

January 9, 2026

Canadian Standards Association,
operating as CSA Group (“**CSA Group**”)
178 Rexdale Blvd.
Toronto, ON M9W 1R3

Subject: Request for Proposal for Remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in water, soil and air (“RFP”)

This document represents an invitation to proponents to submit proposals to the CSA Group for review of current remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in water, soil and air in Canada and investigation of standards-based solution to facilitate best practices.

Notice of Intent to Submit a Proposal (the “**NOI**”) must be received by CSA Group no later than **12:00 hours (noon) EST on January 21, 2026** and must be submitted in writing to [enter email address]. The NOI must contain the following information:

- The name of your company
- Name of the proposal contact
- The name of the RFP you’re responding to
- A clear statement of your intention to submit a proposal.

Proposals must be received by CSA Group no later than **12:00 hours (noon) EST on February 6, 2026**. It is the proponent’s responsibility to deliver their proposal prior to the **time/date of bid closing**. Proposals received after the bid closing hours will not be accepted.

Proponents must submit an electronic copy of their proposal to iris.monner@csagroup.org by the time/date of bid closing noted above. It is Proponent's responsibility to follow up by phone on the proposal submission within a week past the time/date of bid closing, if no confirmation of proposal is received via email.

Questions with respect to the meaning or intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP), or requests for correction to any apparent ambiguity, inconsistency or error in the RFP, must be submitted in writing to Iris Monner at iris.monner@csagroup.org and must be received before **12:00 hours (noon) EST on January 28, 2026**. Answers will be posted on CSA Communities where the RFP resides or emailed to all prospective proponents.

CSA Group is not obliged to accept the lowest bid or any proposal.

Remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in water, soil and air

1 SECTION ONE

1.1 Background and Introduction

Established in 1919, CSA Group is an independent, not-for-profit member-based association dedicated to advancing safety, sustainability and social good. CSA Group is an internationally-accredited standards development and testing and certification organization, and also provides consumer product evaluation and education and training services. CSA Group conducts and funds research to strengthen the development of standards and to determine where society would benefit from standardization.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) comprise of over 15,000 different human-made chemicals known for their ability to repel water, oil and heat. PFAS have been used in various industrial and consumer products, including non-stick cookware, water-resistant fabrics, firefighting foams, food packaging and cosmetics. As very stable compounds, they are essentially non-degradable in the environment, and often called “forever chemicals”. PFAS accumulate in soil, water, wildlife and even human bodies, leading to widespread and long-lasting contamination.

1.2 Purpose of the Request for Proposal

The purpose of this RFP is to invite qualified proponents to develop a research project on current global best practices in PFAS remediation and provide recommendations for future standardization opportunities to support the goal of efficiently and effectively remediating PFAS contamination from soil, water and air..

The research project will include a comprehensive literature review, key participant (i.e., interested and affected parties) engagement, information analysis and reporting.

All research activities will adhere to ethical guidelines. Participant engagement will be a key component of the project, and will involve interviews scheduled and conducted to gather additional insights.

1.3 Location of Work

Not applicable

1.4 Project Scope and Deliverables

The key deliverables of the research project include a research report and a presentation. The research report should follow sound research methodologies and scientific writing practices. For some examples of published CSA research reports please check [CSA Standards Research page](#).

The research project will center on standardization needs to support development of a consistent, evidence-informed approach to remediation of water, soil and air from contamination by PFAS.

The selected proponent will carry out the following activities:

1) Literature Review and Analysis:

- a) Provide a high-level overview of PFAS compounds:
 - i) Categories and their properties
 - ii) General applications and uses
 - iii) Identification of PFAS pathways at end-of-life

