

**Ontario Junior Exploration Program Guide  
2021-2023**

**Ministry of Northern Development, Mines,  
Natural Resources and Forestry**

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# What is the Ontario Junior Exploration Program?

The Ontario Junior Exploration Program (OJEP) is an initiative of the Ontario government that will help attract investment in early exploration, expand the pipeline of mineral development projects, including critical minerals, and lead to more mines and jobs in Ontario.

Early exploration is key to the discovery of new and existing minerals, including critical minerals, which is a priority area for Ontario. The mines of the future depend on discoveries made by junior companies during the exploration phase. By funding the eligible costs associated with early exploration, OJEP can reduce risk for private investors, boosting Ontario's appeal as a jurisdiction of choice for mining investment.

To support junior mining companies, Ontario is investing \$5 million over the next two years in the new Ontario Junior Exploration Program. Through the program, junior mining companies can apply for funding to cover eligible costs of up to \$200,000 per mineral exploration or development project.

## Critical Minerals

Over the last 20 years, the global economy has been shifting. New technologies and high-growth sectors, like renewable energy, electric vehicles, high-end consumer electronics and communications technologies, are driving the need for critical minerals.

Ontario is a treasure trove of critical minerals, including lithium, cobalt, copper and nickel. We are well positioned to become a global supplier, producer and manufacturer of these minerals, which are important to daily life. By supporting early exploration for critical minerals through OJEP, Ontario is helping to unlock the province's vast mineral exploration potential and paving the way for unprecedented growth in our mining sector. (See [Appendix A](#) for Ontario's draft list of critical minerals.)

## Program Objectives

- Increase mineral exploration in Ontario
- Attract and increase investment in mineral exploration, development and mining
- Promote development of critical minerals
- Promote employment of Indigenous community members and businesses in early exploration

## Program Overview

Eligible Activities	Maximum Assistance	Eligibility*	Indigenous Capacity Eligible Activities	Intake Periods
Early stage exploration activities <sup>1</sup>	Up to \$200,000 <sup>2</sup>	<p>Junior mining companies (non-producers) having a market capitalization up to \$100 million<sup>3</sup></p> <p>*Companies that have producing mines are not eligible for OJEP funding.</p>	100 per cent of Indigenous capacity expenses up to \$10,000 (within the \$200,000 maximum assistance)	<p><b>Year 1:</b> July 26, 2021 to August 31, 2021</p> <p><b>Year 2:</b> January 10, 2022 to February 15, 2022</p>

1. See [Early Exploration Eligible Activities](#)

2. Applicants are required to provide the ministry with proof of funds for 100 per cent of project costs.

3. Market capitalization as of the opening day of the intake period (Year 1: July 26, 2021 and Year 2: January 10, 2022)

## Who is eligible to apply?

Junior mining companies in Ontario with a market capitalization of up to \$100 million may apply for up to \$200,000 in funding through this program to conduct grassroots exploration in Ontario, which involves identifying *new* mineral exploration targets or evaluating *existing* targets in areas that are not known to host a mineral deposit with economic potential.

All applications that meet the program's eligibility requirements set out below will be considered for funding through this program.

***A company can only apply for funding for one project per intake period.***

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for OJEP funding, an applicant is required to:

- Be a non-producing, junior mining company registered to conduct business in Ontario.
- Have a market capitalization of up to \$100 million (or of a comparable value, if private company) as of the opening date of each intake period:
  - **July 26, 2021** for Year 1 applications
  - **January 10, 2022** for Year 2 applications

- Provide proof that the organization applying has the funds to cover 100 per cent of total project costs on the day the application is submitted.
- Ability to provide a copy of a valid Certificate of Insurance for this project which includes the following:
  - general commercial liability coverage at a limit of not less than \$2 million per occurrence;
  - a cross-liability clause;
  - contractual liability coverage; and
  - a 30-day written notice of cancellation.

In addition, prior to executing a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario, the addition of “Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry” as the certificate holder and as an additional insured at the mailing address: 159 Cedar Street, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6A5 is required.

- Be enrolled in the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) and able to hold mining claims in Ontario. Claims are to be in good standing for the duration of the project (claims cannot lapse, be abandoned, cancelled or forfeited). The ministry is to be notified, in writing, if claims are transferred at any point during an approved project.
- Have an exploration plan and/or permit valid at time of application and for the duration of project (where required).
- Have the approval of the tenure holder to conduct the proposed project in the event of an option agreement or co-tenure holder relationship.
- Submit an application that meets the definition of grassroots exploration above.

