

# ArcticNet

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Partnered Research Program  
Call for Proposals 2024

WITH FUNDING FROM



**Genome**Québec

**Canada** 



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## Overview

This is the first Partnered Research Program Call for Proposals under the new ArcticNet, which will continue the collective work of studying the impacts of rapid climate, environmental and socio-economic change in Inuit Nunangat and the broader Canadian North. Representing a new era in scientific collaboration, ArcticNet, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and Polar Knowledge Canada together co-created a new vision that is focused on bridging and leveraging diverse knowledge to better understand and prepare for a changing Arctic.

## Geographic Scope

It should be noted that the terms “Arctic” and “North” have different definitions across cultures, disciplines, organizations and people. The purpose is to be inclusive of all people, Indigenous groups, organizations, governments and others that define themselves as part of this ‘community’. In this spirit of inclusion, the definition of “Arctic” or “North” does not reflect a specific latitude or particular border. Therefore, when this document uses the term “Arctic” or “North”, it means northern and Arctic areas in Canada, inclusive of all the territories, the northern portion of the provinces and Inuit Nunangat.

Inuit Nunangat is their homeland in Canada, encompassing the land claims regions of Nunavut, Nunavik in Northern Quebec, Nunatsiavut in Northern Labrador and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories. It is inclusive of land, water and ice, and describes an area encompassing 40 percent of Canada’s landmass and more than 72 percent of its coastline. For further reference, please consult the federal [Inuit Nunangat Policy](#).

When we use the term “Indigenous” it is inclusive of Inuit, First Nation and Métis peoples.

## Scope and Research Priorities

Growth of economic activities in the Arctic, compounded with the ongoing global climate change crisis, has created a suite of new research priorities and needs that must enhance understanding and support decision-making. **ArcticNet projects address research gaps and needs identified by end-users**, including those defined by Indigenous leaders and communities, national and territorial governments, scientists, and international declarations.

**ArcticNet will fund projects addressing priorities related to Well-Being, Infrastructure, Energy, Ecosystems, Economy.** Innovative, multidisciplinary, state-of-the-art and inclusive projects are



solicited to address the challenges and opportunities created by the rapidly changing natural environment, and social and cultural systems. Applicants must outline how their work is addressing research gaps and needs identified by end-users.

Utilizing Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami National Inuit Strategy on Research for research conducted in Inuit Nunangat, ArcticNet aims to fund a balanced research portfolio that spans disciplines, geographies, and levels of impact from communities to the global context.



## ArcticNet Pillars

Applicants must outline how their work is linked to ArcticNet pillars and objectives.

### Pillar 1. Leveraging discovery and diversity

**Objective 1: Deliver world-class science addressing national and Indigenous priorities.** A pivotal objective of ArcticNet is to produce world-class science using proven approaches to research generation that includes leveraging knowledge assets from western science and Indigenous knowledge, and through a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in science.

**Objective 2: Advance Indigenous-led research in the North, for the North, and by the North.** ArcticNet is guided by the fundamental understanding that Indigenous Peoples are experts



about their own lives, communities and environments and that the most effective technologies and innovations emerge when all ways of knowing and understanding are considered.

## **Pilar 2. Convening and connecting**

**Objective 3: Connect knowledge assets for discovery, decision-making, inclusion, and leadership.** Working in strong partnership with federal, territorial and Indigenous organizations will greatly help to streamline Arctic and Northern science programming in Canada, reduce adjudication fatigue, enable enhanced opportunities for international engagement, and support our ability to track and share progress, while limiting overlaps in spending due to disjointed programming or the lack of convening and connecting efforts.

**Objective 4: Transform approaches for Arctic research governance in support of Indigenous self-determination.** The new governance structure of ArcticNet will highlight the transformation that is needed to revolutionize the standard operating procedures for governing Arctic and Northern research in Canada in order to advance and support Indigenous self-determination and to showcase Canadian research leadership innovations internationally.

## **Pilar 3. Unleashing capacity**

**Objective 5: Train and mentor Canada's next generation of Arctic scientists and Indigenous researchers.** Supporting a sustainable and Canadian-led approach to development of Arctic Canada requires a strong workforce of skilled Arctic specialists and scientists. ArcticNet will continue and expand its training initiatives for university and college students, northerners, and Indigenous youth and adults through a set of core training themes developed.

**Objective 6: Enhance Indigenous and northern capacity in project (and research) management and administration.** Canada lags heavily behind other Arctic countries in terms of economic and human development. In the coming decades, the colossal task of sustainably improving conditions for healthy and vibrant communities and environments in the Canadian Arctic and North will require a vastly expanded, specialized, innovative, resourceful, diverse and inclusive workforce of Arctic research professionals and experts – both from the North and the South.

