2026 - 2027 Invasive Species Action Fund
Applicant Guidelines

Website link: Grant Opportunities – Invasive Species Centre

The Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF) is a grant program designed to facilitate on-the-ground management and monitoring of invasive species in Ontario. The program is made possible thanks to the support of Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

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Key Details and Deadlines

Applications must be submitted electronically via the links below by 11:59pm, Friday, January 9, 2026. Submissions received after the deadline or not fully completed will not be accepted.

To submit an application for a grant under the Invasive Species Action Fund please visit the following link: Apply to the Invasive Species Action Fund

For projects up to $3,500 select the Microgrants category.
For projects up to $15,000 select the Accelerated Impacts category.
For projects up to $50,000 select the Transformative Action category.

Projects that exceed the funding cap for the Transformative Action Stream may be considered on a case by case basis. To discuss project eligibility for these exceptional circumstances please reach out to the Grants Team at, grants@invasivespeciescentre.ca by **December 5, 2025** to discuss your project and eligibility.

Optional live informational sessions will be offered via webinar on the following dates:

Webinars:

Webinar 1: General Info -   Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 11:00am – 12:00pm
Register Here: General Information Webinar
Webinar 2: Developing a Budget and In-Kind Contributions Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm
Register Here: Budget and In-Kind Focused Webinar

If you are unable to attend any of the live sessions, a recording will be posted on the ISC YouTube page found here: ISC YouTube Channel

For any additional questions please contact grants@invasivespeciescentre.ca

PLEASE NOTE: The form that follows at the end of this document should be used to prepare content for the online form in a WORD or other word processing software, which can then be saved while you work, and copied and pasted into the online application form. **Only submissions made using the Good Grants platform will be accepted for consideration.**

The ISC will be using Good Grants to broadcast important and time sensitive information to applicants and recipients. Please be sure to review your account settings in Good Grants to allow emails through the platform. If the individual applying is different than the project lead, please ensure all email updates are forwarded to Project Leads. Failure to do so may result in missing important updates and timelines.

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Program Goal

Ontario is one of the highest-risk provinces for the introduction of new invasive species to Canada. With finite resources to address the issue, allocating efforts to the most strategic projects is critical to make effective progress.

Many municipalities, Indigenous communities, conservation authorities, community organizations and other partners continue to see invasive species establishing and spreading in their areas with few resources to work proactively to prevent, detect and eliminate these species prior to the requirement for long term control and management action.

ISAF will enable successful applicants to catalyze action on invasive species management in Ontario in 2026, while also supporting them in planning and quantifying needs to complete work in the future.

This program will also support goals identified in the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan including:

- To prevent new invaders from arriving and surviving in Ontario,
- To slow, and where possible, reverse the spread of existing invasive species, and
- To reduce the harmful impacts of existing invasive species

Objectives

- Supporting prevention, control, and management activities to reduce the threats posed by Ontario's highest risk invasive species
- Enabling planning, mapping, monitoring, and management actions at the local level
- Assessing the impact of control activities and supporting planning for future work

ISAF Funding Streams

Funding Streams			
Stream	**Funding Request Cap**	**Project Completion**	**Reporting Requirements**
Stream 1: Microgrants	$3,500	February 5, 2027	Agreement Interim Report Final Report
Stream 2: Accelerated Impact	$15,000	February 5, 2027	Agreement Interim Report Final Report
Stream 3: Transformative Action	$50,000	February 5, 2027	Agreement Interim Report Final Report

2026 ISAF Priorities

ISAF 2026 includes 3 streams to support projects of varying scope and scale.

The Microgrants stream is an inclusive stream that continues to support local communities with invasive species management needs.

Priorities For Microgrants Stream 1		
Species	**Geographies**	**Key Themes**
Any established invasive species, or related pathway, with demonstrated impact on Ontario's environment, economy, or society	All of Ontario	Prioritized themes include:: ❑ Volunteer stewardship ❑ Collaborative action ❑ Capacity Building

Priorities for Accelerated Impact and Transformative Action streams are more specific and can be found in the table below. Here you will see a range of species, geographies and key themes that have been identified as ISAF priorities for 2026. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that meaningfully address at least one priority species and one key theme.

Priorities For Accelerated Impact and Transformative Action Streams 2 & 3	
Priority Species	**Key Themes**

Priority species include, but are not limited to:
Terrestrial Plants:
• Ontario Invasive Species Act regulated species such as:
    o Knotweeds (where regional or multi-site level plans guide activities)
    o Dog strangling vines (particularly North and Central Ontario, where regional or multi-site level plans guide activities)
    o Tree of heaven
• Giant hogweed and wild parsnip (where regional environmental health directives exist, such as processes for reporting a sighting or guidance on management)
Aquatics:
• Ontario Invasive Species Act regulated species such as:
    o Bighead Carp
    o Black Carp
    o Grass Carp
    o Silver Carp
    o Snakeheads
    o Stone Moroko
    o Wels Catfish
    o Zander
	1. Direct Action Priorities
	
	A. Prevention and Protection of High-Value Ecosystems
	• Protecting pristine watersheds and Great Lakes coastal areas from the threat of invasive species.
	• Proactive surveillance and early intervention.
	
	B. Early Detection, Rapid Response
	• Targeting leading edges of invasion and newly established populations.
	• Focused work toward planned local or regional eradication efforts.
	
	C. Strategic Management and Control
	• Development and implementation of local/regional management plans for priority invasive species.
	• Long-term and multi-year invasive species planning and execution.
	
	D. Addressing Pathways of Introduction and Spread
	Action-oriented projects led by industry or sector-based organizations that reduce the risk of invasive species entering or spreading via

- o Tench
- o Prussian Carp
- o Ide
- o Red Shiner
- o Eastern and Western Mosquito Fish
- o Mountain Pine Beetle
- o Crayfish (Common Yabby)
- o Killer Shrimp
- o Marbled Crayfish
- o Red Swamp Crayfish
- o New Zealand Mud Snail
- o Pacifastacus Crayfish
- o Procambarus Crayfish
- o Brazilian Elodea (Brazilian Waterweed)
- o European WaterChestnut
- o Hydrilla
- o Parrot Feather
- o Water Soldier
- o Oxygen Weed
- o Watermoss
- o Nutria
- Zebra and quagga mussels (in new areas)
- Eurasian Water Milfoil – Innovation/Research Based Projects only.
  - o For example: new and innovative management practices.