## When can I apply?

**Year 1 Intake Period: July 26, 2021 to August 31, 2021** for projects with eligible activities starting on or after July 26, 2021.

**Year 2 Intake Period: January 10, 2022 to February 15, 2022** for projects with eligible activities starting on or after April 1, 2022.

Applications to the program will be assessed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

The ministry reserves the right to either extend or reduce an intake round or add additional intake periods depending on the number of applications received.

## How much funding is available?

Junior mining companies (non-producers) in Ontario that meet the program’s eligibility requirements may apply for funding up to \$200,000 per project. Companies can include

costs up to \$10,000, within the \$200,000 maximum assistance, to build Indigenous capacity.

<b>Percentage of Assistance</b>	<b>Maximum Assistance</b>
Exploration Expenditures	
<b>50%</b>	up to \$200,000
Indigenous Eligible Expenses	
<b>100%</b>	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Available</b>	\$200,000

## How will this funding be disbursed?

The ministry will disburse approved funding for a project in two installments. Upon satisfactory review of the project's interim report, funding recipients will receive up to 30 per cent of the agreed funding amount. Upon satisfactory review of the final report, funding recipients will receive up to 70 per cent of the agreed funding amount.

## What are eligible activities?

### Eligible Early Exploration Activities

OJEP supports grassroots mineral exploration, which involves identifying *new* mineral exploration targets or evaluating *existing* targets in areas that are not known to host a mineral deposit with economic potential.

The following activities are eligible for funding:

- The establishment of a grid by line cutting, including picketing and chaining, when such a grid has been approved and is used to carry out an eligible survey.
- Geophysical surveys (airborne or ground), geological and geochemical surveys, when such activities include the preparation of maps and reports by qualified personnel.
- Overburden stripping, trenching and test pitting, when such activities include the preparation of maps and reports.
- Surface overburden and core drilling for exploration purposes only, including mobilization, demobilization and core logging and sampling, supported by the preparation of plans, sections, drill logs and reports.
- Removal of material: all refuse, fuel drums, equipment and any other material or thing brought onto the lands for the early exploration activity.

- Activities to help meet the requirements for rehabilitation of exploration plans and exploration permit activities as described in the Provincial Standards for Early Exploration (e.g., capping and sealing of drill holes, disposing of drilling fluids and cuttings, cross-piling of drill core, backfilling, contouring and sloping and stockpiling).
- Evaluation activities: Assaying and analyses for the above activities, when such activities include the preparation of maps and reports.

## Eligible Indigenous Capacity Activities

This category is intended to encourage applicants to employ Indigenous community members and/or procure goods and services from Indigenous suppliers as much as possible for their projects. The following activities are eligible for funding at up to a maximum of \$10,000 (within the total approved funding for the project):

- Skills training for Indigenous community members.
- Employment of Indigenous community members in project-related activities.
- Procurement from Indigenous suppliers for services related to exploration, supplies, accommodation and machinery rental, as well as transportation of personnel, supplies and machinery to fulfill activities under an approved OJEP project.

## What is the cost-sharing requirement?

Through OJEP, the ministry will provide 50 per cent of project costs up to \$200,000 per project. Applicants be required to provide the ministry with proof of funds effective the date the application is submitted in TPON to complete the proposed project, as an attachment to the application. A copy of the organization's bank statement or a signed letter of attestation from the company's signing authority will be accepted. Audited financial statements or Management Discussion & Analysis (MD&A) will **not** be accepted in place of proof of funds.

## What are eligible expenses?

Exploration expenditures that are eligible within the program include expenses for salaries, services related to exploration, supplies, accommodation and machinery rental as well as transportation within Ontario of personnel, supplies and machinery incurred as part of the fulfillment of an approved OJEP project.

Eligible expenses refer to those costs, (not including HST) which are directly attributable to, and necessary for the applicant to complete the project and are not wholly or partially for another purpose.

For Year 1, applicants can incur costs for the approved project on or after **July 26, 2021 to February 15, 2022**.

For Year 2, applicants can incur costs on or after **April 1, 2022 to February 15, 2023**.

