COSEWIC FALL 2026 CALL FOR BIDS

Experts Are Needed to Write a COSEWIC Status Report

November 27, 2026 – January 14, 2027
Deadline: Thursday, January 14 at 3pm Eastern standard time

Part 1: Introduction
Part 2: Wildlife species for which a COSEWIC status report is needed
Part 3: Wildlife species for which a COSEWIC designatable unit report is needed
Part 4: Conditions of Contract and Instructions for Submitting Bids
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Part 1: Introduction

COSEWIC is seeking experts from both the public and private sectors to produce a status report or a designatable unit report. COSEWIC status reports summarize the scientific, community and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) that is the basis for status determinations. Each report is an up-to-date compilation and analysis of all available biological information concerning a wildlife species' status in Canada, including its distribution, abundance, habitat availability, and factors or threats limiting the wildlife species. COSEWIC may also identify Designatable Units (DU) below the species level based on criteria for discreteness and evolutionary significance. DU reports form the basis of a subsequent assessment for the wildlife species.

Updates to status reports for wildlife species that have existing COSEWIC designations may draw on information from the previous report(s) and will provide the basis for future updated reports on the wildlife species.

Applicants are asked to submit bids for a contract to produce a status report for the wildlife species from **Part 2** below. COSEWIC will only accept bids for single status reports, unless **Part 2** specifically asks for bids on more than one wildlife species. For applications submitted by more than one person, the roles of each person in the preparation of the report must be clearly explained, and the names and roles of all persons who will be involved should be included. Note that general or species-specific corrections or clarifications to the Call for Bids may be posted on the COSEWIC website; applicants should check the website for updates until the close of the Call for Bids. For instructions on how to submit a bid and for information about the conditions and requirements involved, please see **Part 3** below.

The wildlife species for which a status report will be commissioned is shown in **Part 2** below. The year of designation and the current COSEWIC risk category are indicated. The suggested value of the contract is provided as a guide for applicants in developing their proposals. The number of designatable units planned for inclusion in a status report is based on best available information. It should be noted that the number of

designatable units in a status report can change leading up to the letting of a contract and/or once a contract is underway. Information on the COSEWIC designatable guidelines can be found at https://cosewic.ca/index.php/en/reports/preparing-status-reports/guidelines-recognizing-designatable-units.html

Note: Any reports commissioned by COSEWIC exceeding $40,000 (taxes included) will be posted on Canadabuys.canada.ca/, the Government Electronic Tendering Service, and not on a COSEWIC call for bids. Postings on Canadabuys.canada.ca do not necessarily coincide with the posting dates for COSEWIC calls for bids.

Part 2: Wildlife species for which a COSEWIC status report is needed

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Range in Canada	Current COSEWIC Status	Type of report, suggested contract value and time frame for first draft
Amphibians				
Spea bombifrons	Plains Spadefoot	AB, SK, MB	Not at Risk, (May 2003)	Status report $20,000.00 Fall 2027
In the past 15 years, there have been surveys in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, including targeted, auditory road surveys in Grasslands NP, along the South Saskatchewan River, and in southwestern Manitoba. Further surveys across the range are needed; we have built field work into the contract. We will conduct a Threats Calculator Call, particularly to explore recent changes in threats, including quality of habitat, emerging diseases, and climate change. Shank and Nixon (2014) predict that Plains Spadefoot has very limited ability to shift its range in response to climate change due to life-history constraints.				
Arthropods				
Attenuipyga joyceae	Shovelhead Leafhopper	MB	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Shovelhead Leafhopper (*Attenuipyga joyceae*) is a flightless grassland specialist known in Canada from only three historical locations in Manitoba's Interlake region (Grosse Isle, Oak Point, and south of St. Laurent), with the only other known occurrence globally restricted to a single tallgrass prairie remnant in southeastern Minnesota. As Canada likely supports 75 to 99% of the species' global range, and the Canadian and U.S. populations are separated by more than 800 km, the species may represent a significant conservation responsibility for Canada. First described in 2000, it is associated with remnant tallgrass prairie habitats and is believed to depend on Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), although its habitat requirements and life history remain poorly understood. Recent targeted surveys in 2023 and 2024 failed to detect the species, but survey timing may not have coincided with the adult activity period. Potential threats include				

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habitat degradation from woody plant encroachment resulting from altered fire regimes, inappropriate prescribed burning, invasive plants, and the loss and fragmentation of rare tallgrass prairie habitats. The report writer will compile existing records from entomological collections and community science databases, assess the species' distribution, habitat requirements, and threats, and include targeted field surveys and GIS-based habitat maps to identify potential habitat. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists. Applicants should submit a fieldwork plan.				
Chlosyne nycteis	Silvery Checkerspot	NB, NS, ON, QC, SK	New	Status report $18,000.00 Fall 2027
Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*) is a widespread butterfly found across the eastern half of North America, with a Canadian range from Saskatchewan and Manitoba east to Quebec, New Brunswick, and possibly Nova Scotia. It inhabits moist meadows, streamside areas, and forest openings, where its larvae feed on a variety of plants in the sunflower family (Asteraceae), including asters, sunflowers, coneflowers, and wingstem. Although historically common, the species has experienced notable declines in the northeastern portion of its range, with evidence suggesting similar declines in Canada, including reduced occupancy and fewer recent observations at historically occupied sites. Population trends remain uncertain, but modelling indicates a substantial decline in occurrence and occupied range in Canada over the past two decades. Potential threats include habitat loss and degradation, climate change-related drying of wet habitats, and pesticide exposure, particularly from spongy moth control programs. There could be two designatable units for this species, and the status report writer must include these in the status report. The report writer will compile existing records from entomological collections and community science databases, assess the species' distribution, habitat requirements, and threats, and GIS-based habitat maps to identify potential habitat. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists.				
Neoclytus conjunctus	Cross Holder Long-horned Beetle	BC	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Cross Holder Long-horned Beetle (or Western Ash Borer) (*Neoclytus conjunctus*) is a small longhorn beetle found along the Pacific Coast from California to British Columbia, where its Canadian distribution is restricted to southern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands. In Canada, it is closely associated with its host tree Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) and associated habitats, although elsewhere it is also known to utilize oak and ash. Larvae develop in dead or dying wood. Adults have distinctive black-and-yellow wasp-like coloration and are most observed in late spring and early summer. Although numerous historical museum records exist, there have been few recent records and no targeted surveys, leaving population size and trends largely unknown. The species is considered rare and localized in Canada, with its habitat appears restricted by the limited distribution of arbutus ecosystems. Major threats include residential and commercial development, habitat				

