



WOMEN4CLIMATE TORONTO MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AND PITCH CONTEST (2023/2024)

OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

Applying to the Women4ClimateToronto Mentorship Program and Pitch Contest (the "Competition") constitutes your acceptance of these Competition Rules.

1. **SPONSOR:** The Competition is sponsored by the City of Toronto, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 (the "Sponsor").
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Competition is open to female-identifying or two-spirited individuals who:
 - apply to the Women4Climate Toronto Mentorship Program;
 - are at least 18 years old;
 - at the time of applying, reside, work, or attend a secondary school, college or university in Toronto or the Greater Toronto Area which includes the following municipalities:
 - Peel Region (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon)
 - York Region (Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Whitchurch- Stouffville, Aurora, King, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Georgina)
 - Durham Region (Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Uxbridge, Scugog, Brock)
 - Halton Region (Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills);
 - have an established climate focused project, product, or start-up business; and
 - have intellectual property rights to the project, product, or start-up business.

Toronto's population is made up of diverse communities and groups. The City of Toronto values the contributions made by all residents and is committed to its motto, "Diversity Our Strength".

The City of Toronto recognizes the barriers presented by discrimination and the disadvantages faced by equity-deserving groups and vulnerable populations. In particular, the City recognizes the unique status and cultural diversity of Indigenous communities and their right to self-determination.

Women4Climate Toronto acknowledges the importance of intersectionality and encourages applications from female-identifying and two-spirited applicants of diverse cultures, races, religions and abilities.

The following individuals are not eligible to enter the Competition:

- City of Toronto employees, its members of council and members of their immediate families (spouse, parent, sibling or child) as well as those living in the same household as City of Toronto employees or its members of council;
- City of Toronto agency and corporation employees, their board members and members of their immediate families (spouse, parent, sibling or child) as well as those living in the same household as City of Toronto agency and corporation employees or their board members;
- members of the jury panels (who are involved in the Mentee selection process and the pitch competition adjudication process) and members of their immediate families (spouse, parent, sibling or child) as well as those living in the same household as members of the jury panels;



- Mentees of the 2022/2023 Women4Climate Toronto Mentorship Program cohort; or
- a bidder, proponent or applicant to a procurement involving the City of Toronto concurrent to the Mentorship Program.

Individuals who apply to the Competition (an "Entrant") acknowledge compliance with, and agree to be bound by these Competition Rules including, but not limited to the eligibility requirements set out above. Entrants who do not comply with any of the Competition Rules are subject to disqualification by the Sponsor, in the Sponsor's sole discretion.

3. COMPETITION DATES AND TIMES:

Applications:

The Competition starts on October 29, 2023 at 5:00 pm EDT, at which point applications may be made to the Women4Climate Toronto Mentorship Program. Applications will be accepted until November 20, 2023 at 11:59.59 pm EDT after which time no further applications will be accepted. The sole determinant of time for the making of an application is the City of Toronto microsite records for the application information.

Entrants:

Interested persons must apply as an individual. We acknowledge that there may be group projects; however, upon applying to the program, one individual must be appointed as representative by the group. Should the group project be selected to participate in the Mentorship Program and Pitch Competition, their appointed representative will act as the Mentee and should the group project be awarded a Prize, their appointed representative will be the recipient of the Prize. Once a group representative has been appointed, no changes can be made.

Selection of Mentees:

The Competition judging period for selecting 10 to 12 Mentees will commence on or about November 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m. EDT, and will conclude on or about December 15, 2023, 11:59:59 p.m. EDT. The jury panel will be looking for evidence of Entrants' ongoing commitment to climate action in cities and innovative projects. Entrants' projects should involve the residents and communities of Toronto wherever possible. The goals of the project can be global, but they should relate to climate action at the local level. The project must align with the City of Toronto's TransformTO and/or Resilience Strategy. The jury panel will consider applications for project ideas related to one or more of the following climate priorities:

- Sustainable Waste Management
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Buildings
- Sustainable Transport
- Air Quality
- Circular Economy
- Biodiversity

All valid applications will be reviewed by a jury panel. All Entrants will be notified of their status by email, no later than December 1, 2023. The top 15 - 20 shortlisted Entrants will be asked



to participate in an interview and must make themselves available during December 6 -10 , 2023 (exact date and time to be determined).

Following the interview process, the selected 10 - 12 Mentees will be notified by means of the e-mail address provided on their applications on or around December 15, 2023 at approximately 12:00 pm EDT. The Mentees must respond by e-mail, confirm their eligibility, and complete all required documentation within three business days of notification. If a Mentee does not respond in accordance with these Competition Rules, they will be disqualified, and the Entrant who was selected as having the next best application by the jury panel will become a Mentee. The Sponsor is not responsible for the failure for any reason whatsoever of a Mentee to receive notification or for the Sponsor to receive a Mentee's response.

The official activities of the Women4ClimateToronto Mentorship Program will begin during the week of January 22, 2024.

