



APPLICANT'S GUIDE
CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

2006-2007

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
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Also available on Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada's web site:

<http://www.privcom.gc.ca>

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Purpose of this Guide

This guide is designed to help you prepare an application for funding under the Contributions Program of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC). Specific instructions for completing the application form as well as information about the assessment process are provided.

Eligible Applicants

Not-for-profit organizations, including education institutions and industry and trade associations, are eligible under the program for funding in support of research into, as well as the promotion of, the protection of personal information. Eligible applicants include consumer, voluntary and advocacy organizations.

Non-Eligible Applicants

- For profit organizations;
- Political parties and organizations involved in partisan political activity; and
- Current or former public office holders or public servants who are not in compliance with the *Conflict of Interest and Post-employment Code for Public Office Holders* or the *Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment Code for the Public Service*.

Application Date

The deadline for receipt of applications is May 5, 2006 for fiscal year 2006-07.

Please forward your application to the following address:

Raymond D'Aoust
Assistant Privacy Commissioner
Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
112 Kent Street
Place de Ville, Tower B, 3rd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1H3 (613) 992-6824

Note

Applicants should note that all information requested in the Guide and Application Form must be received by the Office before a request is considered complete.

Only complete applications received on or before the Program deadline of May 5, 2006 will be considered.

Applications are deemed to have been received by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada on the date they are post-marked; or delivered to a messenger or specialized courier agency; or on the day they are sent by fax or e-mail.

Contributions Program Budget

The total amount available under OPC's Contribution Program is \$375,000 for fiscal year 2006-2007. However, this amount is subject to cancellation, reduction or increase in the event that funding levels are changed by Parliament. The maximum amount that can be awarded for any single research project is \$50,000. Organizations are eligible to receive funding for only one project.

Contributions Program

Program Objectives

To capitalize on existing research capacity in academic, not-for-profit and other sectors to generate new knowledge and support the development of expertise in selected areas of privacy and data protection.

To increase awareness and understanding among individuals and organizations of their privacy rights and obligations.

Eligible Projects

OPC will provide funding to eligible organizations to conduct privacy related research on a project basis. OPC will allocate funds in support of knowledge creation and to broker that knowledge among all the stakeholders including provincial commissioners and ombudsmen.

Funding will not be provided for projects with the primary objective of holding conferences or exhibitions, developing educational materials or producing publications.

Priority areas

To stimulate research in addressing knowledge gaps and to provide guidance for policy development and best practices, we encourage research proposals that address privacy issues in the following priority areas:

- The protection of personal health information
- Strategies for making individuals more aware of their privacy rights. Do we need more consumer friendly privacy policies? Do organizations need to do a better job of disseminating their policies?
- The professionalization of privacy specialists—what requirements or standards exist and what processes are in place to accredit and certify these individuals?
- The storage and retention of personal information—*PIPEDA* requires that information only be retained as long as necessary to fulfill the stated purposes. What does this mean in practical terms and how should this requirement be assessed?
- Aspects of surveillance:
 - new technologies : what does the public comprehend about the collection, use, and transmission of personal data generated from new technology?
 - what use is made of transactional data generated by retail transactions, telecommunications devices, or video surveillance?
 - workplace surveillance
 - the tracking of individuals' interactions with the Internet

OPC will also consider requests to fund research on issues that fall outside the priority areas.

Duration of Projects

Normally, projects must be completed within the fiscal year in which the funding was provided. However, under exceptional circumstances dictated by research imperatives, we will consider applications for projects that cannot be completed by March 31, 2007 if it is clear that the project cannot be completed within the fiscal year.

Allowable Expenses

Funds may be used only for expenses directly related to the activities of the project. These activities are as reflected in either, the original budgetary submission or, via subsequent approved budgetary adjustments. These expenses would include:

- salary and benefits for members of the research team, inclusive of researchers and research assistants, students, postdoctoral fellows, technical support, etc.;
- administrative costs, translation, secretarial assistance and publication costs;
- contract costs, for expertise not available in house or work not reasonably performed in house, for example, surveys; and
- other costs including travel (not to exceed government travel regulations), workshops, materials and supplies, and communications.

OPC support will not include amounts for cost/debts previously incurred, or cost/debts that will take place prior to authorization/commencement of the agreement. Other costs which are ineligible for funding under the Agreement include the purchase of buildings, land, vehicles and most other major capital costs. Administrative expenses should be limited to no more than 15 per cent of the total project cost.

Finally, contribution funds awarded to an applicant are subject to the terms of the Contribution Agreement signed by the applicant and the department. Funds must be spent only on the project and cannot under any circumstances be diverted to any other use. Expenses associated with the project are subject to audit.