Forest pests
- Species regulated under Ontario Invasive Species Act and federal regulations such as:
  - o Oak wilt – in highest risk regions (e.g., Niagara Region, Central Ontario, Windsor, Sarnia, Sault Ste Marie)
  - o Beech tree diseases such as Beech Leaf Disease and Beech Bark Disease
  - o Hemlock Wooly Adelgid – in highest risk regions (e.g., Niagara Region, GTHA, Muskoka Region, Durham and Kawarthas)
  - o Spotted Lanternfly – in highest risk regions (e.g., Niagara and GTA West, Prince Edward County, Norfolk, Windsor)

human-mediated pathways. Focus areas include:
- **Organisms in Trade**
  - Projects addressing risks from invasive or regulated species sold through:
    -
      - Plant nurseries, horticulture and landscape
      - Aquarium and pet trade
      - Live food markets
  - Emphasis on **industry-led approaches** to reduce unintentional spread and prevent new introductions (e.g. model initiatives to promote native or non-invasive alternatives, exploring labelling strategies etc.)

- **Recreational Watercraft**
  - Projects targeting the movement of invasive species between waterbodies via overland transport of recreational watercraft.
  - Marine industry led projects that facilitate direct outreach to boater -customers/clients

- *Eligibility caveats for Recreational Watercraft:*
  - *Must include **on-the-ground activities** (e.g., boat inspections, decontamination stations, signage).*
  - *Major capital expenditures (e.g., large infrastructure) are not eligible* .

- *Industry and Transportation Corridors*
  - Clean equipment protocols and best management practices for utility, construction, mining and transportation sectors.

**Please note, projects addressing federally regulated forest pests are strongly encouraged to secure additional funding that exceeds the 1:1 matching requirement.	• Control and monitoring along corridors (e.g., rights-of-way, linear infrastructure). 2. **Enabling Approaches and Capacity Building** These themes support and enhance the effectiveness, reach, and sustainability of direct action efforts. **E. Indigenous Leadership and Integration of Traditional Knowledge** • Indigenous-led monitoring and control projects. • Incorporating Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into invasive species work. **F. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Empowerment** • Multi-partner collaborations that leverage diverse expertise and resources. • Building capacity among communities, schools, trade associations, and working groups to increase local ownership and effectiveness. **G. Innovation and Knowledge Sharing** • Implementation of **cutting-edge tools**, technologies, and methods for invasive species management. • Commitment to **sharing results and lessons learned** to benefit broader regional or provincial efforts.

The Invasive Species Centre reviews and updates ISAF priority species annually for the Accelerated Impact and Transformative Action streams. This process incorporates input from the province, community groups and subject matter experts to ensure that limited program resources are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

Given the finite resources available, the granting program cannot support high levels of investment for all invasive species. Funding is strategically focused on the most ecologically and economically threatening species which is reflected in the annually updated priority species criteria.

Eligible Applicants
- Non-government organizations and charities
- Conservation Authorities
- Land Trusts
- Municipal and local governments
- Universities, colleges, and schools
- Indigenous Communities/Organizations
- Indigenous Governance
- Conservation Authorities
- Land Trusts
- Landowners (only where projects align with collaborative ongoing efforts on public lands)

Ineligible Applicants
- Federal government departments and agencies
- Provincial government ministries
- Private landowners whose properties are for personal use only, where the work will not benefit the general public, are ineligible. However, in exceptional cases, private lands directly adjacent to public property with an approved public invasive species management plan may be considered as part of an application from an eligible applicant.

Eligible Costs & Activities
- Salary costs directly related to the project
- Contractor costs directly associated with the project
- Purchase and rental of equipment, supplies and materials directly related to the project
- Administration costs not exceeding 10% of ISAF contribution to a project
- Convening multi-partner collaborations on invasive species management to address landscape-level prevention and management work
- Prevention, control and management plans for invasive species
- Training youth and youth engagement activities
- Costs associated with training and/or licensing of current employees to increase capacity for invasive species removal
- Communications costs (signage, advertising)

Ineligible Costs & Activities
ISAF does not fund:

- Salary costs for full or part-time municipal employees that would continue to be employed without ISAF funding. However, ISAF funding can be used to support new positions or contract extensions that are solely intended to meet ISAF project outcomes.
- Projects with a primary focus on invasive species education and outreach
- Projects that focus on invasive Phragmites. Please apply to Ontario Phragmites Action program's Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for these projects.   We expect to share Information on future cycles of the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund shortly. For additional information please refer to the Ontario Phragmites Action program website for updates!
- Projects that are undertaken exclusively on property that is privately owned for personal use.

- Land securement
- Capital equipment purchases exceeding 20% of the total ISAF request.
  - Should your project include a capital expenditure that exceeds 20% of your overall request, please reach out to grants@invasivespeciescentre.ca to discuss **prior** to submitting your application.

Additional Information for Applicants

- Applicants proposing work on lands they do not own or manage must provide written confirmation of support from the appropriate governing body or landholder:

  - For lands managed by municipalities, townships, conservation authorities, or private landholders, applicants must obtain written confirmation that the proposed work is supported and permitted. This must come from the relevant landowner or managing authority.

  - For work on Indigenous lands, applicants who are not recognized representatives of the relevant governance body (e.g. First Nation's Land and Resources Office) must provide written confirmation of support from that body. This confirmation—submitted as an email or letter—must acknowledge the proposed work and provide permission to proceed. It may come from the Land and Resources Office, the appropriate governance body, or Chief and Council, depending on the First Nation's preference.

