

Growing the Southern Interior through Research Partnerships FY2024 Call for Expressions of Interest

ETSI-BC is pleased to again partner with Mitacs in FY2024 to fund internships involving public post-secondary institutions and municipalities, businesses, non-profits, 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 of 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 businesses, First Nations and communities with the region's post-secondary institutions.

The *Growing the Southern Interior through Research Partnerships* collaboration 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, employment, and resiliency.

About the Partnership

This collaboration will provide funding for partnered projects between academia and businesses, non-profits, or [municipalities](#), through the following Mitacs funding programs:

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

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 any of the following outcomes:

- Advancement in any of ETSI-BC's target sectors: agriculture, economic development, small business (including tech), tourism/sport, and energy/mining/forestry/pine beetle recovery/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 marginalized groups including Indigenous-led organizations and Indigenous students.

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.

Financial Mechanics

Interns are eligible for funding ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000, for a given four-to-six-month term. Funded projects can be longer, but only the first internship will be co-funded by ETSI-BC at a rate of 25% of the total value. Any additional internships 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 March 31, 2024. Successful projects would ideally start by June 30, 2024.

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 Mike Kennefick at mkennefick@mitacs.ca.