

Equality fund

CONNECT Expression of Interest

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST ACCESS TO EDIT!
Instead, download a copy of this document for your own use. Select “File” in the upper left corner, then “Download”, then “Microsoft Word”. Requests for access to edit will not be accepted nor responded to.

IMPORTANT: This document is provided to allow you and your team to work offline on your proposal - but REMEMBER you will need to copy / paste your answers into the online application form available through our Community Portal before it closes on Sept 16, 2026 at 17:00 EDT (UTC-4).

Late applications cannot be accepted.

Please thoroughly read the Application Guidelines provided before spending time on your application and to access the eligibility quiz.

- To access the Guidelines, or the FRENCH or SPANISH versions of this document, go to <https://equalityfund.ca/en/posts/connect-open-call>
- Pour consulter les lignes directrices ou les versions en FRANÇAIS de ce document, rendez-vous sur <https://equalityfund.ca/en/posts/connect-open-call>
- Para acceder a las Directrices, o a las versiones en ESPAÑOL de este documento, visita <https://equalityfund.ca/en/posts/connect-open-call>

The Equality Fund has a multi-streamed grantmaking approach that provides financial support to feminist organizations and women’s funds in different ways.

VISION: The Equality Fund envisions a world transformed by the untapped potential of women, girls and gender expansive people.

WHAT PREVENTS OUR VISION FROM BEING REALITY: Today we are living in a world where coordinated anti-rights, anti-democracy, anti-gender, and authoritarian movements are thriving after years (and sometimes decades) of patient investment. The impact of this work is transcending the boundaries of any single issue, population, or movement. Our political,

economic, and social systems are deeply interconnected. No single movement can meet the scale of today's challenges alone. Yet, much philanthropic funding remains organized in thematic silos that reinforce fragmentation and leave little room for the collaboration needed to address shared root causes.

OUR STRATEGY: CONNECT, one of the Equality Fund's grantmaking streams, is opening funding to collaborations who are seeking to address this period of intensifying anti-rights forces by building relationships across movements that have not historically worked together that now seek to work equitably towards shared goals. This pilot round of funding focuses on strengthening the relationships, infrastructure, trust, shared strategy, and collective capacity that enable feminist, women's rights, and allied social justice movements to build power together across issues, geographies, and constituencies towards a shared vision for gender equality and social justice. CONNECT disincentivizes funding silos by investing in bridging movements who have identified that they need to be working together in order to address this moment of escalating attacks on rights, democracy, and social justice.

By supporting the coming together of movements that see and work on different parts of interconnected systems, CONNECT helps create opportunities for coordinated collective efforts that can influence multiple sectors and systems simultaneously. Grounded in feminist and intersectional principles, the program also seeks to model the values it promotes through trust-based, participatory, and non-extractive grantmaking practices. Ultimately, **CONNECT invests in the infrastructure of collective action towards a world where all can live in dignity**, recognizing that lasting systems-change depends both on strong individual movements as well as the strength of the relationships between them.

Please see the Application Guidelines for more specific details about **CONNECT**. This is an offline template that you can use to work on a draft of the Expression of Interest with your team(s). Please complete the [Eligibility Quiz](#) in order to submit your Expression of Interest online in the Equality Fund's **Community Portal**. See Application Guidelines for more details or contact us at grants@equalityfund.ca if you have technical issues submitting your Expression of Interest.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECK

1. Have you reviewed the eligibility criteria check-list and meet all the requirements?

☐

Yes

☐

No

A. LEAD ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION: For operational efficiency, we ask you to identify one organization as the point of contact with the Equality Fund for the Proposal process. The Lead or Programmatic Lead Organization should complete this section - see the Application Guidelines for more information about the role and responsibilities of the Lead Organization.