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fragmentation, recreational disturbance, ecosystem changes resulting from fire suppression, and high levels of deer browsing that limit regeneration of host trees. The report writer will compile existing records from entomological collections and community science databases, assess the species' distribution, habitat requirements, and threats, and include targeted field surveys and GIS-based habitat maps to identify potential habitat. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists. Applicants should submit a fieldwork plan.				
Philaronia canadensis	Canadian Philaronia	ON	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Canadian Philaronia (*Philaronia canadensis*) is a spittlebug known from approximately 15 historical sites in the Great Lakes region of Ontario. The species occurs in coastal or near coastal meadows along Lakes Erie and Huron, including Georgian Bay, as well as meadows in riverine valleys. In recent surveys at some historical sites, the species was only found at one site near Lake Erie. The known host plant in Ontario is goldenrod (Solidago spp.); elsewhere in its global range it feeds on *Symphyotrichum ciliolatum* and *Eupatorium rugosum*. Its major threats in Ontario include habitat destruction associated with Phragmites invasion, urban development, and the expansion of agricultural lands. The report writer must compile all known records, past presence/absence search effort, and current threats. Fieldwork should target suitable habitat in its historic range and should complement recent survey effort by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The report writer will compile species records from museum and agency databases, outline the species' potential habitat extent and natural history, and determine the extent and significance of its threats. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists. Applicants should submit a fieldwork plan.				
Tetraopes quinquemaculatus	Five-spotted Long-horned Beetle	ON	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Five-spotted Long-horn Beetle (*Tetraopes quinquemaculatus*) is a striking but rare longhorn beetle associated with tallgrass prairie habitats and specialized milkweed host plants. In Canada, it is known from only two confirmed locations in southwestern Ontario, the Windsor region and the Pinery area, with an historical London record considered uncertain. The species relies on Green Comet Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*) and Tall Green Milkweed (*A. hirtella*) for larval development, both of which are uncommon and habitat-restricted in Ontario. As a result, the beetle's distribution is highly localized, and its population size and trends remain poorly understood. The primary threats to the species are habitat degradation from natural succession and the spread of invasive plants, which reduce the open prairie conditions required by both the beetle and its host plants. Additional surveys are needed to clarify the species' distribution, population status, and conservation requirements. The report writer will compile existing records from entomological collections and community science databases, assess the species' distribution, habitat requirements,				

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and threats, and include targeted field surveys and GIS-based habitat maps to identify potential habitat. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists. Applicants should submit a fieldwork plan.				
Diporeia hoyi	Great Lakes Deepwater Sideswimmer Northwestern DU	AB, BC, MB, NT, ON, QC, SK	New	Status report $18,000.00 Fall 2027
Diporeia hoyi	Great Lakes Deepwater Sideswimmer Southeastern DU	ON, QC	New	
Great Lakes Deepwater Sideswimmer (*Diporeia hoyi*) is a deepwater amphipod that occurs in cold, freshwater glacial relict lakes of North America. Within the Great Lakes region, Diporeia is recognized as a single phylogenetic species comprising two designatable units (DUs): the Northwestern DU, found in Lake Superior and other freshwater lakes to the northwest, and the Southeastern DU, found in lakes Michigan, Huron, and Ontario, as well as other freshwater lakes to the southeast. Prior to the 1990s, Diporeia was the dominant benthic invertebrate in the Great Lakes. However, populations declined rapidly beginning in the 1990s and continued to decrease through at least 2020. Most Canadian records of Diporeia collected before 2000 originated from general benthic invertebrate surveys rather than targeted sampling, and only a small proportion of inland lakes in Canada have been surveyed. In 1996, Diporeia specimens were collected from 17 locations across lakes Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior. Surveys conducted in 2006 documented substantial declines in Great Lakes subpopulations, and additional monitoring has been reported through the State of the Great Lakes 2022 assessment. However, no comprehensive database of survey effort exists for this species, and there are very limited data available for inland lakes in Canada and elsewhere. A status report is required that includes the two separate designatable units and summarizes the recent search effort and null points, population trends (e.g., modeling, GIS exercise), current state of knowledge and threats to these aquatic ecosystems. The report writer will compile species records from museum and agency databases, outline the species' potential habitat extent and natural history, and determine the extent and significance of its threats. They will also confer with subject experts and regional biologists.				
Birds				
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow (Full species, including pratensiss sp.)	AB, BC, MB, ON, QC, SK	Special Concern (November 2013)	Status report $19,000.00 Fall 2027