## **Pilar 4. Mobilizing knowledge**

**Objective 7: Support decision-makers and Arctic and Northern leaders through effective and accessible knowledge products.** Knowledge mobilization initiatives under ArcticNet will be





### Eligible recipients:

- Post-secondary institutions;
- Research hospitals;
- First Nations, Inuit (as recognized by the [Inuit Nunangat Policy](#)), and Métis and Territorial organizations and governments;
- Research networks;
- Public engagement networks;
- Companies that deliver public engagement activities;
- Start-up companies (including those housed in Canadian post-secondary-linked incubators).

Note: Eligible recipients do not include federal departments, agencies or crown corporations of the Government of Canada.

### Eligible costs:

- Salaries of research staff.
- Costs related to students, highly qualified personnel (HQP), and trainees.
  - Bachelors
  - Masters
  - Doctorate
  - Postdoc
  - Others
- Professional and technical services.
- Operations of core research facilities
- Equipment (excluding Major Research Equipment)
- Materials and supplies.
- Research-related travel and accommodation costs (fieldwork).
- Aircraft (there is no other call for proposals for aircraft expenses)
- Seminars and workshops.
- Networking (collaboration) meetings.
- Conferences
- Communications
- Other (explain)



## Competition partner Génome Québec

Génome Québec (GQ) will provide a total of \$800,000 in support to research projects which will use omics approaches (omics encompasses disciplines such as genomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, epigenomics, nutrigenomics, metabolomics, metagenomics, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, or bioinformatics). The goal is to contribute to ArcticNet pillars and to Génome Québec domains of interest: biodiversity, climate change, aquaculture, invasive species, emerging disease, sustainability, ecosystem and environment, human health, etc., by using omics and/or promote the use and adoption of omics technologies. The project must include a researcher based in an eligible institution in Quebec. The applicant and host institution have to be eligible by both ArcticNet's criteria and [Génome Québec's financial guidelines](#).

Génome Québec will provide support to the team grants relevant to [omics with applicant based in an eligible institution in Quebec](#). Génome Québec can only fund researchers affiliated with a public research institute in Quebec (university, college, or an institution with a research mandate).

Note:

- To receive funding available by GQ, matching expenses of the funds (from ArcticNet or eligible partners, if applicable) must be spent in Québec.  
 GQ will not fund projects with a total Quebec-based budget (from ArcticNet or eligible partners, if applicable) lower than \$200,000.

## Requirements

Projects taking place in Inuit Nunangat must incorporate the principles of the [National Inuit Strategy on Research](#). It is recommended that applicants proposing work in Inuit Nunangat connect with the [Inuit Research Advisors](#) for the region(s) they propose to work in. Projects taking place in First Nations and Métis regions must follow research principle in place in their respective regions.

Recipients must ensure compliance with the federal [Framework for Responsible Conduct of Research](#), which includes requirements for certain types of research:

- Research involving human subjects shall meet the requirements of the [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#). In particular, the provisions of [Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#) should be well understood by all individuals involved in a component of research involving Indigenous Peoples of Canada.





- Research requiring the use of animals shall be conducted in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the [Canadian Council on Animal Care \(CCAC\) Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals](#) and hold a valid Certificate of Good Animal Practice.
- Research involving biohazards or infectious agents must adhere to the standards outlined in the latest edition of the [Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines](#) prepared by the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Research involving radioactive materials must comply with all Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) [Acts and Regulations](#), including recommended procedures and safety precautions governing the use of such materials in Canada.
- Research activities having potential effects on the environment must adhere to the [Impact Assessment Act](#) (see [Practitioner's Guide to the Impact Assessment Act - Canada.ca](#) for further details).
- Research involving controlled information must comply with all laws and regulations regarding Controlled Information, including but not limited to the *Defence Production Act*, *Export Control Regulations*, and the *Controlled Goods Regulations* before, during or after the tenure of the contribution. The Recipient will ensure that information reported to the SSF will not include information subject to restrictions or controls under the *Export and Import Permits Act* or its regulations, the *Export Control Regulations* or the *Controlled Goods Regulations* (see [Controlled goods: Examining, possessing or transferring – Canada.ca \(tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca\)](#) for details).

Only one application per Project Leader (PL) will be considered. Applicants may also receive funding on up to a maximum of two ArcticNet projects per fiscal year as a Co-Lead/Researchers.

ArcticNet is committed to furthering equity, diversity and inclusion. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [ArcticNet's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Strategy](#) and incorporate EDI practices into their project, particularly in the composition of the project team.

Where activities include research, Recipients must ensure compliance and alignment with the federal [Open Access Policy on Publications](#) and the [Research Data Management policy](#). The Recipient should adopt Open Science principles that maximize the value of all research activities, including by making negative research findings accessible where possible.



