

COVID-19 Vaccines  
ISED Departmental Lines  
August 14, 2020

- Since the start of the pandemic, the Government of Canada has mobilized Canadian industry and researchers to help advance the most promising COVID-19 vaccine candidates.
- Canadian businesses and researchers have stepped up: they are retooling, innovating, and collaborating in the national and global effort to find a vaccine.
- The government is supporting these efforts using the full range of tools at available, including supporting researchers through the federal granting councils, supporting businesses through investment vehicles such as the Strategic Innovation Fund and the National Research Council Industrial Research Assistance Program, and leveraging the expertise and know-how of Canada's federal scientists at the National Research Council.
- To help determine the best vaccine candidates and therapies to invest in, the government has assembled a team of world-class experts in vaccines to provide evidence-based advice. The recommendations of the Vaccine and Therapeutics Task Forces are guiding the government's approach to vaccines and ensuring that decisions are grounded in the best available science.
- The government allocated \$600 million to the Strategic Innovation Fund to support COVID-19 vaccine and therapy clinical trials, as well as Canadian biomanufacturing opportunities. The government is currently assessing these proposals, with the assistance of the Vaccine and Therapeutics Task Forces.
- The government is closely tracking the work going on around the world to develop and scale up vaccines to protect people against COVID-19. Canada is implementing a comprehensive plan to invest in clinical trials, secure the supply of an eventual vaccine and other promising treatments, and to ensure Canada has the biomanufacturing capacity to supply a vaccine to the Canadian market.
- The government is listening to the Vaccine Task Force's advice and has made the first investments in projects that will give Canada the greatest chance of success. As the task force continues to review vaccine candidates, the government expects to announce the next round of strategic vaccine investments in the near future.
- This is a global pandemic that will require a global solution. To meet such an enormous challenge, the government is pursuing all promising vaccine candidates and research. By casting a wide but targeted net, the government can feel confident of being able to get a safe, effective, and affordable vaccine to Canadians as quickly as possible.