- All invasive species prevention and control projects must demonstrate how their project will be using established Best Management Practices for their species of focus. Should a BMP not be available, the proponent must demonstrate how their proposed approach builds on existing knowledge for effective control
- Applicants requesting funding for staff-related costs are strongly encouraged to explore additional funding sources, such as the Canada Summer Jobs program, to help offset the total amount requested through ISAF.
- Applicants are required to obtain, and provide copies of all permits, licenses and authorizations prior to completing the proposed work. Furthermore, applicants are responsible for obtaining landowner permission to access and complete work on any private property. It is the responsibility of the applicant to understand the legal parameters required under each project and said responsibilities rest with the applicant, project partners, and/or contractors alone.
- Proposals require a formal matching of 1:1 in cash contributions or in-kind support (please see "Non-ISAF Contributions" section below for additional details
- Projects addressing federally regulated forest pests are strongly encouraged to secure additional funding that exceeds the 1:1 matching requirement.
- Projects that support positive outcomes in controlling multiple invasive species are encouraged
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit any invasive species distribution data collected under ISAF supported projects through EDDMapS and/or iNaturalist
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to describe how the project links and supports policies or governance direction of First Nations communities, municipal or other plans
- When an organization submits multiple proposals, reviewers will prioritize supporting the strongest projects from the widest range of applicants.

- Letters of Support are highly encouraged when submitting a project for ISAF consideration. Applications that include letters of support may receive additional points during the review and scoring process.

Proposed Timelines

Phase	Expected Start	
Call for Proposals	October 24, 2025	Close: January 9, 2026 at 11:59pm
Successful recipients notified (target date)	After April 1, 2026	
Agreements (target date)	May-July, 2026	
Initial Payments (target date)	July, 2026 Microgrants: 100% of total award will be received Accelerated and Transformative: 70% of total award will be received as the initial payment	
Interim Reporting	All Recipients: September 2026 (tentatively)	
Final Reporting and Payments	February 2027, All recipients will be required to submit a final report. Accelerated and Transformative Recipients: final payments (30% of final award) will be provided upon approval of final report	

* Eligible expenses for successful projects will be permitted from <u>April 1, 2026</u>.

Award Terms

The 2026 Invasive Species Action Fund has received funding from the MNR to support projects in Ontario. The Fund strives to support a number of projects in three different streams with up to $3,500 for each successful applicant receiving a Microgrant, up to $15,000 for Accelerated Impact grants, and up to $50,000 for Transformative Action grants. Successful applicants will receive their award, as outlined in the above table, for activities to be completed by February 5, 2027.

Award recipients agree to provide project updates, stories, and photos to be used by the Invasive Species Centre to communicate project outcomes and raise awareness about invasive species in Ontario. Award recipients agree to report on specific key performance indicators that will be used to communicate project outcomes. Award recipients will also communicate project outcomes and raise awareness of invasive species stories when appropriate.

Applicants may also be asked to participate in an Invasive Species Centre led event to share a short presentation or poster about the project and outcomes.

Key Performance Indicators

To support the evaluation of this fund and ensure future funding is available, the following key performance indicators (KPIs) may be requested. A subset of the KPIs listed below can be chosen and will be agreed upon prior to the distribution of funds along with a final reporting template.

Key Performance Indicators	Unit	Project Target
People		
Number of Jobs Created Please count paid positions created including seasonal, full and part time employees. 0-3 Month Contract: 0.25 FTE 4-6 Month Contract: 0.5 FTE 7-9 Month Contract: 0.75 FTE 10-12 Month Contract: 1.0 FTE Full time permanent employee: 1.0 FTE Part time permanent employee: 0.5 FTE	Number (n)	
Volunteers (total number of individual volunteers)	Number (n)	
Volunteer hours (total number of volunteer hours contributed to project)	Time in Hours (n)	
How many individuals will be trained on invasive species? This includes individuals internal or external to the organization that learned skills related to the identification, monitoring, reporting and/or managing invasive species.	Number (n)	
Collaboration		
Total number of all Collaborative Partners (Indigenous groups or organizations, Municipalities, other groups, organizations or groups directly involved in project)	Number (n)	
Total number of Indigenous communities or groups directly involved in project	Number (n)	
Total Number of Municipalities involved	Number (n)	
Total Number of Conservation Authorities involved	Number (n)	
Environmental Impact		
Total area monitored or controlled	Hectares (n)	
Total Shoreline, roads, and/or utility corridors monitored or controlled	Kilometers Number (n)	
Number of Sites/locations/wetlands surveyed and/or managed	Number (n)	
Communication and Outreach		
Online Engagements (total of the following: likes, comments, shares, and clicks on all anticipated posts)	Total reach	
Communications (blog posts and/or social media posts)	Number (n)	
Prevention, Control & Monitoring Events		

Total number of non-field events (meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Field Events (On the ground work)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (Meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (on the ground work)	Number (n)	
Number of Youth engaged	Number (n)	

Additional KPIs Being Captured:

Who will be the main audience involved in your project?

- Municipalities
- Provincial Government,
- Federal Government
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- Members of the public
- Youth
- Other

Will new technologies or resources be developed throughout this project?

- Yes
- No

Does your project involve the detection/monitoring of invasive species?

- Yes
- No

Did your project collect data to help contribute to understanding costs related to invasive species?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Non-ISAF Contributions

Proponents are required to secure additional, non-ISAF contributions for all proposed projects. ISAF grant applications require a 1:1 match to the amount of ISAF funds requested. These contributions could be cash or in-kind contributions by proponents, partners, or other sources of funding that support the project. Applicants are asked to clarify which contributions are reported as cash contributions and which contributions are donated in-kind, however both are weighted equally during project assessment. Applicants are asked to indicate if any in-kind contribution has not been secured in the budget table, with a brief indication as to the status of securing that contribution.

**Please note, there is a strong preference for additional sources of funding for projects supporting activities on federally regulated forest pests. Applicants with projects focused on federally regulated pests are encouraged to seek out or obtain additional funding to exceed the 1:1 matching requirement.

To support proponents in considering the wide variety of in-kind contributions eligible for inclusion we have provided the following table.

Please use the table below when considering factors that would contribute to your in-kind contributions; please note, this list is not exhaustive. ISAF follows the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council guidelines for determining in-kind contributions.

Please see Appendix A for additional information.