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Previously, two subspecies of Grasshopper Sparrow were thought to breed in Canada. Only the eastern subspecies, *Ammodramus savannarum pratensis*, has been assessed by COSEWIC. Given updated guidance on identifying designatable units (DUs) and recent genetic work on the species (Bulgin et al. 2003), Grasshopper Sparrow will likely be reassessed as a single DU that contains all Canadian individuals. Final DU structure will be decided in consultation with the co-chairs of the COSEWIC Birds Specialist Subcommittee.				
Fratercula cirrhata	Tufted Puffin	BC, Pacific Ocean	New	Status report $12,500.00 Fall 2027
In Canada, this species breeds at remote colonies along the Pacific coast, so is not well-monitored by standard surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey or the Christmas Bird Count. The report writer will need to investigate trend and other information relevant to assessment in the peer-reviewed literature and via species-specific monitoring programmes.				
Gavia adamsii	Yellow-billed Loon	NT, YT, BC, AB, MB, QC	Not at Risk (April 1997)	Status report $14,000.00 Fall 2027
This poorly understood species breeds in remote Arctic regions, and in North America primarily winters offshore in low numbers along the west coast of Canada and the United States, so general surveys used to determine population trends of other species, such the Christmas Bird Count, are problematic here. Thus, the report writer will need to explore sources of information beyond what is usually required for bird status reports, including the Arctic Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring and regional reports in order to provide the information required to assess the species against COSEWIC's quantitative criteria (available here).				
Spizella arborea	American Tree Sparrow	AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, NT, NU, ON, PE, QC, SK, YT	New	Status report $16,000.00 Fall 2027
To be assessed as a single species across its Canadian range.				
Synthliboramphus antiquus	Ancient Murrelet	BC	Special Concern (November 2014)	Addendum $8,000.00 Fall 2027

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This report will require a thorough update of information gathered since the last assessment, but will not require a full status report. Instead, the report writer will have to present a concise update in the form of an Addendum, following a prescribed format (sample Addendum document available from the COSEWIC Secretariat on request, or can be found here).				
Freshwater Fishes				
Anguilla rostrata	American Eel	NB, NL, NS, ON, PE, QC	Threatened (May 2012)	Status report $16,000.00 Fall 2027
Report writer(s) will be required to prepare a full status report given the considerable amount of new information that has been gathered since the last assessment. An ATK report has been prepared for this species. ATK information relevant to the assessments would be shared with COSEWIC Status Report Writer(s) for integration into the status report.				
Hybognathus placitus	Plains Minnow	SK	Threatened (May 2012)	Addendum $6,000.00 Fall 2027
The reassessment report will be written as an addendum and include a threats assessment.				
Marine Fishes				
Limanda ferruginea	Yellowtail Flounder	NB, NL, NS, PE, Atlantic Ocean	New	Status report $17,000.00 Fall 2027
Yellowtail Flounder is a medium sized-flatfish that is distributed from the Newfoundland Grand Bank to shelf waters in Virginia in the USA. It occurs principally in depths <100 m. In Canada, they occur on the Grand Bank, in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, along the Scotian Shelf and on eastern Georges Bank. There are directed fisheries in each of these areas, although on the Scotian Shelf it is part of a small mixed-flounder fishery. Recent agency assessments suggest the principal threat on the Grank Bank is fishing, while in other areas fishing may constitute a smaller threat. In these other areas, elevated natural mortality in adults is thought to be the main cause of declines and has been attributed in some cases to predation by grey seals.				
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU60 - Yukon/Teslin-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	Status report $17,000.00 Spring 2028

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Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 61 - Big Salmon-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 62 - Nordenskiold-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 63 - Mid-Yukon-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 64 - Pelly-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 65 - White-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 66 - N Yukon-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 67 - Porcupine-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Oncorhychus tshawytscha	Yukon Chinook Salmon DU 68 - Old Crow-Stream Summer	YT, Pacific Ocean	New	
Chinook Salmon abundance in the Yukon River basin has declined sharply in recent years, resulting in closures of virtually all fisheries. The contractor will use available reconstructions of DU abundance, ATK, and other sources of information for the assessment. An ATK report has been prepared for Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhychus tshawytscha*) in the Yukon River. ATK information relevant to the assessment would be shared with COSEWIC Status Report Writer(s) for integration into the status report.				

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Sebastes maliger	Quillback Rockfish	BC, Pacific Ocean	Threatened (November 2009)	Addendum $11,000.00 Fall 2027
A slow-growing, long-lived rockfish exploited by commercial longline and handline fisheries and recreational fisheries. COSEWIC considers the species a single designatable unit. In 2009 Quillback Rockfish were assessed as Threatened, based on declining trends in catch indices. Population models have since been developed for this species and this reassessment is positioned to take advantage of the improved information base.				
Sebastes reedi	Yellowmouth Rockfish	BC, Pacific Ocean	Threatened (April 2010)	Addendum $11,000.00 Fall 2027
This long-lived rockfish was assessed by COSEWIC as Threatened in 2010, based on declining trends in catch rates. Results from a recently developed model shows abundance is increasing, and DFO considers the population to be in the Healthy Zone of its fisheries decision-making framework.				
Marine Mammals				
Erignathus barbatus	Bearded Seal	MB, NL, NT, NU, ON, QC, YT, Arctic Ocean	Data Deficient (April 2007)	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
A status report is needed for Bearded Seals (*Erignathus barbatus*), which will also have to include an evaluation of the DU structure. The species was last assessed in 2007 as Data Deficient. Since then, new ecological and genetic information have become available. There are concerns that declines in seasonal ice cover could impact this species. The report writer is expected to complete searches of the primary literature and government reports.				
Phocoena phocoena	Harbour Porpoise (Pacific Ocean Population)	BC, Pacific Ocean	Special Concern (April 2016)	Addendum $12,000.00 Fall 2027
An addendum report is required for this population, which was last assessed as Special Concern in 2016. There is new information about this population, and it is possible that this could lead to a change in status. The report writer is expected to complete searches of the primary literature and government reports.				
Eschrichtius robustus	Grey Whale (Pacific Coast Feeding Group)	BC, Pacific Ocean	Endangered (November 2017)	Status report $20,000.00 Fall 2027

