibility criteria such as being an enhancement of the Alberta forest resource for the benefit of Albertans.

Question #6: Is an organization allowed to submit and potentially receive funds for more than one submission?

Yes, Applicants may submit more than one EOI, so long as the project proposals fit within the eligibility criteria, and the project proposals are for unique activities, and generally independent proposals. Applicants may also have more than one project open or ongoing with FRIAA at a time.

Question #7. 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.

Additional Questions during Info Session:

Question #8: Do you require letters of support for this RFEOI?

Letters of support are not required for the RFEOI. If support is suggested within the RFEOI, then a letter confirming this support would be required with the detailed proposal. If you have already received a letter of support, and the EOI is under the 12-page limit, then it would be beneficial to include them in the EOI submission.

Question #9: Can Applicants speak with FRIAA Management regarding project specific eligibility?

Yes, if prospective Applicants are concerned about project specific eligibility, you may reach out to FRIAA at admin@friaa.ab.ca and set up a time to discuss or email your written questions.

Question #10: Can more than one organization be a part of one application?

Yes, multi-partnerships and collaborations are encouraged and viewed favorably but not required. If a project proposal involves multiple organizations, the project proposal will require one of the organizations to be the Applicant for the project. The Applicant would enter into an Agreement with FRIAA through the Project Grant Agreement. The Applicant organization would then be responsible for the submissions of all reporting (progress reports, financial reports, and final outcomes reporting) and would receive the funding payments from FRIAA. The Applicant will also be required to meet the clauses of the Agreement, which include provisions such as safety and insurance requirements. It is recommended that all potential Applicants review the Agreement prior to submitting an EOI to ensure ability to adhere to the requirements within the Agreement. It is important that all collaborators are identified as this may be taken into consideration within the evaluation criteria when the Panel reviews, evaluates, and ranks the EOIs.

Question #11: Does the 12-page limit include budget tables, map, etc.?

Yes, the 12-page limit is inclusive of the Template and any attachments.

Question #12: Do you have a maximum level of overhead you will pay? If yes, is it publicly posted and available?

FRIP has allowed up to 5% in administration fees. FRIAA has allowed exceptions for academic institutions to recognize the value offered from academic institutions and the lack of profit margin. To ensure all anticipated costs are captured, it is recommended to allocate expenses for each activity into daily/hourly rates, such as project management. Do keep in mind this is a competitive process, and ultimately how the budget is evaluated will be at the discretion of the Panel in adherence with FRIAA guidelines and policies, and will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked with other EOIs.

Question #13: Is there a minimum budget required?

There is no minimum project proposal budget, however, a maximum per project value of up to \$4 million is required.

Question #14: Can FRIP sponsors use their active FRIP allocations to contribute to project proposals in-kind?

Yes, FRIP sponsors (contributors of FRIAA dues to FRIP) can use their FRIP allocations to contribute to project proposals, which could be viewed favourably. FRIP sponsor contributions would not be considered “in-kind” but supplemental to the project proposal budget. FRIP sponsors must use their remaining allocations before they would be considered as eligible Applicants through a FRIP Funds Initiative. Sponsorship forms are not required at the EOI stage, but would be required with detailed proposals.

Question #15: Is there a limit to the number of projects that an organization can submit for consideration?

No, there is no restriction to the number of project proposals an organization can submit. The only requirement would be that any proposal meet the FRIP eligibility criteria, and the project proposals are for unique activities, and generally independent proposals.

Question #16: Is there a historical list of open funds award Recipients or a similar list?

On FRIAA’s website, under the programs tab there is a search bar for all completed FRIP projects to date with a brief abstract describing the project. A project listing can be requested from FRIAA by emailing admin@friaa.ab.ca. If someone is looking for more detailed project information about a specific project, FRIAA can provide technical reports upon request.

Question #17. If you have an existing FRIP project, can you amend it with Open Funds?

Using FRIP Open Funds to supplement an existing project may be allowed, however it would need to be submitted as a new project proposal describing the linkages to the existing project and how this proposal would be incremental to the existing project. The proposal will be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by the Panel in relation to the other EOI’s received.

Question #18: Does the amount of funding requested affect the acceptance or evaluation score of a proposal?

