



ALBERTA INNOVATES

# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

WATER INNOVATION

## FUNDING DETAILS

### 2025 AquaHacking Prairies Challenge

The 2025 AquaHacking Prairies Challenge is a tech innovation competition that engages post-secondary students and young professionals to tackle the most pressing freshwater issues across the Prairies region. For this edition of the Challenge, teams will be tackling small-scale agricultural water management, invasives species management and community decision making tools for extreme water events.

Over the course of the program, young participants are mentored by water experts, business professionals and Indigenous knowledge holders. Participants gain essential experiential and applied learning that complements their studies. Finalists that emerge from the program will transform their research into IP and market-focused solutions for real problems.



#### RECIPIENT:

AquaAction



#### PARTNERS:

Centre for Indigenous  
Environmental  
Resources, Prairies  
Economic Development  
Canada



#### TOTAL BUDGET:

\$631,594



#### AI FUNDING:

\$249,000



#### PROJECT DATES:

NOV 2024 –  
APR 2026



#### PROJECT TRL:

Start: 1  
End: 4

### APPLICATION

The AquaHacking Prairies Challenge is a tech innovation competition and launchpad for water tech entrepreneurs, as well as an accredited professional development program to ensure climate-passionate young professionals receive hands-on problem-solving experience, are more water-savvy and ready for the job market of the future.



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## PROJECT GOALS

The goal of this project is to run the 2025 AquaHacking Prairies Challenge, kick-starting up to 5 new water tech start-ups.

## BENEFITS TO ALBERTA

- Development of next generation freshwater focused entrepreneurs.
- Attraction of new capital and generation of new revenue through water tech start-ups.
- Job creation
- Growth of the innovation ecosystem.
- Progress towards sustainable development goals.



5 New Products/Services



5 Spinoff Companies

## CURRENT STATUS

AUG 2025

Registration for the AquaHacking Prairies Challenge is closed. Teams are formed and working with the Water Issue Leaders and Indigenous Knowledge Holders. The semi-final is planned for October 4, 2025 and the final for February 6, 2026.