

FOODTECH FRONTIER



Program Guide

June 2026

Canadian Food Innovation Network

The Canadian Food Innovation Network (CFIN) is an industry-led, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to building a thriving, productive, and innovation-driven food and beverage sector in Canada. We empower Canadian food and beverage businesses to reach their full potential by investing in and accelerating the adoption of innovation – driving competitiveness, productivity, and long-term resilience across the sector. Through funding programs, strategic connections, and capacity-building tools, CFIN works alongside industry to make innovation the primary engine of growth for Canadian food and beverage.

CFIN's goals are to:

- Provide recognition for the top performers and emerging stars of Canadian foodtech.
- Build a supportive ecosystem for Canadian foodtech entrepreneurs that fosters increased connectivity and community to maximize future growth potential.
- Increase awareness of Canadian foodtech solutions to drive increased adoption within the Canadian food sector.

CFIN Members can leverage YODL™, an interactive online platform designed to help Canadian food and beverage professionals from all sectors of the industry connect, learn, and grow their businesses. YODL is a place for entrepreneurs to discover cutting-edge technology and solutions, meet new business partners throughout the Canadian supply chain, and access government funding opportunities.

On YODL members can find:

- Unique daily content;
- Access to CFIN's innovation challenges and members-only events;
- Access to direct mentorship from CFIN's five Regional Innovation Directors;
- Opportunities to network and collaborate with other food and beverage professionals from across Canada; and
- Business resources, including original research and information on best business practices, consumer trends, R&D, training and much more.

Membership with the Canadian Food Innovation Network is free, and can be accessed at www.cfin-rcia.ca



1. Foodtech Frontier Overview

Foodtech Frontier is a first of its kind celebration of the most promising and impactful foodtech companies in Canada. The overarching goal of Foodtech Frontier is to:

- Identify and elevate our country's top foodtech companies;
- Champion the next wave of transformative Canadian foodtech innovators; and
- Recognize the top foodtech company in each region.

As the key support organization for the Canadian foodtech ecosystem, CFIN has developed this initiative to achieve the following multi-pronged purpose:

- **Recognition:** To honour and help promote the top foodtech innovators in Canada who are pushing the boundaries of advancements in the food industry.
- **Inspiration:** To inspire other companies and entrepreneurs by showcasing success stories, breakthrough technologies, and transformative ideas.
- **Education:** To deliver insights into the trends, strategies, and technologies that are shaping the future of food.
- **Connectivity:** To increase awareness of Canadian foodtech solutions within the Canadian food industry and abroad.
- **Acceleration:** Support company growth through enhanced investment attraction and strategic partnership opportunities.

Applicants who are selected to be featured in the Foodtech Frontier list will be profiled on CFIN's website and YODL platform, included in press releases and other promotional activity, receive networking opportunities within the ecosystem, and will be invited to a celebration event of Foodtech Frontier listed companies in their respective region.

2. Schedule of Dates

Applications will open on June 8, 2026.

The deadline to apply in CFIN's application portal is by 11:59pm local time on July 22, 2026.

Successful companies to be included on the Foodtech Frontier will be notified in late September 2026.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants need to meet the following criteria to be eligible for inclusion in the Foodtech Frontier:

- Company is headquartered in Canada with Canadian majority ownership.



- The majority of revenues are earned from its own proprietary property or technology. IE: Licensing a key technology from another company is not eligible.
- The company, its directors, or officers are not subject to any legal proceedings against them that might adversely affect the business.
- The company is in good standing with the Government of Canada.

Lastly, the primary business activity and the majority of revenues are earned from one of the following Foodtech categories:

Cleantech

- Technology solutions that make food processing, distribution, foodservice and grocery retail more efficient and sustainable in relation to energy inputs, water and wastewater.

Food waste and circularity

- Technology solutions that help reduce food waste. For example, solutions that increase value of underutilized ingredients and byproducts, help redistribute food surplus from restaurants and supermarkets, and optimization of side-streams.

Food manufacturing technology

- Products or services that leverage novel techniques to process food or to improve food ingredients functionality. This category includes solutions like new robotics, AI, sensors, machine learning and big data to improve efficiencies, increase productivity, food safety and worker safety.

Kitchen & restaurant technology

- Technology solutions that help restaurants manage their business more efficiently or smart kitchen appliances. This category includes technology that helps make professional kitchens smarter through IoT, POS systems, supply chain management tools and ordering platforms, kitchen robotics, and other related solutions.

Digital supply chain

- Digital technology solutions to improve the management and analysis of key information to improve the productivity and safety of food and beverage supply chains.