Project costs eligible for funding through OJEP are set out below under the following categories:

### **Labour (salaries)**

- Salary and benefits for employees of the company, as well as hourly wages and benefits for temporary employees working on the project activities.
  - *Note: Please budget salaries and benefits in proportion to the amount of time spent working directly on project activities.*
- Mandatory Employer Related Costs (MERCs). MERCs include employer's contributions to Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

### **Contractors and Consultants**

- Any fees a contractor, sub-contractor, or consultant will charge to assist in implementing the project activities.

### **Equipment Rental and Supplies**

- Any equipment rentals or supplies required for implementing the project activities.

### **Transportation (mobilization and demobilization)**

- Costs to transport personnel, supplies, and machinery to and from the project site. Expenses will only be reimbursed in accordance with the Ontario [Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive](#), even if costs exceed what is set out in the directive. For example, transportation will be billed at \$0.41 per kilometre, except where transportation is provided through a contractor or service supplier that is submitting an invoice.

### **Meals and Accommodation**

- Meals and accommodation costs that are explicitly project-related and represent the most economical option. Expenses will only be reimbursed in accordance with the Ontario [Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive](#), even if costs exceed what is set out in the directive. For example, a meal allowance of (up to) \$45 per employee will be eligible for reimbursement, except where food is provided through a contractor or service supplier that is submitting an invoice.

### **Indigenous Capacity Eligible Expenses**

Indigenous Capacity Eligible Expenses include:

- Salary and benefits for Indigenous employees of the company, as well as hourly wages and benefits for temporary Indigenous employees working on the project activities.
  - *Note: Please budget salaries and benefits in proportion to the amount of time spent working directly on project activities.*

- Mandatory Employer Related Costs (MERCs). MERCs include an employer's contributions to Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.
- Skills training for Indigenous employees.
- Costs to procure from Indigenous suppliers services related to exploration, supplies, accommodation and machinery rental, as well as transportation of personnel, supplies and machinery to fulfill activities under an approved OJEP project.

## What are some examples of expenses that are not eligible?

- Costs not directly associated with meeting the project milestones as specified in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement with the ministry.
- Retroactive costs: Any costs incurred before the program start date (July 26, 2021 for Year 1 and April 1, 2022 for Year 2) are not eligible for funding.
- Tangible capital costs such as, but not limited to, land, buildings, vehicles, equipment, etc.
- Infrastructure costs (e.g., building and facilities).
- Costs related to proposal development (including staff and consultants).
- Meals associated with entertainment costs, gifts and alcoholic beverages.
- Costs associated with lobbying or government relations activities.
- Tax expenses (including, but not limited to HST, sales taxes, tax filing, income taxes, etc.).
- Cost of basic utility services.
- Allowance for interest on invested capital, bonds, debentures, bank or other loans together with related bond discounts and finance charges.
- Legal, accounting, property acquisition.
- Administrative costs associated with regular business activities (internet, etc.).
- Prototyping.

## When does a project need to be completed?

For the purposes of OJEP, an approved “project” will be defined by the terms and conditions set out in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement with the ministry, including the project start and end date, activities set out in the work plan and eligible expenses set out in the budget.

Year 1 projects will start no earlier than **July 26, 2021** and are expected to end by **February 15, 2022**, with final reports due by **February 28, 2022**.

Year 2 projects will start no earlier than **April 1, 2022** and are expected to end by **February 15, 2023**, with final reports due by **February 28, 2023**.

For a list of key dates, please see [Appendix B](#).



## How do I apply?

Transfer Payment Ontario provides you with one-window access to the Government of Ontario's funding opportunities. You will use the system to apply for OJEP, track your submission, submit reports, view payments and more.

Please submit applications online through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) by no later than **August 31, 2021** for Year 1 and **February 15, 2022** for Year 2.

### **Step 1: Enroll in Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON)**

#### **ONE-key Account Set-Up**

Applicants using TPON (formerly Grants Ontario) for the first time need to create a "ONE-key" account. Setting up an account may take up to five (5) business days so allow at least one week to register before starting the application process.

If an individual applicant has previously used the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) or submitted an application for funding from other programs through TPON, a new ONE-key account may not be required.

Please note that the ONE-key account is registered at the individual level and not the organizational level. If someone in your organization has an account that is used for a different funding program, but you are the one submitting a new application, a separate account will be required.

**Technical questions regarding TPON** may be directed to:

Email: [TPONCC@ontario.ca](mailto:TPONCC@ontario.ca)

Telephone: (416) 325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090

Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Please note that the information you provide for registration (such as address, contact information, etc.) will be automatically filled into the application form for OJEP. Applications with the required supporting documentation are to be submitted on-line through TPON.