Source	Factors to Consider
Jobs– Manager, Coordinator, Technician, Administration etc.	Salary or wages during the course of the project, payroll that your group or organization is paying out to non-municipal employees working on the project are an eligible in-kind contribution.
Contractor – (licensed invasive species removal specialist)	If your group or organization is paying all or part of an invoice for contracted services with non-ISAF funds, then the contractor amount may be an eligible in-kind contribution.
Volunteers	Value volunteer hours at the hourly equivalent to an employee that performs similar activities or duties. Suggestions: Invasive species removal volunteer- $20/hour
Equipment – Office supplies (e.g., laptop, other)	Office equipment or supplies used over the course of the project
Equipment – specialized machinery	Prorated Cost of equipment purchased, leased, donated, or acquired during the project
Equipment – Personal Protective Equipment	Cost of personal protective equipment purchased, leased, or acquired during the project
Equipment – workplace provided by employer	The cost of equipment provided by the group/organization prorated during the project
Equipment – vehicles- mileage, rental, lease, insurance and/or other associated costs	Costs associated with vehicles- insurance, mileage etc. directly covered by the group or organization over the course of the project
Other costs (disposal, permit, mailing etc.)	Any costs paid out directly by the group or organization over the course of the project
Professional Services (communication, accounting, etc.)	Any costs paid out directly by the group or organization over the course of the project

For further information on in-kind contributions and developing a budget, please consider attending our Webinar: Developing a Budget and In-Kind Contributions Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm Register Here: Budget and In-Kind Focused Webinar

Developing A Budget

Applicants are required to complete a budget table which identifies overall project budget, funds requested from ISAF, non-ISAF contributions, both cash and in-kind contributions (e.g. those made by the applicants, other project partners and/or other funders). Please indicate the source of any in-kind contributions in the corresponding cell of the budget table.

A sample budget is provided below to assist.

Category	BUDGET ITEM	ISAF REQUEST	Proponent Contributions/ Non-ISAF Contributions		PROJECT TOTAL
			Cash Amount and Source	In Kind Amount and Source	
*Salaries and Human Resources for seasonal and/or summer students.**	*Project Coordinator Staff time to map/monitor giant hogweed across 4 municipal parks*	*20 hours @ $25/hr (MERCs included)* *= $500*	*28 hours @ $25/hr (MERCs included)* *= $700* *Source: Parks Community Fund*	*50 hours @ $25/hr (MERCs included)* *=$1,250* *Source: Proponent*	*$2,450*
Salaries and Human Resources for seasonal and/or summer students	*2 Summer Positions: hit-squad for management across 4 provincial parks*	*200 hours @ $18hr (MERCS included) = $3600*	*240 hours@ $18/hr (MERCS included) = $4320* *(Source: Summer Jobs Program)*	*200 hours @ $18hr (MERCS included) = $3600*	*$11,520*
Travel & Accommodation	*Mileage to and from each site*	*$0*	*$0.41/km * 184 km* *= $75.44* *Please calculate milage at $0.41 per km as per the Ontario*	*$0*	*$75.44*

			Public Service Travel Directive		
Professional Services	Contractor fee to treat, remove giant hogweed (includes staff time and equipment costs)	Est 1d @ daily rate of $2,000 = $2,000	$0	$0	$2,000
Equipment and Supplies Purchase	Mapping equipment and additional software licence	1 additional software licence required to complete mapping = $130	$0	1 tablet =$600.00 Source: Proponent	$730
Equipment & Supplies Rental	Trailer rental for plant material disposal	$0	Trailer rental fee =$80 Source: Parks Community Fund	$0	$80
Communications	Printing temporary signage for public notification	$0	$0	3 signs @ est. $20/each =$60 Source: Proponent	$60
Administration	10 admin to cover misc. printing, banking fees, etc.	$650	$0	$0	$650
FINAL TOTAL		**$6,880**	**$5,175.44**	**$5,510.00**	**$17,565.44**

*Funding for full time municipal positions currently on salary or earning wages are ineligible for funding in this category**

Applicants are asked to use the following budget categories to develop their project budgets (please note some budget categories may have multiple lines):

- Salaries & human resources
- Travel & accommodations
- Professional services
- Equipment & supplies purchase
- Equipment & supplies rental
- Communications
- Administration
- Other (please describe should an expense not fit into an above category)

Salaries & Human Resources: includes wages and mandatory benefits for staff that will be directly involved in the implementation of the project. This includes wages for project managers directly involved in project implementation; project oversight/supervision and accounting are excluded from eligible staff costs.

Travel & Accommodation: may include transportation for meetings or events for project staff, contractors, or meeting/ event attendees. Funded amounts must align with the Ontario Government's Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expense Directive, for example, for mileage less than 4,000 km over the course of the project, the mileage rate is $0.40/km for southern Ontario and $0.41/km for northern Ontario. We appreciate that organizations may have their own mileage rate and ask for your understanding that ISAF grants can only cover the provincial mileage rate. Transportation costs will be by the most practical and economical method. Accommodation may include appropriate/ economical accommodations for meetings or events for project staff, contractors, or meeting/event attendees. Food and beverage may include costs for food or beverages for project staff or contractors during project meetings/events held with the public. Collecting and retaining itemized receipts to verify the expenditure will be required. Funds requested under this budget category may not be used for: non-meal food and beverages; alcohol; meals when the travel period is less than 5 hours; or meals during travel when travel is a part of the regular job duties of the staff or contractor.

Professional Services: includes third party costs such as a contractor hired to manage plant, aquatic and forest invasives or a consultant hired to complete a survey.

Equipment & Supplies Purchase: includes materials and supplies purchased for the implementation of the project. The cost of any purchases over $1,000 must be prorated to the duration of the project timeframe.

Equipment & Supplies Rental: includes materials and supplies rented for the implementation of the project.

Communications: ISAF funds under this category are to be used to communicate about the ISAF project, not to be utilized for expenses whose primary function is to support education and outreach, rather these funds are to support communication needs to increase on-the-ground impact (e.g., volunteer recruitment).

Administration expenses: Administration expenses are not to exceed a maximum of 10% of total ISAF funding. Administrative expenses include costs that are part of the normal operations of an applicant's

organization, but that can be reasonably attributed to the project. Administration expenses are comprised of disbursements such as postage/ courier charges, photocopying charges, office supplies, and financial institution service fees incurred in carrying out the project. Funds may not be used for avoidable financial institution service fees (for example, non-sufficient fund charges). For clarity, administration expenses do not include items such as salary and wages, rent, travel, accommodation, and meal expenses, computers, legal fees, audit fees, engineering fees, and other professional fees.