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Eschrichtius robustus	Grey Whale (Western Pacific Population)	BC, Pacific Ocean	Endangered (November 2017)	
Eschrichtius robustus	Grey Whale (Northern Pacific Migratory Population)	BC, NT, YT, Pacific Ocean	Not at Risk (November 2017)	
A full status report is needed for Grey Whales, which will also need to include a new evaluation of the DU structure. When this species was last assessed in 2017, 3 DUs were recognized: the Northern Pacific Migratory population - NOT AT RISK; the Pacific Coast Feeding Group population - ENDANGERED; and the Western Pacific population - ENDANGERED. However, it is not clear if this DU structure will remain under the new COSEWIC DU guidelines. Moreover, the Northern Pacific Migratory population is going through a dramatic decline (and an "Unusual Mortality Event" - UME), which suggests that the status of this DU will change. Because of this dramatic decline, this species is in urgent need of reassessment, and should therefore be a very high priority. The report writer is expected to complete searches of the primary literature and government reports. An ATK report has been prepared for this species. ATK information relevant to the assessments would be shared with COSEWIC Status Report Writer(s) for integration into the status report.				
Molluscs				
Leptodea ochracea	Tidewater Mucket	NB, NS	New	Status report $10,000.00 Fall 2027
Lampsilis cariosa	Yellow Lampmussel	NB, NS	Special Concern (November 2013)	Addendum $10,000.00 Fall 2027
Tidewater Mucket and Yellow Lampmussel bundle: Due to overlapping distributions, habitat preferences and threats, bidders are bidding on a bundle but will prepare separate reports for each species. The update report for Yellow Lampmussel is to be completed as an addendum however, a full report is required for Tidewater Mucket. No field verification is required for Yellow Lampmussel but field verification is required for Tidewater Mucket. Field verification includes: search known sites for live specimens as well as suitable habitat in the vicinity of known sites; if possible, provide abundance estimates and size class distributions for each major subpopulation; provide a field summary report documenting the field work, including detailed site information and survey methodologies used; deposit at least one voucher specimen per extant site in a recognized public institution or, in situations where				

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collecting live specimens could further endanger a subpopulation, provide photographic evidence. The value for field verifications cannot exceed one-third the contract value.				
Gastrocopta corticaria	Bark Snaggletooth	NB, ON, QC	New	Status report $10,000.00 Fall 2027
Field verification is required: search known sites for live specimens as well as suitable habitat in the vicinity of known sites; if possible, provide abundance estimates and size class distributions for each major subpopulation; provide a field summary report documenting the field work, including detailed site information and survey methodologies used; deposit at least one voucher specimen per extant site in a recognized public institution or, in situations where collecting live specimens could further endanger a subpopulation, provide photographic evidence. The value for field verifications cannot exceed one-third the contract value.				
Stenotrema barbatum	Bristled Slitmouth	ON	New	Status report $20,000.00 Fall 2027
Triodopsis vulgata	Dished Threetooth	ON	New	
Bristled Slitmouth and Dished Threetooth bundle: Due to overlapping distributions, habitat preferences and threats, bidders are bidding on a bundle with both species combined in a single report but with separate Technical Summaries. Field verification for these two species is required but can occur at the same time given their southern Ontario distribution. Field verification includes: search known sites for live specimens as well as suitable habitat in the vicinity of known sites; if possible, provide abundance estimates and size class distributions for each major subpopulation; provide a field summary report documenting the field work, including detailed site information and survey methodologies used; deposit at least one voucher specimen per extant site in a recognized public institution or, in situations where collecting live specimens could further endanger a subpopulation, provide photographic evidence. The value for field verifications cannot exceed one-third the contract value.				
Mosses				
Fabronia pusilla	Silver Hair Moss	BC	Endangered (May 2012)	Addendum $10,000.00 Fall 2027

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Silver Hair Moss reaches its northern limit of distribution in extreme southern British Columbia. The species has not been found in several years despite repeated surveys, but it may still be present on the landscape. New fieldwork to confirm or infirm its presence should be undertaken. The report writer will need to: (1) do research to discover the known distribution of the species under consideration including information available from herbaria and other applicable sources, (2) undertake field verification work to check whether the wildlife species, as well as suitable habitat, is still present at sites from which the wildlife species had been recorded previously, (3) check potential habitat in areas where the wildlife species may be expected, (4) estimate, the abundance of the wildlife species at each site visited by counting colonies or thalli, (5) include an appendix documenting the field verification work including detailed locality data on all sites visited (as well as visited sites where the wildlife species was not found) (6) describe survey techniques, and deposit at least one voucher specimen per extant locality in a recognized public herbarium, or, in the case where collecting specimens could further endanger a population, to provide photographic evidence if this can be obtained without undue disturbance. The value for field verifications cannot exceed one-third the contract value. Please see Appendix 1 for updated travel rates and guidelines for information on estimating field expenses.				
Scouleria marginata	Margined Streamside Moss	BC	Endangered (May 2012)	Addendum $8,000.00 Fall 2027
Margined Streamside Moss reaches its northern limit of distribution in extreme southern British Columbia. The species has not been found in several years despite repeated surveys and is likely Extinct, based on repeated expert surveys and limited appropriate habitat. We encourage the report writer to contact local experts in the bryoflora of British Columbia to complete this report. Fieldwork is not required.				
Terrestrial Mammals				
Gulo gulo	Wolverine	AB, BC, MB, NL, NT, NU, ON, QC, SK, YT	Special Concern (May 2014)	Status report $25,000.00 Fall 2027
Substantial information has been developed since the last status assessment including information on abundance and trends, including declines across multiple jurisdictions. The writer will be sure to gather and integrate all grey literature and information from jurisdictions, as well as multiple published works, to inform the assessment.				

