

# THE OEB INNOVATION SANDBOX





## What is the OEB Innovation Sandbox?

The Sandbox is designed to support innovators through customized guidance and the opportunity to seek temporary relief from regulatory requirements that may prevent the rollout of a new product or service.



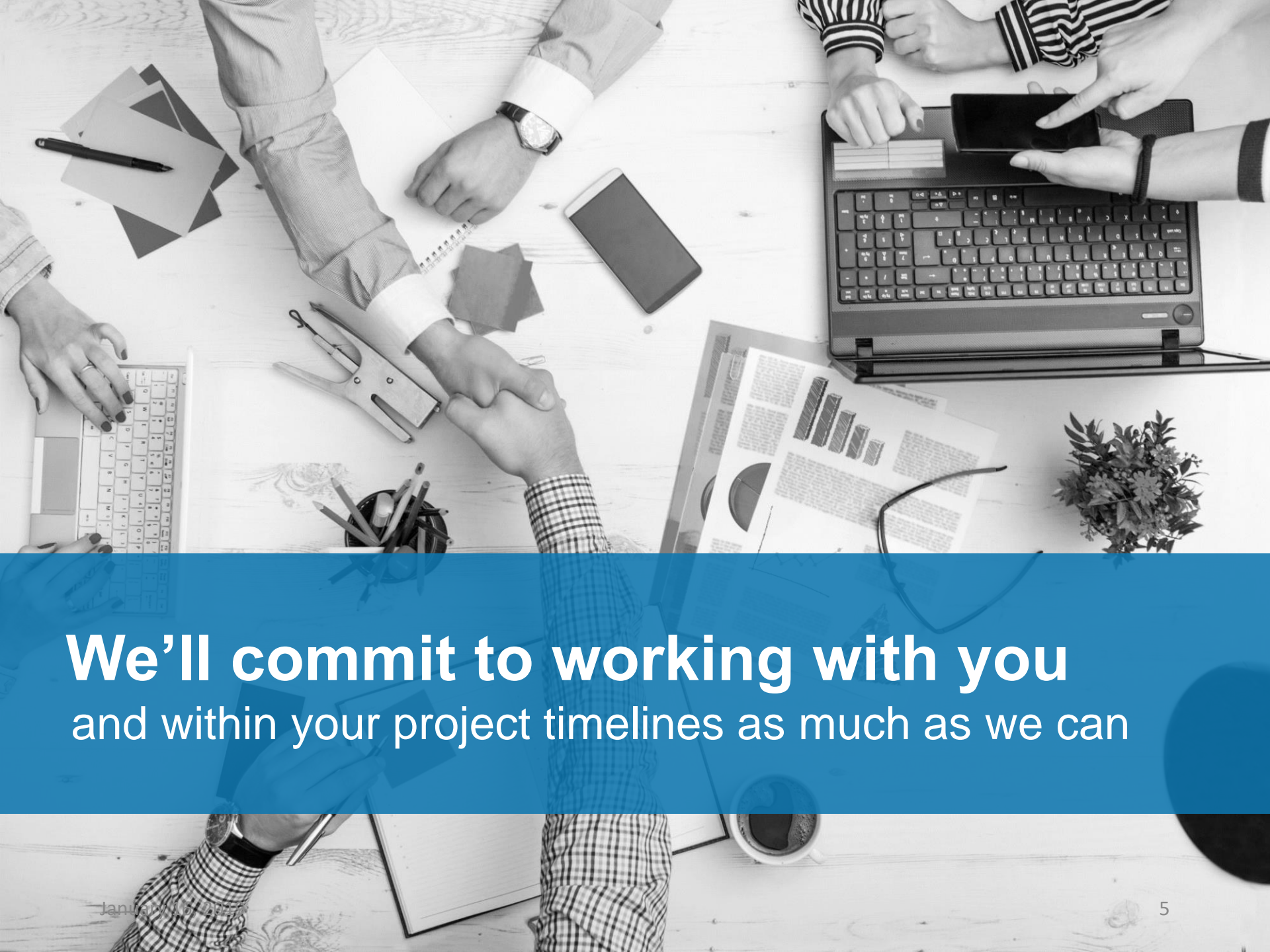
**We'll accept proposals at any time**  
No set submission deadlines.



