ORF REview

# Stakeholder Consultation

**Please send responses to:**

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**Please answer the following questions.** You may answer them individually or address them as a whole.

1. **Are the program designs doing what they intended and having the desired impact?**
   1. The [Early Researcher Awards](https://www.ontario.ca/page/early-researcher-awards) provide funding to new researchers working at publicly funded Ontario research institutions to build a research team. How has the program played a role in your institution’s recruitment and retention of new talent?
   2. How valuable has the [Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-research-fund-research-excellence?_ga=2.265554444.2005867099.1510086608-976293376.1508443752) program been in supporting researchers conducting leading-edge, transformative, and internationally significant research at your institution?
   3. In what ways does the [Ontario Research Fund – Research Infrastructure](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-research-fund-research-infrastructure) program provide research institutions with funding to help support infrastructure needs, such as modern facilities and equipment?
   4. What could the programs do to further support the recruitment, training and retention of top research talent in the province?
   5. Are there ways to more efficiently or more accurately assess the outputs, impacts and contexts of research in order to allocate Ontario’s research funding?
2. **Do the programs still have the right focus?**
   1. When looking at your researchers and their career transitions, what supports are most needed at your institution?
   2. The Research Excellence program currently funds projects between $1 million and $4 million for the general and clean technology streams and between $200,000 and $1 million for the social sciences, arts and humanities stream. Are the minimum and maximum amounts set for the applications appropriate? How do these limits impact your application?
   3. Are there any concerns regarding the required partner funding associated with ORF awards? If so, what are some suggested improvements?
3. **Are there programmatic gaps?**
   1. Do researchers feel that the appropriate measures are in place to effectively promote and support all disciplines through Ontario’s competitive research programs?
   2. How can the Ministry best address the perception of a lack of continuity in the funding opportunities for the researchers at different levels in their career? Is there a need for a dedicated program supporting excellence for mid-career researchers?
   3. Are there any perceived barriers regarding the ability to receive support for investigator-led research? Do researchers feel that the Ministry’s programs support their ability to do independent research?
   4. What are some suggestions for areas of improvement?
4. **Are there opportunities to streamline?**
5. Are there changes to the existing application, peer review and reporting processes for funding that could be improved?