

DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND PUBLICITY
(the “**Release**”)

INGENIOUS+ SPARK YOUTH INNOVATION COMPETITION
(the “**Competition**”)

RELEASE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In consideration of the Rideau Hall Foundation and DMZ Ventures Inc. (collectively, “**Sponsors**”) offering me the chance to be selected as eligible for investment by DMZ Ventures Inc. (“**DMZ Ventures**”), I, _____ residing at _____ in the city of _____ in the Province/Territory of _____ hereby declare that:

1. I confirm that I am a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada and I was over the age of fourteen (14) years old and under the age of twenty-five (25) years old at the time of application submission. If I was under the age of majority in my province or territory of residence at the date of my entry, I had the permission of my parent or legal guardian to enter the Competition. I confirm that I am an Ingenious+ alumnus (which includes national award winners, national finalists, and regional award winners) or a member of a Group (as defined in the Eligibility section of the Competition Rules) whose primary contact is an Ingenious+ alumnus.
2. I confirm that I am not an officer, director, employee, agent or representative of any of the Sponsors or any of their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, or any individual or entity involved in the development, production, implementation, administration, judging or fulfillment of the Competition (collectively, the “**Competition Entities**”), or a member of any immediate families (defined as parents, siblings, children and spouses, regardless of where they live) or households (whether or not related) of any of the above.
3. I understand that I may be selected as one of the up to twenty-five (25) short-listed candidates (each a “**Finalist Candidate**”).
4. I understand that if I am selected as a Finalist Candidate, I will be eligible and may be selected as one of the up to ten (10) finalists (each, a “**Finalist**”) who are invited to attend virtual pitch coaching workshops with DMZ Ventures, and the “Dry Run” and “Demo Day” pitch events, which will be held in-person on March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026, respectively. If I am selected as a Finalist, I hereby consent to take part in the virtual group learning and pitch coaching sessions offered as part of being selected as a Finalist and I understand that these sessions may involve interaction with other Finalists, and employees of DMZ Ventures as well as volunteer mentors, coaches, or judges invited by DMZ Ventures (collectively, the “**Mentors**”). I acknowledge that my personal information, such as my name and image and any other information that I choose to share, may be made available to other participants and Mentors during these sessions.

5. I understand that if I am selected as a Finalist, I will be eligible and may be selected as one of the up to three (3) entrants who are eligible to receive investment from DMZ Ventures (“**Investment Candidates**”). I understand that a total of up to \$100,000 in investment capital is available to fund and scale the innovations of up to three (3) selected submissions. I understand that a venture must be incorporated prior to receiving any funds. I understand that if my Group or I are selected as eligible for an investment, any investment funds provided will be provided to the incorporated entity that my Group or I have established to receive investment. I understand that Investment Candidates who receive investment funds from DMZ Ventures will also receive resources, mentorship, hands-on coaching, and curated learning experiences through DMZ Ventures’ startup ecosystem.
6. I acknowledge and agree that being selected as an Investment Candidate does not guarantee that I will receive any investment from DMZ Ventures and that receiving an investment is subject to the negotiation of terms and execution of contracts with DMZ Ventures.
7. I understand that all entrants will be required to complete an end-of-year survey sent to them electronically or otherwise by the Rideau Hall Foundation seeking feedback on the Competition and, in the case of investment recipients, a description of how the investment recipient used the investment and mentorship provided by DMZ Ventures to develop, improve, or implement their innovation.
8. I consent to the use of my name, image, photograph, likeness, voice, city of residence and related visual/sound recordings by or on behalf of the Sponsors, without the expectation of further remuneration or notice in connection with the Competition, for advertising and publicity purposes relating to the Competition, and for the Rideau Hall Foundation’s programming, marketing, fundraising, and impact reporting purposes in any media or format whatsoever, including on the Competition website and Sponsors’ social media channels, at any time or times in perpetuity. I further agree to make myself available for media interviews. I further acknowledge and agree that photos taken at the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events may be uploaded to an online folder that may be accessed by all other attendees.
9. I understand that the Rideau Hall Foundation has no control over and is not responsible for any use or misuse including, but not limited to, any alteration, modification, reuse or distortion of the photographs taken at events, or my content submitted (or my name, likeness, voice and city and province of residence) that may occur or be caused by third parties. The Rideau Hall Foundation will not be monitoring and has no control over third parties’ use or misuse of the photographs or the content of my submission (or my name, likeness, voice and city and province of residence) displayed on the Rideau Hall Foundation website or other websites or publications.
10. I consent to the collection, use and disclosure by the Rideau Hall Foundation, DMZ Ventures and their authorized agents of my personal information in order to process my application and administer and improve the Competition, including selecting Finalist Candidates, Finalists and Investment Candidates and administering the related workshops, mentorship sessions and events (if applicable), which information is mandatory in order to participate in the Competition, and some of which information is posted on the Competition website. I understand I may be offered the opportunity to receive

additional communications from the Sponsors or their partners about their products and programs, and upcoming contests and promotions. I understand that my personal information will be collected by the Rideau Hall Foundation under the authority of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31 and used for the purpose of administering, improving and promoting the Competition and promoting investment recipients, in accordance with the Rideau Hall Foundation's [Privacy Policy](#) and DMZ Ventures' [Privacy Policy](#).**Error! Bookmark not defined.** I may withdraw my consent to use my personal information at any time, subject to contractual restrictions. Depending on when I do so, I may not be able to participate in the Competition or be selected as eligible to receive investment.

