



Canadian Grapevine Certification Network

CGCN-RCCV

Réseau Canadien de Certification de la Vigne

**Next Policy Framework –
AgriScience Cluster Planning**

**Researchers' Meeting
October 14, 2026**

Presentation Overview

- About CGCN-RCCV & the AgriScience Cluster Program
- What we know so far (and what we don't yet)
- Draft LOI & proposal timelines
- Grape & wine research priorities
- Questions about collaborative projects, answered (hopefully)

CGCN's Mandate

1. Advance Canada's grape and wine industry by ensuring a sustainable domestic supply of certified propagative grapevine material.
2. Promote, coordinate, and direct financing towards research on a national scale for the benefit of the Canadian grape and wine industry.

Empower growers by sharing new knowledge, innovations, technology advancements, resources, etc. with the Canadian grape and wine industry

Our Member Associations



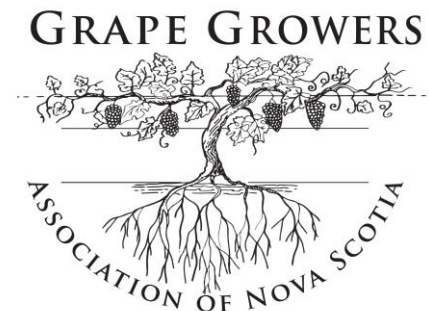
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Vanessa Lentz - info@ggans.com

These are your contacts for submitting letters of intent and research proposals in your province!

The AgriScience Cluster Program

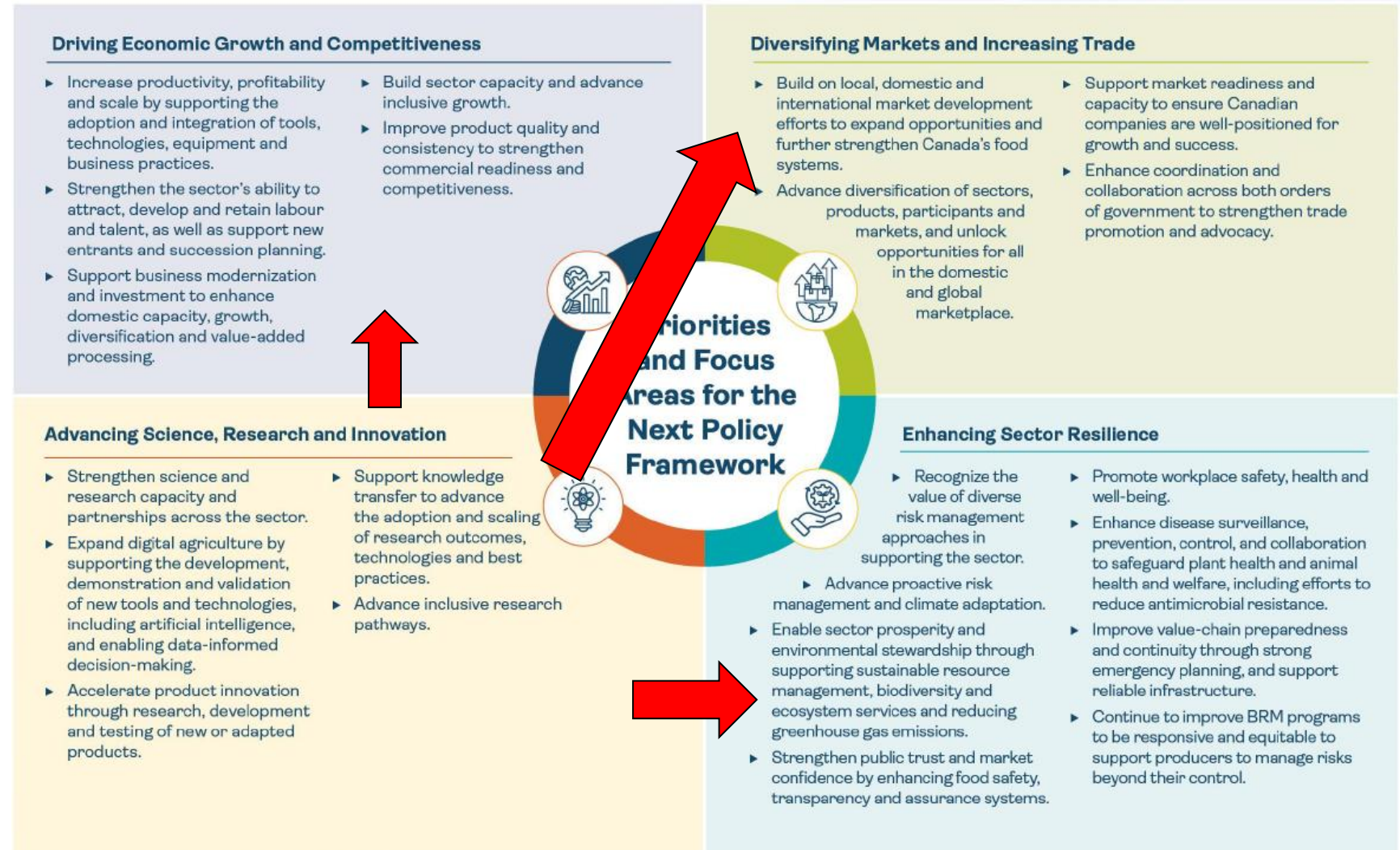
- “Provides funding and support for **pre-commercial applied science and research activities** (TRL 4-7) that address challenges facing the agriculture and agri-food sector and accelerate innovation in Canada”
- **“Clusters:** Supports **coordinated, national-scale** research portfolios that bring together industry, government and academia to address **priority national themes** and **horizontal issues** through a cohesive strategic approach”
- CGCN applies to the AgriScience Cluster Program with one large application comprised of several research activities from across the country, put forward by the provincial associations
- Funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada alongside matching cash and in-kind from provincial associations, other government, private partners, etc.