NextGen ingredients and food/beverage

- Novel solutions and processes that leverage science and technology to create new types of foods, beverages, and ingredients. This category includes alternative proteins such as plant-based, precision fermentation and cellular agriculture, insects-based products, functional food and drinks as well as meal replacements among others.



Food safety and traceability

- Technology solutions to extend product freshness, sanitize food processing equipment, and/or ensure traceability. This category includes products or services for detecting unwanted food ingredients, pathogens, and allergens, and help trace the supply chain.

Consumer apps and services

- Apps and services that facilitate access to food and related information. For example, personalized nutrition, recipe, terroir apps, specialized e-commerce platforms, apps that help users to find restaurants /" cook at home" chefs based on specific dietary requirements, or retail technology among others.

Packaging

- Novel new packaging solutions that address single use plastics, recyclability, and upcycling innovations. This category also includes sustainable packaging solutions such as plastic alternatives made by biopolymers, or bio coating solutions to extend products shelf-life among others.

[An overview of CFIN backed innovations to date can be found here.](#)

4. Application Process

To apply to the Foodtech Frontier your organization must be a CFIN member. Membership is free and can be accessed here: <https://cfin-rcia.ca/becomeamember>

CFIN members can apply to the program at <https://cfin-rcia.smartsimple.ca/>

Applications must be completed on our online portal.

4.1 Application Questions

On your first login to the application platform, applicants are encouraged to complete their Organization Profile with their address and other contact information.

Select OPEN PROGRAMS in the top row to view currently open programs and begin your application. Once you have started an application, you can view them under MY APPLICATIONS (Saved Drafts will remain in IN PROGRESS until submitted).

The language of the system can be changed by selecting the Globe Icon in the top right.

Each applicant agrees that information provided through this application may be used for the following purposes:

- To validate the applicant's eligibility for the Foodtech Frontier list,
- For adjudication of the applicant as part of the Foodtech Frontier list,



- To profile each company on the Foodtech Frontier list through its website, social media, CFIN events and other marketing activities, and
- CFIN reserves the right to create summary findings of key data collected in the application process, such as, revenue levels, revenue growth, employee numbers, and investment. Individual applicant data will not be shared publicly, except for basic information collected in the “Company Information” section of the application form.

* information in fields marked with an asterisk may be disclosed publicly. See Terms and Conditions (Section 5) in the application template for due diligence disclosure requirements.

Section 1. Applicant Information

- Legal Business Name and Operating Name*;
- Contact information of the person at your business who can be contacted in the future regarding matchmaking or investment inquiries
- Brief business profile (to update this section, please complete it under your Organization Profile, accessed from the main landing page)*
- Please select a CFIN technology category for your firm
- Business address and website (to update this section, please complete it under your Organization Profile, accessed from the main landing page)
- Social Media Pages (to update this section, please complete it under your Organization Profile, accessed from the main landing page)
- Provide the date and location of incorporation for your business
- Please indicate any legal proceedings, if any, that may adversely affect your business;
- Applicant Ownership Demographics – please respond to the demographic questions regarding business ownership.
- Applicant Fiscal Year Data: Please complete the data for your most recent completed fiscal year. Please note that regular reporting on this data is required should your project be approved.
 - Revenues from the Canadian Operation, including domestic and export sales;
 - Gross Canadian expenditures on research and development and capital expenditures;
 - Total number of full-time equivalents (FTE)s in your business in the past calendar year.

Section 2. Application Questions

Provide responses (maximum 200 words) to each of the following questions that will form the basis for assessing the proposal.

Section 2.1 Value Proposition

Provide an overview of the distinct advantages your solution delivers that is compelling to a segment of the food sector.

- Describe your product (and how it is better than existing alternatives)



- What problem are you solving?
- Does your company own any intellectual property, and if so, how are you protecting it?

Section 2.2 Traction

Provide confirmation of product market fit that you have achieved to-date and your plan for achieving future growth.

- What traction do you have? (Customers, pilot partners, etc.)
 - Specifically reference paying customers vs not-paying customers/pilot partners.
- Starting with your most recent fiscal year, outline your annual revenues for the past four (4) fiscal years, or since your incorporation if less than 4 years.
- What are your projected revenues for next fiscal year?
- Share supporting rationale for this revenue projection, such as, customer retention levels, secured contracts, new market entry, etc.

Section 2.3 Investment

Share a summary of your track record and next step in securing investment.

- Indicate the amount of private equity investment you have raised to date (if available, upload your Cap Table under Application Files)
- Indicate timing of your current/next investment round (select one)
- Indicate the anticipated amount of your current/next investment round (this is a dynamic field based on the previous question)
- Funding Stage - what round of funding are you looking to raise? (select one)
- Have you received any significant non-dilutive grant funding, and if so please name the leading sources

Section 2.4 Team

Share an overview of the key skill sets and experience of your team that positions your venture to maximize its future growth.