Checkbox:

Yes, I would like to provide consent to the Rideau Hall Foundation to receive information about events, products, programs, services, and contests from the Rideau Hall Foundation, and I understand I can unsubscribe at any time. By checking this box, you are providing consent to the Rideau Hall Foundation to receive commercial electronic messages at the e-mail address provided above from the Rideau Hall Foundation. All third parties are required to offer an opt-out mechanism if you no longer wish to receive emails from them. Rideau Hall Foundation, 9 Rideau Gate, Ottawa, ON, K1M 1M6 (Info@RHF-FRH.ca).

11. If I am selected as a Finalist, I understand that I will be invited to the “Dry Run” and “Demo Day” pitch events, which will be held in-person on March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026 (the “**Event**”). If I am a Finalist and I entered the Competition as part of a Group, I understand that the Rideau Hall Foundation will cover the travel and accommodation costs of the Group’s designated primary contact as identified on the entry form, and his or her legal guardian to attend the Event. I understand that if my Group’s designated primary contact is unable to attend the Event, the Rideau Hall Foundation may, in its sole discretion, agree to cover the travel and accommodation costs of an alternate member of the Group who will present at the Event and that the person presenting at the Event must be an Ingenious+ Competition alumnus rather than a non-alumnus Group member. If I am a Finalist and I entered the Competition alone, or if I entered the Competition as part of a Group and am the designated primary contact of my Group per our application form (or a Rideau Hall Foundation approved alternate for the designated primary contact), I:
- a) understand the Rideau Hall Foundation will, where necessary and only if possible dependent on health and safety travel restrictions, provide the following travel and accommodation costs (up to \$3,000 for myself, and up to \$3,000 for my parent or legal guardian, if applicable), in line with the RHF Travel Directive, which will be provided at the time of travel arrangement:
 - round trip economy transportation for (a) myself and, if I am under the age of majority in my province or territory of residence, (b) my parent or legal guardian from the major Canadian airport nearest my residence (selected at the discretion of the Rideau Hall Foundation) (the “**Departure Point**”) to Toronto, Ontario (the “**Destination**”);
 - one (1) night hotel accommodation in Destination for myself and, if applicable, my parent or legal guardian (based on standard room, double occupancy); and
 - entry for myself and, if applicable, my parent or legal guardian, to the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events at the Destination (collectively, the “**Event**”);

- b) understand that if I reside within a 350-kilometer radius of the Destination, ground transportation (including without limitation train transportation or car rental) may be provided instead of air travel and no compensation or substitution will be provided for the difference in cost (if applicable) and that I must obtain approval from RHF prior to renting a car;
- c) understand that if I reside within fifty (50) kilometers of the Event venue, I am not eligible for reimbursement of travel or accommodation expenses. Exceptions will not be granted unless explicitly pre-approved by the Rideau Hall Foundation in accordance with the RHF External Travel Policy;
- d) understand that any other costs or expenses associated with travel not specified herein will be my responsibility, including without limitation ground transportation to/from the Departure Point, communication charges, room service, gratuities, optional tours, insurance and medical travel documents. In line with RHF's travel policy, per diem rates will be provided for meals for the Finalists (including one accompanying parent or legal guardian) unless meals are otherwise provided as part of official event programming. However, individuals who reside within fifty (50) kilometers of the Event venue are not eligible for per diem rates for meals. Exceptions will not be granted unless explicitly pre-approved by the Rideau Hall Foundation in accordance with the RHF External Travel Policy. Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by receipts;
- e) Understand that the Sponsors will not be responsible if weather conditions, event cancellations, or other factors beyond their reasonable control prevent the transportation and accommodation provisions outlined above from being fulfilled, and I will not be entitled to compensation in lieu thereof;
- f) understand that I and, if applicable, my parent or legal guardian, must travel on the dates and travel carriers and stay at the accommodations as determined by the Rideau Hall Foundation in its sole discretion, and all travel must be completed prior to **April 7th, 2026**;
- g) confirm that I have a valid passport and any other necessary travel documentation and permissions to travel to the Destination. I understand that if I am denied access to an aircraft, entry into the Destination country or return entry to the Departure Point, that my participation in the Event may be forfeited (in whole or in part) and that I will be solely responsible for any and all additional costs incurred;
- h) agree to obey all hotel rules and requirements, including the hotel requirement to present a major credit card. I understand that failure to follow such hotel rules and requirements may result in, without limitation, non-admission to hotel and forfeiture of all or part of my continued participation in the Competition; and
- i) understand that if I entered the Competition as part of a Group, my other Group members will be invited to attend the Event but Rideau Hall Foundation will not cover any of the travel and accommodation costs for other Group members or their parents or legal guardians to attend the Event.