Organization's name:

Organization's short form name or acronym, if applicable:	
Organization's legal name, if different:	
Address:	
City /Town:	
Country:	
Postal Code: (optional)	
Organization's phone number:	
Organization's email address:	
Organization's Website: (optional)	
Organization's Social Media: (optional)	
Primary Contact	
Primary Contact - First Name:	
Primary Contact - Last Name:	
Primary Contact - Gender pronoun:	☐ She/her ☐ They/them ☐ He/him ☐ Other (please note)
Primary Contact - Position:	
Primary Contact - Email Address:	
Primary Contact - Phone Number:	
Does the primary contact communicate with one of the following secure messaging	☐ WhatsApp ☐ Signal

applications? Please select only 1	
Number for secure messaging app (if different from phone number):	
Secondary Contact	
Secondary Contact - First Name:	
Secondary Contact - Last Name:	
Secondary Contact - Gender pronoun:	☐ She/her ☐ They/them ☐ He/him ☐ Other (please note)
Secondary Contact - Position:	
Secondary Contact - Email Address:	
Secondary Contact - Phone Number:	
Does the secondary contact communicate with one of the following secure messaging applications? Please select only 1	☐ WhatsApp ☐ Signal
Number for secure messaging app (if different from phone number):	

B. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Tell us the story of your collaboration	
1. Drivers of the Collaboration - What is the primary context, challenge or opportunity driving this collaboration? Why is now the time to do this work? (Maximum 500 words)	

2. Collaborating Partners

A. How are actors outside feminist movement spaces involved in the collaboration?

Select one

They are central co-creators

They are involved as advisors

They are program implementers or participants

They have limited involvement

They are not involved

Other _____

B. How does the collaboration intentionally redistribute resources, decision-making, or power toward historically excluded groups? *Select one*

This is explicitly designed into the collaboration

We desire this but are still developing mechanisms

We aren't sure how to do this yet

Other _____

C. Tell us more about who is part of this collaboration and why? What different movements and ecosystem actors are represented in this collaboration? Why are these the “right” partners to do this work? What is the story behind when, how, and why you came together? *(Maximum 500 words)*

3. Description of Work

A. What is the expected time horizon for the change the collaboration is trying to achieve?

Select one.

Primarily short-term (1–4 years)

Primarily medium-term (5–10 years)

Primarily long-term (10+ years)

Other _____

B. Where does the primary work of the collaboration occur? *Select one*

Across actors within a single movement

Between two movements

Across multiple (more than 2) movements

C. Given the context where you work, what is most critical to work on together? What is the kind of work you are doing together or plan to do together? How would Connect accelerate the kind of work you are proposing? *(Maximum 500 words)*

4. Collaboration Structure

A. What best describes the current stage of your collaboration? *Select one.*

- **Forming:** we are coming together around a shared purpose but have no or very limited experience working together.
- **Starting:** we are already working together but have limited or informal structures and ways of working.
- **Growing:** we have an established history of working together and have developed shared structures and processes.
- **Established:** we have a sustained collaboration with well-developed structures, roles, and joint decision-making.
- **Other:** _____

B. How is your collaboration structured? What challenges have you faced in collaborating so far? How have you thought about governance, decision-making, and navigating power? What has trust-building looked like so far? *(Maximum 500 words)*

5. Gender Equality

A. How central is advancing social change on issues affecting women, youth, girls, and/or gender expansive people to the purpose of this collaboration? *Select one.*

- It is one of the collaboration's major objectives.
- It is mainstreamed across the collaboration's work.
- The collaboration contributes to gender equality indirectly.

B. Explain further: *(Maximum 250 words)*

6. What will be the geographic focus of your work? Select all that apply.

- Latin America
- Caribbean
- Asia & the Pacific
- Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA)
- Eastern Europe & the Balkans
- Africa
- Western Europe
- North America

C. COLLABORATING PARTNER INFORMATION

7. Please list the names for the collaborating partners in this work and explain their specific role in the collaboration *(If for safety and security reasons, you cannot name the organizations, we understand. Instead, please provide a generic description of the organization to provide us with some context. If you have collaborating partners who will engage with this work but not receive funding under it, please also name them here.)*

Also indicate country of registration if applicable, country of operation.