Legal Authorizations

Applicants are responsible for identifying and obtaining any authorizations required for the project. Projects cannot proceed without obtaining the required authorizations. Note that authorizations (for example, permits or licenses) do not have to be in place to submit your application, but need to be in place before any on the ground work commences. Having an authorization in place, if required, may enable your project to start on time. You will be required to provide copies of any required licenses or permits to the ISC once obtained.

Liability

The applicant shall be solely liable for any loss, damage or injury to any party resulting from carrying out its project and from its use of knowledge and/or pre-existing know-how.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is defined as any circumstances where a grant reviewer has outside commitments, relationships or financial interests that could, or could be seen by a reasonable person to, interfere with the grant reviewer's objective, unbiased, and impartial judgment relating to the grant.

All grant reviewers adhere to a conflict-of-interest policy. When a conflict is identified, the proposal is reassigned to another reviewer.

Recognition

As instructed by the Invasive Species Centre, the successful applicant may be required to acknowledge the receipt of financial assistance from the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Invasive Species Centre.

How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete an online application form via Good Grants by **January 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.**   Applications cannot be accepted by other means such as email.

Please contact the Grants Team at grants@invasivespeciescentre.ca to discuss project eligibility and any other questions.

Considerations for In-Kind Contributions

The following table provides a guide to support applicants in understanding what they might include as an in-kind contribution to the proposed project. This list is not comprehensive, so applicants are encouraged to consider any in-kind contributions not mentioned below.

Category	Suggested for Consideration for In-Kind Contribution Calculations
Salaries and Human Resources	Actual salary or wage costs, including MERCs for people paid for their contributions to the project. This may include project managers, administrative staff, or other staff contributing to the project. Any costs paid directly by the group or organization, that may come from other sources ie: cash contribution. **Do not include salary funding received through ISAF**
Volunteer Hours	Hours of time that volunteers will contribute towards the project performing the same or similar duties to that of a current employee. For example: 1 employee who makes $20 an hour completing manual removal of an invasive plant 10 volunteers who each donate five hours of their time completing manual removals $20 hour x 50 volunteer hours = $1,000 of in-kind contributions through volunteer hours
Professional and technical services/contracts	Consulting fees and/or technical expertise directly related to the funded project (e.g., communications professionals, lawyers, Indigenous elders, etc.) that will be paid out directly by the group or organization, not through ISAF funding.
Travel and subsistence costs	Reasonable out-of-pocket travel and subsistence expenses for work that is directly dedicated to the funded project and paid out by the group or organization
Equipment, materials and supplies	The cost of Purchased, or donated new and used equipment, material, and supplies (e.g., laptops, hand tools, machinery, etc.), can be factored into your group or organizations in-kind contributions.
Software, new technologies and databases	The cost of purchasing licenses needed for the project, if not already provided by the institution, or development costs of new technologies related to the project and paid out directly by the group or organization.
Dissemination of results	Preparation of materials (e.g., digital media) for mass and other audiences Organization of a workshop, seminar, roundtable, or public lecture that relates directly to the research project or other funded activities
Use of facilities	The typical cost of a donated meeting rooms, space, or facilities for which a fee is usually charged or donated additional office space that may be at the partner's site are eligible sources of in-kind contributions

The above table should be used as an example of how to apply the specific categories when developing your budget.

The above table is not an exhaustive list of in-kind contributions, should you have any questions about an eligible expense as a potential in kind contribution, please email grants@invasivespeciescentre.ca to discuss.

Please join us for a focused Webinar on Developing a Budget and In-Kind Contribution: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm Register Here: Budget and In-Kind Focused Webinar

APPENDIX B

Application Outline – **Microgrants** – Working Template

The online application form can be saved and returned to**, you may also edit applications after they have been submitted up to the date of the applications closing, January 9, 2026, at 11:59 PM.**

The following outline may be used to prepare content for the online form in a WORD or other word processing document, which can then be saved while you work and copied and pasted Good Grants.

1.   **Start Here Tab**
    a.   Applicant: Your first and last name
    b.   Category:
         Select **Microgrant** if the cap of your funding request falls below $3,500.
         Select **Accelerated Impact** if the cap of your funding request falls between **$3,500 - $15,000.00**
         Select **Transformative Action** if the cap of your funding request falls between $15,000 - $50,000
    c.   Application Name: please use a short name for your application. Long names can cause difficulties when downloading your application and supplemental documents.

2.   **Eligibility Requirements Tab**
    a.   Will the proposed project occur entirely on lands owned by private
         individuals for personal use?   Yes / No
    b.   Will your proposed project occur in Ontario, Canada?   Yes/No
    c.   Does your organization fall into one of these categories:
         Non-government organizations and charities
         Municipal and local governments
         Universities, colleges, and schools
         Indigenous Communities/Organizations
         Indigenous Governance
         Conservation Authorities   Yes/No
    d.   Does your project involve Invasive Phragmites?   Yes/No

Please ensure you are using the "CHECK ELIGIBILITY" button prior to moving forward with the remainder of your application. Save + Close or Save + Next will not confirm your eligibility.

3.   **Applicant Information Tab**
    a.   Acknowledgement: The ISC will be using Good Grants to broadcast important and time sensitive information to applicants and recipients. Please be sure to review your account settings in Good Grants to allow emails through the platform. If the individual applying is different than the project lead, please ensure all email updates are forwarded to Project Leads. Failure to do so may result in missing important updates and timelines.
    b.   Project lead's name
    c.   Project lead's phone number:
    d.   Project lead's email address:

e. Secondary Contact Name
f. Secondary Contact email address
g. Applicant organization (legal entity):
h. Applicant's organization address, including postal code:
i. What type of organizations do you work with?
1. Check all that apply from the provided list
Municipality
Volunteer Group
Conservation Authority
Indigenous Community or Group
Indigenous Governance
Not-For-Profit
Community Group or Association
Registered Charity
Other
j. Applicant profile (100 words or less)
1. Describe the vision, mission, and value proposition of your organization.
k. Choose your geographic area (a list is provided)
1. **Central Ontario**: Durham – Halton Region – Muskoka District – Peel Region – Simcoe County – Toronto – York
2. **Southwestern Ontario**: Brant County – Bruce County – Chatham–Kent – Dufferin County – Elgin County – Essex County – Grey County – Haldimand County – Hamilton – Huron County – Lambton County – Middlesex County – Niagara Region – Norfolk County – Oxford County – Pelee Township – Perth County – Waterloo – Wellington County
3. **Eastern Ontario**: Frontenac County – Haliburton County – Hastings- Kawartha Lakes – Lanark – Leeds & Grenville – Lennox & Addington – Northumberland County – Ottawa – Peterborough County – Prescott & Russell – Prince Edward County – Renfrew – Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
4. **Northeastern Ontario:** Algoma District – Cochrane – Manitoulin – Nipissing District – Parry Sound District – Sudbury – Timiskaming
5. **Northwestern Ontario:** Kenora – Rainy River – Thunder Bay
6. **Other** (e.g., multiple regions): Please describe
l. What is the closest municipality to where your proposed project will be taking place?
m. From time to time, we receive requests from media and elected officials to spotlight current projects. Please provide your provincial riding so that we can notify Members of Provincial Parliament.
n. Have you received previous funding from the ISC before?
1. If you have received funding from the Invasive Species Centre in the past, please identify project, year, and amount

4. **Project Description Tab:**
a. Project Title (15 words or less)
b. Connecting your project to ISAF priorities
Which Invasive Species will your project address? (Please provide a maximum of three species that your project will focus on)
What key themes will your project address?

Volunteer stewardship
Collaborative action
Capacity Building

c. How will your project address the theme(s) chosen above?
d. Does your project require Landowner Permission? (Choose one)
- ❑ Yes, we have obtained landowner permission
- ❑ Yes, we are the landowner/land manager
- ❑ Yes, but we have not obtained permissions yet and we have not reached out to the landowner
- ❑ Yes, but we have not obtained permissions for this project yet. We have discussed the project with the landowner who has given verbal support, and/or we have worked with this landowner on other projects in the past.
- ❑ No
e. Does your project require any authorizations, permits, licenses, or other approvals (e.g., for pesticide application, habitat modification to proceed?
- ❑ Yes, one or more are required for our project
- ❑ I have the permit(s) required (please upload a copy of your permits)
- ❑ I will be obtaining
- ❑ No permit(s) required
  - i. If you answered yes to the previous question, please list the requirements and let us know if you have applied for, obtained, or not applied yet. Please also indicate if you or your project partners have successfully obtained similar permits in the past.
f. What is the purpose and objective of your project?
g. What will you be doing as part of your initiative?
h. Where will the work be completed?
i. How will you do the work – please reference Best Management Practices, existing resources or other guidance that you will be using as part of your initiative.
j. What is your project plan and timeline? Break into phases if this improves clarity.
k. Is your application part of a multi-year project?
l. Who will you be working with on this project? List partners and their roles and whether you have confirmed their involvement.
m. Short Description (25 words or less)
   1. Provide a concise summary of your project. This summary will be used for various communications materials such as social media and the ISC website.

5. **Key Performance Indicators TAB**
   a. What are your expected project outcomes?
      Please describe the expected qualitative outcomes of your work.
         Quantify outcomes by including estimates for as many of the key performance indicators as appropriate from the list below.

Key Performance Indicators	Unit	Project Target
People		
Number of Jobs Created Please count paid positions created including seasonal, full and part time employees. 0-3 Month Contract: 0.25 FTE 4-6 Month Contract: 0.5 FTE 7-9 Month Contract: 0.75 FTE 10-12 Month Contract: 1.0 FTE Full time permanent employee: 1.0 FTE Part time permanent employee: 0.5 FTE	Number (n)	
Volunteers (total number of individual volunteers)	Number (n)	
Volunteer hours (total number of volunteer hours contributed to project)	Time in Hours (n)	
How many individuals will be trained on invasive species? This includes individuals internal or external to the organization that learned skills related to the identification, monitoring, reporting and/or managing invasive species.	Number (n)	
Collaboration		
Total number of all Collaborative Partners (Indigenous groups or organizations, Municipalities, other groups, organizations or groups directly involved in project)	Number (n)	
Total number of Indigenous communities or groups directly involved in project	Number (n)	
Total Number of Municipalities or Conservation Authorities involved	Number (n)	
Total Number of Conservation Authorities involved	Number (n)	
Environmental Impact		
Total area monitored or controlled	Hectares (n)	
Total Shoreline, roads, and/or utility corridors monitored or controlled	Kilometers Number (n)	
Number of Sites/locations/wetlands surveyed and/or managed	Number (n)	
Communication and Outreach		
Online Engagements (total of the following: likes, comments, shares, and clicks on all anticipated posts)	Total reach	
Communications (blog posts and/or social media posts)	Number (n)	
Prevention, Control & Monitoring Events		

Total number of non-field events (meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Field Events (On the ground work)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (Meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (on the ground work)	Number (n)	
Number of Youth engaged	Number (n)	

Who will be the main audience involved in your project?
- Municipalities
- Provincial Government
- Federal Government
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- Members of the Public
- Youth
- Other (please provide details)

Will new technologies or resources be developed throughout this project?
- Yes
- No

Does your project involve the detection/monitoring of invasive species?
- Yes
- No

Does your project collect data to help contribute to understanding costs related to invasive species?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. **Budget Table Tab**
    a. The table below is for example purposes only, and an Excel file containing a budget table can be found at the following link: Download Budget File Here
    Please note, this file is READ ONLY and you will need to download a local copy to edit the file. Please also rename the file to include your application number and/or organizations name. Once you have completed the budget table, you will be able to upload the Excel file directly into Good Grants as part of your submitted application.

Please See Applicant Guidelines document for a completed sample.