Once an application has been started, it may be saved or downloaded at any point and returned to later. Please refer to [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) for instructions on how to submit the application.

Please note that applicants will need to complete the supplier registration and application in TPON for direct deposit of funding payments.

### **Step 2: Complete the Application**

Once you are registered and have access to TPON, the next step is to complete an application online by following these steps:

1. Log into Transfer Payment Ontario.

2. Click on “Submit for Funding” and select the Ontario Junior Exploration Program (OJEP).
3. Review or complete sections in the online application as per the guidelines below.
4. Submit your application along with all mandatory attachments.

If you require an alternative format or have any accessibility accommodation requests, please contact: [OJEP@ontario.ca](mailto:OJEP@ontario.ca).

When you submit your application, you will receive a confirmation email. If you have not received a confirmation email within 48 hours of your submission, please call TPON Client Care at 1-855-216-3090 or 416-325-6691.

Applicants will be notified if their application is incomplete and further information is required. Complete applications to the program will be assessed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Following the evaluation period, the ministry will inform the primary contact (as listed in the application) by email about the status of the application.

## **Assistance with Application**

For help in applying, please refer to [Get Help](#) section of [Ontario.ca/GetFunding](http://Ontario.ca/GetFunding)

If you have any questions or issues during this process, do not hesitate to contact the TPON Client Care at 1-855-216-3090 or 416-325-6691, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST or by email at [TPONCC@ontario.ca](mailto:TPONCC@ontario.ca).

For questions related to OJEP and this guide, please contact ministry staff at [OJEP@ontario.ca](mailto:OJEP@ontario.ca)

## **How do I complete the application in TPON?**

Applicants will be required to download, fill out and upload their completed application to TPON. Further information about each section of the application form is outlined below. Please ensure that all parts of the TPON application are completed and that you have submitted the required supporting documentation as attachments.

### **Section A: Eligibility Requirements**

Please complete the eligibility checklist to ensure you meet the requirements.

### **Section B to D: Organization Information**

These sections are explained in the application form. Sections A and B are pre-populated. To make a change to this information, please submit an assistance request through the TPON system (see [Assistance with Application](#)).

## Section E: Grant Payment Information

Should your application be successful, the information provide in this section will be used to make payments. Please note that Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is required, and will be deposited in the organization's bank account.

## Section F: Project Information

This section is where applicants provide details on their project.

**Project Name:** Please give your project a name.

**Project Start Date:** Please identify a start date for your project. For Year 1, it can be on or after July 26, 2021. For Year 2, it can be on or after April 1, 2022. Note: You can only apply for one project per intake period.

**Project End Date:** Please identify an end date for your project. For Year 1, it can be on or before February 15, 2021 (includes both activities and evaluation) For Year 2 it can be on or before February 15, 2023 (includes both activities and evaluation).

**Requested Amount:** Identify the amount of funding you are requesting to deliver your project (50 per cent of total cost of project up to \$200,000).

**Total Cost of the Project:** Identify the total cost of the project, not the 50 per cent eligible costs.

**Project Summary:** Give a brief description of your project, including exploration methods.

**Project Objectives:** Please describe how your project will help fulfill one or more of the following objectives of OJEP:

- Increase mineral exploration in Ontario
- Attract and increase investment in mineral exploration, development and mining
- Promote development of critical minerals
- Promote employment of Indigenous community members and Indigenous businesses in early exploration

**Project Activities:** From the drop-down list, select the project activities for which you are requesting funding. You can choose more than one activity from the list.

**Project Rationale:** Briefly describe why you chose this project area for exploration and the exploration methods described above.

**Anticipated Project Results:** Outline your expected/anticipated results of the project, including how it could lead to further exploration and/or mine development in Ontario.

**Indigenous Capacity:** If applicable, please describe how your project will build Indigenous capacity, including possible training, employment and procurement opportunities with target results, where possible (e.g., number of Indigenous people to be trained and employed through project, number of Indigenous businesses to be engaged in project/procurement processes).

**Previous Mineral Exploration Experience:** Give a brief summary of your company's previous experience in mineral exploration.

**Previous Work on Property:** Describe the previous work done on property, including year, type of work, by whom and any significant results.

**Area/Township:** Identify the area or township the project is located in.

**UTM Coordinates:** Pick a central location of the project and provide the UTM coordinates.

**Critical Minerals Exploration Project:** Select "yes" if your project involves exploring for critical minerals as outlined in [Appendix A](#) or "no" if your project does not involve critical minerals.