Cluster Stream	
Scope	National:
	• Commodity and/or sector specific • Focuses on issues across entire value chains
Purpose	Coordinated national research agendas addressing sector-wide priorities and horizontal issues
Lead entities	Not-for-profits, primarily national commodity organizations
Features	• Single national-level organization coordinates the research agenda across multiple institutions and regions • Long-term strategic research activities addressing sector-wide priorities and horizontal issues • Intake open only at start of framework

Technology Readiness Level		Strong rationale ← AgriScience Primary Focus → Strong rationale								
TRL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	–
Description	Idea generated	Feasibility studies	Basic components validated through models or in the laboratory under controlled conditions	Partially-integrated components validated in the lab under controlled conditions	Integrated components validated in a simulated environment under controlled but realistic conditions	Pilot-scale prototype in a simulated environment under controlled but realistic conditions	Full-scale prototype in an operational environment under limited but realistic conditions	Final technology in an operational environment under all expected conditions across crops & regions	Final technology further refined and successfully deployed	Technology openly available on the market

Next Policy Framework – What We Know So Far

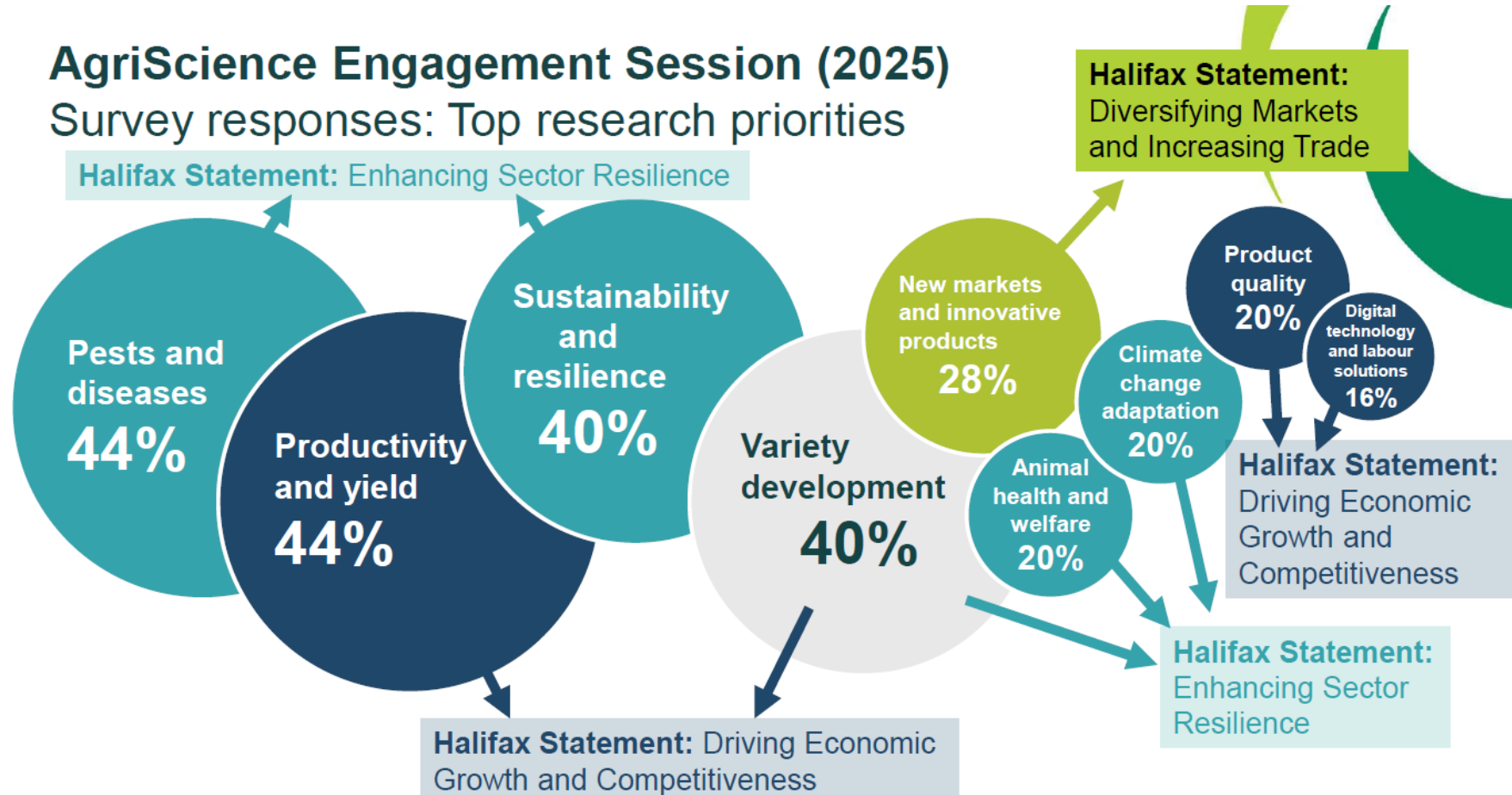
- NPF priorities from Halifax Statement
- **NOTE:** priorities specifically for the AgriScience Program have not yet been determined, but they are likely to be based heavily on this