## Timeline

Applicants must submit their completed proposal following the procedure outlined below through the surveymonkey Portal : [arctinet.smapply.ca](https://arctinet.smapply.ca) by **23:59 EST December 20, 2024**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

DATE	MILESTONE
December 20, 2024	Applications due by 23:59 EST
January 10 to February 7, 2025	Review window for all applications by members of ArcticNet’s research management committee (RMC), regional reviewers, and external reviewers
February 25 and 26, 2025	RMC review meeting for recommendations to the board
March 2025	Decision by ArcticNet’s board of directors
Late march / early April 2025	Notice of decision sent to applicants
April 2025	Grants begin



## Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

All eligible applications will be reviewed by ArcticNet's Research Management Committee (RMC) and external reviewers (where applicable). The RMC will review applications based on the following criteria (100 points total):

### **Mandatory**

#### ***Project Excellence (35 points)***

- The proposal will bring significant value to ArcticNet and the proposed research outcomes will strengthen and advance the overall objectives of ArcticNet.
- The proposal responds to research gaps and needs as identified by end-users such as Indigenous leaders, communities, and government agencies, and addresses priorities related to well-being, infrastructure, energy, ecosystems and economy in the Canadian North.
- The proposed research is excellent, innovative, original and has the potential for significant impact(s).
- The proposal deliverables, timeline, and methodologies are clearly defined and are realistic.

#### ***Project Team Expertise and Partnership Strategy (25 points)***

- The Project co-leader is Indigenous. If not, the team must comprise a strong Indigenous or Northern participation.
- The Project Leader and research team have the research expertise and excellence to deliver on the proposed plan.
- The project includes a comprehensive partnership plan, outlining the roles and contributions of relevant partners. The plan demonstrates how partners' expertise and resources are leveraged to achieve the project's goals and address identified research needs.
- The proposed project follows a networking approach, with two-way interactions between researchers and partners.

#### ***Community Engagement and Training (15 points)***

- The proposal describes a clear and thorough strategy for engaging with Indigenous peoples, Northern communities, and other relevant stakeholders. It includes plans for



engagement before, during, and after the project, ensuring meaningful participation and impact. The plan addresses who will be engaged, when, how, and for what purpose.

- The proposed project provides opportunities for Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP<sup>1</sup>), including a training strategy that promotes multidisciplinary and trans-sectoral research approaches and encourages trainees to consider the economic, social and ethical implications of their work.

### ***Knowledge Mobilization (15 points)***

- The proposed project has a clear and complete plan for [knowledge exchange](#) activities, which involve active and innovative approaches, and are designed to deliver new knowledge and tools in ways that can be readily utilized by partners.
- The proposed data management plan followed [ArcticNet Data management Policy and Guidelines](#).

### ***Budget (10 points)***

- The budget is appropriate and well-justified; and
- The proposal is strongly supported, evidenced by cash and in-kind contributions.

### ***Not Scored Criteria (but mandatory)***

- The proposed research is accepted by the community as evidenced by a signed and completed community engagement;
- The proposed work meets responsible research and ethics requirements;
- Environmental assessment completed when the project is funded.

### ***Additional considerations***

Proposals that meet the following criteria will be given preference. However, it is recognized that certain types of research may not be able to align perfectly with each criterion. All proposals will be evaluated based on their overall quality and merit:

- Cash and in-kind contributions that are leveraged equal to or exceed ArcticNet's average leveraging ratio of 3x;

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<sup>1</sup> HQP: include undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, research assistants, technicians, Indigenous partners, assistants and knowledge holders, whether based in Northern or Southern Canada, as well Inuit, First Nations and Metis.



- A significant portion of the project's budget is dedicated to Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP), training, and capacity building;
- The proposal incorporates Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous team members, where applicable, recognizing that this may be not feasible for all research;
- The proposal includes international collaborators, where possible; and,
- The proposal connects to and furthers existing or previous ArcticNet projects.

### ***Cut-off score***

Proposals must score a minimum of 70 points out of 100 to be considered for funding.

### **Procedure**

A complete application consists of:

- Application
- Budget
- Project Team
- Proposed Project Leader, Co-Leads and Researchers' Curriculum Vitae (cvs)
- Community engagement form or letters of support (no max) from local organisations of the proposed project. Letters of support are mandatory for organizations providing cash and in-kind support.

### **Research Security Requirements**

After submitting your proposal, if it is deemed eligible, you will need to assess whether it is subject to research security requirements. If applicable, you must provide ArcticNet with the required documents before your proposal can be reviewed.

### **Reporting**

Funding projects will be required to submit a written annual financial and progress activities report as well as a data management plan to ArcticNet. Reports on project progress and data management plan will be reviewed and evaluated by the RMC.

### **Additional Resources**

Questions about the application process can be directed to Anne-Laure Agrinier, Science Program Officer at [anne-laure.agrinier@arcticnet.ulaval.ca](mailto:anne-laure.agrinier@arcticnet.ulaval.ca).