- Provide a short profile of your founders / leadership team (include LinkedIn profiles if available).
- List advisors and key areas of expertise.

Section 2.5 Other

- Have you received any awards or other recognition for your business? (Please describe)
- List any accelerator programs you have participated in
- Have you been referred to apply to Foodtech Frontier by someone? If yes, who?

Section 3. Application Files

Please use the file upload areas to attach:

- Your pitch deck
- Your company logo



- Images of your technology or innovation
- Supporting documentation: applicants can upload multiple documents in support of their project, such as letters of support, quotes, or other relevant information.

Section 4. Video

To provide additional context for your submission, please attach a corporate video or video pitch for your firm. Videos should be 3-5 minutes and cover your innovation and its value proposition. Including a video is optional.

This video will not be scored but will assist with the assessment of your organization.

Section 5. Terms & Conditions

The Applicant acknowledges that information provided through this application may be used for the following purposes:

- To validate the Applicant's eligibility for the Foodtech Frontier list;
- For the adjudication of the Applicant as part of the Foodtech Frontier list;
- To profile each company on the Foodtech Frontier list through website, social media, CFIN events and other marketing activities; or
- While individual applicant data including revenue levels, revenue growth, employee numbers, and investment levels will not be shared publicly, CFIN reserves the right to create aggregate data for the program for its public use.

By submitting the application, the Applicant understands that no commercially confidential information provided in this application and attachments will be disclosed by CFIN to any third party other than:

- To individuals, including CFIN staff and applicant review partners involved in the governance and/or assessment of the application;
- As required to be released or disclosed by law or in a judicial or other federal governmental investigation or proceeding;
- If the information is generally known or in the public domain at the time of the Applicant's disclosure; or
- If the information subsequently becomes a matter of public knowledge through no fault of CFIN.

The Applicant acknowledges that as part of this initiative there might be an opportunity to secure investment from a Foodtech Frontier sponsor/investment partner. As this is an optional component of Foodtech Frontier you will be given the opportunity to opt out of this step if desired. Please indicate your consent with the following:

- Applicant information will be shared with the investment partner for their investment due diligence.
- You consent to the investment partner reaching out to you to discuss potential investment in your firm.



Once an organization is approved, information such as the company name, non-confidential descriptive information about the business, is considered public information and may be published by CFIN. These fields are indicated as potentially open to public disclosure in the Program Guide.

The Applicant understands that the CFIN Foodtech Frontier is a discretionary program. Organizations will be selected based on assessment criteria. Requests from CFIN program managers for additional information regarding the application are not an indication that the organization will be selected.

Acknowledgement and Waiver

The Applicant acknowledges that they have read the CFIN Foodtech Frontier Program Guide and agree that this application will be evaluated in accordance with the terms described therein. The Applicant hereby waives the right to make any claim against CFIN arising pursuant to the application and review process outlined in the CFIN Foodtech Frontier Program Guide.

Notice Regarding Personal Information:

Please refer to CFIN's [Privacy Policy](#) for information on how CFIN collects, uses, and discloses personal information. To pose questions or concerns regarding privacy issues, CFIN's Privacy Officer can be contacted at:

Privacy Officer, Canadian Food Innovation Network
7382 Wellington Rd N, Unit B Guelph ON N1H 6J2
Email Address: info@cfin-rcia.ca

The Applicant hereby declares that the information in this application is true and complete, to the best of its knowledge, belief and understanding.



4.2 Assessment Criteria

Each application that meets the eligibility requirements will be assessed using the following criteria:

Assessment Criteria		Scoring
Value Proposition	The product offers meaningful and superior benefit to a key segment of the food industry	25
Traction	The measurable evidence that a company's product is gaining real market adoption and momentum	25
Investment Readiness	The company is positioned for successful investment required to scale the business to the next level	25
Team	The team has the right skills and experience to deliver the solution	25
Total Score		/100

Applicants will be evaluated at both a total score and pre-traction score level to help determine the most promising and impactful foodtech companies in Canada.

4.4 Final Funding Decisions

CFIN will aim to communicate results within 75 days of the intake deadline, in late September 2026. Applicants will be notified if the decision will be delayed.

5. Foodtech Frontier Regional Announcement

Successful applicants will be invited to a networking event in their respective region to showcase the Foodtech Frontier recipients. The audience will include members of the foodtech ecosystem to celebrate the achievements of the honorees and the overall growth of the foodtech sector in Canada. Additional matchmaking and public relations opportunities might also present themselves for recipients.

If you have questions about the Foodtech Frontier Initiative, please contact info@cfm-rcia.ca

