

Call for Interest for Participation:

**Canadian Guidelines and Resources for Cancer Detection in
Firefighters
(CAN-CDF)**

February 2026

Financial contribution:



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Introduction to the Project

Firefighters face an elevated risk of cancer compared to the general population due to occupational exposure to fires, smoke, and hazardous materials encountered in the line of duty. Cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters in Canada according to worker's compensation claims data.

The Canadian Guidelines and Resources for Cancer Detection in Firefighters (CAN-CDF) project will develop evidence-based guidelines and tools to support cancer detection in firefighters. These recommendations and resources will be tailored for Canada's healthcare and fire sectors. The project aims to better protect firefighters by improving their cancer care, strengthening healthcare professional training and practice, improving healthcare professionals' awareness of firefighter-specific cancer risks, and supporting informed decision-making between patients and healthcare providers across Canada.

To learn more about the project's objectives, visit: <https://firewell.ca/resources/guidelines/>

Guideline Process and Timelines

Jan 2026 -	– Define priority topics and questions for recommendations
March 2026	– Select guideline panel and form working groups – Consult interest holders and develop and disseminate materials to raise project awareness
March 2026 -	– Conduct systematic reviews on cancer detection
March 2027	– Continued consultation with interest holder groups – Develop 'living' guideline recommendations
March 2027 -	– Maintain and update living recommendations as needed
March 2028	– Develop knowledge translation tools (e.g. decision aids, training materials) – Disseminate guidelines through continuing medical education, webinars, and outreach
March 2028 -	– Update living recommendations and finalize the guidelines
March 2029	– Evaluate guideline uptake and use of knowledge translation tools

Guideline Group Descriptions

The overall project will be led under the oversight of an already established Executive Committee with members from the McMaster Cochrane Canada and GRADE Centre. The following groups will be formed to fulfill the roles required for the development and implementation of these guidelines.

I. GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Definition: The Guideline Development Group (GDG) is the decision-making body and will make all final decisions regarding topics to be addressed in the guidelines and final recommendations. The GDG will be led by a chair with content and guideline development expertise and co-led by a guideline methodology co-chair.

Time Commitment: The GDG will meet regularly – approximately bi-weekly throughout the guideline development process – with an anticipated start in April-May 2026 and concluding in March 2027. From March 2027-2029 continued involvement will have less frequent time commitments for collaboration on knowledge translation and evaluation activities.

Role of the Guideline Development Group
▪ Provide input on guideline development processes
▪ Prioritize and approve the topics, questions, and outcomes for the guidelines
▪ Responsible for decision-making on the guideline recommendations
▪ Approve draft recommendations and participate in drafting guideline report
▪ Collaborate in the dissemination and knowledge mobilization of the guidelines
▪ Collaborate in the impact evaluation of the guidelines
▪ Participate in updating living guideline recommendations
▪ Complete declaration of interest and confidentiality forms and abide by conflict-of-interest management and confidentiality rules

II. EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP

Definition: The Expert Advisory Group will provide input, expertise, and advice on the guideline development process, content areas, target audience perspectives, knowledge mobilization, and evaluation throughout the entire duration of the project.

Time Commitment: The Expert Advisory Group will participate in conference calls – approximately monthly or bi-monthly throughout the guideline project - with an anticipated start in April-May, 2026. From March 2027-2029 continued involvement will have less frequent time commitment for collaboration on knowledge translation and evaluation activities.

Role of the Expert Advisory Group
▪ Provide strategic advice for the overall project
▪ Provide input on issues raised by the guideline development group and executive committee
▪ Collaborate in interest holder feedback on draft recommendations
▪ Collaborate in the dissemination and knowledge mobilization of the guidelines
▪ Collaborate in the impact evaluation of the guidelines
▪ Complete declaration of interest and confidentiality forms and abide by conflict-of-interest management and confidentiality rules

III. EQUITY ADVISORY GROUP

Definition: The Equity Advisory Group will advise on equity-related aspects and considerations throughout the guideline development. This group will be guided by best practices of sex- and gender-based analysis plus, and equity, diversity, and inclusion principles (SGBA-EDI). A methodologist will lead this group and will include leaders of equity-deserving subgroups of firefighters and researchers with expertise in health equity.

Time Commitment: The Equity Advisory Group will participate in conference calls – approximately monthly throughout the guideline project - with an anticipated start in April-May, 2026. From March 2027-2029 continued involvement will have less frequent time commitment for collaboration on knowledge translation and evaluation activities.