Category	BUDGET ITEM	ISAF REQUEST	Proponent Contributions		PROJECT TOTAL
			Cash (source)	In Kind (source)	
Salaries and Human Resources					
Travel & Accommodations					

Professional Services				
Equipment and Supplies Purchase				
Equipment & Supplies Rental				
Communications				
Administration				
FINAL TOTAL		$	$	$

b. Will you be using the services of any third party organizations or contractors to complete your project? .
   - Yes
   - No
c. If you answered yes to the above question, which contractors do you anticipate hiring for your project?
d. As per your budget, what is the total value of your ISAF request? (please round to nearest dollar only)
e. What is the total, overall budget for your project? Please include all in-kind contributions.

Thank you for applying for the Invasive Species Action Fund!

APPENDIX C

Application Outline – **Accelerated Impact & Transformative Action** – Template

The online application form can be saved and returned to**,** you may also edit applications after they have been submitted up to the date of the applications closing**, January 9, 2026.**

The following outline may be used to prepare content for the online form in a WORD or other word processing document, which can then be saved while you work and copied and pasted into the online application form.

1. **Start Here Tab**
    a. Applicant: Your first and last name
    b. Category:
       Select Microgrant if the cap of your funding request falls below **$3,500.**
       Select **Accelerated Impact** if the cap of your funding request falls between **$3,500 - $15,000.00**
       Select **Transformative Action** if the cap of your funding request falls between $15,000 - $50,000
    c. Application Name: please use a short name for your application. Long names can cause difficulties when downloading your application and supplemental documents.

2. **Eligibility Requirements Tab**
    a. Will the proposed project occur entirely on lands owned by private
       individuals for personal use?   Yes / No
    b. Will your proposed project occur in Ontario, Canada?   Yes/No
    c. Does your organization fall into one of these categories:
          Non-government organizations and charities
          Municipal and local governments
          Universities, colleges, and schools
          Indigenous Communities/Organizations
          Indigenous Governance
          Conservation Authorities   Yes/No

    d. Does your project involve Invasive Phragmites?   Yes/No

Please ensure you are using the "CHECK ELIGIBILITY" button prior to moving forward with the remainder of your application. Save + Close or Save + Next will not confirm your eligibility.

3. **Applicant Information Tab**
    a. Acknowledgement: The ISC will be using Good Grants to broadcast important and time sensitive information to applicants and recipients. Please be sure to review your account settings in Good Grants to allow emails through the platform. If the individual applying is different than the project lead, please ensure all email updates are forwarded to Project Leads. Failure to do so may result in missing important updates and timelines.
    b. Project lead's first and last name:
    c. Project lead's phone number:
    d. Project lead's email:
    e. Secondary Contact Name

f. Secondary Contact Email
g. Applicant organization (legal entity):
h. Applicant's organization address:
i. Does your organization identify as one or more of the following groups:
    - □ Municipality
    - □ Volunteer Group
    - □ Conservation Authority
    - □ Indigenous Community or Group
    - □ Indigenous Governance
    - □ Not-For-Profit
    - □ Community Group or Association
    - □ Registered Charity
    - □ Other (please provide details)
j. Applicant profile (100 words or less)
    1. Describe the vision, mission, and value proposition of your organization:
k. Choose the geographic area the project will occur in (a list is provided)
    1. Central Ontario: Durham – Halton Region – Muskoka District – Peel Region – Simcoe County – Toronto – York
    2. Southwestern Ontario: Brant County – Bruce County – Chatham–Kent – Dufferin County – Elgin County – Essex County – Grey County – Haldimand County – Hamilton – Huron County – Lambton County – Middlesex County – Niagara Region – Norfolk County – Oxford County – Pelee Township – Perth County – Waterloo – Wellington County
    3. Eastern Ontario: Frontenac County – Haliburton County – Hastings- Kawartha Lakes – Lanark – Leeds & Grenville – Lennox & Addington – Northumberland County – Ottawa – Peterborough County – Prescott & Russell – Prince Edward County – Renfrew – Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
    4. Northeastern Ontario: Algoma District – Cochrane – Manitoulin – Nipissing District – Parry Sound District – Sudbury – Timiskaming
    5. Northwestern Ontario: Kenora – Rainy River – Thunder Bay
    6. Other (e.g., multiple regions): Please describe.
l. What is the closest municipality to where your proposed project will be taking place?
m. From time to time we receive requests from media and elected officials to spotlight current projects. Please provide your provincial riding so that we can notify Members of Provincial Parliament.
n. Have you previously received funding from the ISC Before?
    1. If so, please identify the year, project name and amount

4. **Project Description Tab**

a. Project Title (15 words or less)
b. Please select the primary species your project will be working on (maximum of THREE {3} species) Priority Species that your project addresses:

Terrestrial Plants:

- ❑ Giant hogweed
- ❑ Knotweeds
- ❑ Dog strangling vines (particularly Northern Ontario/central)

❑ None of the above

Aquatics:

Aquatic Animals:
Note: additional aquatic animal species are found below in the *Invasive Species Act* list of species.

❑ Zebra mussels or quagga mussels (in new areas)
❑ None of the above

Note: additional aquatic animal species are found below in the Invasive Species Act list of species.

Forest invasives:

❑ Oak wilt – in highest risk regions (e.g., Windsor, Sarnia, Sault Ste Marie)
❑ Beech leaf diseases
❑ Hemlock Wooly Adelgid
❑ Spotted Lanternfly – in highest risk regions (e.g., Niagara, Prince Edward County, Norfolk)
❑ None of the above

Invasive Species Act, prohibited species:

❑ Bighead Carp
❑ Black Carp
❑ Grass Carp
❑ Silver Carp
❑ Snakeheads
❑ Stone Moroko
❑ Wels Catfish
❑ Zander
❑ Tench
❑ Prussian Carp
❑ Ide
❑ Red Shiner
❑ Eastern and Western Mosquito Fish
❑ Mountain Pine Beetle
❑ Crayfish (Common Yabby)
❑ Killer Shrimp
❑ Marbled Crayfish
❑ Red Swamp Crayfish
❑ New Zealand Mud Snail
❑ Pacifastacus Crayfish
❑ Procambarus Crayfish
❑ Brazilian Elodea (Brazilian Waterweed)

