



Call for Proposals

Canadian Climate Resilience Infrastructure Projects

Introduction & Purpose

Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab is calling for proposals from municipalities, regions, districts, or municipally owned corporations who are interested in receiving various funding, support and recognition incentives (as described below) for infrastructure projects that mitigate physical climate risk, including flooding (riverine, pluvial, or coastal), wildfires, severe storms (wind, hail), and heat.

The primary objective is to identify and support municipalities, regions, districts, or municipally owned corporations who are open to leveraging private capital financing for climate resilience infrastructure, thereby fostering climate adaptation, improving community resilience, and stimulating local economic growth.

Incentives:

1. **Funding for Project Costs¹:** Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab is offering funding of up to \$500,000 across the selected projects, up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project. This funding is to be used to offset the costs of the applicant's staff engaging with Co-operators in the selected project, and/or for the applicant to hire external expertise to support the project as required (e.g., engineering consultants). Certain other restrictions on the use of the funds will apply, depending on the project.
2. **Support:** Additionally, the selected projects will benefit from significant contribution of the Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab staff's time and expertise to collaborate with the applicant to develop the project and prepare it for possible private capital financing.
3. **Recognition:** With approval from the applicant, Co-operators will recognize their physical climate risk mitigation leadership in various public forums.

In addition to the incentives described above, should the project development and due diligence processes progress smoothly, Co-operators may consider providing additional financing to assist the applicant in executing the infrastructure project.

Link to Submission Form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/P2tJz1aPNy>

The submission deadline is **Friday, January 30th, 2026**, and projects will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received.

Background

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimated that \$5 billion/year is needed to adapt municipal infrastructure to climate change. This far exceeds the amount of public funding currently available to municipalities. However, there are clear economic benefits that accrue to homeowners and businesses from avoiding natural catastrophes. Given this, it is possible that private investors could play a role in financing more defensive infrastructure if the benefits from increasing climate resilience are shared.

Co-operators' purpose is building financial security for Canadians and our communities. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events is threatening that purpose. In 2025, it established the [Resilience Acceleration Lab](#) with the hypothesis that it (and other financial institutions) could contribute to climate resilience using its investment portfolios.

The funding and support related to this request for proposals is designed to help prepare municipalities, regions, districts, and municipally owned corporations to access private capital financing from Co-operators (or other investors).

[Learn more about the Resilience Acceleration Lab online](#)

Objectives

Selected projects must demonstrate a clear commitment to achieving the following:

- **Risk Reduction & Resilience:** Significantly reduce current physical climate risks while incorporating forward-looking design and engineering principles for long-term climate adaptation and resilience.
- **Economic Uplift:** Create direct and indirect economic benefits, such as job creation, asset value defense, reduced climate-related damages, and enhanced business continuity within the project's sphere of influence.
- **Municipal Leadership:** Showcase a forward-thinking municipality that is committed to proactive climate adaptation strategies and innovative approaches to bridging the infrastructure gap through leveraging private capital.

Eligibility Criteria for Projects

Municipalities, Regions, Districts, and Municipally Owned Corporations are all welcome to apply. Consultants who are currently engaged by a municipality, region, district or municipally owned corporation on the subject infrastructure projects may apply on their behalf. Proposals must meet the following core criteria:

- **Openness to Private Financing:** Demonstrate a clear willingness and capacity to think creatively and embrace innovation as we explore private financing mechanisms for the proposed project (either as the sole source of capital for the project, or to complement

public funding sources).

- **Project Size Requirement:** Minimum project size is \$5 million in total. Ideal size is \$20-100 million.
- **Senior Administrative Support:** The proposal has the support of senior administrative staff within the organization, which increases the likelihood of adequate resource allocation and timely decision-making as the project progresses. For consultant applicants, the proposal must also have the support of the government project proponent.
- **2026 Timeline:** Commit to working actively with the Resilience Acceleration Lab to develop the project throughout 2026, culminating in a draft term sheet or business case with letter of intent re further private capital financing by no later than November 30, 2026.
- **Willingness to Explore Potential Revenue Sources:** Possess or willing to explore dedicated and sustainable revenue streams earmarked to offset the financing of the project. Examples include:
 - Dedicated stormwater utility charges.
 - Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
 - Local Improvement Charge (LIC).
 - Special assessment districts.
 - Earmarked portions of property taxes or development charges.
 - Other revenue-generating mechanisms or profit sharing / equity partnership agreements.