- b) Conduct a comprehensive review of current and emerging in-situ and off-site techniques for water, soil, and air PFAS remediation and destruction.
- i) Catalogue current and emerging remediation methods and their technologies' maturity level as applicable to water, soil and air medium. Include physical, chemical, and thermal techniques (e.g., adsorption, ion exchange, advanced oxidation, incineration).
 - ii) Assess lifespan and practical and theoretical removal efficiencies for each remediation method or technology and longevity. The following should be included:
 - Describe the expected effective lifespan of the technology, the key factors that may influence it (such as environmental conditions and maintenance requirements), and any anticipated decline in performance over time.
 - Summarize the real-world performance by reporting removal efficiencies from field applications or pilot studies, typical efficiency ranges under common site conditions, and any practical constraints or limitations such as soil variability, groundwater flow, or contaminant levels.
 - Describe the theoretical performance under ideal or laboratory conditions, including expected results from literature or controlled experiments, maximum removal rates under optimal conditions, and any differences from real-world performance with explanations.
 - Explain how long the remediation effects are expected to last, including any potential for contaminant rebound or re-release, and outline whether long-term monitoring, maintenance, or periodic retreatment may be required.
 - iii) Evaluate the applicability and scalability of each technique across diverse contamination scenarios. Consider site-specific factors such as soil composition, groundwater depth, climate, and infrastructure constraints.
 - iv) Analyze potential impacts of each remediation method on downstream processes, including processing of secondary waste streams, by-products, and media transfer risks.
- c) Discuss assessment methods used to evaluate site contamination and key indicators (i.e., observable or measurable chemical, physical, or biological markers).
- i) How site contamination is determined
 - ii) Indicators and reporting practices
 - iii) Remediation decision-making process based on contamination indicators
- 2) **Comparative Review and Analysis of Remediation Best Practices Frameworks, including Protocols, Standards, and Regulations**
- i) Analyze Canadian standards and regulations related to PFAS remediation.
 - ii) Benchmark against global best practices (e.g., U.S., EU, Australia).
 - iii) Identify gaps in existing standards and propose areas to develop new technical specifications or guidelines.
- 3) **Interested Parties Engagement and Analysis:** Conduct a minimum of 15 interviews to gather insights from impacted and interested parties, including but not limited to researchers, remediation practitioners, test laboratories, and authorities having jurisdiction. These engagements will inform and validate findings across all areas of the study.
- 4) **Integrated Gap Analysis and Recommendations for Standardization:**

- a) Conduct a comprehensive standardization gap analysis to identify challenges within current frameworks and highlight opportunities for standardization. Map findings to remediation methods for water, soil, air, and destruction technologies.
- b) Provide actionable recommendations for standardization based on current and potential future needs.
 - i) For each recommended standardization topic, a description of the scope should be provided, accompanied by an explanation of the potential impact, benefit and intended usage. This section should be broken down into two separate timeframes, distinguishing between:
 - **Short-term priorities:** Topics with sufficient industry acceptance and evidence to support immediate development of Technical Specifications (TS) or standards (e.g., water treatment performance, sampling protocols).
 - **Long-term priorities:** Areas requiring further development (e.g., field application, research) before standardization. This section should include a discussion of what may be needed to move these potential standardization topics to the short-term priorities.

1.5 Delivery Schedule and Milestones

The anticipated duration of this project is 13 months.

CSA Group will establish a Research Advisory Panel (RAP) for this research project, composed of CSA Group staff and external subject matter experts who will oversee and guide the project direction and approach.

For each deliverable outlined in the delivery schedule, CSA Group will organize a meeting within three weeks of the deliverable submission, at which the selected proponent will present findings of the submitted report draft. These meetings will serve for the RAP members to provide feedback and recommendations for the next project step. The feedback is expected to be addressed in the subsequent deliverable.

Deliverable #1 – Workplan and report outline

- a) The workplan should include clear objectives, a detailed list of tasks and activities to be performed, a timeline with milestones and deadlines, a plan for key participant engagement, and identification of potential risks with mitigation strategies.
- b) The proposed outline for the research report should provide an overview of the proposed structure of the report, clearly showing the plan to tackle the research questions.

Deliverable #2 – Draft report #1: Literature Review and Analysis. Please refer to section 1.4 for more details.

Deliverable #3 – Draft Report #2: Includes an updated version of draft #1 report addressing comments from CSA RAP, along with the Comparative Review and Analysis of Remediation Best Practices Frameworks. Please refer to section 1.4 for more details.

Deliverable #4 – Draft Report #3: Includes an updated version of draft #2 report addressing comments from the CSA RAP, along with the Interested Parties Engagement and Analysis. The findings may be consolidated based on common themes or topics. Please refer to section 1.4 for more details.

