Canadian Pulse Science Research Cluster

Request for Letters of Intent (LOI)

Due date: December 18, 2026

Since 2010, the Canadian pulse industry and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) have jointly invested over $68M in four Pulse Science Research Clusters under AAFC's *Growing Forward*, *Growing Forward 2*, *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* and *Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership* policy frameworks. Industry funding for these clusters has been provided by the Alberta Pulse Growers, Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers, Ontario Bean Growers, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Pulse Canada, as well as other industry partners, and has addressed national pulse industry priorities in genetics, agronomy, crop protection, quality, processing and utilization, and the health and sustainability benefits of pulses.

The Canadian pulse industry is now accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) for possible inclusion in a fifth Pulse Science Research Cluster, within AAFC's next agricultural policy framework, for the period of 2028-2033.

The 2026 *National Pulse Research Strategy*, developed by the National Pulse Research Strategy Committee with input from growers, researchers, and more than 50 ingredient processors, food manufacturers and other value chain stakeholders, sets out the following vision for a profitable and sustainable pulse industry in Canada:

- Pulses are a profitable choice for Canadian farms, human health, animal nutrition, and environmental sustainability.
- Canadian pulses are the preferred choice for customers around the world.
- Canada is recognized for collaborative, nationally-coordinated pulse research that catalyzes innovation across the pulse sector.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI)

1. Eligible crops include lentils, field peas, dry edible beans, chickpeas and faba beans. Research can also pertain to crops that are new to the Canadian pulse industry, alternative pulses suited to Canada's changing climate, and new market classes of pulse crops already grown in Canada.

2. Eligible researchers include those in universities, not-for-profit research institutions, and federal and provincial research organizations. For-profit organizations or industry partners may also be considered. Multi-disciplinary proposals involving collaboration across institutions, provinces, funding agencies and industry partners in the food, feed and pet food value chains are strongly encouraged, as are collaborations with international research institutions in priority target markets.

PULSE CANADA
ALBERTA PULSE GROWERS
SASKATCHEWAN pulse Growers
MANITOBA Pulse Soybean GROWERS
ONTARIO Bean GROWERS

3. Applicants must use the provided LOI template for their submissions and complete all sections of the LOI form with information that demonstrates alignment with one or more of the four strategic outcomes of the 2026 *National Pulse Research Strategy*:

   - **Outcome 1 – Pulses are a Profitable Component of Diverse, Sustainable Crop Rotations**

     Research in breeding, genomics, phenomics and agronomy that increases yield potential and profitability; quantifies and closes yield gaps (Genotype x Environment x Management, or GxExM); improves resilience to drought, excess moisture, heat and/or cold; evaluates new crop opportunities; and quantifies the sustainability and rotational benefits of pulses, including nitrogen fixation and GHG reductions.

   - **Outcome 2 – Growers Produce a Safe, Reliable and Consistent Supply of Canadian Pulses**

     Research that supports a national, coordinated approach to root rot (genetic resistance, diagnostics and prediction, new control technologies, pathogen biology); genetic resistance, herbicide tolerance and IPM for priority diseases, weeds and insects; control of seed-borne diseases; alternatives that reduce reliance on pesticides; improved harvestability; and nutrient management for crop health.

   - **Outcome 3 – Canadian Pulses Consistently Deliver the Quality Required to Meet Market Specifications**

     Research that defines end-use aligned quality attributes for food, feed and pet food; characterizes and manages variability; identifies the drivers of flavour and off-notes; strengthens nutritional quality, digestibility and bioavailability; addresses anti-nutritional factors and contaminants; links processing to end-use quality; and establishes standardized analytical methods and data systems.

   - **Outcome 4 – Canadian Pulses are Readily Adopted Across Food, Feed and Pet Food Applications**

     Pre-competitive research that validates and benchmarks pulse ingredient performance in real-world applications; develops formulation, processing and flavour solutions; builds predictive and decision-support tools; advances new and higher-value uses; addresses sector-specific gaps (e.g., pet food palatability and amino acid balance, species-specific feed performance); and generates evidence to support nutrition, functionality and sustainability claims.

4. Proposals that advance the strategy's enabling activities will be viewed favourably, including adoption of new technologies (e.g., genomics, phenomics, digital tools and artificial intelligence), coordination on nationally significant challenges such as root rot and flavour, industry co-investment with a clear pathway to adoption, field-scale and pilot-scale validation, and knowledge transfer to growers and end users. Research funding may be available for up to five years.

5. Discussion of research priorities with potential industry partners as well as the provincial and national funding organizations is encouraged:

Alberta Pulse Growers	Dr. Jagroop Gill Kahlon– Research Program Manager jkahlon@albertapulse.com (780) 986-9398
Saskatchewan Pulse Growers	Allison Fletcher – Research Project Manager afletcher@saskpulse.com (306) 668-0591
Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers	Cassandra Tkachuk – Research Project Manager cassandra@manitobapulse.ca (204) 745-6488
Ontario Bean Growers	Olivia Yemam – Project Manager olivia@ontariobeans.on.ca (519) 510-8556

6. **Letters of Intent will be accepted until December 18, 2026 at 11:00 pm PST** and should be sent by email to: Heather Carriere, Director Program Management at cluster@pulsecanada.com.

7. All submitted LOIs will receive an email confirmation within 2-3 business days. Successful applicants will be notified and asked to provide a full proposal for consideration according to the following schedule:

Deadline for submission of LOIs	**December 18, 2026**
Call for full research proposals	**February 15, 2027**
Deadline for full proposals for selected LOIs	**April 11, 2027**