12. If I am selected as a Finalist (whether as part of a Group or otherwise) and choose to attend the Event, I:
- a) understand that the Sponsors will not be responsible if weather conditions, Event cancellations, or other factors beyond Sponsors' reasonable control prevent the Event or part of the Event from happening as planned, and that I will not be entitled to compensation in lieu thereof;
 - b) understand that if I am travelling with a parent or legal guardian, they will be required to sign and return a Release in order to accompany me. I acknowledge that once I select my parent or legal guardian to accompany me, I will not be able to change their names;
 - c) agree to obey all Event rules and requirements and I understand that failure to follow such rules and requirements may result in, without limitation, ejection from the Event and forfeiture of all or part of my continued participation in the Competition; and
 - d) agree to conduct myself with due regard to the public conventions and morals. I will not, while a guest of Sponsors during the trip, commit an offense involving moral turpitude under local laws or ordinances. I shall not commit any act that will tend to degrade Sponsors in society or bring Sponsors into public hatred, public disrepute, contempt, scorn, or ridicule or that will tend to shock, insult or offend the community or public morals or decency or prejudice Sponsors. In the event I engage in the above or behavior that (as determined by Sponsors in its sole discretion) is obnoxious or threatening, illegal, or that is intended to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person, I agree that the Rideau Hall Foundation may terminate my participation in the Event or, if I am receiving travel and accommodation coverage, end my trip early and send me home, all with no further compensation or obligation to me.
13. I hereby release and agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Competition Entities and each of their respective officers, directors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (the "Releasees") from any and all liability, claims, demands, judgments, damages, injuries, lawsuits, causes of action, death, losses, costs and expenses in connection with this Competition or the acceptance, receipt, attendance at, travel related to, defect in, delivery of, use, inability to use, or misuse or possession of any investment funds, which I or my respective heirs, executors, administrators or next-of-kin may now or hereafter have against them or any part of them.
14. I warrant and represent that my participation in the Competition does not violate any existing contractual obligations that I owe to a third party and, in respect of all entries that I submitted and pitches I participate in, that (i) the entry and pitch content is my (or my Group's) original work, created solely by me (or my Group) , and over which I (or my Group) have all necessary rights, title and interest, including copyright; (ii) my entry and pitch content do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights, or defame or invade the publicity or privacy rights, of any third party, living or deceased; (iii) all individuals appearing in any photos or videos in my entry or pitch content have granted to me (or my Group) an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide license in perpetuity to publish or otherwise use their likeness in the entry in any manner and media whether now known or hereafter devised, including without limitation on any website associated with the Competition; and (iv) my entry and

pitch content complies with the requirements set out in the attached Competition Rules. I indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any claims to the contrary.

- 15. I agree as follows in respect of all entries that I submitted: (i) my entry may be posted by the Sponsors on any website associated with the Competition and/or on the Sponsors' social media channels, in the Sponsors' sole discretion but without obligation; (ii) I have the right and authority to, and do hereby, grant to the Sponsors an irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free worldwide license to post, display, broadcast, publish, use, adapt, edit, translate, dub, modify, distribute and convert into digital-machine readable or any other accessible format for persons with disabilities, the entry in whole or in part, in any way, in any and all media, throughout the world, for any purpose, without limitation, and without notice or additional consideration; (iii) I waive any and all moral rights that I may have in and to my entry with respect to the uses contemplated herein; and, (iv) I agree to release and hold harmless the Releasees from and against any and all claims based on publicity rights, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, trade-mark infringement or any other intellectual property related cause of action that relates in any way to the Sponsors' use of my entry.

- 16. I acknowledge that in order to attend the Event and be eligible for selection as a Finalist Candidate, Finalist or Investment Candidate, I must have signed and returned this Release to the Rideau Hall Foundation prior March 8, 2026.

- 17. I agree to execute and deliver all further documents and instruments that may be reasonably necessary or desirable in order to give full effect to this Release.

- 18. I have read this Release, fully understand its contents and confirm that it is a true and accurate statement of the facts contained herein.

ENTRANT:

Signature

Name (please print)

Email address

Date

TO BE COMPLETED IF ENTRANT IS UNDER THE AGE OF MAJORITY

(18 in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island; 19 in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Yukon, Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Northwest Territories)

I, the undersigned, represent that I am the (circle one) parent/legal guardian of _____ (the “**Entrant**”). I consent to and ratify the execution of this Release. I acknowledge that I have read this Release and am familiar with all of the terms, covenants, and conditions contained herein. I confirm that I am satisfied that the above agreement is fair, just and equitable and is for the benefit of the Entrant and agree that I will not revoke this consent during the minority of the Entrant or thereafter.