- ❑ European Water Chestnut
- ❑ Hydrilla
- ❑ Parrot Feather
- ❑ Water Soldier
- ❑ Oxygen Weed
- ❑ Watermoss
- ❑ Nutria
- ❑ None of the Above

c. What are the primary key themes your project will address? Please select up to TWO (2) key themes. Prevention and Protection of High-Value Ecosystems
   - ❑ Early Detection, Rapid Response
   - ❑ Strategic Management and Control
   - ❑ Addressing Pathways of Introduction and Spread
   - ❑ Indigenous Leadership and Integration of Traditional Knowledge
   - ❑ Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Empowerment
   - ❑ Innovation and Knowledge Sharing
   - ❑ None of the above

e. Does your project require Landowner Permission? (Choose one)

   - ❑ Yes, we have obtained landowner permission
   - ❑ Yes, we are the landowner/land manager
   - ❑ Yes, but we have not obtained permissions yet and we have not reached out to the landowner
   - ❑ Yes, but we have not obtained permissions for this project yet. We have discussed the project with the landowner who has given verbal support, and/or we have worked with this landowner on other projects in the past.
   - ❑ No

f. Does your project require any authorizations, permits, licenses, or other approvals (e.g., for pesticide application, habitat modification to proceed?

   - ❑ Yes, one or more are required for our project
   - ❑ I have the permit(s) required (please upload a copy of your permits)
   - ❑ I will be obtaining
   - ❑ No permit(s) required

g. If you answered yes to the previous question, please list the permits/permissions you require and let us know if you have applied for, obtained, or not applied yet. Please also indicate if you   or project partners have successfully obtained similar permits in the past. (e.g., DFO SAR permit, applied for)

h. What is the purpose and objective of your project?

i. What will you be doing as part of your initiative?

j. Where will the work be completed?

k. How will you do the work – please reference Best Management Practices, existing resources or other guidance that you will be using as part of your initiative.   Emphasize and reference the use of existing content and materials such as signs and factsheets and other communications materials.
l. What is your project plan and timeline? Please break your project down into phases if this will help improve clarity.
m. Is your application part of a multi-year project?
n. Who will you be working with on this project? List partners and their roles and whether you have confirmed their involvement.
o. Short Description (25 words or less): Provide a concise summary of your project. This summary will be used for various communications materials such as social media and the ISC website.

5. KPI TABLE TAB

a. Expected Outcomes (250 words or less)
1. Please describe the expected qualitative outcomes of your work. Quantify outcomes by including estimates for as many of the key performance indicators as appropriate from the list below. Add additional KPIs and summary text as needed.

Key Performance Indicators	Unit	Project Target
People		
Number of Jobs Created Please count paid positions created including seasonal, full and part time employees. 0-3 Month Contract: 0.25 FTE 4-6 Month Contract: 0.5 FTE 7-9 Month Contract: 0.75 FTE 10-12 Month Contract: 1.0 FTE Full time permanent employee: 1.0 FTE Part time permanent employee: 0.5 FTE	Number (n)	
Volunteers (total number of individual volunteers)	Number (n)	
Volunteer hours (total number of volunteer hours contributed to project)	Time in Hours (n)	
How many individuals will be trained on invasive species? This includes individuals internal or external to the organization that learned skills related to the identification, monitoring, reporting and/or managing invasive species.	Number (n)	
Collaboration		
Total number of all Collaborative Partners (Indigenous groups or organizations, Municipalities, other groups, organizations or groups directly involved in project)	Number (n)	

Total number of Indigenous communities or groups directly involved in project	Number (n)	
Total Number of Municipalities or Conservation Authorities involved	Number (n)	
Total Number of Conservation Authorities involved	Number (n)	
Environmental Impact		
Total area monitored or controlled	Hectares (n)	
Total Shoreline, roads, and/or utility corridors monitored or controlled	Kilometers Number (n)	
Number of Sites/locations/wetlands surveyed and/or managed	Number (n)	
Communication and Outreach		
Online Engagements (total of the following: likes, comments, shares, and clicks on all anticipated posts)	Total reach	
Communications (blog posts and/or social media posts)	Number (n)	
Prevention, Control & Monitoring Events		
Total number of non-field events (meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Field Events (On the ground work)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (Meetings/workshops)	Number (n)	
Event attendees (on the ground work)	Number (n)	
Number of Youth engaged	Number (n)	

Additional KPIs Being Captured:

Who will be the main audience involved in your project?

- Municipalities
- provincial government,
- federal government
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- Members of the public
- Youth
- Other

Will new technologies or resources be developed throughout this project?

- Yes
- No

Does your project involve the detection/monitoring of invasive species?

- Yes
- No

Did your project collect data to help contribute to understanding costs related to invasive species?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. Budget Table

The table below is for example purposes only, and an Excel file containing a budget table can be found at the following link: Download Budget File Here
Please note, this file is READ ONLY and you will need to download a local copy to edit the file.
Please also rename the file to include your application number and/or organizations name.
Once you have completed the budget table, you will be able to upload the Excel file directly into Good Grants as part of your submitted application.

Category	BUDGET ITEM	ISAF REQUEST	Proponent Contributions		PROJECT TOTAL
			Cash (source)	In Kind (source)	
Salaries and Human Resources					
Travel & Accommodations					
Professional Services					
Equipment and Supplies Purchase					
Equipment & Supplies Rental					
Communications					
Administration					
FINAL TOTAL			$	$	$

    a. Will you be using the services of any third party organizations or contractors to complete your project? .
- Yes
- No

    b. If you answered yes to the above question, which contractors do you anticipate hiring for your project?

    c. As per your budget, what is the total value of your ISAF request? (please round to nearest dollar only)

    d. What is the total, overall budget for your project? Please include all in-kind contributions

e. Is your project scalable?
   - Yes
   - No

f. We strive to provide each applicant with the resources required to deliver the project as submitted, however, without infinite funding, we sometimes find ourselves in a position of having great projects, but not the total dollar value asked.
That being said, at what percentage of your requested funding would you still be able to deliver similar outcomes?
   90% of requested funding
   80% of requested funding
   70% of requested funding
   60% of requested funding
   50% of requested funding

7. Supporting Materials Tab

This tab is completely optional and will not impact your grant eligibility should you not have any additional materials to submit. This tab may be used to supply permits, letters of support, photos, plans, or other documents that may not otherwise fit into the application.

Thank you for applying for the Invasive Species Action Fund!