Completing the Application

The following information corresponds to each section of the application form - a copy of which is provided at the end of this Guide. You should provide answers to all questions and include any required detailed information in an appendix to the application form.

APPLICATION FORM

I. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Identification of Applicant

- Provide the full name of your organization along with any abbreviations frequently used, as well as the Section name or Division name;
- Previous name, if changed in last year;
- Address, telephone number (with extension)/fax numbers and e-mail/web site addresses; and
- The address should include full information on the organization's physical location, such as floor, suite or room number, street number and postal code. Should a Post Office Box be designated as the official mailing address, please provide this information as well.

II. THE PROPOSAL

Applicants will have to provide a project proposal which, once agreed to by OPC, will serve as a basis for the Contribution agreement and cash flow. The project proposal should contain:

1. name, address, telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address of the applicant's authorized representative, organizational structure including legal status, names of principal personnel and project administrators (Please provide contact information for both the principal researcher and the person responsible for administering the project.);
2. background history of the organization including its mandate, objectives, and accomplishments;
3. an indication of any previous financial support received from OPC including the amount, the purpose of the funded activity and the results achieved;
4. a detailed project description including project title, goals and objectives, identification of the target groups for the proposed project, identification of the anticipated specific benefits for Canadians, the anticipated results, how OPC could benefit in terms of knowledge to advance policy development and improve the protection of personal information and a listing of deliverables of the project;

5. a concise one page description of the project that can be used for the Contribution Agreement;
6. time frame, work plan detailing activities to be undertaken to support the attainment of project objectives and monitoring activities;
7. a detailed budget of the project including amount(s) being requested from OPC (see Schedule B in the Contribution Agreement that can also be found on our web site) and other proposed sources of revenue including in-kind support;
8. where appropriate, an indication of the level of community involvement (commitment, endorsement, scope and level of participation, co-operation and volunteer involvement);
9. where appropriate, an indication of the degree of provincial and territorial support for the project;
10. the identification of anticipated follow-up activities, that is, next steps, which might include the dissemination of information; and
11. how the project will acknowledge the contribution of OPC.

III. DECLARATIONS

You are required to answer the questions regarding:

- **Conflict of Interest and Post Employment Code for Public Office Holders** on the application form (i.e., do you presently employ or have on your Board of Directors a former public office holder who left the federal government in the last twelve months?); and
- the registration of any person lobbying on your organization's behalf pursuant to the *Lobbyist Registration Act*.

IV. OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

Applicants may seek other sources of funding for proposed projects. Potential recipients are required to disclose all sources of funding for a proposed project when applying for funding from OPC. This includes financial assistance (grants, contributions, etc.) from all levels of government, anticipated or received, that is related to the subject matter of the proposed project. This should include applications for financial assistance which are still pending.

In the event that total government assistance (including provincial and municipal assistance) received for the project exceeds the cost of the project, the recipient will repay the Crown on a pro-rated basis (based on OPC's share of total Government assistance received).

The Assessment Process

Each request for financial support will be reviewed to determine the scope, nature, objectives, and feasibility of the proposed project. Applicant organizations and applications for funding will be reviewed in accordance with the general program objectives as well as the specific eligibility criteria as outlined above and described below:

I. ASSESSING THE ORGANIZATION

Key considerations include:

- an assessment of the competence, credibility and accountability of the organization requesting financial assistance;
- the organization's ability to manage the project and its past experience, if any, with the type of project proposed;
- previous experience with the applicant; and
- the organization's ability to deliver project results on time.

II. ASSESSING PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS PROPOSALS

In selecting recipients for contributions, OPC may, where appropriate, consult with other federal departments, provincial and territorial governments and other privacy commissioners or ombudsmen.

In reviewing and recommending proposals, OPC will take into consideration the following factors:

- the extent to which the project advances OPC's knowledge base and directly supports the protection of personal information;
- the extent to which the proposed project is in line with OPC's stated priority areas;
- the amount of money requested;
- the quality of the application, i.e., description of the project, the work plan, the business plan, if applicable, the budget, etc.;
- the expertise of the principal researcher and/or the applicant;
- the involvement of other stakeholders including, in particular, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners and ombudsmen; and
- the project deliverables, including distribution plans for any reports produced.

OPC will assess the following elements of the contribution project proposal. Organizations should review their proposals in light of the questions below.

Timeliness and Relevance of the Issue

- 1) How does the project relate to OPC policy priorities?
- 2) Will the project report be completed in time to ensure input to upcoming legislation, regulatory review, relevant enquiries or consultation processes?