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An ATK report will be prepared for this species. ATK information relevant to the assessment would be shared with COSEWIC Status Report Writer(s) for integration into the status report.				
Rangifer tarandus	Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin and Union population)	NT, NU	Endangered (November 2017)	Status report $25,000.00 Fall 2027
Jurisdictions have generated important information about this herd since the last assessment, and the writer will need to integrate this new information. Indigenous communities have also signaled knowledge they wish to share, and this will be gathered and synthesized through a separate process. How the Indigenous and Western Science sources of knowledge are integrated has not been determined but the report writer should bring experience and openness to this process. An ATK report will be prepared for this species. ATK information relevant to the assessment would be shared with COSEWIC Status Report Writer(s) for integration into the status report.				
Vascular Plants				
Actaea racemosa	Black Snakeroot	ON, QC	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Black Snakeroot is known from mature, calcareous woodlands in portions of southwestern Ontario including the Niagara Peninsula, as well as from Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, and Huron counties. Roughly 14 native subpopulations have been documented (about 7 since the year 2000). It is now commonly offered as an ornamental garden plant, and numerous recent records in Ontario and southern Québec represent intentionally planted individuals or ones that have spread from cultivation. The species is wild harvested in the USA and possibly in Canada. Field verification is required to check historical sites and potential habitat to determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature and immature individuals, and assess threats. Manipulated subpopulations need to be considered in fieldwork planning and preparation of the report.				
Carex aggregata	Smooth Clustered Sedge	ON	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Smooth Clustered Sedge is a perennial terrestrial sedge that is known in Canada from three subpopulations, all in southwestern Ontario: Middle Island (now part of Point Pelee National Park), near Aylmer (Elgin County), and near Caistorville (Haldimand County). The native status of the mainland sites is uncertain. This species does well with disturbance and is often found in disturbed areas in other portions of its range. Fieldwork is required to				

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evaluate native status, determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats.				
Carex nigromarginata	Black-edged Sedge	ON	New	Status report $13,000.00 Fall 2027
Black-edged Sedge is a perennial terrestrial sedge that is known in Canada from four subpopulations on outer Long Point, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie. Fieldwork is required to determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats. The number of individuals will be influenced by the rhizomatous nature of the plant—it is known to reproduce clonally, and counts should be completed in spring since this is an early-maturing species.				
Eleocharis aestuum	Tidal Spikerush	QC	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Tidal Spikerush is a small, annual tufted sedge that occurs in Canada in southern Quebec, in the freshwater tidal estuary of the St. Lawrence. Fieldwork is required to confirm the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats.				
Eleocharis quadrangulata	Square-stemmed Spikerush	ON	New	Status report $13,000.00 Fall 2027
Square-stemmed Spikerush is well known from Long Point. It has also been recently found at three southwestern Ontario sites: north of Point Rowan, Pelee Island, and in Elgin County. At these sites, its native status is uncertain, therefore manipulated subpopulations need to be considered in fieldwork planning and preparation of the report. Four subpopulations are considered historical (Walpole Island, two at Lake St. Clair, and one from Rondeau Provincial Park); however, dedicated and thorough searches have not likely been carried out at these sites. It is plausible that additional subpopulations may be found. Fieldwork is required to determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats.				
Euphorbia commutata	Tinted Woodland Spurge	ON	New	Status report $15,000.00 Fall 2027
Tinted Woodland Spurge is restricted in Canada to marble barrens near Black Donald Lake in Renfrew County and limestone alvars in Hastings County in eastern Ontario. There are about 11 documented subpopulations, several of which have not been seen in recent years or have vague locations. Fieldwork is required to determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats.				

Scientific Name	Common Name	Range in Canada	Current COSEWIC Status	Type of report, suggested contract value and time frame for first draft
Iris brevicaulis	Short-stemmed Iris	ON	New	Status report $13,000.00 Fall 2027
Short-stemmed Iris is known in Canada from roughly seven subpopulations in open, moist woods on Pelee Island and near Leamington in southwestern Ontario. Of the seven documented subpopulations, only four have been observed since 2000 and all from Pelee Island. Of these perhaps only one, at Middle Point may still be extant. Three historical subpopulations were documented from 1977 to 1984 at Fish Point and near Scudder on Pelee Island and at Sturgeon Creek, 5 km SE of Leamington. Fieldwork is required to determine the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals (including flowering stems), and assess threats. The flowering period is mid to late June. The number of individuals will be influenced by the rhizomatous nature of the plant. It is known to reproduce clonally.				
Crataegus canadensis	Canada Hawthorn	QC	New	Status report $30,000.00 Fall 2027
Crataegus brainerdii	Brainerd's Hawthorn	ON, QC, NB? NS?	New	
Crataegus coccinioides	Kansas Hawthorn	ON, QC	New	
Canada Hawthorn, Brainerd's Hawthorn, Kansas Hawthorn bundle: These three hawthorn species are to be bundled into a single report. Fieldwork is needed to confirm the number of extant subpopulations, the number of mature individuals, and assess threats. Fieldwork is best conducted in the spring to ensure correct identification. Kansas Hawthorn is known from 12 subpopulations in Ontario and about 20 sites in Quebec (sites are occurrences that may be quite close). Brainerd's Hawthorn is known from 16 subpopulations in southern Ontario and 3 sites in Quebec. Canada Hawthorn is known from 20-24 sites in the Montréal, Gatineau and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu areas of southern Quebec. The distribution in NB and NS is uncertain.				

Part 3: Wildlife species for which a COSEWIC designatable unit report is needed

Notice

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) seeks qualified individuals or small groups of individuals to undertake thorough reviews and analyses of existing information on Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) in Canada. Please see the table below for further information. The purpose is to identify suitable designatable units (DUs) at an appropriate scale that will form the basis of a subsequent assessment of these wildlife species.

Background

COSEWIC may identify DUs below the species level based on criteria for discreteness and evolutionary significance that are related to factors such as established taxonomy, genetic variation, range disjunction, and biogeographic distinction including regional climates. Guidelines for recognizing DUs below the species level are available at: Cosewic - Guidelines for Recognizing Designatable Units.