I confirm that I will be participating in the travel aspects of the Competition and understand that the Entrant must be in my care at all times during the trip.

I have read this Release, fully understand its contents and confirm that it is a true and accurate statement of the facts contained herein.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN:

Signature

Name (please print)

Email address

Date

Competition Rules

INGENIOUS+ SPARK YOUTH INNOVATION COMPETITION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Only Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are alumni of the Ingenious+ Competition (which includes national award winners, national finalists, and regional award winners) or a member of a group whose primary contact is an Ingenious+ alumnus (a **“Group”**) are eligible to participate in the Ingenious + Youth Innovation Award competition (the **“Competition”**). Entrants must be between the ages of 14 and 25 (have reached their 14th birthday and not yet reached their 25th birthday at the time of application submission). All entrants must complete and sign a declaration and release form (the **“Release”**) to enter the Competition. Entrants who have not reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence at the time of application submission must also have a parent or legal guardian sign the Release. In the event of a Group, (a) all members must meet the age and residency requirements above, (b) one individual must be identified as the Group’s primary contact, and (c) only the Group’s primary contact must be an Ingenious+ Competition alumnus. If a Group is selected in the Competition, the Group’s primary contact will be the individual contacted by the Ingenious+ Spark program. A Group must have no more than four (4) members.

Entrants must be the sole owner (or co-owners, in the case of a Group entry) of all right, title and interest (including copyright) in and to the content of the entry and pitch materials submitted in connection with the Competition.

Employees, officers, directors, agents or representatives of the Rideau Hall Foundation, DMZ Ventures (collectively, the Sponsors) and each of their affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, related companies, advertising and promotional agencies and any individual or entity involved in the development, production, implementation, administration, judging or fulfillment of the Competition (collectively, the **“Competition Parties”**) and the immediate family and household members of any of the above (whether or not related), are not eligible to participate in the Contest. For the purposes of these Contest rules, “immediate family” means husband, wife, spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, son, and/or daughter, whether or not they reside in the same household.

The Sponsors will determine the eligibility of all entrants at all levels of the Competition. Their decisions on eligibility are final.

All entrants must comply with these rules (the **“Competition Rules”**). Entry in the Competition constitutes acceptance of the Competition Rules.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter the Competition, all entrants must complete the following steps:

1. Submit Required Consent Forms via DocuSign
 - a. Once the entry form and pitch deck is complete and submitted, all individual entrants—and in the case of Group entries, all Group members—must submit a signed Declaration of Compliance and Release of Liability and Publicity (“**Release**”) via DocuSign.
 - b. Entrants (including all members of a Group) under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence must have the Release signed by a parent or legal guardian.
2. Complete and Submit the Application
 - a. An application is considered complete and ready for submission only after all required materials—including signed Release—have been received and verified.
 - b. All submissions must be completed and submitted through the Ingenious+ Spark website no later than February 16, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (ET). Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.
 - c. Incomplete submissions and associated information will be removed from the portal 30 days after the Competition closes.

Demo Day

All entrants must submit an online entry form, pitch deck (one per Group) and Release(s) (from all Group members, if applicable) to enter and to qualify for selection for the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events. Submissions will be accepted from February 2nd, 2026, to February 16th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST (the “**Submission Period**”). All releases must be signed and returned by March 8th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST in order to be eligible for the Competition.

Entrants may submit more than one entry in any given year. There is no limit. Exceptions may be made at the Sponsors’ sole discretion.

CONSENT AND RELEASE

All entrants, including all members of a Group, must provide an executed Release by the prescribed method before their submission will be considered complete and submitted. Entrants who have not reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence, must also have a parent or legal guardian execute the Release. In the absence of a valid Release for a member of a Group, that individual Group member will be ineligible for Competition, while the remaining members of the Group may continue in the Competition.

By executing the Release the entrant will (among other things) (a) confirm their compliance with these Competition Rules; (b) release the Competition Parties and each of their respective officers, directors, agents, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively, the “**Releasees**”) from any and all liability in connection with the Competition, the entrant’s participation in the Competition, and the use or misuse of any investment received or any portion thereof; (c) consent to the publication, reproduction and or use of the entrant’s name, image, photograph, likeness, voice, city of residence and related visual/sound recordings without further notice or compensation, by or on behalf of the Sponsors in connection with the Competition, for advertising and publicity purposes related to the Competition and for the Rideau Hall Foundation’s programming, marketing, fundraising, and impact reporting purposes in any media or format whatsoever, including on the Competition website and the Sponsors’ social media channels, at any time or times in perpetuity; (d) consent to the use of the submission and any additional pitch materials (if applicable) by the Rideau Hall Foundation in accordance with these Rules; (e) if they are a

Finalist, consent to the sharing of photos of Finalists taken at the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events to an online folder that may be accessed by all other Finalists; and (f) agree that they will complete the end-of-year survey sent to them electronically or otherwise by the Rideau Hall Foundation;

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

For clarity, while entrants agree to provide a license to the Sponsors and waive their moral rights in their submissions in accordance with these Competition Rules, nothing in these Competition Rules shall be interpreted as making transfer of any of the entrants' rights, title or interest, including copyright, in their innovations.