Deliverable #5 – Draft Report #4: Includes an updated version of draft #3 report addressing comments from the CSA RAP, along with the integrated gap analysis and recommendations. Please refer to section 1.4 for more details.

Deliverable #6 – Complete report #5: Includes an updated version of draft #4, addressing comments from the CSA RAP, along with conclusions, an executive summary, formatted references, and all required sections.

The following delivery schedule is recommended for the listed deliverables:

Deliverable	Due Date
Workplan and report outline	March, 2026
Draft report #1: Literature review and analysis	June, 2026
Draft report #2: Comparative Review and Analysis of Remediation Best Practices Frameworks, including Protocols, Standards, and Regulations	August, 2026
Draft report #3: Interested Parties Engagement and Analysis	October, 2026
Draft report #4: Integrated Gap Analysis and Recommendations for Standardization	December, 2026
Complete report draft, including previous draft addressed comments	February, 2027
Final draft and presentation	April, 2027

1.6 Pricing and Payment Schedule

The prices and/or rates quoted as part of the proponent's proposal must not include any provision for taxes. CSA Group reserves the right to negotiate an acceptable payment schedule prior to the awarding of a contract.

The total value of the fixed fee contract awarded to the winning proponent shall not exceed \$80,000 excluding all applicable taxes (Goods and Services Tax or Harmonized Sales Tax, as appropriate). The Contractor will be solely responsible for any/all expenses that arise during the project as necessary to successfully address research needs.

2 SECTION TWO

2.1 Proposal Format

Proposals must be submitted in Adobe form (.pdf). Proposals must be submitted in the English language and include all of the required content set out in Section Three. The entire proposal, *excluding* the proposal cover sheet, resumes, budget form, budget narrative, schedule, and references, should not exceed 10 pages in length.

2.2 Submission Criteria

Proposals must be submitted by electronic mail to iris.monner@csagroup.org. It is the proponent's responsibility to deliver their proposal on or before the Submission Deadline set out in Section 2.3.

Please contact CSA Group at the email provided above, if you do not receive an email confirmation from CSA Group within twenty-four (24) hours following the submission of your Proposal or Submission Deadline.

2.3 Submission Deadline

Proposals must be received by CSA Group no later than **12:00 hours (noon) EST on February 6, 2026**.

2.4 Late Proposals

Any proposal received after the Submission Deadline will not be considered unless it is the only proposal received, or it offers significant cost or technical advantages to CSA Group, and it is received before a retainer has been negotiated with another proponent.

2.5 Questions

Questions with respect to the meaning or intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP), or requests for correction to any apparent ambiguity, inconsistency or error in the RFP, must be submitted by electronic mail to iris.monner@csagroup.org and must be received no later than 12:00 hours (noon) EST on January 28, 2026. Answers will be posted on CSA Communities where the RFP resides or emailed to all prospective proponents.

2.6 Final Selection

CSA Group anticipates that the proposal selection process will be completed by February 16, 2026.

3 SECTION THREE
3.1 Required Proposal Content

Proposals must include the following components:

- 3.1.1 Overview of organization
- 3.1.2 Background and Objectives
- 3.1.3 Research Approach – Describe the proposed approach for conducting the research, including the methodology, tasks necessary to achieve the objectives, and a proposed timeline. The description should outline a clear and practical plan for achieving the project deliverables.
- 3.1.4 Research Team and Participants – Identify the key members of the research team and provide brief statements of their qualifications to conduct the proposed research. Identify project roles of each team member, noting the lead writer of the report. Identify any other organizations that have committed to collaborate on the proposed research. Resumes for research team members are required, please see section 3.1.10.
- 3.1.5 Relevant Experience and Expertise – Examples of written content relevant to PFAS research by key members in section 3.1.4 (i.e., report writer) should be included.
- 3.1.6 Budget – A detailed budget narrative and itemized budget form using the following format:

Task / Deliverable / Milestone	Professional Fees	Travel	Other Fees (please specify)	Total
Total				

Notes: Please keep in mind that this is a fixed fee contract, inclusive of other fees listed in this table. These fees may include, for example, cost for required references such as peer-reviewed articles and non-CSA standards, and ethics approval process.