**Target Commodity/Deposit Type:** Describe commodities/deposit type being sought, including any critical minerals if you answered yes to the above.

**Plan or Permit Number(s):** If you have an exploration plan or permit issued for this project, please enter the number of the plan or permit. For a plan, the number follows the format of PL-xx(year)-xxxxxx(number) and for a permit, the number begins with PR-xx(year)-xxxxxx(number). The plan or permit must be active and in good standing. Please make sure you attach proof of this plan or permit—for the plan, a copy of the MLAS screen showing the plan is active or for a permit, the actual permit issued.

**List of Tenure:** List the claims, leases, etc. where the eligible activities are being carried out (if your list is too long for the application, please include as a separate attachment).

**Applicant/Tenure Holder Relationship:** If the applicant is different from the tenure holder (mining rights holder), please describe. In the event of a co-tenure holder or optionee arrangement, please indicate that the tenure holder is aware of the OJEP application and consents to the proposed activities.

## **Section G: Project Work Plan**

Complete the work plan to identify your project's key activities, providing dates when the activities are going to be carried out.

Below is a sample work plan.

*Tip:* Some activities will not have a unit associated with them such as rehabilitation, evaluation. Where there is no unit, please enter N/A.

## Sample Work Plan

Activity (for more information see eligible activities)	Total Units (e.g., km, area, volume, samples)	Start Date	End Date
<b>Line cutting, chaining, picketing, grid layout (kilometres)</b>			
<b>Surveys</b>			
Ground geophysical (kilometres)			
Airborne geophysical (kilometres)			
Geological (area)			
Geological (samples)			
Geochemical (area)			
Geochemical (samples)			
<b>Stripping, pitting and trenching</b>			
Pitting and trenching (volume)			
Stripping (area)			
<b>Surface Drilling</b>			
Drilling (no of holes)			
Drilling (metres)			
<b>Rehabilitation</b>			
Removal of material (No unit required)			
Activities to meet the requirement for rehabilitation in the Provincial Standards for Early Exploration (No unit required)			
<b>Evaluation of all activities</b>			
Report preparation, assays/analyses (No unit required)			

## Section H: Budget

Complete the budget section and identify total costs of project. This includes costs for which you are seeking OJEP funding (50 per cent of costs, up to \$200,000). The budget is separated into project activities and is organized according to eligible costs. In the details section please provide as much detail as possible to identify the costs.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Note that any salary or contractor/consultant costs that fall under the Indigenous Capacity Eligible Expenses, are only to be included in the Indigenous Capacity Eligible Activities section (please ensure to not double count these costs).

### Sample Budget

<b>Budget Items</b> (exclude HST and costs that fall under Indigenous Capacity Eligible Activities)	<b>Details</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
<b>Line cutting, chaining, picketing, grid layout</b>		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Describe number of people, position, and hourly wage)	<i>E.g., 2 line-cutters @\$35 an hour for 21 days plus \$700 for Introduction to Mining Training prior to project start. 1 supervisor at \$45 an hour for 28 days.</i>	
<b>Contractors and consultants</b> (Company names and type of work, if possible)	<i>E.g., XYZ Line Cutting Service at \$800-\$1,000 per kilometre.</i>	
<b>Equipment rentals/supplies</b> (List equipment needed)	<i>E.g., ATV rental at \$75 a day plus gas as per government travel directive at 41 cents per kilometre.</i>	
<b>Transportation</b> (Mobilization and demobilization)	<i>E.g., 250 km travel to and from project site, daily for 2 vehicles at 41 cents per kilometre per vehicle as per the travel directive.</i>	
<b>Meals and accommodations</b>	<i>E.g., Food for 3 staff members at \$45 a day per person as per the travel directive. Hotel rooms for 3 staff members at \$150 a night.</i>	
<b>Surveys</b> (ground geophysical, airborne geophysical, geological and geochemical)		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Describe number of people, position, and hourly wage)		
<b>Contractors and consultants</b> (Company names and type of work, if possible)		

