

William G. Davis Innovation Fund

Rules and Regulations

Participation and registration

The William G. Davis Innovation Fund creates an opportunity for aspiring visionaries, artists, humanitarians or entrepreneurs to start something amazing with their college education.

If you have an amazing idea that could use financial support to develop it, consider entering it in the William G. Davis Innovation Fund contest. You will need to be able to clearly describe your idea, its benefits, how you will implement it and how the success of the idea will be measured. You can also include photos, sketches or renderings of your idea. In addition, you will need to describe how the idea was sparked by your college education.

Register at <http://amazing50.ca/innovationfund> to submit an idea for funding or to vote for a submitted idea. Submission, voting and judging deadlines are as follows:

- March 1 Online registration begins
- March 1 – May 31 Submissions accepted
- June 1 – July 31 Preliminary voting round (online)
- Aug. 31 Finalists announced
- Sep. 1 – Nov. 5 Final voting round (online and at Ontario colleges' 50th anniversary campus tour)
- Nov. 10 Winners announced

Eligibility

Who is eligible to submit a funding proposal:

- Graduates from all 50 years of Ontario's public college system who are current residents of Canada
- Current full-time students (2016/2017 and 2017/2018 academic years) attending one of Ontario's 24 public colleges (including international students)

Who isn't eligible:

- Faculty or full-time staff of any of the colleges or its direct affiliates, employees or volunteers of the organizing teams, a judge or immediate family member of any of these groups

What ideas should be:

- Achievable
- Sustainable
- Measurable
- Original
- Linked to college experience (i.e., how has your college experience influenced the development of the "amazing" idea)

What ideas shouldn't be:

- Self-serving (e.g., raising money for a backpacking trip to Australia)
- A request to fund expansion of an existing business
- Driven by / of direct benefit to the applicant's current employer
- An opportunity to promote an existing company, brand, individual or product

Submission and evaluation process

Funding proposals are to be submitted online at <http://amazing50.ca/innovationfund>. Submitters will be required to provide the following information about their idea:

- Description
- Applicable category: Entrepreneurialism, Health and Welfare, Arts and Culture, Community Benefit
- Benefit
- Measurement of success
- Connection to the submitter's college experience
- Funding requirements

Once uploaded, each submission will be screened for compliance with the rules, eligibility, category appropriateness and objectionable content. Once an idea is approved, the submitter will receive an email confirmation that the submission has been accepted.

Following the submission deadline, registered users will be able to vote for their favourite ideas in a preliminary round of voting online. The results of this voting will be factored into the criteria used by a judging panel to select the finalists. Finalists will be notified by email of their status.

Finalist submissions will then be available for a second round of online voting as well as in-person voting at each stop on the Ontario colleges' 50th anniversary campus tour (see <http://amazing50.ca/events> for details). Once again, votes will be considered by a judging panel as part of the criteria for determining two winners.

The first-place winner will receive \$15,000 and the person who finishes second will receive \$5,000. Pending a final confirmation of their eligibility, winners will be notified via email. Honourable mentions will also be announced in each category.

The judging panel will consist of volunteers chosen by Colleges Ontario to ensure the final decision reflects a variety of perspectives. The panel reserves the right to remove any submission that it deems non-compliant with program criteria at any point during the judging process.

Finalists and winners will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Impact of idea (30%)
- Sustainability of idea (20%)
- Likelihood of success (15%)
- Ability to demonstrate connection to college education (15%)
- Originality of idea (10%)
- Votes received online (10%)