Project Scope

Proposals should include the following projects details:

- **Physical Climate Risks & Mitigation Approach:** Clearly identify the existing physical climate risks and their impacts, as well as the proposed physical climate risk mitigation approach (e.g., riverine channel improvements, dikes, levees, floodwalls, natural infrastructure solutions, permeable pavements, defensible spaces, linear infrastructure hardening, etc.).
- **Future Proofing & Adaptability:** Describe how the project addresses current vulnerabilities while also building adaptive capacity to withstand and manage a future with more extreme climate risks.
- **Economic Impact Estimate:** If possible, provide a preliminary assessment of the anticipated economic benefits accruing to different constituents. Examples could include: reduced property damage to local homeowners and businesses, decreased business interruption, increased property values, new development opportunities or any other innovative economic activities.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Net Resilience Improvement: (30%)** The measurable increase in a community's capacity to withstand and recover from climate events resulting from the proposed project.
- **Bankability: (35%)** The clarity and viability of how proposed revenue streams can be leveraged to enable private financing of the proposed project.
- **Readiness to Innovate: (35%):** Evidence of the municipality, region, district or municipally owned corporation's willingness to adopt new approaches, technologies or partnerships to achieve the resilience objective.

Projects will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are submitted. The lab aims to finalize project selection late February 2026. If your project has a high level of complexity and you are concerned about meeting the deadline, please contact us, as we may be able to grant an extension. (resilience@cooperators.ca)

Key Dates:

- **Call for Proposals Release Date:** October 6, 2025
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** January 30, 2026
- **Final Selection:** February 20, 2026
- **Information Sessions:** Join Don Iveson and team for information sessions on October 29th and November 21st, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00PM EST. To receive your invitation please reach out to resilience@cooperators.ca.

NOTE:

The application process does not constitute an offer, promise, or guarantee of funding or cost offsets. The selection of projects for cash funding, support and recognition is at the sole and absolute discretion of the Resilience Acceleration Lab and Co-operators. All decisions regarding proposal selection are final and non-negotiable. No contractual or legal obligation is created through the submission of a proposal or by any communication related to this call for proposals, unless and until a formal, written agreement is fully executed by all parties.

Appendix: Submission Form

(Submissions must be made via the form at <https://forms.office.com/r/P2tJz1aPNy>. The application questions are provided below for reference.)

Section A: Municipal & Project Overview

1. Municipality Name: [Text]
2. Primary Contact Person: [Text]
3. Contact Email: [Text]
4. Contact Phone Number: [Text]
5. Project Title: [Text]
6. Project Location (Address): [Text]
7. Brief Executive Summary of Project (250 Words): [Text]

Section B: Project Scope

1. Risk & Impacts: Describe the existing physical climate risk that the proposed project aims to address, its impact, and the specific geographical location. Provide any supporting data or historical context (250 Words): [Text]
2. Solution (Present): Provide a detailed description of the proposed climate resilience infrastructure project, including its key components and how it directly mitigates the identified risks. Please also provide a high-level timeline for the project (even if hypothetical) (250 Words): [Text]
3. Solution (Future): Explain how the proposed solution would be beneficially adaptive and build long-term resilience against future climate impacts (250 Words): [Text]
4. Cost Estimates: Provide a preliminary estimate of the total project costs and a high-level breakdown of major cost components. Please also qualify your estimate by explaining how it was derived (e.g., similar projects, engineering, market research, etc.) (250 Words): [Text]
5. Financing Cash Flows: If possible, identify potential revenue source(s) that could be earmarked to service the financing of this project. If available, include projections of revenue generation (250 Words): [Text]
6. Partnership: We are eager to understand your vision for this project. Why are you interested in exploring how a partnership with private capital could help you bring it to life? (250 Words): [Text]

Section C: Supporting Documentation:

See submission form online.