Name	Role in the collaboration <i>(Maximum 250 words)</i>

b) Is one of the above mentioned collaborating partners a current Equality Fund grantee partner? *Current Equality Fund grantee partners can participate in a collaboration, however they cannot be a lead organization in a collaboration. Participation of a current EF grantee partner will not impact the consideration of your application, we only ask for tracking purposes.*

☐ **Yes**

 ☐ **No**

D. LEAD ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

8. Briefly describe your organization's current mission and any experience of movement work and/ or working in collaboration. *[maximum word limit: 500 words/3000 characters]*

		Women, youth, girls and/or gender expansive peoples	Men
9. Indicate, by gender identity, the number of your staff, board members, advisors, volunteers, and members that are part of your organizational structure. <i>If a category does not apply to your organization, use a "0".</i>	Staff		
	Volunteers		
	Members		
	Board Members		
	Advisors		

10. a) We would like to know more about who you work with and how you ensure meaningful participation and representation of diverse voices, especially those of women, gender

expansive, and marginalized groups, in your work. *Please identify the core 3-5 groups from the list below.*

If not otherwise specified, “women” includes youth, girls and gender expansive peoples

Population groups of focus	Mark with an (X)
Indigenous women	
Women affected by conflict or post-conflict	
Women leaders in political participation	
Adolescent girls (13 -17 years)	
Young women (18-35 years)	
Women in social enterprise/commerce	
Women farmers	
Migrant women	
Sex workers	
LBTIQ people	
Women living in rural areas	
Women experiencing gender-based violence	
Women living with disabilities	
Refugee women	
Domestic workers	
Women living with HIV/ AIDS	
Women human rights defenders	
Other (<i>please describe</i>):	

b) Is your organization self-led by any of the population groups selected above?

☐

Yes

☐

No

If yes, which group(s):

11. a) As the organization filling out this application, you are the <i>Programmatic Lead</i>. Is your organization also acting as the financial lead? See the Application Guidelines for more details on the responsibilities of the roles.
A. Yes, our organization will also be the Financial Lead B. No, another organization in our collaboration will act as the Financial Lead C. No, we will have a Fiscal Sponsor act as the Financial Lead
b) If B or C is selected in the question above, provide the organizational name of the Financial Lead:
12. Registration - Lead Organization
a . Is your organization legally registered? ☐ Yes ☐ No b. If yes, in what country is your organization registered? _____
13. Registration - Financial Lead (if applicable)
a. Is the Financial Lead organization registered? ☐ Yes ☐ No b. If yes, in what country is it registered? _____
14. Audited Financial Reports from Financial Lead Organization
Please provide externally audited institutional financial reports for the Financial Lead Organization's last two fiscal years - the reports should include complete internal financial statements. Refer to the EOI Application Guidelines for detailed information. a) If your organization does not strictly meet the institutional audit requirement, but it meets the requirement of having managed/expended at least CAD \$325,000 in one of the last two fiscal years AND has other audit-related documents (eg. project audits), please upload those documents and provide a short explanation here of why your organization does not have externally audited <u>institutional</u> financial reports and explain how you meet the minimum financial criteria. b) <u>Audit Upload 1</u> Fiscal year: Total expenditure in CAD:

c) Audit Upload 2:

Fiscal year:

Total expenditure in CAD:

E. ACCESSIBILITY AND SECURITY NEEDS OF THE LEAD ORGANIZATION

15. Does your organization have any accessibility needs? Example, screen reader friendly documents *(maximum 300 words/2000 characters)*

16. Does your organization require the Equality Fund to take any particular security precautions in communicating during the application process?

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Yes

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No

If yes, describe: *(maximum 300 words/2000 characters)*