By submitting a submission and participating in the Dry Run and Demo Day, each entrant agrees that their submission and pitch materials may be posted by the Sponsors on any website associated with the Competition and/or on the Sponsors' social media channels, in the Sponsors' sole discretion but without obligation.

By submitting a submission and participating in the Dry Run and Demo Day, each entrant irrevocably grants to the Rideau Hall Foundation a non-exclusive royalty-free worldwide license with respect to the content of the submission and pitch to allow the Rideau Hall Foundation the unconditional and perpetual right to post, display, broadcast, publish, use, adapt, edit, translate, dub, modify, distribute and convert into digital-machine readable or any other accessible format for persons with disabilities, the submission and pitch content in whole or in part, in any way, in any and all media, throughout the world, for any purpose, without limitation, and without notice or additional consideration. For clarity, this license gives the Rideau Hall Foundation limited rights in relation to the content of the submission and pitch materials (e.g. videos, descriptions, etc.) but does not grant the Rideau Hall Foundation any intellectual property rights related to the concept or idea of the innovation referenced in the submission or pitch.

By submitting a submission and participating in any pitches, each entrant irrevocably waives any and all rights, including moral rights to the material contained in the submission and pitch content, and any derivative works made therefrom and warrants and represents that (i) their participation in the Competition does not violate any existing contractual obligations that they owe to a third party; (ii) the submission and pitch content are their (or their Group's) original work, created solely by them (or their Group), and over which they (or their Group) have all necessary rights, title and interest, including copyright; (iii) their submission and pitch content do not infringe upon the intellectual property rights, or defame or invade the publicity or privacy rights, of any third party, living or deceased; (iv) all individuals appearing in the submission and pitch content (ie., in a video or photographs) have granted to the entrant an irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide license in perpetuity to publish or otherwise use their likeness in the submission and pitch content in any manner and media whether now known or hereafter devised, including without limitation on any website associated with the Competition and the Sponsors' social media channels.

Entrants may use artificial intelligence tools to assist in completing the written portions of their submissions and pitch content, such as editing, formatting, adjusting tone or summarizing content. However, entrants are prohibited from using artificial intelligence in the process of generating the idea for or designing their innovation.

Entrants are prohibited from submitting plagiarized content in their submissions and pitch content. Any text or material that an entrant takes from another source and includes in a submission or pitch must be referenced using citations. Direct quotes taken from other sources must be shown in quotation marks and their sources must be referenced through citations.

LANGUAGE

Entries can be submitted in either English or French.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rideau Hall Foundation will acknowledge receipt of each entry received prior to the submission deadline via an email sent to the address indicated on the entry form. Only entrants receiving an acknowledgment from the Rideau Hall Foundation will be deemed to have successfully submitted an entry. Acknowledgment does not mean that the entry is officially complete. The Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to determine whether the documents submitted meet the minimum entry requirements.

ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

Submission of the entry through the online system shall be deemed to be complete acceptance of these Competition Rules by the entrants.

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF FINALIST CANDIDATES, FINALISTS AND INVESTMENT CANDIDATES

SELECTION

Finalist Candidates

The Rideau Hall Foundation evaluators will select up to twenty-five (25) candidates (each a “**Finalist Candidate**”) who will be short-listed as eligible for selection by DMZ Ventures to be in the group of up to ten (10) Finalists.

Finalists

Out of the pool of Finalist Candidates, DMZ Ventures’ judges will select up to ten (10) finalists (each, a “**Finalist**”). Finalists will be invited to attend virtual pitch coaching workshops and the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events, which will be held in-person on March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026, respectively.

If a Group is chosen as a Finalist under the Competition, the Group will be invited to participate in the virtual pitch coaching sessions and the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events. However, only one person from the Group will present at the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events. The person presenting at the Dry Run and Demo Day, and therefore eligible for travel support, must be an alumnus of the Ingenious+ Competition, rather than a non-alumnus Group member.

Investment Candidates

Out of the pool of Finalists who present on Demo Day, DMZ Ventures' judges will select the up to three (3) entrants who are eligible to receive investment from DMZ Ventures (each, an "**Investment Candidate**"). A total of up to \$100,000 in investment capital is available to fund and scale the innovations of up to three (3) selected Investment Candidates. Selection as an Investment Candidate does not guarantee that receipt of any investment from DMZ Ventures. Investment is subject to negotiation of terms and execution of contracts with DMZ Ventures. In order to receive investment funds, Investment Candidates must incorporate a corporation and the investment funds will be provided to the incorporated entity. Investment Candidates who receive investment funds from DMZ Ventures will also receive resources, mentorship, hands-on coaching, and curated learning experiences through DMZ Ventures' startup ecosystem.