Next Policy Framework – What We Know So Far

- Top research priorities from AgriScience survey respondents, and how they connect to priorities from the Halifax Statement

AgriScience Engagement Session (2025) Survey responses: Top research priorities



Next Policy Framework – What We Don't Know Yet

- Specific AgriScience Program priorities or application guidelines
- Cost share ratios for the research activities
 - Under current framework, this was mostly 50% AAFC cash, ~40% industry matching cash, up to 10% in-kind (non-cash contributions)

BUT!

- AAFC's goal is to release the draft application guide between January-March 2027!
- This will give us more details on exactly what the program is expected to look like around the time that calls for full proposals are expected to go out (see next slide...)

Grape & Wine Cluster – Draft LOI & Proposal Timeline

DRAFT

Event	Proposed Dates			
	BCWGC (BC)	OGWRI (ON)	CVQ (QC)	GGANS (NS)
Priority areas determined through industry consultations	Revised and Finalized by end of Sept. 2026?			
Call for LOIs from provincial associations to researchers	Mid-to-late November 2026			

*Timelines may vary slightly between provinces

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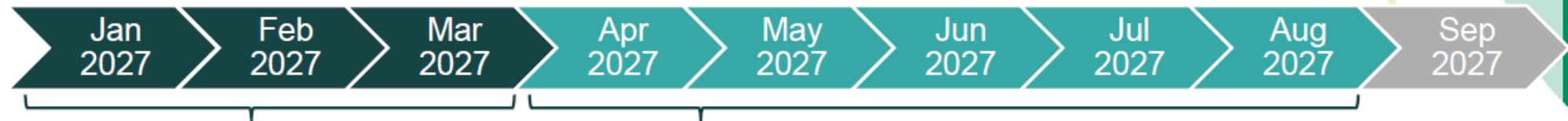
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Call for full proposals to researchers of selected LOIs	Around February 15th-19th, 2027 You will receive standardized work plan, budget, and funding letter templates for this!			
Full proposals due to provincial associations, submitted to CGCN	Due internally to STB for AAFC scientists around March 24th, 2027 Due to provincial associations around April 16th, 2027 Full proposals submitted to CGCN by May 31st, 2027			
	CGCN			
Peer review of submitted proposals	Starting June 2027			

- Specific dates are subject to change with advance notice (in consultation with all 4 associations)
- The overall time frame is not expected to change much
- IF any of this can happen sooner, that helps CGCN with assembling the full application (which **MUST** be submitted as close to September 2027 as possible to give us the best chance of April 1, 2028 start date)
- CGCN wants to receive selected LOIs from provinces BEFORE calls for proposals are issued so that we can quickly confirm program fit with AAFC early in the process

Once it's in CGCN's hands...

