

Frequently Asked Questions

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- [What are the criteria to become an OSC Industry member?](#)

Industry Membership is open to the following organization types:

- For-profit organizations incorporated in Canada
- Not-for-profit organizations that facilitate and fund research and development on behalf of the ecosystem and whose funding and/or revenue is received primarily from private-sector or industry organizations
- Non-federal Crown corporations whose funding is derived from commercial activities
- Indigenous organizations

- [What are the criteria to become an OSC Associate member?](#)

All incorporated organizations and sole proprietors are eligible for OSC Associate membership. This includes not-for-profit, academic and government organizations. Additionally, international organizations, including private sector, that are not incorporated in Canada are eligible for Associate membership.

- [As an individual student, researcher, consultant, contractor etc. Can I become a member of the OSC?](#)

OSC membership is designed for organizations and sole proprietors. You can join the OSC through the organization you are involved in, whether it's a business, not-for-profit, university or an Indigenous organization. If you are looking for ways to be involved as an individual, check out our careers page, or consider joining an ocean non-profit as a volunteer.

- [I am the sole proprietor and not an incorporated business. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, as a sole proprietor, you can become an Associate Member.

- [My business is registered outside of Canada. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, if your organization is not incorporated in Canada, you can become an Associate Member. If your business is incorporated in Canada but has its headquarters elsewhere you are still eligible for Industry membership.

- [What is the difference between Associate and Industry membership?](#)

Industry membership is meant for private sector businesses and Indigenous organizations located in Canada. Industry Members are pre-vetted and eligible to apply for OSC funding through our Technology Leadership program.

Associate Membership is meant for non-private sector organizations and organizations (including private sector) not incorporated in Canada. These organizations are not eligible to pursue Technology Leadership funding.

- [My business is incorporated in Canada, but headquarters are outside. Can I still become an OSC member?](#)

Yes, you are eligible for Industry membership and can take full advantage of the OSC funding and networks.

- [Can a not-for-profit organization become an Industry member?](#)

Not-for-profit organizations that facilitate and fund research and development on behalf of the ecosystem and whose funding and/or revenue is received primarily from private-sector or industry organizations are eligible for Industry membership with the OSC.

FUNDING

- [As an Indigenous Organization, how can I apply for Technology Leadership funding?](#)

As an Indigenous organization, you are eligible to become an Industry Member and pursue OSC's Technology Leadership funding. Additionally, the OSC runs dedicated Indigenous Engagements programs. Please see the website to find out more or reach out to our Indigenous Engagement Manager.

- [Is OSC membership free of charge?](#)

Yes, the OSC membership is free of charge. The OSC will only ask for Cluster Building Contribution from our Investing Industry Members – organizations who are receiving funding from the OSC.

- [What are Cluster Building Contributions?](#)

Cluster Building Contributions are financial contributions made by organizations that are receiving funding from the OSC to help build the ecosystem needed to support the accelerated activity in ocean in Canada. Cluster Building Contributions are deducted from the OSC matched funding on a quarterly basis and support the implementation of non-commercial, Innovation Ecosystem projects within priority areas of the OSC that help address key challenges of the ocean economy in Canada, such as access to talent, Indigenous engagement, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and promoting Canada internationally. You can read more about these initiatives here. The rate of Cluster Building Contributions is 12,75%.

- [Do I need to be a member to apply for the OSC project funding?](#)

Becoming an OSC member is not a requirement to submit the Expression of Interest, which is the first step to apply for the OSC funding. Once you are invited to submit the full proposal, we request the lead applicant to become an OSC member prior to the deadline of submitting the full proposal.

However, we do recommend becoming an OSC as soon as possible, as it comes with additional benefits described in more detail here.

- [How does the OSC project funding work?](#)

The OSC project funding mechanism can be found on our website.

- [As an Investing Industry Member, where does the % commitment from my investment go?](#)

Cluster Building Commitments help fund Innovation Ecosystem Projects.

GENERAL

- [How can the OSC membership help my business succeed?](#)

The OSC will help you expand your network by strategically connecting you with 600+ other members. It will enable new business development opportunities and help you find collaborative partners. The OSC membership gets you access to curated events, marketing and communication that can help promote your business.

- [What are the benefits of OSC membership?](#)

There are many benefits of membership with the OSC. Some of them include:

- ✓ Access to the network of 600+ organizations building the ocean economy in Canada. You can find partners, collaborators and clients in our growing network
- ✓ Invitations to curated events throughout the year that include business matchmaking events, roundtables dedicated to specific topics, all member events, webinars and more
- ✓ Access to invite-only Member communication channel where you can find and directly contact other members of the OSC
- ✓ Possibility to submit your marketing materials to the OSC and have them featured across the OSC communication platforms that include the social media, newsletter, physical booths at trade shows and more
- ✓ Support in creating sustainable relationships with Indigenous rightsholders and diverse industry members
- ✓ Access to information about available funding
- ✓ Access member services, such as access to talent, Intellectual Property know-how, best-in-practice Talent seminars, talent-matching, and talent programming
- ✓ Support in creating sustainable relationships with indigenous rightsholders and diverse industry members

- [Who are the OSC's members?](#)

OSC members are organizations working directly or indirectly in the ocean economy. We have members across all provinces and most territories in Canada, who span ocean-related (and more) industries. OSC members include Indigenous organizations, First Nations, academic organizations, government from all levels, non-profits and private sector organizations. We also have international members in 10 countries outside of Canada, including the United States, the UK, France, Norway and India.

- [How long is my membership valid for?](#)

Your membership does not have an end term and doesn't have to be renewed.

- [I would like to stay up to date on news and activities within the OSC - where do I find the information?](#)

There are several ways of staying up to date with the news:

- Sign up for the OSC newsletter and receive communication from us on a regular basis
- Follow the OSC on social media: LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok
- Become a member and receive curated, member-only communication
- Visit our website frequently

- [How do I join Canada's Ocean Supercluster as a member?](#)

To join as a member, fill out the Member Signup Form available on our website. Once we receive your application, you will receive a welcome message with details and the first steps on your member journey.

GOVERNANCE

- [Is the OSC a government department?](#)

No, the OSC is an independent member-led, industry-driven not-for-profit organization. The OSC co-invests with industry in projects, and receives funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

- [How is the Board of Directors elected?](#)

The Board of Directors of the OSC is a competency-based model. Directors are elected by Investing Industry Members at the Annual General Meeting. Directors are elected for a term of up to three years, to be determined at the discretion of the Nominations Committee, and subject to renewal if determined appropriate.