

## Request for Applications (RFA)

# Synthesizing Knowledge using AI-Enabled Approaches

## Summary

<b>What is this funding for?</b>	This funding supports projects that synthesize knowledge to strengthen evidence-informed SCI care in Canada, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled approaches to improve efficiency and sustainability.
<b>How much funding is available?</b>	Applicants may request between \$25,000 CAD and \$50,000 CAD per project.
<b>How many projects will be funded?</b>	Praxis expects to fund up to three to four projects, investing up to \$150,000 CAD in total. <i>Final award numbers and amounts will depend on the applications received and remain at Praxis' sole discretion.</i>
<b>What is the project period?</b>	September 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027
<b>When is the deadline?</b>	July 31, 2026
<b>What might a supported project look like?</b>	Examples include updating or creating new clinical practice guidelines, clinical protocols/guidance documents, policy briefs, as well as creating tools/algorithms or strategy documents.

## About Praxis

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that advances collaboration in spinal cord injury (SCI) research, innovation, and care. Praxis works to accelerate the uptake of discoveries and best practices into improved treatments, services, and outcomes for people living with SCI. Its strategic objectives include supporting neurorestorative treatments, evidence-informed care, and innovations identified as priorities by Canadians living with SCI, including traumatic and non-traumatic injuries, people of all ages, and equity-deserving groups. See [Praxis website](#) for more information.

## Background

Praxis invests in the development of evidence-informed clinical resources and implementation supports to improve the quality, consistency, and person-centredness of care for people living with SCI. These resources include clinical practice guidelines, standards, toolkits, algorithms, care pathways, policy briefs and related implementation supports.

To sustain and advance evidence-informed care, there is a need to synthesize, generate, and maintain high-quality evidence resources. This includes developing efficient, scalable approaches to their creation, adaptation, and ongoing updating.

## Description of the RFA

The objective of this RFA is to fund projects that **synthesize knowledge** to **strengthen evidence-informed SCI care** in Canada.

### Projects are expected to use AI-enabled approaches for at least part of the work to:

- Improve efficiency in knowledge synthesis or guideline development
- Support updating and maintenance of knowledge products over time
- Enhance scalability, reproducibility, and sustainability

### Projects must:

- Clearly define the knowledge gap being addressed
- Describe the methodology for knowledge synthesis (e.g., literature reviews, consensus meetings, supporting a community of practice)
- Explain how AI approaches may be used (see resources and guidance from [University of Alberta](#))
- Identify intended users (e.g., clinicians, decision-makers, researchers, persons with lived experience)
- Describe the knowledge outputs and KT plan on future implementation and uptake

Solutions or topics that build on or align with Praxis-supported work, and those addressing the needs of Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups, are strongly encouraged.

Praxis may invite selected recipients to participate in optional supplemental activities to demonstrate the economic value and/or impact of funded work. Participation is optional, will be determined case by case, and is subject to Praxis' sole discretion.

### Where applicable, applicants are encouraged to:

- Follow the [Integrated Knowledge Translation \(IKT\) Guiding Principles](#) to support meaningful partner engagement throughout the project
- Consult local university programs or community organizations to seek input from, or involve people with lived experience of SCI. (e.g., [UBC MEC](#), [UHN PiPER](#))

## Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Projects may produce knowledge outputs such as:

- Clinical practice guidelines or recommendations (e.g., clinical protocols or guidance documents)
- Knowledge syntheses to inform policy, practice, or service delivery
- Evidence-informed standards or recommendations
- Policy briefs based on evidence-informed expert agreement
- Tools, algorithms to support implementation of evidence-informed resources
- Evidence-informed strategy documents based on expert consensus to inform future funding proposals

Along with the output, the final deliverable must also be accompanied by:

- Documentation of methods (including AI use)
- Practical insights on feasibility, limitations, and value of AI-supported approaches
- Considerations for ongoing updating, use, and sustainability

## Award Duration and Amount

Projects must be completed within the anticipated grant term (**September 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027**).

Applicants may request between **\$25,000 CAD to 50,000 CAD** per project.

Within this short timeframe, Praxis recognizes that project scope and deliverables may be limited. Applicants are encouraged to propose outputs and deliverables that reflect the project context and are achievable within the grant period.

## Eligibility Criteria

The Principal Applicant must:

- Be affiliated or be partnered with an institution within Canada, eligible to receive Praxis funds (see “Host Institution” below);
- Have an academic, clinical, or research appointment that allows the pursuit of independent projects, including this proposal;
- Engage in independent research activities for the full duration of the funding period;
- As applicable, have completed all previous Praxis grant reporting (both narrative and financial), with no outstanding items;
- Agree to accept Praxis’ [conditions of award](#);
- Disclose all real or perceived conflicts of interest (see [policy & disclosure form](#));
- Identify any matched (cash or in-kind) or leveraged contributions (see [definitions](#)).

The Host Institution must:

- Be a [qualified donee](#) registered with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or an eligible non-qualified donee;
- Not be a private, for-profit organization.

Project Team must:

- Include clinicians, researchers, persons with lived experience (PLEX) and/or SCI community organizations;
- Each member must have formal support from their organization to participate in the project.

## Award Eligible Expenses

Awards cover direct project expenses only. Praxis funding does not cover indirect costs. Ineligible expenses may include (non-exhaustive and subject to finalization under funder requirements and executed agreements): rent, capital expenses (e.g., computers, office equipment, furniture, fixtures, etc.), indirect expenses (overhead, administrative costs), activities unrelated to the project, and costs already funded elsewhere.