The review criteria would not be based on the total amount requested, rather whether the project is of good value and at fair market rates. Project proposals that include in-kind funding and/or are at fair-market value pricing would be beneficial to the perceived value. Other FRIAA program funding can be described as being leveraged for a project proposal but would not be considered as an in-kind contribution to the project.

Question #19: Can we claim project expenses that occur before the project was awarded?

FRIAA may allow, at its sole discretion, some expenses that pre-date the approval decision, if it is reasonable and typically relates to timing due to an operational component to the proposed project. For example, if you needed to start a project in June due to seasonal operational considerations, FRIAA may consider a project start date that pre-dates the approval decision, however, the Applicant does so at their own risk and would be solely responsible for any expenses that occur prior to an approval decision. As there is limited funding available, many project proposals received may not be able to be funded.

Question #20: Who is an appropriate audience for educational and/or knowledge-exchange projects? For example, is it the general public, K-12 students, or natural resource practitioners?

FRIAA supports forest education projects within Alberta for all age groups, including resource practitioners, and the general public subject to the conditions as described. Guidance surrounding FRIP education projects is as follows:

- 1) The development and delivery of education projects consistent with FRIAA's objectives and aimed at K-12 students or teachers, or at adults not employed in the forest industry could be considered eligible.
- 2) Education projects targeting adults employed or preparing for employment in the forest industry, cannot include training focusing on basic competencies or requirements of employment (e.g. first aid or WHMIS, operator training, etc.) or on competencies not directly related to enhanced forest resources or improved forest management (e.g. log quality, cost accounting, product development or marketing).
- 3) Workshops or similar deliverables whose primary aim is technology transfer (e.g. research outcomes or new methodologies that can be applied to forest management) and aimed at forest practitioners maybe considered eligible.
- 4) The Development and delivery of curriculum or training that primarily targets forestry practitioners could be considered for eligibility in FRIP if the subject matter relates to the FRIP mandate of improved forest management and is not specifically a requirement of forest companies under regulation or tenure obligations (e.g. training for AVI interpretation or regeneration surveys). The potential eligibility for FRIP should include an analysis of the primary objective of the project (i.e. is basic competency training of workers who may be employed by the forest industry the primary or is the primary intent continuing / improved competency of practitioners so as to improve forest management?).

Question #21: To clarify, can you apply for a project while completing a current FRIP project?

Yes, you may have more than one FRIP project ongoing at one time, however, FRIAA may take into consideration the capacity of the Applicant.

Question #22: What is the maximum amount of funding available under this RFEOI?

FRIAA has not released the total funding amount under this RFEOI publicly.

Question #23: Do you ever award less than the amount requested—for example, offering a reduced amount instead of the full requested funding?

FRIAA will try to address any reduced scope or funding reductions when invited to submit detailed proposals, however, the Panel reserves the right to provide additional feedback to Applicants for their consideration to remove specific tasks, items, adjust scope and/or budget should they deem appropriate. The Applicant can then decide how to proceed with updating their detailed proposal to incorporate the feedback.

Question #24: If we are part of an existing project funded by FRIAA under another Program (i.e. CHRP), could we get FRIP funding to 'expand' the scope of the project?

No. If the projects are under other FRIAA funding programs, then they would be funded through those programs. If the proposed project is not within the scope of another program but related, these maybe considered for funding and would need to be submitted as a unique proposal for review, evaluation, and ranking by the Panel.

Question #25: Are our proposals confidential?

The proposals will be reviewed by FRIAA Management and the Panel in confidence. If a proposal is funded, the proposal may become publicly available subject to guidelines, policies, and regulations of FRIAA. Generally, proposals remain internal, however, anything submitted to FRIAA is subject to *Access to Information Act* (ATIA), formally known as the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA).

Question #26: If an organization does an annual project and would require the funds by July due to field constraints, is it better to apply and set the project start date for July 2027 funding or July 2026?

This is linked to question 19 about eligible expenses prior to approval decisions. At FRIAA's discretion, a project with a start date of June or July 2026 due to operational constraints with approval decisions later, may be considered. However, there maybe a risk if the proposal were unsuccessful, as this is a competitive review process & not guaranteed funding. The Applicant may wish to set the start date for the project in 2027 should they require FRIAA's funding to complete the project.

Question #27: If we have company sponsorship for the project, would we include the company sponsorship form in the EOI?

