

Growing the Southern Interior through Research Partnerships FY2025 Call for Expressions of Interest

ETSI-BC is pleased to again partner with Mitacs in FY2025-FY2027 to fund internships involving public post-secondary institutions and business, non-profit, Indigenous, and community research partners in the ETSI-BC service area.

This Call for Expressions of Interest is meant to help address challenges or opportunities that will lead to economic and community development and create pathways for students and graduates to find meaningful employment in the region.

About Mitacs

Established in 1999, Mitacs is a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada by solving business challenges with research solutions from the best academic institutions at home and around the world. For more than 20 years, Mitacs has worked with over 100 universities and academic institutions, thousands of companies, not-for-profits, and federal, provincial, and territorial governments to build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

About ETSI-BC

The Economic Trust of the Southern Interior ([ETSI-BC](#)) is a regional economic trust focused on helping grow and diversify the economy in the Southern Interior of BC. ETSI-BC is committed to helping develop the region's human capital through encouraging entrepreneurship programming and collaborative research that connects the region's First Nations, local governments, industry groups, non-profit organizations and businesses with the region's public post-secondary institutions.

The *Growing the Southern Interior through Research Partnerships* funding partnership will contribute to two of the ETSI-BC Strategic Pillars: *Developing Human Capital* and *Innovating & Advancing Key Sectors*. These collaborative research projects will help generate economic opportunity, innovation, environmental sustainability, employment, and resiliency.

About the Partnership

This collaboration will provide funding for projects under these Mitacs funding programs:

- [Business Strategy Internship program](#)
- [Mitacs Accelerate program](#)

These programs support researchers at the undergraduate, graduate and/or post doc level to work as interns to help solve problems and/or develop new products or processes for the recipient organization. These interns will share their time between the academic institution and the industry/non-profit/community partner.

Eligible Projects

Through this funding collaboration, ETSI-BC will consider financial assistance for Mitacs projects that help contribute to the following outcomes:

- Advancement in any of ETSI-BC's target sectors: agriculture, economic development, small business, technology/innovation, tourism/sport, and energy/mining/forestry/transportation.
- Growth and innovation in new and emerging industry clusters, including supporting the region's industry to become more environmentally sustainable and transition to a Net Zero economy.
- Economic development opportunities in rural and/or Indigenous communities.
- Inclusion of diverse groups including Indigenous-led organizations and Indigenous students in economic development initiatives.

Goals of this Collaboration

The goals of the partners in this funding collaboration are to encourage:

- Research partnerships to address the region's business issues, challenges and opportunities, in partnership with one or more of these post-secondary institutions:
 - College of the Rockies
 - Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
 - Okanagan College
 - Selkirk College
 - Thompson Rivers University
 - UBC Okanagan
- Projects that support the employment of students within the Southern Interior.
- Economic development projects with a regional focus or benefit.
- Diversity and inclusion in economic development opportunities for First Nations and other under-represented groups in the region.

NOTES:

- If we're over-subscribed in any given year, we will give priority to proponents with the most need, and our existing partners (non-profit business support organizations, industry groups, First Nations and local government) over private sector for-profit businesses (unless they demonstrate need)
- Southern Interior public post-secondary institutions are preferred as the academic partner of ETSI-BC funded projects. If an appropriate local academic partner can be found, another BC-based public post-secondary partner may be considered, subject to funding availability. That partner will be asked to employ an intern hailing from a community in the Southern Interior wherever possible.
- All projects need to identify if they are Indigenous led and/or Indigenous benefitting and/or Indigenous informed.

Financial Mechanics

The first unit of a qualified internship will be co-funded by ETSI-BC at a rate of 25% of the total value. Any additional internship units would be co-funded by Mitacs only.

Application Process

- Stage 1:** Eligible applicants can submit a [Mitacs Accelerate application](#) or a [Mitacs Business Strategy Internship](#) application preferably no later than February 1, 2025. Successful projects would ideally start by June 30, 2025.
- Stage 2:** Mitacs will share the Public Project Overview with ETSI-BC. Following review by ETSI-BC, Mitacs will inform the applicants which projects will be receiving the additional funding.

Questions For questions pertaining to the application process, please contact at

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