



COETF AWARD APPLICATION

Research and academic support are vital to our profession. Since inception, Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF) have provided more than \$2million in funding through its Annual Awards program.

The COETF has supported:

- **Research and/or specialized education programs carried out by graduate students;**
 - Investigative projects conducted by undergraduates;
 - Faculty development at Canada's schools of optometry;
- **Projects undertaken by independent practitioners or members of the public.**

All award recipients have the opportunity to present a 20mins webinar on their research project. All recipients are also required to submit an interim (or final) report the following year and a final report upon completion.

To recognize some of the projects and research being done by award recipients, COETF will publish some project reports in the Canadian Journal of Optometry (CJO).

Applicant Information

Full Name:

Last

First

Date:

☐ Institution:

Program:

☐ Private Practitioner:

Address:

Street Address

City

Prov

Postal Code

Phone:

Email:

Project Title:

Amount requested:

\$

Supervisor:

Email:

Signatures: *Applicant 1*

Applicant 2

COETF AWARDS EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criterion #1: Research Approach (Weight: 30%)

- Clarity of the research question or hypothesis
- Appropriateness of the methodology to answer the research question or test the hypothesis
- Originality of the proposed research, in terms of the hypotheses and research questions addressed
- Feasibility of the research approach to answer the research question or test the hypothesis (e.g. recruitment of subjects, project timeline, preliminary data where appropriate, etc.).
- Research proposal addresses a significant need or gap in health research and/or the health care system.
- Use of novel technology/methodology, and/or novel applications of current technology/methodology.

Criterion #2: Environment for the Research (Weight: 20%)

- Availability and accessibility of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research.
- Suitability of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research.
- Qualifications of the applicant(s), including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage).

Criterion #3: Expected Impact of Research (Weight: 40%)

- Appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed plan for knowledge dissemination and exchange.
- Direct impact on day-to-day optometric practice in Canada
- Potential to impact fundamental optometric science and future research
- Evidence that the research could improve the efficiency and safety/quality access, equity and health outcomes of care for optometric patients
- Potential for significant improvement of health outcomes in Canada and the world.
- Potential for a significant contribution to the development of more effective health services and products

Criterion #4: Project Budget (Weight: 10%)

- Dissemination of funds is appropriate for advancement of project
- Proposed budget reflects realistic costs
- Proposed budget is detailed and transparent

Submission Instructions

This application must be completed and returned to Anne Stacey at coetf@outlook.com by: **Wednesday, February 4th, 2026**. (*Incomplete or handwritten applications will not be accepted.*)

Reports for COETF Funding received in 2025 are requested by **Wednesday, February 4th, 2026** in order to be considered for future funding.

Project Summary

In this section, please explain your project in terms of the evaluation criteria noted above. Please provide the requested information as an attachment to this application if the space below is not sufficient.

NOTE 1: COETF must be recognized in any final report and/or publications.

NOTE 2: The COETF customarily does not provide funding support for travel associated with presenting the results of this program / project to a conference or continuing education meeting.

NOTE 3: Equipment purchased using COETF award money is not to be considered the personal property of the award recipient but remains the property of the COETF.

NOTE 4: Please attach a budget for your research project.

NOTE 5: Complete evaluation criteria and assigned weights are available on page 4 of this application.

NOTE 6: Your application may be shared with other funding partners for supplementary support.

Project Summary:

Criterion #1: Research Approach (Weight: 30%)

Criterion #2: Environment for the Research (Weight: 20%)

Criterion #3: Expected Impact of Research (Weight: 40%)

Criterion #4: Project Budget (Weight: 10%)

Please note any other sources being solicited for funding support in conjunction with this program / project

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If this application leads to funding, I understand that false or misleading information in my application may result in rescindment of funding.

The applicant attests that all projects involving animal subjects will comply with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals and that all projects involving human subjects will comply with the Medical Research Council's Guidelines on Research Involving Human Subjects.

Applicant
Signature: _____ Date: _____