Winter to Summer 2027 – Preparation of application package



Goal for release of draft/tentative application guide

Dialogue with program

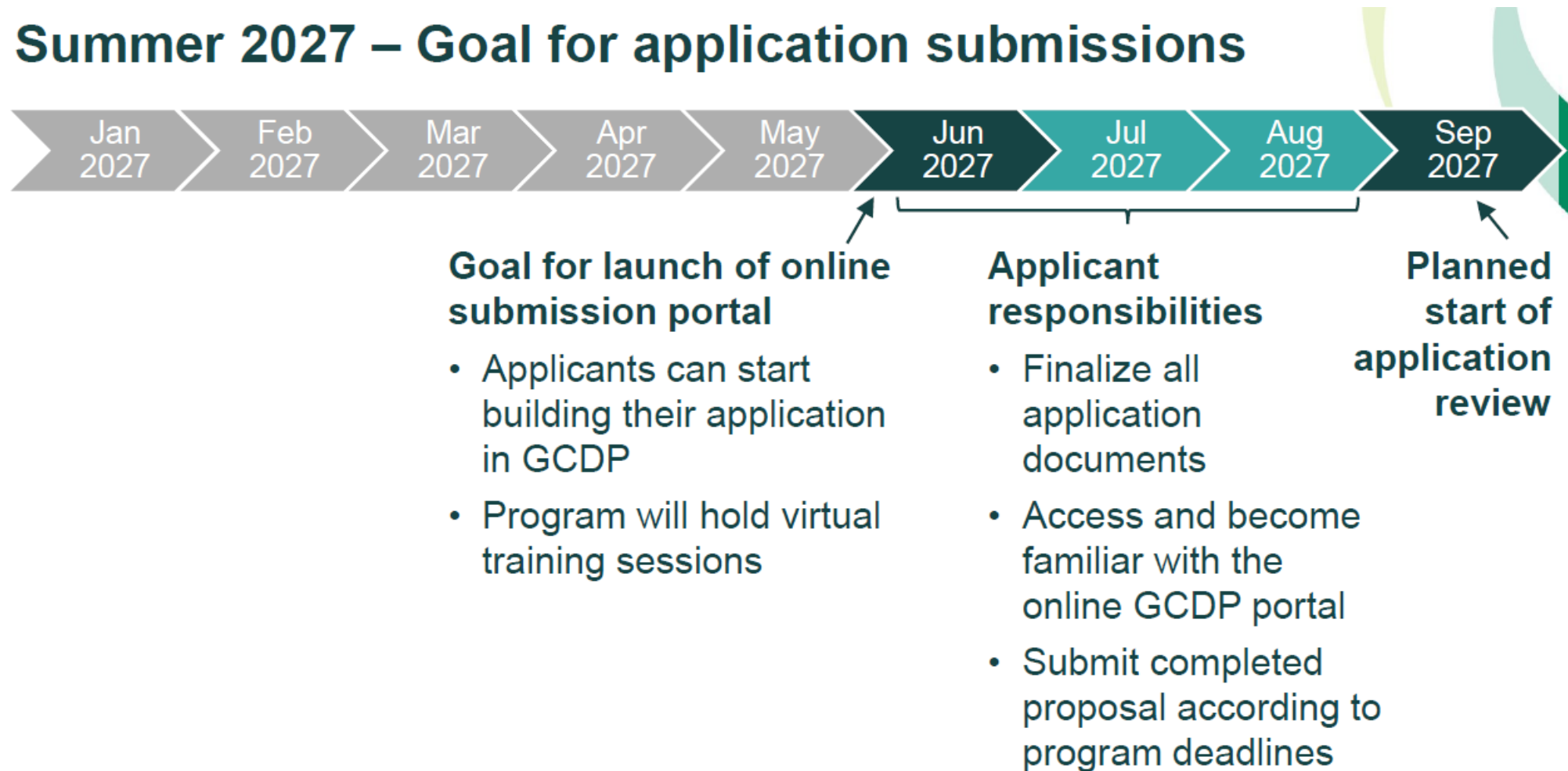
Program Officers are available for early discussions to provide feedback where possible and answer your questions

Applicant responsibilities

- Review draft guide and communicate program requirements to researchers
- Direct questions to Program Officer
- Review research proposals to identify and correct items that do not meet program requirements
- Identify funding sources for all activities
- Prepare application package

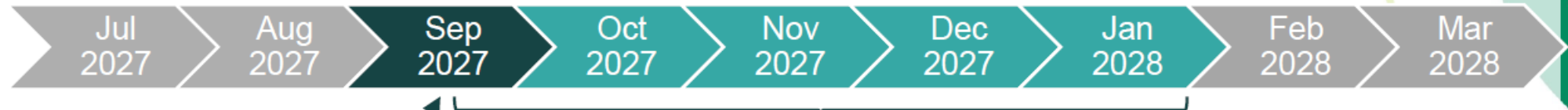
Once it's in CGCN's hands...