NOTIFICATION

Finalist candidates will be determined by February 25, 2026 and notified by email on February 26, 2026. Finalists will be determined by March 4th, 2026 and notified by email on March 5th. Investment Candidates will be determined on April 1st, 2026 and notified in person by DMZV.

All Finalist Candidates, Finalists and Investment Candidates must have executed and submitted a Release in order to be eligible for selection. Only selected entrants will be contacted. In the case of a Group entry, the designated primary contact of the Group will be notified of selection and all Group members must execute and submit a Release.

The Rideau Hall Foundation is not responsible for the failure for any reason whatsoever of the selected entrant to receive notification as identified in this section. The Rideau Hall Foundation assumes no responsibility for any inaccurate or incorrect information provided to it, or any technical or human error that interferes in any way with the mailing, transmission, receipt, or processing of entries, or notification of a potential Finalist Candidate, Finalist or Investment Candidate. If a selected entrant does not respond within three (3) days of first contact, the Sponsors shall have the right to disqualify that entrant and to select the next submission with the highest score as determined by the Judging Criteria (see "**Judging Criteria**" below). By applying, you agree that if you are a selected entrant that is disqualified, the Rideau Hall Foundation will be fully and completely released and discharged from any liability or responsibility in this regard.

EVALUATORS AND JUDGES

The Rideau Hall Foundation's evaluators will select the Finalist Candidates and DMZ Ventures' judges will select the Finalists and Investment Candidates.

Evaluators and judges will reach their decisions by consensus. All decisions of the evaluators and judges are final and binding. The judging scores will not be revealed for any entry.

Judges will base their choice of selected participants by evaluating submissions and pitches based on the following Judging Criteria.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- € All entries will be evaluated using the following evaluation criteria (“**Judging Criteria**”) with each aspect contributing 20% of the overall assessment:
- € **Product Stage:** Assessing the current development phase of your product/service, focusing on its readiness and refinement.
- € **Pathway to Scalability:** Evaluating your strategy for growth and scalability, including plans for market expansion and adapting to increasing demand.
- € **Founder-Market Fit:** Analyzing the alignment between the founders' expertise, experience, and the market they are targeting. This includes how well the team understands and can navigate the market landscape.
- € **Market Opportunity:** Examining the potential size, demand, and dynamics of the market you're entering and how your product fits into this context.
- € **Technological Innovation:** Gauging the degree of innovation in your technology, including its uniqueness, potential for disruption, and technical sophistication.

PUBLICITY

All entrants (including all members of a Group) may be recognized on the Competition Website by name, city and province or territory of residence and photos.

All entrants (including each Group member in the event of a Group submission) agree to make themselves available for media interviews and by entering the Competition consent to the use of their name, image, photograph, likeness, voice, city of residence and related visual/sound recordings by or on behalf of the Rideau Hall Foundation, without the expectation of further remuneration or notice in connection with the Competition for advertising and publicity purposes relating to the Competition, and for the Rideau Hall Foundation’s programming, marketing, fundraising, and impact reporting purposes in any media or format whatsoever, including the Competition website and Sponsors’ social media channels, at any time or times in perpetuity.

Each entrant acknowledges that the Rideau Hall Foundation has no control over and is not responsible for any use or misuse including, but not limited to, any alteration, modification, reuse or distortion of their submission (or the entrant’s name, image, photograph, likeness, voice, and city of residence) that may occur or be caused by third parties. The Rideau Hall Foundation will not be monitoring and has no control over third parties’ use or misuse of the entrant’s submission or pitch content (or the entrant’s name, image, photograph, likeness, voice, and city of residence) displayed on the Rideau Hall Foundation website or other websites or publications.

TRAVEL

Finalists will be invited to in-person pitch events called Dry Run and Demo Day hosted by DMZ Ventures in Toronto on March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026, respectively. In the event that a Group entry is selected as a Finalist, all members of the Group will be invited using the email address provided on their

respective Releases to attend the Dry Run and Demo Day events. However, only one member of the Group will present during Dry Run and Demo Day and the Rideau Hall Foundation will only cover the travel and accommodation costs (up to \$3,000) of that person, and his or her legal guardian (up to \$3,000), if the contact is under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence. Finalists who reside within fifty (50) kilometers of the event venue are not eligible for reimbursement of travel or accommodation expenses. Exceptions will not be granted unless explicitly pre-approved by the Rideau Hall Foundation in accordance with the RHF External Travel Policy. It is assumed that the Group's designated primary contact as identified on the Group's entry form will present during Dry Run and Demo Day and only that designated primary contact will be eligible for their travel and accommodation costs to be covered by the Rideau Hall Foundation. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, should the Group's designated primary contact be unable or unwilling to attend, the Group may request approval for an alternate Group Member to present on Dry Run and Demo Day and have their travel and accommodation costs covered. However, the person presenting at the Dry Run Demo Day, and therefore eligible for travel support, must be an Ingenious+ Competition alumnus rather than a non-alumnus Group member.