- 3.1.7 Schedule of Work – A detailed timeline of milestone completion and communication plan with CSA Group. Please note that each deliverable in a form of a draft report should incorporate time for a three-week feedback from CSA Research Advisory Panel and time necessary to address all of the comments put forward until final acceptance of the deliverable by CSA Group.

- 3.1.8 Agreement with the terms of the RFP – Indicate your agreement with the terms of the RFP, including the copyright assignment and moral rights waiver requirements.
- 3.1.9 Credentials / references regarding experience on equivalent projects.
- 3.1.10 Resumes for each research team member – limit the documents for each member to two pages of information relevant to the individual's role on this project and work that is of similar nature to this role.
- 3.1.11 Any additional samples of writing authored by the team members, preferably work that demonstrates best practices of scientific writing, e.g. evidence-based and properly referenced publication using reputable sources of information.
- 3.1.12 Please provide a short explanation of your understanding of standards' role in society and the team's experience with standardization efforts, if available.

4 SECTION FOUR

4.1 Selection Process

Evaluation of the proposals will be based on the demonstrated experience and competence, including the background and objectives, research approach, research team and participants, relevant experience, and budget, as well as the schedule of work and presentation, in accordance with the rating scale set out in Appendix A.

CSA Group reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. The right is reserved to award the work in whole or in part to other than the lowest cost proposal and the right to not award the work. CSA Group may award the work based on initial proposals received, without discussion of such proposals.

4.2 Liability

CSA Group does not assume any responsibility or liability for costs incurred by a proponent in replying to this RFP or prior to signing of a contract. This is not a tender. CSA Group reserves the right to contact, negotiate with, or interview one or more proponents but shall not be obligated in any manner to any proponent until a written formal contract has been duly executed for the selected proposal.

4.3 Privacy and Confidentiality

Proponents may specify that certain portions or all of a proposal is to be treated as confidential. CSA Group agrees not to copy or distribute contents of a proposal other than as necessary for the evaluation purposes.

The information contained in this document is proprietary to CSA Group and is provided to your organization for the express intent of replying to this RFP. CSA Group grants you permission to share it only among the employees within your organization working on the proposal in response to this RFP. This document is not to be otherwise reproduced or distributed, unless Proponent has requested and received permission in writing from CSA Group to share with additional individual(s) or organization(s), and those individual(s)/organization(s) contact information would need to be provided to CSA Group and these individual(s)/organization(s) would need to agree to comply with privacy and confidentiality requirements set out in this RFP.

4.4 Publication Rights

CSA Group will own the intellectual property rights, including full copyright, in all works created or arising from the services and/or as a result of the project.

The selected proponent(s) must therefore assign and transfer to CSA Group the entire right, title and interest for Canada and all other countries in and to the copyright for such work(s). The selected proponent(s) must do all things and execute without further consideration, such assurances, confirmatory assignments, applications and other instruments as may reasonably be required to obtain copyright registrations for such work(s) and to vest the copyright registrations in CSA Group, its successors and assigns.

The selected proponent(s) must also waive, as against CSA Group, its successors and assigns and licensees, all moral rights which the proponent may have or will acquire in respect of the copyright in the work(s). The selected proponent(s) must have each of its employees or third party sub-contractors who create copyrighted work for delivery to CSA Group, provide to CSA Group a written waiver which waives, as against CSA Group, its successors and assigns and licensees, all moral rights which such employee or third party contractor may have or will acquire in respect of the work(s).

4.5 **Constraints**

If, for whatever reason, the proponent is unable to use the services of any or all individuals who meet the qualifications specified in its proposal, it must provide a replacement with similar qualifications and experience. The replacement must meet the same criteria that were originally proposed and be acceptable to CSA Group, at its sole discretion. The proponent must, as soon as possible, give notice to CSA Group of the reason for the replacement by providing the name, qualifications and experience of the proposed replacement. The proponent must not, in any event, allow performance of the work by unauthorized replacement persons.

4.6 **Proposal Validity**

The proponent warrants and agrees that their proposal will remain firm and valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the Submission Deadline.

APPENDIX A
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Requirement	Score
Background and Objectives	/5
Research Approach	/30
Research Team and Participants	/20
Relevant Experience and Expertise	/15
Presentation	/5
Schedule of Work	/5
Budget	/20
TOTAL	/100