Wildlife species for which a Designatable Units report is needed:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Range in Canada	Suggested contract value and time frame for first draft.
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Steelhead Trout	BC, Pacific Ocean	$20,000 Fall 2027
Steelhead are found along the length of British Columbia's coastline and concerns have been expressed about the status of many populations. There are likely a number of Designatable Units (DUs) within this range. COSEWIC's guidelines for DU designation will be used to develop putative DUs for this species. An ATK report has been prepared for this species. ATK information relevant to the DU report will be shared with COSEWIC Report Writer(s) for integration into the DU report.			
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog	ON, QC	$4,000.00 Fall 2027
There has been recent genetic work completed in the Lougheed lab to clarify the DU structure. The contractor will use available reconstructions of DU abundance, ATK, and other sources of information for the assessment.			

Part 4: Conditions of Contract and Instructions for Submitting Bids

Notice

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) seeks experts from the private or public sector to prepare a report on the status of the wildlife species listed in **Part 2** above for the Fall 2026 Call for Bids.

Background

COSEWIC assesses wildlife species (including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes, arthropods, molluscs, vascular plants, mosses, and lichens) that are at risk of extinction or extirpation from Canada. Assessments are based on comprehensive wildlife species status reports on each wildlife species. Contracts are administered by Environment Canada via the COSEWIC Secretariat.

COSEWIC may identify DUs below the species level based on criteria for discreteness and evolutionary significance that are related to factors such as established taxonomy, genetic variation, range disjunction, and biogeographic distinction including regional climates. Guidelines for recognizing DUs below the species level are available at: https://cosewic.ca/index.php/en/reports/preparing-status-reports/guidelines-recognizing-designatable-units.html.

Description of work

The contractor will use the best available information on the wildlife species, including scientific, community, and ATK, to write a comprehensive status report that will form the basis of an assessment on the status of the wildlife species in Canada, or a designatable unit report that may lead to a status report.

The content and format of the status report will conform to the Instructions for preparing COSEWIC status reports found on the COSEWIC web page which specifies headings, the content under each heading, range maps, other figures and appendices. The contractor will also be required to use the typographic and editorial style set out in the templates for status report (full status report, Addendum status report) preparation found on the COSEWIC website. Any illustrations or graphics used must be originals prepared by the contractor or, if not, appropriate authorization for their use must be obtained and clearly cited in the report.

Beginning in 2012, COSEWIC status reports and addenda also include Threats Classification and Assessment Calculators. Writers are expected to attend related teleconferences and to assist with this process.

The contractor will actively seek out all relevant and important existing sources of scientific, community and ATK. The contractor will also contact COSEWIC representatives from jurisdictions responsible for the wildlife species, as well as relevant

Wildlife Management Boards, recovery team co-chairs (as applicable), and Conservation Data Centres to obtain the most recent information on the wildlife species. Contact information for the above agencies / organizations is provided in the required contacts for information on wildlife species.

The contractor is required to contact the COSEWIC Secretariat to obtain detailed instructions and ensure that methodologies and concepts are applied correctly and consistently in the preparation of wildlife species distribution maps and in the calculation of the extent of occurrence and index of area of occupancy. In addition, the contractor must submit to the COSEWIC Secretariat all survey data (wildlife species observation / localities, search effort), whether collected during fieldwork performed in the course of writing the status report or obtained from other sources. Every effort should be made to ensure that all data obtained can be transferred to COSEWIC by obtaining proper permissions.

Contractors should have a good understanding of COSEWIC's assessment criteria and the definitions of terms used within the criteria before writing the report. This will allow the contractor to better describe the wildlife species' situation in preparation for COSEWIC's assessment. COSEWIC's assessment criteria and definitions can be found in Table 2 and Table 8 on the COSEWIC web page at https://cosewic.ca/index.php/en/assessment-process/cosewic-assessment-process-categories-and-guidelines.html.

In 2005, COSEWIC initiated an effort to solicit community knowledge on wildlife species for which status reports are commissioned. COSEWIC may receive information on wildlife species from the Community Knowledge section of its website. Information obtained through this source, including additional contact names, will be forwarded to the contractor for consideration and incorporation into the status report.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to include ATK relevant to the wildlife species status assessment in the status report (species for which a separate ATK report is being considered are identified in **Part 2** above). This will be facilitated through the ATK Subcommittee, which will also review any ATK gathered by the contractor. All holders of ATK contacted must be appropriately acknowledged. Contractors must contact the COSEWIC Secretariat ATK Coordinator before commencing work on the status report. Contact information for the COSEWIC Secretariat ATK Coordinator and more information about gathering ATK are provided in the Instructions for preparing COSEWIC status reports.

Site verification may be required for the status report. Wildlife species requiring fieldwork are identified in **Part 2** above. Field expenses as well as the cost of producing the field summary report should be included as part of the proposed contract value. Field expenses and a field summary report should not exceed 1/3 of the contract value. Contractors verifying field sites are required to obtain permission from private landowners before accessing private land. If the fieldwork can be completed with less expense using a rental vehicle rather than a private vehicle, contractors shall rent.

Field verification is required for some status reports. More fieldwork would be expected for species with old or inadequate (e.g., no population count) field survey data. Potentially suitable habitats should be surveyed to the extent that is reasonable under the proposed budget limits. Successful report writers will have access to previous locality data to assist them in finding sites. Access to private properties for survey purposes requires landowner permission. Suggested contract values include some funds for time required in determining land ownership and contacting landowners. The value for field verifications cannot exceed one-third of the contract value. Please see **Appendix 1** for updated travel rates and guidelines for information on estimating field expenses.

Expenses for transportation, accommodations and meal allowances should be estimated using the guidelines outlined in Appendix 1 of this document. Automobile liability insurance will need to be maintained in force for the duration of the fieldwork for a limit of liability not less than $2,000,000 per accident or occurrence, in addition to physical damage insurance.

