

Ontario Opens Sixth Intake of the Junior Exploration Program

The Ontario government is launching the sixth intake of the Ontario Junior Exploration Program (OJEP), designed to support early-stage early mineral exploration by providing targeted funding to junior mining companies. OJEP is designed to encourage investment in mineral exploration, boost economic growth and create jobs across the province, and prioritize opportunities in northern and Indigenous communities.

The sixth intake is introducing two new features of the program: The Prospectors Stream and expanded support through enhanced Indigenous Participation funding.

Prospectors can apply for up to **\$50,000 per project** in the new Prospectors Stream. Junior mining companies can access up to **\$200,000 per mineral exploration project**.

Additionally, approved projects will be eligible for an **extra \$15,000** to support Indigenous Participation, on top of the existing funding.

This means:

- Prospectors can receive up to **\$65,000** per project.
- Junior mining companies can receive up to **\$215,000** per project.

Applications will be accepted online through the [Transfer Payment Ontario \(TPON\)](#) website during a four-week intake period, beginning on July 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and closing on July 31, 2025 at 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Funding through the program will be provided to approved projects on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must:

- Be a non-producing, junior mining company, or prospector, registered to do business in Ontario with a market capitalization of up to \$100 million (or of a comparable value if a private company) as of the opening date of the intake period.
- Submit an application that meets the definition of grassroots exploration. Grassroots mineral exploration involves the identification of new mineral exploration targets or the evaluation of existing targets in an area that is not known to host a mineral deposit with economic potential.
- Provide proof that the applicant has the funds to cover 100 per cent of total project costs. Note: Prospectors applying under the Prospectors Stream are exempt from this requirement.
- Provide a copy of a valid certificate of insurance that includes general commercial liability coverage at a limit of not less than \$2 million per occurrence.
- Be enrolled in the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) and hold the necessary mining lands tenure to carry out the project.
- Have a valid exploration or recovery plan and/or permit issued under the *Mining Act* at

- the time of application and for the duration of the project (where required).
- Have the approval of the plan/permit and/or tenure holder to apply for OJEP funding and carry out the proposed project.

Eligibility Requirements for the Prospectors Stream:

- The prospector must possess an Ontario prospecting license for a minimum of one year before the date of the application.
- The claims where work is planned must be in good standing with the first year of assessment work filed and approved.
- The prospector must hold at least 25 per cent interest in the claim where eligible activity will occur.
- The prospector must not be associated with a junior mining company for any claims receiving OJEP funding.
- Prospectors may apply for one project per intake period.

To submit a secure application, applicants will need a My Ontario Account. Those without an account may register for one on the [TPON](#) website.

Applicants are encouraged to read the program guidelines and start preparing the necessary documents in advance. They must ensure they have a My Ontario Account once applications open. For more information, contact OJEP@ontario.ca.