Summer 2027 – Goal for application submissions



Once it's in CGCN's hands...

Fall 2027 to Spring 2028 – Program review



**Planned
start of
application
review**

Applicant presentations

Before the detailed technical review begins, applicants will be invited to present their proposal to:

- explain the broader strategic vision and expected impacts of the proposal
- showcase innovation and connections across all projects

Once it's in CGCN's hands...

Days until decision



Applicant responsibilities

Applicants should plan for a 100-business day review plus additional days to deem complete.

ASP strongly encourages:

- Starting to build the application in June
- Full submission by September

Factors that will decrease review time

- Early and ongoing dialogue between ASP and Applicant during proposal development
- Applicant use of the ASP-developed templates
- Applicant presentation to ASP after submission

You don't need to worry about the specifics of that!

I only show it to illustrate the time crunch once CGCN receives the selected full proposals from the provincial associations.

If everyone is able to make this happen sooner, there is less concern about a delayed start to the research.

Grape & Wine Cluster – Provincial Research Priorities

BCWGC (BC)	OGWRI (ON)	CVQ (QC)	GGANS (NS)
Climate Change Impacts & Mitigation Strategies; Climate Extremes, Water Management	Pest & Disease Management	Climate Adaptation & Vine Resilience	Vine Management for Resiliency (compaction, tile drainage, nutrient management, etc.)
Cold Damage Resistance & Hardiness Improvement	Variety Evaluation & Development	Vine Health, Diseases, & Pests	Vine Management for Quality (vine density, crop load, etc.)
Pest & Disease Management	Agronomy (cold hardiness, canopy management, site selection, etc.)	Productivity, Yields, & Vineyard Practices	Soil Health (compaction, drainage, cover cropping, etc.)
Vegetation Management (herbicide alternatives, impact on soil fertility/fruit quality, etc.)	Sustainability (cover crop management, vineyard resilience, etc.)	Soil Health & Environmental Sustainability	Season Extension (strategies for early/late frosts & winter cold events)
Vine Balance & Canopy Management	Technology (vineyard/winery optimization, tool advancement, etc.)	Grape Variety Selection & Wine Quality	Rootstock Evaluation & Clonal Selection
Biovigilance (monitoring, modelling, etc.)	Consumer & Market Research		Evaluation of Wine Types & Styles
Robotics/New Technologies (for pest management, GIS, sensory analysis of wine, etc.)	Extreme weather events recovery & strategy		Pest Management
Soil Health, Ground Cover, & Vine Nutrition			Assessment of NS for European Hybrids
Smoke Taint			Evaluation of New Robotic Vineyard Tools
Oenology			

*colours used to indicate areas of approximate overlap/similarity between provinces

- More detailed lists for each province available in circulated Excel doc
- If you plan on submitting collaborative proposals from 2+ separate provinces, ensure alignment with relevant provincial associations' priorities to increase chances of selection

Grape & Wine Cluster – Comments on Collaboration

- We don't just want collaboration for the sake of collaboration if it isn't beneficial.
- Recall the national scope of the program 
 - Some regionally-specific research is always okay and can be nationally important/beneficial, but it is important that the expected results of this research are as nationally relevant as possible
- Example of Cluster collaboration: Many current and past Cluster activities have both a Vote 1 (AAFC researcher) and Vote 10 (non-AAFC researcher) component that complement each other

If you are proposing collaborative research between 2+ researchers at different institutions and/or in different provinces...

- Collaborative proposals should be prepared as a single LOI/proposal whenever possible, submitted to each provincial association according to their calls for LOIs/proposals, clearly outlining the connection
- **Be super super super clear in your full work plan, budget, etc. about what portion of the research is occurring at which institution(s), and whose industry/partner cash is covering which research costs**
 - The provincial associations have the industry cash, and they decide what gets forwarded to CGCN for the full Cluster application, so it needs to be as clear as possible for them!

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It also helps me out later and makes everyone's lives easier for admin purposes ☺

Questions?

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