



**SCI CLIMATE FUTURES**

**APPLY NOW!**

## **AccessCool: Innovations for a Climate-Ready Future**

The effects of climate change are everywhere, impacting all aspects of our lives. However, for individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) and other disabilities such as multiple sclerosis that impair the body's central thermoregulatory centres, it poses a unique challenge as they have difficulty self-regulating their body temperature, which can lead to overheating. Overheating for such individuals can result in spasms, loss of consciousness, and extreme fatigue at temperatures as low as 29°C and, in some cases, can even become life-threatening.

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute in partnership with Technology for Living (TFL), is working towards identifying and accelerating the market adoption of accessible and sustainable cooling technologies that safeguard the well-being of individuals with disabilities.



Currently accepting applications for a world-wide pitch competition of innovative and sustainable cooling solutions.



Selected technologies will present to a judging panel of experts in a Demo Day in Vancouver in February 2024.



Winning technologies will get funding support and mentorship sessions from a world-class team of mentors and experts, including direct access to lived experience validation

## About the Program

In 2023, Praxis Spinal Cord Institute launched SCI Climate Futures in response to the ongoing BC heatwave crises.

The first phase of SCI Climate Futures was a rapid response program brought to British Columbians by BC Hydro during summer 2023. The program provided free wearable cooling devices to 140 individuals with disabilities, such as an SCI and multiple sclerosis that impair the body's thermoregulatory systems, making them vulnerable to the negative and possibly fatal effects of extreme heat.

**"Before receiving this device, there were many times I would want to call 911 because I felt delirious [with the heat] and I was scared. So, using this cooling vest has given me clarity, normality....and fun."**

Paraplegic with a T5 AIS D spinal cord injury and a traumatic brain injury, which impairs his cognition & increases his susceptibility to heat stroke.

**The second phase of SCI Climate Futures** aims to identify and accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies that provide sustainable and accessible cooling solutions for the built environment.

For this second phase, we are excited to announce the launch of **"AccessCool: Innovations for a Climate-Ready Future" - A Pitch Competition** where the most promising innovators will present to a panel of industry experts, clinicians, and end-users. The pitch competition will be a hybrid event in Vancouver, BC, on February 23rd, 2024 and would have two streams:



### **Innovative Portable Technologies:**

Innovative cooling technologies that are portable and can provide rapid cooling anywhere



**Innovative Novel Technologies for the Built Environment:** Infrastructure solutions or non-portable products for the built environment.

## Application Deadline - December 12, 2023

We are looking for cutting-edge solutions that prioritize sustainability, accessibility, and efficiency in cooling technologies. Companies all over the world are welcome to apply. If you have a personal wearable cooling device please reach out to us or fill out the application form as there might be options to showcase your product during the event. Stay Tuned!



The Demo Day event and all mentorship sessions will be accessible virtually.

[bit.ly/sci-climate-futures](https://bit.ly/sci-climate-futures)

If you have any questions, contact us at [sci\\_climatefutures@praxisinstitute.org](mailto:sci_climatefutures@praxisinstitute.org)

## About Praxis



Praxis is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization that leads global collaboration in spinal cord injury research, innovation, and care. We accelerate the translation of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments for people with spinal cord injuries.

For more program details and to apply, visit  
[WWW.PRAXISINSTITUTE.ORG/COMMERCIALIZATION](http://WWW.PRAXISINSTITUTE.ORG/COMMERCIALIZATION)