Once completed, the report will be subjected to a review process. The Draft Report, after receiving approval by the relevant COSEWIC Species Specialist Subcommittee (SSC) Co-chair, will be reviewed by the relevant SSC members, the ATK Subcommittee, the jurisdiction(s), relevant Wildlife Management Boards, recovery team Co-chairs (as applicable), and any other external reviewers recommended by the SSC. Comments and suggestions will be forwarded to the report writer with instructions from the SSC Co-chair for changes that must be incorporated to produce the Provisional Report. These review periods take over 3 months to complete. Over the course of subsequent review and the COSEWIC assessment, further modifications may be made to the report. Following the COSEWIC assessment, a final document entitled **COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report** will be published on the SARA Public Registry and/or will be archived at the COSEWIC Secretariat. Please note that a full status report contract typically takes 18 months to complete due to the various review stages.

Additional optional work to be offered to winning bidders

In addition to the preparation of the status reports, the winning bidders may be offered the task to produce a description of the wildlife species' residence using a defined set of guidelines and following a provided template. This part of the contract will be administered separately by Environment Canada. The information gathered describing the wildlife species' residence will be requested at the same time as the Draft Report. The separate document detailing the wildlife species' residence will be for a maximum value of $1000.00 over and above the contract amount suggested in the Call for Bids. The concept of residence may not apply to all wildlife species and will not be required for aquatic species, vascular plants, or lichens.

In addition to the preparation of the status reports, the winning bidders will need to provide, at the Post-Provisional Status Report Stage, Alternative text for the figures. A long description may be required for more complex figures requiring more information.

The separate work for Alternative text and/or long description will be for a maximum value of $750.00 over and above the contract amount suggested in the Call for Bids.

Acknowledgment for the preparation of COSEWIC Status Reports

COSEWIC status reports commissioned after May 2001 are "living documents". After the report is concluded, any subsequent updates to status reports will be prepared simply by adding new information to the existing report and, where appropriate, by updating factual information. COSEWIC will be cited as the author on the cover page (ownership and copyright will rest with the Crown). Contractors who produce the initial status report or add information to the "living document" to produce an updated status report will be acknowledged as having prepared the status report. Over time, the Acknowledgements will list the contributors (report writers) who have provided their expertise.

Copyright and moral rights

Environment and Climate Change Canada has determined that any intellectual property arising from the performance of the Work under the Contract will vest in the Crown on the grounds that the production of the report and related documents are subject to Copyright and that the report is being produced to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination.

At the request of Environment and Climate Change Canada, the contractor will provide to the Crown a written permanent waiver of Moral Rights[1] from all authors of the report, in a form acceptable to Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The contractor will be granted a license to use, copy, reproduce and publish portions of the Provisional Report provided that 1) the Contractor will not publish the entire Provisional Report, or distribute it to any third party, and 2) the Contractor acknowledges that the Crown has contributed Crown Copyright in the Provisional Report and includes the following notice and disclaimer in any new document which incorporates portions of the report: "*Notice: Some of the information used or referenced in this document is Crown Copyright, compiled on behalf of COSEWIC under a contract with Environment Canada, however, comments or conclusions made by the author using this information do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Environment and Climate Change Canada or COSEWIC."*

Property Rights in ATK

ATK is the property of those who hold it. Contractors will require permission for gathering ATK using appropriate consent forms to be provided. Knowledge holders will be provided with an opportunity to review and validate the factual information shared

[1] Moral rights, as defined by the Copyright Act, include a) the right of having the author's name associated with the Work, where reasonable in the circumstances; and b) the right to the integrity of the Work such as preventing the Work from being changed, corrected or amended.

with the report writer before it is integrated into the status report. Raw information (e.g., transcripts, tapes, etc.) will be returned to the knowledge holder or the community for storage. The report writer shall not have any intellectual property rights in the knowledge provided from Aboriginal sources.

Awarding of Contracts

COSEWIC aims to seek out experts who will prepare the best possible wildlife species status reports. The best expertise may reside in the public or private sector, and as such, this Call for Bids is open to both.

As per the Treasury Board Contracting Policy, applicants who work for the public service **must** discuss with their employer and Conflict of Interest group of their plans to apply and whether they plan to do the work during work time or outside of work time. Employer consent will be required before a contract is signed. More information may be found here (http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=14494&section=text#sec16.9). There are also specific provisions within the Treasury Board Contracting Policy that pertain to former public servants in receipt of a pension or a lump sum payment.

The COSEWIC Call for Bids is a tool to advertise the need for writers of COSEWIC status reports or other reports. This Call for Bids does not guarantee that the work outlined in this document will go forward.

Minimizing conflicts dealing with the awarding of contracts

- Ministerial appointees under SARA (i.e. COSEWIC members) may be considered Public Office Holders (POHs) and must seek advice from the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner (OCIEC) before engaging in any contract bid and ensure approval has been provided before accepting the contract. **As such, it is recommended that appointed COSEWIC members do not bid on COSEWIC contracts**
- If an SSC member plans to bid on a status report, he or she must not be involved with setting the amount of the contract, advertising the contract, or selecting a winning bid.
- Members involved in drafting contract criteria or associated discussions must not later submit bids for those contracts.
- Members must formally recuse themselves from participating in evaluations or administration of contracts on which they bid.

Value of contract

Allowable expenditures in the bid will include all professional services, fees (including applicable administrative fees), expenses including long-distance telephone calls, photocopying, courier, and travel in the course of research (including appropriate insurance for car rental or business use of private vehicle). Standard government

contracting conditions will apply. **Appendix 1 provides additional guidelines for estimating travel expenses for field work if applicable (see Part 2).**

Schedule of deliverables and payments

Suggested timeframes to complete Draft Reports are provided for individual projects in **Part 2**. A detailed schedule of deliverables and payments is to be determined for successful candidates in discussions with SSC Co-chairs. Report writers are expected to submit their deliverables promptly on or before midnight of the due dates identified in their contract. For all payments, the deliverable must first be approved as acceptable by the SSC Co-chair. If a description of the wildlife species' residence was requested (refer to **Additional optional work to be offered to winning bidders**), the deliverable must first be approved as acceptable by the relevant Environment and Climate Change Canada representatives before payment is issued.