<b>Equipment rentals supplies</b> (List equipment needed)		
<b>Transportation</b> (Mobilization and demobilization)		
<b>Meals and accommodations</b>		
<b>Stripping, Pitting and Trenching</b>		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Describe number of people, position, and hourly wage)		
<b>Contractors and consultants</b> (Company names and type of work, if possible)		
<b>Equipment rentals supplies</b> (List equipment needed)		
<b>Transportation</b> (Mobilization and demobilization)		
<b>Meals and accommodations</b>		
<b>Surface Drilling</b>		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Describe number of people, position, and hourly wage)		
<b>Contractors and consultants</b> (Company names and type of work, if possible)		
<b>Equipment rentals supplies</b> (List equipment needed)		
<b>Transportation</b> (Mobilization and demobilization)		
<b>Meals and accommodations</b>		
<b>Rehabilitation (removal of material, etc.)</b>		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Describe number of people, position, and hourly wage)		
<b>Contractors/consultants</b> (Company names and type of work, if possible)		
<b>Equipment rentals/ supplies</b> (List equipment needed)		

<b>Transportation</b> (Mobilization and demobilization)		
<b>Meals and accommodations</b>		
<b>Evaluation Activities: Assaying and analyses for the above activities</b>		
<b>Labour (salaries)</b> (Report writing)		
<b>Contractor/consultants</b> (Laboratory processing fees)		
<b>Indigenous Capacity Eligible Activities (100% eligible up to \$10,000)</b>		
<b>Indigenous training, employment and procurement</b>	<i>E.g., Basic mining skills training for 1 Indigenous employee at \$750 per course; 1 line-cutter at \$35 an hour, 8-hour days at 21 days; procuring ATV rentals from an Indigenous business at \$75 a day for four days.</i>	
<b>Total Eligible Project Costs</b> (50% of project costs)	<b>Total Indigenous Capacity Eligible Costs</b> (cannot exceed \$10,000)	<b>Total Eligible Costs (total costs cannot be more than \$199,999.99)</b>

## Attachments

Please attach the following information to your TPO application:

1. Items submitted to the ministry as part of your application for a plan or permit, including:
  - Activity Details Report
  - Two maps (regional-scale map and project-scale) that meet ministry map standards
    - a. [Plan map standards](#)
    - b. [Permit map standards](#)
2. If proposing a project activity that does not require a plan or permit, please provide the following:
  - Two maps (a regional-scale map and project-scale) that meet ministry map standards
    - a. [Plan map standards](#)
    - b. [Permit map standards](#)

Please ensure that the project-scale map includes the claims, leases, patents and licenses of occupation.

3. Copy of permit issued by the ministry or proof of active plan as authorized by the ministry (a copy of MLAS screen showing plan active or copy of permit as sent by the ministry at the time permit was issued)
4. Proof of funding in the organization's name to cover 100 per cent of total project costs on the day the application is made (a bank statement is preferred)
5. If available at time of application, a copy of a valid Certificate of Insurance for this project which includes the following:
  - commercial general liability insurance for \$2 million per occurrence (third party bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage);
  - a cross-liability clause;
  - contractual liability coverage; and
  - a 30-day written notice of cancellation.

In addition, prior to executing a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario, the addition of "Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry" as the certificate holder and as an additional insured at the mailing address: 159 Cedar Street, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6A5 is required.

**Applicants must complete application and submit attachments on or before August 31, 2021 for the Year 1 or February 15, 2022 for Year 2.**

## **How will the application be evaluated?**

**Funding is not automatic.**

Applications that are complete and meet the requirements will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- ✓ Clarity of application (based on maps provided, synthesis of previous work, description of project, mineral exploration experience).
- ✓ Project feasibility (based on information provided in the application, including the work plan and the budget).
- ✓ Alignment with the program objectives of OJEP.

## How are funding decisions made?

Funding available through this program will be provided to approved projects on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are encouraged to submit their completed application package as early as possible during the two intake periods (see [When can I apply?](#)).

Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. Please see [Attachments](#) to ensure you have attached everything for the application.

To ensure you meet the program's basic eligibility requirements, please see [Who is eligible to apply?](#)

Applicants will receive notification of the status of their application within 30 days of submitting a complete application.

