



OCCUPATIONAL MORAL INJURY: IMPLICATIONS FOR RCMP MEMBERS POST-SERVICE COMPETITION NUMBER: ATLAS-2526-03

GUIDELINES

Please refer to the [Atlas Institute research funding guidelines](#), which provide further information on eligibility, submission expectations, adjudication process, funding process, SGBA+ requirements, and engaging with persons with lived and living expertise requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES

The below dates pertain to the full [Application for funding](#) submission:

Application open: September 2, 2025

Application close: October 14, 2025 at 11:59 p.m., Eastern time

Anticipated notice of decision: December, 2025 to January, 2026

DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC AREA

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members may be exposed to a range of operational and organizational stressors over the course of their careers. Among these are experiences that challenge deeply held moral or ethical beliefs, including exposure to or participation in actions that conflict with personal or professional values. Such experiences may result in moral injury, a psychological and emotional response associated with guilt, shame, or loss of trust in oneself or others. Moral injury is increasingly recognized as distinct from post-traumatic stress and may have lasting impacts on mental health and identity.

In addition, some former members report experiences of institutional betrayal, a sense that the organization failed to protect, support, or respond appropriately in moments of vulnerability or harm. This can include perceived inaction, punishment for speaking out, or inadequate support following traumatic incidents. The compounding impact of moral injury and institutional betrayal may contribute to post-service difficulties such as depression, anxiety, withdrawal from care systems, and impaired social relationships. However, there remains a significant gap in understanding how these experiences manifest in RCMP members specifically, both during and after service.

This research funding opportunity seeks to advance knowledge on the mental health impacts of occupational moral injury and institutional betrayal among former RCMP members. A deeper understanding of these phenomena can support the development of more appropriate prevention, intervention, and support strategies tailored to this unique public safety population.

OBJECTIVES AND ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

This research funding opportunity will support a two-year project that aims to understand and explore the experience of occupational moral injury and institutional betrayal among former RCMP members, and the impact of these experiences on mental health post-service. Research projects may focus on how moral injury and perceived institutional betrayal affect psychological well-being, identity, help-seeking, and reintegration into civilian life. The population of interest are former RCMP members who can speak to the long-term impacts of morally injurious events and organizational responses experienced during service.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The total funding available for this opportunity is up to \$75,000 CAD.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- The Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher affiliated with a Canadian post-secondary institution whose appointment continues until the conclusion of the funding period
- **OR** an individual affiliated with an Indigenous non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate
- **OR** an individual affiliated with a Veteran/Veteran Family non-governmental organization in Canada with a research or knowledge mobilization mandate.
- The Principal Applicant must have completed an SGBA+ course with proof of certification from a Canadian institution

HOW TO APPLY

The Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families uses an email application process. A complete application includes the full [*Application for funding*](#), a completed Conflict of interest form, and an up-to-date CV, submitted as a single PDF to atlasresearch@theroyal.ca, referencing the competition number in the subject line of the email.

Checklist:

- Completed [*Application for funding*](#)
- [*Conflict of interest*](#) form
- CV of Principal Applicant

ADJUDICATION

Applicants have six weeks to submit the [*Application for funding*](#). All [*Applications for funding*](#) are adjudicated by an external Scientific Review Committee, based on standardized scoring criteria.