Sponsorship forms are not required at the EOI stage. It is sufficient to state the funds are being provided through sponsorship to demonstrate leverage for the project at the EOI stage. If sponsorship is being leveraged, Sponsorship forms would be required at the detailed proposal stage.

Question #28: Are applications that use 2BT funding eligible?

Yes, however, current direction from the Board is that planting of trees in wildfires is specifically excluded as an eligible activity at this time.

Question #29: What happens if the project objective was not achieved at the end of a project?

FRIAA sincerely hopes that all projects proposed that are successful in securing funding, will achieve the objectives as set out in proposal. As soon as an Applicant identifies that a project objective may be at risk, this should be flagged to FRIAA immediately to work together to determine the next steps. If the project simply requires additional time to complete, FRIAA can work with the Applicant to extend the project. FRIAA funding is provided for actual completion of eligible activities. Please refer to the Agreement for further information.

Question #30: Is there flexibility in spending (and activities) between years (for multi-year projects) or is it x amount for year 1, year 2, etc.?

Yes, FRIAA would expect budget to reflect actual anticipated expenses for each year and can fluctuate from year to year. The overall budget would be how FRIAA would evaluate spending against the approved funding allocation not against the individual categories or years (within reason).

Question #31: For the review process; the Panel will review the EOI's and then select a suite of proposals which then go to the full proposal stage. What proportion of accepted EOI's do you anticipate would be funded once the full proposal is received?

Unable to speculate at this point. It would depend on how many EOIs are received and the total amount of funds requested. FRIAA appreciates the effort that goes into project proposals, therefore EOIs that are invited to the detailed proposal stage, would be considered to have merit and have a high likelihood of receiving approval subject to funding availability.

Question #32: Is there a limit on how much we can spend on equipment, or any restrictions on what equipment can be purchased? Additionally, do we retain ownership of the equipment after the project ends, or is it returned? FRIAA does not allow the purchase of capital assets. Capital items used in a project may be reclassified as expenses and claimed at fair market value on a per use fee such as a rental fee for OHV's. FRIAA has also allowed for certain expenses relating to education or public awareness projects that may be classified as "capital assets" for educational institutions and select not-for-profit organizations as an exception. For more specifics related to capital assets, please reach out to admin@friaa.ab.ca.

Question #33: Would projects related to third-party forest certification requirements be eligible?

No, as these are generally considered to be a requirement of a company which is excluded from FRIP, however, an Applicant could demonstrate how the third-party forest certification would benefit the Alberta public at large, not be for a specific company benefit, and would have a broader application for the public interest.

Question #34: Are longer-term (multi-year) projects favoured over smaller ones?

Multi-year strategic projects are encouraged and viewed favourably but not required. Smaller projects have their place and value, and the Panel will strive to value the project on its merit, regardless of project length.

Question #35: Would an Applicant's previous history with FRIP or FRIAA projects be considered during the proposal review process?

Past project success does not factor into this RFEI review criteria and would not impact your chance at a fair review, evaluation and ranking by the Panel. FRIAA does wish to provide funding for the best projects and would like all projects to be successfully completed within the timeframe and budgets proposed.

Question #36: Do tree planting projects that are not part of a company's tenure and are on known caribou land fall within FRIP? For example, planting fires or other natural disturbances.

Tree planting activities that are outside of company obligations (including oil and gas or other industry) may fall under other FRIAA programs such as the Caribou Habitat Recovery Program (CHRP), Community Reforestation Program (CRP), Enhanced Reforestation of Legacy Disturbances (EnRLD) program, or Wildfire Reclamation Program (WRP) and would therefore not be eligible. Current direction within FRIP is that planting of trees in wildfires is specifically excluded as an eligible activity at this time.

Question #37: Can projects occur in Alberta Wildland Parks? Can projects occur on private land?

Project activities can occur on public land so long as the required approvals and other authorizations have been obtained from the responsible authorities. Project can be proposed on private land as long as the activities are not an obligation of any entity and has direct applicability to those activities on public lands.

Question #38: The WRP program is not providing full funding anymore to tenure holders. So, they are applying to release liability. After liability is released, are these areas eligible?

Current direction within FRIP is that planting of trees in wildfires is specifically excluded as an eligible activity at this time.