## **We'll exchange information**

on an informal & candid basis to generate feedback & arrive at a common understanding of the proposal.





**We'll commit to working with you**  
and within your project timelines as much as we can



There must be a  
**prospect of tangible  
customer benefit.**

# Two Conceptual Groups of Proposals

## STREAM 1

Innovator seeks temporary relief from a specific regulatory requirement or provision

## STREAM 2

Other forms of support may be sufficient to move a project along

Not sure which to choose?  
Don't worry. We'll help you figure it out.






The main premise behind the sandbox is to make it easier to try out ideas.

Early examples from the UK and Singapore suggest that a sandbox could be a means for demonstrating the potential for substitutes for traditional wired solutions.




# Visit: oeb.ca/Innovation



## OEB'S INNOVATION SANDBOX


### Regulatory Sandbox



#### WHAT IS THE INNOVATION SANDBOX?

The Sandbox is a streamlined, accessible way for the OEB to support innovators to test new ideas, products, services, and business models in the electricity and natural gas sectors.


[Learn more](#)



#### WHY A SANDBOX? WHY NOW?

A regulatory sandbox is a concept pioneered in the financial services sector in the last few years, and one that's being replicated in the energy regulatory domain.

[Learn more](#)



#### HOW WILL IT ENABLE INNOVATION?

The OEB's Innovation Sandbox provides opportunities for innovators to exchange information and feedback informally with OEB staff.

[Learn more](#)

## How does the OEB Sandbox work?

Much of the sandbox process, particularly in the early stages, is about information sharing between proponents and OEB staff.


- No pre-set deadlines – innovators can come forward to the OEB at any time.
- Innovators can ask questions without the requirement to file a written proposal. Questions can be **filed through the website**.
- Specific proposals that innovators are interested in testing require a written application.
- Once a written proposal has been received, OEB staff will arrange a meeting to discuss the project and to ensure the proposal is sufficiently well described and key features and objectives are well understood.
- In some cases, additional information will be required before OEB staff can consider the proposal further.
- OEB staff will review the proposal, evaluate whether the project meets the eligibility criteria and examine the regulatory requirements that may be at issue and consider what supports can best move the project forward.
- Following OEB staff's review, the OEB will determine what support it may offer, including potential temporary relief from a regulatory requirement and/or customized guidance from OEB staff.


[Read more...](#)


## Have an innovative idea?

Read our FAQ first!

[Sandbox FAQ](#)

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## How does the Sandbox work?

There are two core components to the Sandbox process:

- An information service available at any time that provides the opportunity for candid, informal dialogue between OEB staff and an innovator, and
- A service by which proponents can apply for specific forms of relief or support. A written proposal is generally expected to be required.

### Information Service:

At any time, innovators may reach out with any questions about the Sandbox or ideas they have about a potential Sandbox trial before a written proposal is submitted.

[Submit a question](#)

An informal and open dialogue between innovators and OEB staff may be used to, for example, discuss the development of a written Sandbox proposal or identify regulatory requirements that may be preventing a project from moving forward. Innovators who request a meeting with OEB staff will meet within 20 days of that request.

### Project-specific support

For projects that are sufficiently developed and well-defined, proponents may not need to make use of the information service as a preliminary step, and instead can proceed with a specific request to seek relief or other forms of support. In these cases, a written proposal will generally be required in order to support staff's understanding of the scope and features of the project.

While some projects will require relief from an existing regulatory requirement, not all projects will need an explicit regulatory exemption. In order to distinguish between these two types of projects, the OEB has conceptualized two types of support:

# Exit Poll

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