



Governor General's  
Innovation Awards

Prix du Gouverneur général  
pour l'innovation

# Nominating Partners Presentation

September 2024



Fondation  
Rideau Hall  
Foundation

# Governor General's Innovation Awards (GGIAs) Overview



First awarded in 2016, the GGIAs recognize innovations that are:

- Truly **exceptional**
- **Transformative**
- Positive in **their impact on the quality of life in Canada**



Photo: Cpl Alex Brisson, Rideau Hall © DND, 2024

# ***GGIA Managing Partner: Rideau Hall Foundation***



Fondation  
Rideau Hall  
Foundation



The Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) was established in 2012 to amplify the impact of the office of the Governor General as a central institution of Canadian democracy, and to better serve Canadians through a range of initiatives linked to **learning, leadership, giving and innovation.**

Today the RHF has become a nation-building charity: a catalytic platform to connect people, causes and organizations which – while they will exist for differing purposes – share a common belief in and commitment to the potential of Canada.

RHF's Impact Report: [RHF-Impact-Report-2023-24.pdf \(rhf-frh.ca\)](#)



Photo: MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall

# ***Celebrating Innovation: A Return to Rideau Hall***

- After a hiatus due to the pandemic, the Governor General Innovation Awards returned to Rideau Hall in May 2024.
- Her Excellency the Rt. Hon. Mary Simon presided over the event, which also included national winners of Ingenious+, Canada's youth innovation challenge.
- Six outstanding innovators became GGIA laureates:
  - Christian Bagg - Bowhead Reach
  - The Canadian Archeological Association Working Group on Unmarked Graves (CAAWGUG)
  - Nuha Siddiqui and Kritika Tyagi - erthos – next gen biomaterials platform
  - Laurent Dallaire and François Bédard - Inneo
  - Dr. Kang Lee - Research in Moral Development to Legal, Clinical and Healthcare Innovation
  - Dr. Steven Holdcroft and Dr. Benjamin Britton - Revolutionary ion-exchange membranes and polymer for Clean Energy



# *A Decade of Excellence in Innovation*



- As we will gather next year, we not only celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the 2025 laureates, but also mark a significant milestone – the 10th anniversary of the Governor General Innovation Awards (GGIA).
- Over the past 10 years, the GGIA has highlighted the work of Canadians who have made exceptional contributions to society, helping to inspire the next generation of innovators.
- The anniversary is a testament to the ongoing relevance and importance of innovation in shaping our nation's future.

# 2025 Awards Cycle



Nomination period opens  
for nominating partners  
and is promoted via  
social media



**September 25  
2024**

**November 29  
2024**

RHF coordinates the  
assessment process



**December to  
March 2025**

**February to  
May 2025**

GGIA  
2025 ceremony



**Mid to Late May  
2025**



Nominations are  
received through a  
dedicated portal open  
to all GGIA partners



OSGG and RHF organize  
the awards ceremony and  
announcements

Continuous Feedback



# Eligibility Criteria

## Nominees:

- Must be **living** Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- Can be individuals, teams, groups or from any sector organizations (*if nominee is a team or group, an official representative must be designated*)
- Nomination is for a specific current or recent innovation and the impact of the innovation is already happening
- Can be at any stage in their life or career, but the nomination is not in recognition of lifetime achievement

## Young Innovator:

- Nominating partners are encouraged to nominate young innovators, which RHF defines as having a leader of the innovation 30 years of age or younger.
- There is not a specific category for young innovators, however, the nomination form asks to identify if the nominee is a young innovator





# GGIA Assessment Committee – Criteria and Scoring Overview

## OBJECTIVE OF GGIAs:

To celebrate excellence in innovation across all sectors of Canadian society and inspire Canadians, particularly Canadian youth, to be entrepreneurial innovators.

## NOMINATION SUMMARY:

The GGIAs will be given to individuals, teams and/or organizations whose innovations are truly exceptional, transformative and positive in their impact on the quality of life in Canada.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

### Inspiration

**Definition:** Extent to which this nomination inspires future innovators in Canada.

**Key questions:** How does the process leading to this innovation, its implementation and its developer(s) inspire future innovators in Canada?

### Leadership

**Definition:** Evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking and problem-solving in the process of developing and implementing the innovation.

**Key questions:** How did the nominee(s) demonstrate leadership in their work? What is the evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking and problem-solving in the process of developing and implementing the innovation?

### Impact

**Definition:** Quantifiable demonstration of the impact the innovation is having because of its successful implementation in the sector, economy, society or culture.

**Key questions:** Does the innovation in question have a positive effect in the world? How does the successful implementation of the innovation in the sector, economy, society or culture, and the role of the nominee(s) in that implementation create impact?

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** – All four eligibility criteria must be checked for the nomination to be eligible for the GGIA and proceed to scoring

☐ The nominee is a Canadian or permanent resident of Canada

☐ The nomination is for a specific innovation

☐ The impact of the innovation is already happening

☐ The nomination is **not** in recognition of lifetime achievement

## SELECTION CRITERIA SCORING GUIDE

1

Very weak

Conventional or ordinary thinking  
Not innovative or exists elsewhere  
Impact is small and very narrow and does not apply to a specific sector/region

**Do not send to the  
Selection Committee**

2

3

Good

Creative thinking  
Incremental advancement over an existing concept  
Impact is significant, but important in a specific sector/region

4

5

Exceptional

Inspired thinking  
Substantial transformative advancement over an existing concept  
Impact is large and broad across specific sectors/regions

**Highest potential for sending to  
the Selection Committee**

# *Feedback*

- Clearly indicate which innovation is being nominated
- Need to be clear on the impact of the innovation or the success and for the expected outcomes
- Need more information on the impact - impact is inferred – impact is stated as "will happen"
- Candidates have received other awards i.e. Order of Canada and long list of other awards – why GGIA?
- Nominations submitted too early before there is a track record to demonstrate wide impact in the field /or transform the industry.



# ***Preparing to Nominate via the Online Portal***

- Nomination form must be completed via the GGIA nomination portal by the nominating partner by **November 29th**.
- Access to portal provided by GGIA team at RHF. Access to the portal is restricted to nominating partners' designated contact person(s).
- Must have received authorization from the nominee to be recommended for the award.
- Nominating Partners can **submit any number of nominations**, however...
- Partners are expected to be highly selective, and only put forward nominations that meet the objectives while satisfying all the selection criteria.
- Since the Assessment and Selection committees are multidisciplinary, the nomination material should be written for non-specialists.
- Nominations may be saved in draft form for the purposes of partners' internal approvals but **must not be made public**.
- By submitting the completed form, the nominating partner acknowledges that they **have received authorization from the nominees** to be recommended for the award.



# Thank You



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