Methodology, Capability and Cost

- 1) Is the scope of the project proposal realistic in terms of deliverables and time frames (e.g. is the project too big or complex to be effectively addressed in the specified time frame)?
- 2) Is the methodology sound and will it yield reliable data?
- 3) Will the methodology produce data relevant to the stated objectives?
- 4) Does the organization tap into the expertise/experience/previous work of other stakeholders, including OPC, where appropriate?
- 5) Are the estimated costs realistic?
- 6) Is the time frame realistic taking into account the scope of the project?
- 7) Does the proposal demonstrate that the project team is qualified and capable of producing quality work?
- 8) Does the proposal demonstrate that the organization has a good understanding of:
 - a) the issue?
 - b) the major stakeholders involved?

Intended Uses of Project Results

Does the project proposal identify the intended use of the report in detail, including usefulness to Canadians in general, government policy makers, and Canadian organizations?

Communication of Project Results

Does the project proposal include recommendations for making stakeholders aware of project results?

Additional Considerations

Applicants should bear in mind the competitive nature of the application process. Where more than one proposal is received for the same issue, the relative costs of the proposals to the funding program will be considered along with other factors in assessing their relative merits.

Control Procedures

Contribution Agreement

On approval of a request for a contribution, a detailed Contribution Agreement will be drawn up and signed by the recipient and OPC. A Contribution Agreement is a contractual agreement between the organization and the Office regarding the project contribution awarded.

By accepting a contribution, your organization agrees to carry out the funded project and to be accountable for the amounts received. Accordingly, the Office agrees under certain conditions to contribute all or part of the project's costs. Conditions for project contributions type funding are detailed in the Contribution Agreement.

As specified in the Agreement, the recipient cannot make material changes to the scope of the project without the prior written consent of OPC.

Reporting Requirements

By signing the Agreement, your organization agrees to submit a progress report and financial report, at the end of each quarter (or more frequently if specified in the Agreement) for the duration of the project. More specifically, recipients will provide statements of progress with each claim for payment.

OPC reserves the right to publish the name of your organization, as well as the amount of the contribution awarded to same in any manner it deems fitting including, but not limited to, OPC's web site, Main Estimates, and so forth.

Method of Payment

Payment will be in accordance with the approved cash flow as well as the work plan, and will be consistent with the Treasury Board guidelines for cash payment under the policy on Transfer Payments. See http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/dcgpubs/TBM_142/ptp_e.asp.

Final payment of the hold back, not exceeding 20 per cent of the total contribution, or recovery of surplus, if necessary, will be made when the recipient has satisfied all the requirements of the project and on receipt and acceptance by OPC of financial statements.

Payments will be made on the basis of documented claims for reasonable eligible costs incurred, to be submitted by recipients not more frequently than quarterly.

The Privacy Commissioner may make advance payment, not exceeding 20 per cent of the total contribution, where it is necessary for the success of the project. When such advances are made, they will be made in accordance with the Treasury Board Policy on Transfer Payments.

Contributions are normally awarded for specific projects on an annual basis. In the case of projects extending over more than one year, payment is subject to the appropriation of funds by

Parliament, and satisfaction of review and reporting requirements by the recipient, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contribution agreement.

Public Acknowledgement and Recognition

The recipient shall acknowledge the Privacy Commissioner of Canada's contribution to the project in all materials, be they written, oral or electronic, used to describe the project to the public and within his/her own community. The acknowledgment shall be consistent with communications guidelines of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, a copy of which will be given to recipients. The Privacy Commissioner, or a designated representative of his Office, will be given the opportunity to participate in a public announcement of the project.

Audit Requirements

According to the Contribution Agreement, your organization shall keep proper books, accounts and records of revenues and expenses received in connection with the funded project. Such accounts and records shall be open to audit and inspection by OPC to ensure compliance with the terms of the Contribution Agreement. OPC may make copies and take extracts at all reasonable times for a period of three years after completion of the project.

OPC may request at any time that recipients provide satisfactory evidence to demonstrate that all eligible costs claimed have been paid.

Recovery

Where for any reason:

- i) a recipient is not entitled to the contribution, or
- ii) the amount of the contribution exceeds the amount to which the recipient is entitled,

the amount of the contribution or the excess, as the case may be, constitutes a debt to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada and will be recovered as such from the recipient.

The Contribution Agreement will specify events of default, including failure of the recipient to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement, and set out the remedies for the Privacy Commissioner on default, including:

- i) suspend or terminate any obligations of the Commissioner to contribute or continue to contribute to the eligible costs of the project, including any obligation to pay any amount owing prior to the date of such suspension; and
- ii) require the recipient to repay all or part of the contribution forthwith to the Office, and that amount is a debt due to Her Majesty the queen in right of Canada any may be recovered as such.

Language Policy

Projects results may be submitted in the Official Language of your choice. Organizations working at the national level and receiving substantial financial assistance from OPC are encouraged to provide services in both English and French and to foster the recognition and use of those languages especially in areas of significant demand recognized by the Office.