For Finalists Eligible for Travel and Accommodation Coverage by the Rideau Hall Foundation

Where necessary and only if possible dependent on health and safety travel restrictions, transportation to the city location of the Dry Run and Demo Day (the "**Destination**"), in economy class, and overnight accommodations (1 night at a hotel arranged by the Rideau Hall Foundation or on its behalf) for the participating Finalist and a parent or legal guardian if the participating Finalist is under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence (based on standard room, double occupancy), will be provided by Rideau Hall Foundation up to a maximum cost of \$3,000 per Finalist and \$3,000 per parent or legal guardian, in line with the RHF Travel Directive, which will be provided at the time of travel arrangement. Transportation will be from the major airport nearest the participating Finalist's residence, selected at the discretion of the Rideau Hall Foundation (the "**Departure Point**").

In the event that the participating Finalist resides within a 350-kilometre radius of the Destination, ground transportation (including without limitation train transportation or car rental) may be provided and no compensation or substitution will be provided for the difference in cost (if applicable). Participating finalists must obtain approval from RHF prior to renting a car.

Any other costs or expenses associated with travel not specified herein will be the responsibility of the participating Finalists and their parents/legal guardians (as applicable), including without limitation, ground transportation to/from the Departure Point communication charges, room service, gratuities, optional tours, insurance and medical travel documents. In line with RHF's travel policy, per diem rates will be provided for meals for the participating Finalists (including one accompanying parent or legal guardian), unless meals are otherwise provided as part of official event programming. However, individuals who reside within fifty (50) kilometers of the event venue are not eligible for per diems for meal expenses. Exceptions will not be granted unless explicitly pre-approved by the Rideau Hall Foundation in accordance with the RHF External Travel Policy. Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by receipts.

The Sponsors will not be responsible if weather conditions, event cancellations, or other factors beyond their reasonable control prevent the transportation and accommodation provisions outlined above from being fulfilled, and the participating Finalists will not be entitled to compensation in lieu thereof. The participating Finalists and their parents/legal guardians must have no restrictions on their ability to travel. The participating Finalists and their parents/legal guardians are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documentation and permissions and must travel on the same itinerary. The participating Finalists and their parents/guardians must travel on the dates and travel carriers and stay at the accommodations as determined by the Rideau Hall Foundation in its sole discretion. The Sponsors will not be responsible if a participating Finalist or parent/legal guardian is denied entry onto aircraft, into the Destination, or return entry into the Departure Point. In such a situation, the participating Finalist and their parent/legal guardian will be responsible for any and all additional costs incurred.

The participating Finalists and their parents/legal guardians must obey all hotel rules and requirements, including the hotel requirement to present a major credit card. Failure to follow such hotel rules and requirements may result in, without limitation, non-admission to hotel and forfeiture of the invitation to the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events.

For All Finalists Attending the Events

If a Finalist is travelling with a parent or legal guardian, the parent or legal guardian will be required to sign and return a Release in order to accompany the Finalist.

The Sponsors will not be responsible if weather conditions, event cancellations, or other factors beyond their reasonable control prevents the Dry Run and Demo Day pitch events from happening as planned and the Finalists will not be entitled to compensation in lieu thereof. The Finalists and their parents/legal guardians must obey all Dry Run and Demo Day pitch event rules and requirements. Failure to follow such event rules and requirements may result in, without limitation, ejection from the event and forfeiture of the invitation to the event. In the event a Finalist or their parent/legal guardian engage in behavior that (as determined by the Rideau Hall Foundation in its sole discretion) is obnoxious or threatening, illegal, or that is intended to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person, the Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to eject the Finalist and their parent/legal guardian from the event, and, in the case of Finalist and parents/guardians receiving transportation and accommodation coverage from the Rideau Hall Foundation, end their trip and send them home early, all with no further compensation.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

Submitted entries shall not be returned to candidates.

Multiple entries are permitted. An entrant's submission and pitch content must not include any content whatsoever which would reasonably be understood to be defamatory, threatening, distasteful, racist, unlawful or otherwise objectionable or would infringe the intellectual property rights of third parties.

The Rideau Hall Foundation shall not be responsible for any technical malfunctions that are human, mechanical or technical in nature, or any combination thereof, including any injury as well as lost, incomplete, destroyed, misdirected, illegible or late submissions which for any reason are not received.

The Rideau Hall Foundation assumes no responsibility for lost or late submissions of entries.

The Rideau Hall Foundation, its agents and service providers are not responsible for printing, distribution or production errors.

The Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to terminate, suspend or modify the Competition, in whole or in part, at any time and without notice or obligation if, in its sole discretion, any factor interferes with its proper conduct as contemplated by the Competition Rules. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, if the Competition, or any part thereof, is not capable of running as planned for any reason, including but not limited to infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, programming errors, or technical failures, which, in the sole discretion of the Rideau Hall Foundation, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Competition, the Rideau Hall Foundation may, in its sole discretion, void any suspect entries and: (a) terminate the Competition, or any portion thereof; (b) modify or suspend the Competition, or any portion thereof, to address the impairment and then resume the Competition, or relevant portion, in a manner that best conforms to the spirit of the Competition Rules; and/or (c) select Finalist Candidates, Finalists, and Investment Candidates from among the eligible, non-suspect entries received up to the time of the impairment in accordance with the selection criteria discussed above.

The Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to modify or cancel this Competition in the event of technical corruption, virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or any other technical problems, which may arise from time-to-time beyond the control of the Rideau Hall Foundation, destroying the integrity of this Competition. No liability or responsibility is assumed by the Rideau Hall Foundation, resulting from attempts to participate in this Competition or if required, accessing online information necessary to participate in this Competition.

The Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to disqualify entrants whom it finds to be in violation of these Competition Rules or tampering with the entry process. The Rideau Hall Foundation reserves the right to refuse an entry from a person whose eligibility is in question or who has been disqualified or is otherwise ineligible to enter.

Each entrant agrees that the consent given, and rights granted in these Competition Rules are done so without further compensation in connection with the Competition.

All decisions regarding this Competition and the selection of Finalist Candidates, Finalists and Investment Candidates remain with the Sponsors and are final.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, ENTRANTS AGREE THAT THE RELEASEES HAVE NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR, AND SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS BY ENTRANTS AGAINST, ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY

INJURIES, LOSSES OR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND (INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES) TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE COMPETITION, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN TRAVEL, AND THE ACCEPTANCE, POSSESSION, MISUSE OR USE OF INVESTMENT FUNDS. FURTHER, BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, ENTRANTS AGREE THAT RELEASEES HAVE NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR, AND SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS BY ENTRANTS AGAINST, ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURIES, LOSSES OR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND (INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES) TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM: A) ENTRY OR PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMPETITION, INCLUDING ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE COMPETITION WEBSITE, OR B) ANY CLAIMS BASED ON PERSONAL INJURY, PERSONALITY OR PRIVACY RIGHTS, DEFAMATION, OR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, therefore such exclusions may not apply to you.

INDEMNIFICATION

Each entrant, including all members of a Group submission, agrees to indemnify the Releasees from any third-party claims arising from or related to that entrant's participation in the Competition. By participating, entrants agree that the Releasees shall not be liable for any and all claims, demands, judgments, damages, injuries, lawsuits, causes of action, death, losses, costs and expenses arising from or relating to, in whole or in part, in connection with this Competition or the acceptance, receipt, attendance at, travel related to, defect in, delivery of, use, inability to use, or misuse or possession of the investment funds. All entrants further agree that in the event of any third-party claims, damages, losses or injuries, arising from or relating to this Competition, they will indemnify the Releasees from any and all such claims, including lawyers' fees related thereto.

CANCELLATION

If for any reason the Competition is not capable of being conducted as intended by the Rideau Hall Foundation, the Rideau Hall Foundation may, at its sole discretion, cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Competition.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Privacy Statement: By being an entrant submitting an application, all candidates, including all members of a Group submission, individually consent to the collection, use and disclosure by the Rideau Hall Foundation, DMZ Ventures and their authorized agents of their personal information in order to process the application and administer and improve the Competition, including selecting Finalist Candidates, Finalists and Investment Candidates, and administering the related workshops, mentorship sessions and events (if applicable), which information is mandatory in order to participate in the Competition, and some of which information is posted on the Competition Website. Entrants may be offered the opportunity to receive additional communications from the Rideau Hall Foundation or its partners about their products and programs, and upcoming contests and promotions. Personal information is collected, used and disclosed for the purpose of administering, improving and promoting the Competition and promoting the investment recipients in accordance with applicable privacy laws, and Rideau Hall Foundation's [Privacy Policy](#) and DMZ Ventures' [Privacy Policy](#). You may withdraw your

consent to use your personal information at any time, subject to contractual restrictions. Depending on when you do so, you may not be able to participate in the Competition.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Sponsors' failure to enforce any term of these Competition Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these Competition Rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. If any provision of the Competition Rules is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, then the Competition Rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or unenforceable provision was not contained therein.

APPLICABLE LAWS

The Competition is void where prohibited by law and is subject to all federal, provincial and municipal laws and regulations. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of the Competition Rules or the rights of the parties in connection with the Competition shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the province of Ontario.

In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the terms and conditions of the Competition Rules and disclosures or other statements contained in any competition-related materials, including but not limited to the entry form, or print or online advertising, the terms and conditions of the Competition Rules shall prevail, govern and control. In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the English language version and the French language version of the Competition Rules, the English version shall prevail, govern and control.