Role of the Equity Advisory Group
▪ Identify priorities for equity considerations throughout the project
▪ Ensure adherence to the pre-specified methodology for equity considerations
▪ Provide input on equity considerations in evidence reviews
▪ Facilitate input from prioritized equity-deserving groups
▪ Provide input on equity considerations in draft recommendations
▪ Review and provide input on resources and tools (e.g. infographics, decision aids, training materials)

- Complete declaration of interest and confidentiality forms and abide by conflict-of-interest management and confidentiality rules

IV. KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION GROUP

Definition: The Knowledge Mobilization Group will provide input, expertise, and advice on the development of resources for the guidelines, such as infographics, decision aids, plain language recommendations, webinars, training materials, and others.

Time Commitment: The Knowledge Mobilization Group will participate in conference calls – approximately bi-monthly throughout the guideline project – with an anticipated start in April-May, 2026. From March 2027-2029, there will be more frequent time commitment – approximately monthly or bi-weekly – for collaboration on knowledge mobilization activities.

Role of the Knowledge Mobilization Group

- Provide strategic advice for knowledge mobilization for the overall project
- Collaborate in the dissemination of the guidelines
- Participate in advising, review, drafting of knowledge mobilization resources
- Complete declaration of interest and confidentiality forms and abide by conflict-of-interest management and confidentiality rules

Expertise

We will need experts in various areas across the different groups. If you have expertise in or experience with any of the following, consider applying:

- Firefighters (of all types, including career and volunteer, wildland, etc.)
- Firefighter patient representatives currently experiencing, or having experienced cancer
- Individuals and families currently caring, or having cared, for firefighters experiencing cancer
- Primary care and family medicine
- Oncology
- Cancer screening and diagnosis (including program managers and policymakers)
- Epidemiology
- Health economics

- Health equity
- Guideline development methods

How to Apply

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application using the online form here:

<https://www.research.net/r/cancdf-en>

We will ask you to provide details relating to your expertise, background, experiences and Available time commitment. We will ask for your preference on joining one or more of the working groups outlined above. Applications must be completed in **English or French**.

Selection Procedure

I. ELEGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in one or more of the groups, you must be able to speak and write in English to actively participate in discussions and read/write reports in English. Please note, we will consider scientific literature published in French and other languages, and input and representation from Canadian French-speaking, Indigenous and Aboriginal groups, but the primary operating language for the guideline development will be English.

For healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers

If you are a professional (healthcare professional, researcher, health economist, policymaker or person making decisions about healthcare policies in a hospital, community, or programme level), you:

- Must have a university degree at the postgraduate level (bachelor's degree + 2 years), in an area relevant to the subject of this call
- Must have a minimum of five years of relevant professional experience in at least one of the relevant fields of “Expertise” listed above
- Must have active employment or involvement in at least one of the competence fields listed under “Expertise” above

For firefighters with or without lived experience, and caregivers

If you are a firefighter, current patient, recovered patient, caregiver/family member, you must understand the issues and needs of individuals who have cancers are at risk for cancers linked to firefighting.

Appointment

We will evaluate applicants' qualifications based on the information provided in the online application. If selected, we will send you an invitation, matching you with the group(s) that best align with your experience, expertise, and interest. If appointed a member, you will also be required to complete basic guideline methods training.

Participants will be provided with [Level 1 INGUIDE Training](#), a virtual online self-led course that focuses on the role of a guideline development group member and that will take approximately 3 hours to complete. After completion, you will receive a certificate.

Project Kick Off Meeting

We will send invitations to select individuals who submit an online application for the project participation to a hybrid (in-person in Toronto, Ontario, and online) project kick-off meeting in March 2026. The meeting will serve to discuss project planning and prioritization of topic areas to cover in the guideline development.

Conflict of Interest

Individuals selected to be part of the working groups will be required to complete a conflict-of-interest declaration form and abide by the project's conflict of interest management policy.

Confidentiality

To ensure credibility of the process and the resulting guideline recommendations, individuals participating in the working groups will be required to sign and abide by a confidentiality agreement to maintain confidentiality of guideline team members, all discussions, project materials, and outputs until publication about the results of the guideline development process.

If you have any questions, please contact GRADEadm@mcmaster.ca