The Mentees will be expected to attend an in-person orientation session and Climate Knowledge Lab workshop in Toronto during the week of January 22-26, 2024 (exact date to be determined).

Mentorship Program Activities and Honoraria:

The Mentees will participate in six months of activities from January 2024 to June 2024 which include:

- Meetings with three assigned mentors for two 45-minute mentorship sessions each
- Participate in four mentorship knowledge labs on the following topics: Overview of TransformTO Climate Action Strategy, business and financial planning, marketing and communication techniques and pitch preparation.

Pitch Competition and Prizes:

A Pitch Contest judged by a jury panel who will select the Competition Runners-up and Winner:

- 2 Runner-up Prizes of \$5000 each, and
- 1 Winner Prize of \$20,000.

The Mentees must attend at least 80 per cent of the Women4Climate Toronto Mentorship Program activities to be eligible for the Prizes and must complete session evaluation forms. Women4ClimateToronto Mentorship Program activities and the Pitch Contest may be held virtually or in-person. Mentees will be notified if Women4Climate Toronto Mentorship Program activities and/or the Pitch Contest are to be held in-person and/or virtually.

- Mentees may pitch only one idea or concept which must be the original work of the individual or team and must be the concept initially accepted into the Women4ClimateTO Mentorship Program.
- Pitch ideas or concepts deemed by the jury panel to be deceptive, insincere, unethical, immoral, or offensive may be disqualified from the Competition.



- Mentees must complete an online written submission questions will be provided two – to three weeks in advance of the pitch competition.
- The written submission will be reviewed by the jury panel in advance of the Pitch Contest and will be considered along with the mentee's pitch as part of the overall evaluation of their project.

Prior to the Pitch Contest, Mentees must register for a time slot to deliver their pitch. If accommodation is required women4climateTO@toronto.ca should be contacted in advance.

- Pitches may be conducted in-person or virtually over the WebEx platform. Only visual aids that can be viewed equally as well over the WebEx platform and during an in-person presentation, may be used.
- Pitches will be five minutes in length and there will be up to eight minutes allotted for a question-and-answer period with the jury panel, for a total allotted time of thirteen minutes.
- Mentees are reminded that by entering and participating in this Competition they have licensed, for the purposes of the Competition only, intellectual property rights in any application or pitch to the Sponsor, including, but not limited to, copyright and all economic rights, and have waived their moral rights with respect of the use of the license, with no compensation or further consent required. More generally, confidentiality is not guaranteed in any way and any material that the mentee does not wish to be disclosed to other competitors, audience members, judges or anyone else should not be included in their submission or their pitch.

4. HOW TO APPLY: Entrants may only apply online by visiting the Competition website at Toronto.ca/women4Climate and following the links and instructions to make an application. For purposes of this Competition, receipt of an Internet application occurs when City of Toronto microsite records the application information. Entrants may only submit one application per project and only the first application will be valid. Each application will be registered and time coded.

Any attempt or suspected attempt to use robotic, automatic, programmed, or other illicit means to make an application, or any other methods not authorized by these Competition Rules, for example but not limited to, creating multiple accounts, identities, or registrations shall be deemed, all in the Sponsor's sole discretion, as tampering and may disqualify the individual or team from applying, participating and/or winning the Prizes. Applications that contain false or incomplete information may be void. Applications that do not conform with or satisfy any or all of the conditions of the Competition Rules may be deemed void. All applications become the property of the Sponsor upon receipt. No correspondence will be entered into except for the status email to Entrants as set out above, and with Mentees at the contact information provided in their applications. Proof of transmission (screenshots or captures, etc.) does not constitute proof of receipt of an application.

5. COMPETITION PRIZES: The Competition Prizes (the "Prizes") will be awarded to three of the Mentees, two runners-up and a winner of the Pitch Contest (the "Runners-up" and "Winner") and will consist of the following:

Each Runner-Up:

- \$3,000 within 90 days after the award is made.



- \$2,000 on submission of a report with respect to the progress of the pitch by the Runner-up to the Sponsor on October 1, 2024,
for a total Prize of \$5,000 each.

Winner:

- \$15,000 within 90 days after the award is made.
- \$ 5,000 on submission of a report with respect to the progress of the pitch by the Winner to the Sponsor on October 1, 2024,
for a total Prize of \$20,000.

Three Prizes will be awarded. The Prizes will be mailed to the address on file for the Runner-up or Winner or alternate arrangements may be made.

6. ODDS OF WINNING: The odds of winning depend on the number of applications, the quality of the applications and quality of the Mentee pitches.

7. COMMUNICATION WITH THE RUNNERS-UP AND WINNER: The Runners-up and Winner will be notified during Pitch Contest. The Runners-up and Winner must complete and return by e-mail, the eligibility form, and all other required documentation within 24 hours of receipt. If a Runner-up or Winner does not return the required documentation in accordance with these Competition Rules, they will be disqualified, will not receive their Prize, and the Prizes will be awarded according to the rankings of the remaining Mentees. For example, if the Winner is disqualified, then the second-ranked Mentee will become the Winner, the third-ranked Mentee will become the first Runner-up and the fourth-ranked Mentee will become the second Runner-up. The Sponsor is not responsible for the failure for any reason whatsoever of a Runner-up or Winner to receive notification or for the Sponsor to receive a Runner-up or Winner's response.

8. RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION: All Entrants assume any and all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by entering, participating in the Competition and release, discharge and hold harmless the Sponsor, its members of council, officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns and all others associated with the administration, development and execution of the Competition ("Released Parties") from and against any and all manner of action, cause of action, claim or demand, loss or injury, use or misuse of the Prizes, suit, debt, covenant, contract, including legal fees and expenses, whatsoever, including but not limited to, claims based on negligence, breach of contract and fundamental breach, failure of any third party contractor or supplier used in connection with any aspect of the Competition to perform or deliver any goods or services, any act of God or any other event beyond the Released Parties' control, any dissatisfaction of any kind by an Entrant with any aspect of the Competition or the Prizes, liability for physical injury, death, or property damage which the Entrants, their heirs, successors or assigns have, might have or could have suffered, by reason of or arising out of their participation in the Competition.

All Entrants indemnify the Released Parties against any loss, damage, or expense, including legal fees that any of the Released Parties may suffer or incur as a result of any non-compliance by an Entrant with any of the Competition Rules or participation in the Competition.



By entering and participating in this Competition, each Entrant warrants that their application and each Mentee warrants that their pitch is original and does not infringe any third-party intellectual property and agrees to license, for the purposes of the Competition only, intellectual property rights in any application or pitch to the Sponsor, including, but not limited to, copyright and all economic rights, and to waive their moral rights respect of the use of the license, with no compensation or further consent required.

The Runners-up and Winner must provide proof of identification and sign a Declaration of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release form (the "Declaration") to: confirm compliance with the Competition Rules; agree to accept the Prizes as awarded; and release, discharge and hold harmless the "Released Parties". The signed Declaration must be returned to the Sponsor by e-mail within five business days after it is sent to the Runners-up and Winner.

The Sponsor is not responsible for: incorrect or inaccurate application information which may affect an individual's ability to participate in the Competition or be awarded the Prizes, including but not limited to human error, technical malfunctions, lost or delayed applications for any reason, omission, or any combination thereof, and applications which fail to fully comply with these Competition Rules; technical failures of any kind at any time, including but not limited to, malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software; lost, incomplete, delayed, mutilated or misdirected applications or Declarations; injury or damage to an Entrant's computer or to any other individual's computer related to or resulting from participating in, or downloading any material regarding the Competition or being awarded the Prizes; any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from an Entrant's participation in the Competition or receipt or use or misuse of the Prizes; the security or privacy of information transmitted via computer networks or for breaches of privacy due to interference by third party computer "hackers" or otherwise; late, lost, misdirected or unsuccessful efforts to notify a Runner-up or Winner; or any part of the Prizes that cannot be awarded due to acts of God, acts of war, natural disasters, weather, acts of terrorism or other factors beyond the Released Parties' control.

9. CONDUCT: The Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Entrant if they are found to be: violating these Competition Rules; tampering or attempting to tamper with the application process or the operation of the Competition; acting in an un-sportsperson-like or disruptive manner, or with the intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person.

Any attempt by an Entrant or any other individual to undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition may be a violation of criminal and/or civil laws. Should any such attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek remedies and damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

10. OTHER CONDITIONS:

Termination or Amendment of the Competition: The Sponsor reserves the right to terminate or amend this Competition at any time and in any way, without prior notice. Without limiting the foregoing, if for any reason, the Competition is not capable of running as originally planned, such as tampering, the Sponsor reserves the right to cancel the Competition.

Publicity: Selection as a Mentee, a Runner-up or a Winner constitutes the Mentee, the Runner-up or the Winner's permission for the Sponsor or its designate to interview the Mentee,



the Runner-up or the Winner, to photograph, film and record the Mentee, the Runner-up or the Winner, and to use in any media throughout the world in perpetuity, their name, Prize won, biographic information, likeness, photograph, voice, audio or video recording and/or any statements made by them regarding the Competition for purposes of publicity or promotion without notice or additional compensation, notification or permission, except where prohibited by law. The Runners-up and the Winner agree to sign a publicity release confirming such consent prior to acceptance of the Prizes.

Law: The Competition is void where prohibited by law and is subject to all applicable Canadian federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and local laws. The Competition and these Competition Rules shall be governed exclusively by the laws of the province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable in Ontario, and any dispute shall be adjudicated by the courts sitting in Toronto, Ontario.

Privacy:

The collection of personal information from Entrants by the Sponsor is authorized by section 136 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* for the purposes of administering the Competition. The Sponsor will not sell, share, or otherwise disclose personal information of Entrants with third parties or agents, other than to third parties or agents engaged by the Sponsor to fulfill the above purposes or as permitted or required by the applicable laws. Questions about this collection can be directed to:

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