

[IMPACT AWARD for Disability Research]

Application Form – Eligibility

Purpose of the Award

The **Impact Award for Disability Research** is intentionally broad, welcoming nominations from **Canadian** investigators from across disciplines whose work meaningfully improves the lives of people with physical disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, investigators from the social sciences and policy; urban planning; sciences pertaining to accessibility relating to media, transportation, housing, built-environment, public spaces, employment and education; engineering and assistive technology; and health disciplines including nursing, medicine, speech-language pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, music therapy, psychology and social work.

This award recognizes an **individual** whose active program of research has had a significant impact on the lives of people with physical disabilities. The award focuses on demonstrated real-world impact, not lifetime achievement.

Eligible work must show **clear evidence of impact**.

The award of \$100,000 will be presented to the winner in Toronto at the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' (CFPDP) 43rd Annual Great Valentine Gala on February 13, 2027.

Nominations may be submitted by self-nomination, nomination by another individual or nomination by a business/organization.

Once a nomination form has been started, it may be saved and revisited for editing for up to 30 days from the date of saving, or until the submission deadline of October 16, 2026, whichever occurs first.

CFPDP will not pursue outstanding information; nominations that are incomplete will not be considered.

Please choose the appropriate Yes or No answer to the questions below to prove eligibility and proceed to the Nomination Form.

Career stage *

Is the nominee's career stage beyond that of an early career researcher (i.e., 10+ years of research experience as an independent investigator)?

- Yes
 No

Research focus *

Does the nominee's research primarily impact individuals with physical disabilities (including sensory – visual and hearing – impairment)?

- Yes
 No

Citizenship / residency *

Is the nominee a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and currently residing in Canada?

- Yes
 No

Application Form – Section 1
Nomination Type

Section 1 – Nomination Type

Nomination Type *

- Self nomination
- Nomination of another individual
- Nomination by a business / organization

SAMPLE

Application Form – Section 2
Nominee Information

Section 2 – Nominee Information

Please provide contact information for the Nominee.

Name *

Title / Position *

Organization / Institution *

Street Address *

City *

Province *

Postal Code *

Email Address *

Confirm Email Address *

Phone *

Website (if applicable)

Application Form – Section 3
Nominator Information

Section 3 – Nominator Information

(Complete only if nominating someone else.)

Name

Title / Position

Organization / Institution

Relationship to Nominee

Email Address

Confirm Email Address

Phone

Application Form – Section 4
Research Overview

Section 4 – Research Overview

Title of Research Program, Project or Initiative *

Type of Research (as per tri-council research pillars) *

- Biomedical
- Clinical
- Health services and systems
- Humanities
- Interdisciplinary
- Population and public health
- Social sciences
- Technology development
- Other – Please input type of research in the box below

SAMPLE

Application Form – Section 4 – Pg2
Research Overview

Research Partners *

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Funding Sources – Current *

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SAMPLE

Funding Sources – Previous (last 5 years) *

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Proposed Award Citation *

Provide a brief LAY LANGUAGE summary of the nominee’s work and impact in no more than 70 words. This summary should succinctly highlight the research and impact for which the nominee deserves to be recognized. This text may be used as the award citation should the nominee be successful.

Word limit: 70 words

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Application Form – Section 5
Innovativeness and Uniqueness

Section 5 – Innovativeness and uniqueness of the research (20%)

Provide a **clear and lay accessible summary** of the research project.

Please use the following bolded text as headings:

- **Target population** – type(s) of physical disability
- **Unmet need, limitation or gap** – the unmet need, limitation or gap in current knowledge, methods or practice targeted by this research
- **Objectives**
- **Innovation** – novel concepts, frameworks, technologies, solutions or methodology
- **Uniqueness** – what fundamentally distinguishes this research from existing/previous works

Innovativeness and uniqueness of the research *

Word limit: 750 words

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Application Form – Section 6
Meaningful Engagement of People with disabilities

Section 6 – Meaningful engagement of people with disabilities (15%)

Describe how the research involved people with physical disabilities.

Examples:


- Accessibility in research design and methods
- Co-authorship of publications
- Co-design with disability communities
- Co-development of accessible research outputs
- Co-presenting research findings
- Inclusion of team members (e.g., staff and students) with lived experience of disability
- Participatory research methods
- Priority setting

Meaningful engagement of people with disabilities *

Word limit: 500 words

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Application Form – Section 7
Magnitude and Scope of Impact

Section 7 – Magnitude and scope of impact to date (40%)

Describe the **magnitude and scope of impact** of this research on people with physical disabilities.

Impact may be realized at the **individual level** (e.g., improvements in individual participation, quality of life, health outcomes, independence); **system level** (e.g., adoption of healthcare systems, reduction in disparities in access to care, streamlined transitions); and **societal level** (e.g., economic benefits, policy change, more equitable employment/educational opportunities, increased public accessibility).

Evidence of impact may include:

Quantitative data – such as:

- Accessibility improvements (e.g., compliance scores)
- Cost reduction or efficiency gains
- Disability representation statistics in the workforce
- Number of people impacted
- Scale of implementation (e.g., adoption metrics)
- Standardized clinical outcomes

Qualitative evidence – such as:

- Changes in awareness, attitudes or culture
- Clinician and practitioner perspectives
- Implementation experience
- Patient and caregiver narratives
- User/stakeholder feedback and/or testimonials

and **Independent validation** – such as:

- Adoption in independent clinical guidelines
- Commercial uptake by external entities
- Expert commentary by reputable media
- Policy uptake by governments
- Replication by independent research groups
- Uptake by external organizations or services

Magnitude and scope of impact to date *

Word limit: 1,000 words

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Application Form – Section 7 – Pg2
Magnitude and Scope of Impact

- How the work aligns with or contributes to systems level change (e.g., healthcare, education, policy, accessibility standards)
- Partnerships, stakeholder engagement or infrastructure that supports long-term uptake
- How impact can be maintained, updated or evaluated over time

Potential for sustained impact *

Word limit: 625 words

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Supporting Materials

Please attach supporting materials as a single PDF file (e.g., independent impact evaluation reports, technology adoption data, policy citations, regulatory approvals, media coverage, up to three letters of support).

Upload file *

**[IMPACT AWARD
for Disability Research]**

Application Form – Section 9
Declaration

Section 9 – Declaration

I certify that the information provided in this nomination is accurate and that the research described represents current or recently completed work. I further acknowledge that all decisions of the Selection Board shall be final and binding. The Selection Board will not engage in any correspondence, discussion or appeals regarding its decisions. In the event of a tie, the Co-Chairs shall have the sole and final authority to determine the outcome.

I acknowledge and agree that once a nomination form has been started, it can be *saved as a draft* and edited for up to 30 days from the date it is saved, or until the submission deadline of October 16, 2026, whichever comes first.

I have noted that CFPDP will not pursue outstanding information; nominations that are incomplete will not be considered.

- By submitting this form, I confirm that I have read and understood the above provisions and agree to be bound by them.