Bid Evaluation

Bids received will be evaluated by at least three members of the relevant COSEWIC Species Specialist Subcommittee according to the following criteria:

Individuals preparing bids for COSEWIC status reports or other reports must adhere to the Bid Submission Template for each submission.

Bids that do not conform to the format and content of the Bid Submission Template will not be accepted by the COSEWIC Secretariat.

COSEWIC will only accept bids for single reports, except where specified otherwise in **Part 2.**

Evaluation Criteria for Bids

Mandatory Requirements	**Meets**	
Bid must conform to the formatting and length requirements in the Bid Submission Template. All components of the template must be completed.	**Yes**	**No**
The applicant must be willing to cede intellectual rights to the Crown, and be willing to waive moral rights in the report.	**Yes**	**No**

Rated Criteria

Applicant's total score	**Information and content provided is…**
UNSATISFACTORY: 0-69%	considered not acceptable for meeting the criteria for selection.
GOOD: 70-79%	sufficient and will likely meet the specified requirements.
VERY GOOD: 80-90%	more than sufficient and will more than meet the specified requirements.
EXCELLENT: 91-100%	exceptional. Services offered exceed the specified requirements.

Bid Evaluation Grid

	Category	Maximum score*****
1	**Knowledge** (including academic background, knowledge of wildlife species, knowledge of how to access information relevant for a COSEWIC status report or designatable unit report, including knowledge of French and/or English as needed to understand and synthesize available information, and an understanding of the respective roles of Report Writers and COSEWIC in drafting reports and producing assessments).	30
2	**Writing Experience** (prior experience with COSEWIC and other reports if applicable, evidence of ability to incorporate editorial comments and of meeting deadlines, publication record. Ability to integrate ATK if required).	40
3	**Work plan and budget** (showing attainment of objectives within suggested time frame, expenditure justification (including allotment of no more than one third contract value for field verifications and its associated report, as well as consideration of the suggested value of the contract from the Call for Bids), availability of time to write report and incorporate editorial changes. In the case of a team application, clear description of each person's task and skills.******)	30
	Total	**100**
***** for each of the three rated categories, the bidder must show evidence of ability in all of the sub-categories indicated to attain a high score for the		

category. Evidence of poor performance in one sub-category could lead to a very low score.

****** for bidders who have submitted multiple bids, evaluators will consider the feasibility of awarding multiple contracts to the same bidder, depending on the timelines and work required for each project.

Proposals will be evaluated, and the contract awarded by the Secretariat, based on the above requirements. Evaluators will study each bidder's proposal, consult the references submitted by the bidder, and if required consult other references knowledgeable about the bidder's work. Bids may be accepted in whole or in part, with or without negotiation.

The bidder with the lowest cost estimate will not necessarily be accepted. The contract award will be made by the Secretariat on the basis of best overall value to COSEWIC in terms of both technical merit and cost.

Questions, bid submission and acknowledgement

Questions and bids may be submitted to the COSEWIC Secretariat at **cosewic-cosepac@ec.gc.ca**. Bid submissions should include the following subject line "Bid for ***[wildlife species name]***".

A pdf version of the Bid Submission Template is available on the COSEWIC website. Please print, complete, and scan the template to submit bid to the Secretariat.

For a word document of the Bid Submission Template, please contact the Secretariat.

Deadline: Thursday, January 14 at 3pm Eastern Standard time. Late bids will not be accepted.

An acknowledgement of bid receipt will be sent by the Secretariat via email (unless an alternative method is requested) to each applicant within two business days. **If an acknowledgement is not received within this time, please contact the Secretariat by email.** During the last two days of the Call for Bids, the Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of bids as soon as possible, and at the latest, by the end of the business day that follows last day of the competition.

Appendix 1: Travel Rates and Guidelines

The following rates and guidelines should be used as a guide when planning fieldwork-related expenses. These are the approximate maximum claim amounts (subject to minor changes twice per year) for use of personal vehicle, accommodations, and meal allowances, although contractors are free to bill for lesser amounts. **Expenses should reflect the number of days for each type of expense.** Receipts are required for certain expenses, as indicated.

Please note that for contracts involving site verifications, the total value of the site verification travel expenses should generally be limited to one-third of the contract value, including both the travel expenses and the work to write the field report summary. Thus, except under specific circumstances, the overall budget should be designed to reflect this. It is also important to ensure estimated costs for the field work include all possible costs in order that the amount eventually billed is the same or less than the estimated costs.

Please note that estimated fieldwork expenses should include appropriate insurance coverage for automobile rental or business use of private vehicle (minimum $ 2 million liability, plus physical damage insurance) for the duration of the planned fieldwork. Note that automobile insurance in place for personal use will often not meet the contractor's obligation under the terms of this type of contract; therefore the contractor must obtain proper automobile insurance for use of its own vehicle when performing work under the contract or rent a vehicle with increased/extended insurance coverage.

Summary of travel expenses allowed for reimbursement

Car rental: receipt required for rental, receipts required for gas

Private vehicle (gas included) (Note that if the fieldwork can be completed with less expense using a rental vehicle rather than a private vehicle, contractors shall rent. The following rates are payable in cents per kilometre based on the province or territory of registration of the vehicle).	**Cents/km (taxes included)**
Alberta	59.5
British Columbia	63.0
Manitoba	59.0
New Brunswick	63.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	65.5
Northwest Territories	74.5
Nova Scotia	63.5
Nunavut	70.0

Ontario	66.0
Prince Edward Island	63.0
Quebec	64.5
Saskatchewan	58.5
Yukon	74.0

Commercial accommodations: Receipt required.

Accommodations in a private residence: claim $50.00 (private non-commercial accommodation allowance).

Meal Allowances (excluding YT, NT, NU, which are higher):
Breakfast: $29.95 (no receipt required)
Lunch: $30.55 (no receipt required)
Dinner: $62.70 (no receipt required)
Total per day: $123.20 (no receipt required)

Effective July 1, 2017, incidental expenses can be claimed only by Government employees.