## Key Dates

Key Dates	Target Date
RFA Opens	June 17, 2026
Deadline to Apply	July 31, 2026
Review Process	August 3–21, 2026
Notice of Decision	September 1, 2026
Anticipated Grant Term	September 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

## Application Instructions

Accessing the online application form [here](#), applicants must complete the following requirements:

### 1. Application Cover

### 2. Project Short Title, Lay Title and Lay Summary (max. 100 words)

### 3. Project Team Composition

### 4. Proposal (max. 4-5 pages)

#### a. Background

- Describe the knowledge gap or evidence need being addressed.
- Explain the importance of the topic to decision-making for SCI care and to the SCI community.
- Describe alignment with Praxis priorities and previous work (if applicable).

#### b. Objectives

- Clearly state the project objectives.
- Identify intended users and applications of the outputs.

#### c. Activities

- Describe the knowledge and evidence synthesis approach.
- Describe how AI or innovative methods will be used, such as:
  - Literature screening or extraction
  - Knowledge synthesis or summarization
  - Updating or maintenance processes
- Explain how person-centred care principles are incorporated.

#### d. Expected Outcomes

- Describe the knowledge outputs, the KT plan to support future implementation and uptake, and the anticipated outcomes for their reach, use, and usability.
- Identify relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (see [definitions](#)) and provide targets.
  - Number of people with lived experience engaged and integrated
  - Number of highly qualified personnel (HQP), trainees, and emerging professionals supported
  - Number of partner organizations actively engaged, spanning the private sector, academia, research institutions, and public sector entities
  - Number publications, evidence products, and analytical outputs generated
  - Demonstrable progress to the next phases of validation, implementation, commercialization, or scale
  - Target value in dollars (CAD) of follow-on funding (e.g., value of planned subsequent funding applications catalyzed by this grant funding)
  - Other (please specify and link directly to expected outcomes)

#### e. Operational Readiness

- Describe the team's expertise in knowledge synthesis and/or guideline development.
- Experience with AI or methodological innovation.
- Capacity to complete proposed activities and expend grant funds within the grant period.

**f. Partner Engagement**

- Describe how PLEX and other partners in contributing to and shaping the project (e.g., health care providers, researchers, community organizations, Indigenous communities, health authorities, innovators, and policy-makers).

**g. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Indigenous Engagement**

- Describe how [EDI considerations](#) will be reflected in the team and project approach.
- If applicable, outline any [Indigenous engagement](#), including approach and considerations.

**5. Milestones and Timelines**

- Outline key milestones, deliverables, targets, and timelines in the table.

**6. Budget**

- Provide a detailed project budget and description for all direct and incremental expenses.
- Identify any matched (cash or in-kind) or leveraged contributions (see [definitions](#)).
- Compensation for PLEX engagement is strongly encouraged.
- Travel & accommodation expenses:
  - Must be necessary for the project and be appropriate, economical, and reasonable, in line with [Modern Travel Practices of the Nation Council Travel Directive](#).
  - Applicants should consider virtual alternatives and justify any travel deemed necessary.
  - Conference travel is not supported under this funding opportunity.

**7. Supporting Documents for the Principal Applicant(s)**

- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Review the [policy](#) and submit completed [disclosure form](#).
- **Letter of Confirmation:** Required for matched funding from other sources, as applicable.
- **CV:** 2-5 pages highlighting relevant contributions (e.g., CIHR Project-related CV, or other standard CV format).

## Submission

Complete the application [online](#), upload all required supporting documents, and submit by the application deadline. Praxis will acknowledge receipt within two business days.

Please ensure all requirements are met, as incomplete or non-compliant applications may be deemed ineligible.

## Review Process

Applications will be assessed by a review committee using the criteria and weightings below and ranked according to the rating scale:

**1. Strategic Alignment and Potential Impact**

- Alignment with Praxis' strategic objectives (see About Praxis)
- Importance of the knowledge gap
- Potential to inform practice, policy, or future implementation
- Potential for meaningful impact on SCI Care and the SCI community

## 2. Merit, Feasibility, and Evaluation Approach

- Rigor and appropriateness of methods, timeline, and resources
- Quality and feasibility of the knowledge synthesis approach and use of AI or other innovative methods (including sustainability and updating)
- Appropriateness of evaluation approach on the proposed outcomes
- Integration of person-centred care principles

## 3. Operational Readiness

- Team composition, expertise and ability to deliver the project
- Availability of budget and infrastructure
- Evidence of matched funding or in-kind contributions
- Consideration of EDI and Indigenous engagement in both team and approach, as applicable

## 4. Engagement and Sharing of Knowledge

- Quality and appropriateness of partner engagement
- Plans for sharing knowledge to support future implementation and uptake, and longer-term outcomes

### Weighting

Criterion	Weighting
Strategic Alignment & Potential Impact	15%
Merit, Feasibility & Evaluation Approach	35%
Operational Readiness	35%
Engagement & Sharing of Knowledge	15%

### Rating Scale

Threshold	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 5.0	Recommended for funding
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Verg Good	3.5 – 3.9	May be funded
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not recommended for funding
Not Adequate	1.0 – 2.9	

## Funding Decision

Final funding decisions are made by the Chief Executive Officer based on review recommendations.

## Contact Information

Please contact [funding@praxisinstitute.org](mailto:funding@praxisinstitute.org) for questions regarding this application for funding.