## What are my company's obligations if approved for project funding?

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Be solely responsible for the acquisition of all necessary regulatory permits and permissions including surface access permissions required for undertaking work on their project.
- Sign a Transfer Payment Agreement with the ministry outlining the terms and conditions for receiving funding.
- Carry and provide proof of required insurance.
- Report back to the ministry by due dates provided in the Transfer Payment Agreement using the ministry's reporting mechanism.
- Provide an itemized interim and final expense claim and keep all receipts for auditing purposes.
- Allow the ministry to verify and/or audit the information submitted (at the discretion of the ministry) to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, and that funds were used for the intended purpose(s).
- Agree that the ministry has the right at a future date to recover the funds that were transferred to the recipient if found to not have been used for the intended purpose(s), (e.g., specified services were not delivered or intended outcomes were not achieved).
- Keep claims in good standing for the duration of the project (claims cannot lapse, be abandoned, cancelled or forfeited). Please notify OJEP, in writing, if claims are transferred at any point during an approved project.
- Obtain the ministry's prior written approval for any change to the project once funding has been approved.
- Agree to the ministry informing the public of funding provided to your company.
- Abide by all laws and regulations in the delivery of the project.

Applicants should be aware that the ministry is bound by the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. F. 31 (Freedom of Information), as amended from time to time, and that any information provided to the ministry in connection with an application may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information requirements.

## **What are the reporting requirements during and after the project?**

As will be fully detailed in Transfer Payment Contribution Agreements between the Ministry and successful applicants, reporting requirements during and after the project may include, but not be limited to the following:

### **Interim Progress Report**

Funding recipients will submit an interim progress report, including project updates and a list of expenditures, halfway through the project as identified from the project start and end dates in your project application. The ministry will provide a template and the specific deadline for your interim report will be set out in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement. Once the ministry determines your report is satisfactory, 30 per cent approved funds will be released.

### **Final Report**

Funding recipients will submit a final report in two parts: First, a technical report that meets the standards of a ministry Assessment Work Report. Please use the [Technical Standards for Reporting Assessment Work](#) to complete this report. Second, funding recipients will submit a final report detailing results of the project and expenditures. The ministry will provide a template for this second part of the final report.

Final reports are due 15 days following project end date and as set out in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement. Final reports must be submitted no later than February 28, 2022 for Year 1 and no later than February 28, 2023 for Year 2.

Interim and final reports will include a project expense claim, signed by the company's signing authority.

## **Disclaimer**

Funding is provided through a discretionary, non-entitlement program subject to the approval of Ontario. The ministry cannot guarantee that it will grant funding to all applicants, nor can it guarantee that the total amount requested by successful applicants will be granted. The ministry reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to fund or not fund any project or program for which an application has been submitted.

As well, applicants should be aware that meeting the evaluation criteria as outlined in the stream guidelines does not guarantee any funding amount. Funding is dependent on the availability of funds, the ministry's review of the application, and the recipient entering into a Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement. Funds received may only be spent on eligible activities carried out during the funding year specified in the budget that will be attached to the Agreement.

## **Who do I contact for more information?**

For questions related to OJEP, please contact: [OJEP@ontario.ca](mailto:OJEP@ontario.ca)

## Appendix A: Draft Ontario Critical Minerals List

Antimony	Barite
Beryllium	Bismuth
Cesium	Chromite
Cobalt	Copper
Fluorspar	Graphite
Indium	Lithium
Magnesium	Manganese
Molybdenum	Nickel
Niobium	Phosphate
Platinum group elements	Rare earth elements
Selenium	Tantalum
Tellurium	Tin
Titanium	Tungsten
Uranium	Vanadium
Zinc	Zirconium

# Appendix B: OJEP Important Dates and Information

## Ontario Junior Exploration Program Dates

	<b>Application Opens</b>	<b>Application Closes</b>	<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Interim Report Due Date</b>	<b>Project End Date</b>	<b>Final Report Due Date</b>
Year 1	July 26, 2021	August 31, 2021	On or after July 26, 2021	Halfway through project as set out in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement	On or before February 15, 2022	Final reports due 15 days following project end date as set out in the TPCA and no later than February 28, 2022.
Year 2	January 10, 2022	February 15, 2022	On or after April 1, 2022	Halfway through project as set out in the Transfer Payment Contribution Agreement	On or before February 15, 2023	Final reports due 15 days following project end date as set out in the TPCA and no later than February 28, 2023.

### Important Contact Information

**Ontario Junior Exploration Program:** [OJEP@ontario.ca](mailto:OJEP@ontario.ca)

[Create a "ONe-key" account](#)

[Ontario.ca/GetFunding](https://ontario.ca/GetFunding)

**Application Technical Assistance:** [TPONCC@ontario.ca](mailto:TPONCC@ontario.ca)

Telephone: (416) 325-6691 or 1-855-216-3090, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

[Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive](#)

[Plan map standards](#)

[Permit map standards](#)