

# Clinical Trials Incubator

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Although Canadian-led investigator-initiated clinical trials (IITs) represent only one component of the larger Canadian pediatric cancer clinical trials landscape, we believe they are a critical element for access to the best care by children with cancer in Canada – particularly considering recent changes to the US National Institutes of Health’s policy on the funding of non-US sites for their participation in US-led academic consortia trials.

## The Problem

Clinical trials are critical to Canada’s health systems as they provide the necessary evidence to inform medical decisions. They can also be an important lifeline for patients providing access to promising novel therapies, which is especially important when standard treatment options have provided limited benefit.

However, access to pediatric cancer clinical trials is limited in Canada. Our national ability to initiate Canadian-led academic clinical trials is also limited and concentrated at the two largest centres – the reasoning for this is, ultimately, related to limited institutional support for investigators, particularly at smaller- and medium-sized sites, in addition to limited institutional and national expertise/infrastructure to successfully develop and conduct our own clinical trials. Resultingly, there is a widening gap in the trial infrastructure and resources available at these two large centres with limited support to initiate trials from other sites.

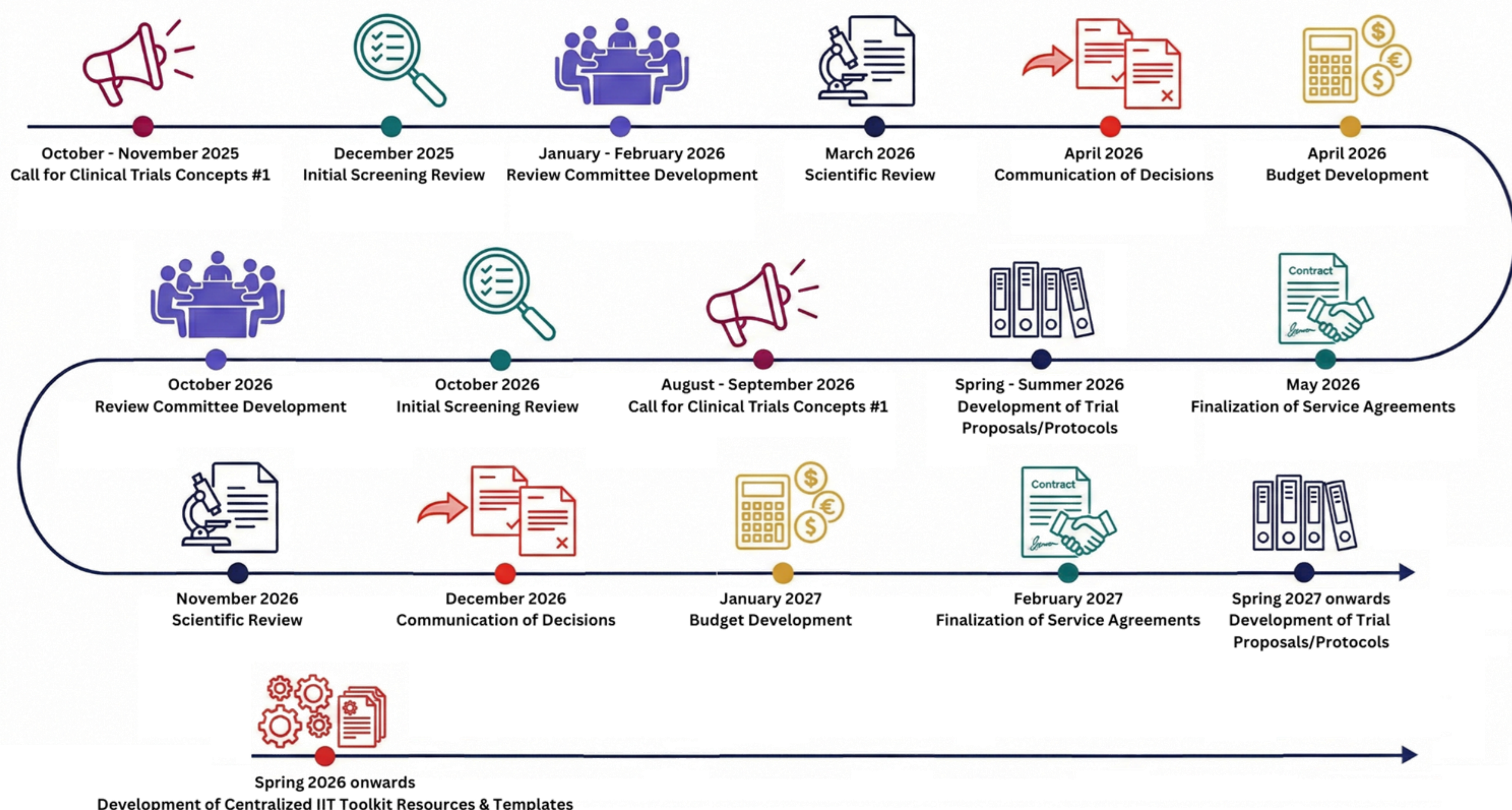
**Children in Canada deserve access to Canadian-led investigator-initiated trials**

## The Solution

A pediatric cancer-specific Clinical Trials Incubator that provides a range of services and resources/tools, and facilitates collaboration and mentorship opportunities, to assist in the development of clinical trial concepts into trial proposals or protocols – especially for investigators without access to the personnel, resources and expertise to do so.

**From Trial Idea → Trial Proposal → Trial Protocol**

## The Timeline



Visual graphics for this poster were generated using AI-assisted design tools and customized by the project team (2026).



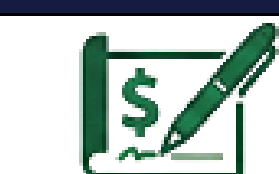



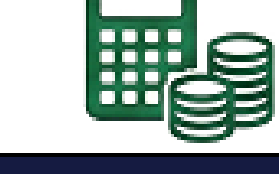



## The Toolkit



**A centralized, national toolkit – accessible to all investigators at all Canadian pediatric cancer centres**

## The Incubator

We are supporting clinical trial concepts in two stages of development:

 <b>Early Concept Stage</b>	 <b>Protocol Development Stage</b>
 Grant Writing Support	 Protocol & Ancillary Document Development
 Industry Engagement	 Regulatory Review
 Budget Development	 Budget Finalization
 Statistical Consultation	 Implementation Planning

**Where trials enter as ideas and leave ready to launch**

## The Impact

The Clinical Trials Incubator will:

- Establish a more equitable framework for Canadian-led pediatric cancer IITs
- Increase national capacity and strengthen investigator expertise to develop and conduct pediatric cancer IITs
- Expand trial access for children with cancer across Canada