

2. About *Co-designing a Smartwear Revolution*

Co-designing a Smartwear Revolution is a large, six-year research project led by researchers at the University of Alberta and funded by the Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund. The project involves the co-design of smart clothing that will look like regular clothing, but will have technology embedded in the fabric that can easily support posture, balance, arm movements, and walking. This project aims to create accessible, affordable, functional and stylish "smartwear" to support movement, prevent workplace injuries, and improve quality of life for people with neuro-muscular and skeletal weakness, older adults, and health care professionals, including nurses.

The *Smartwear Revolution* project includes opportunities for artists, performers, and fashion designers to respond creatively to the development of smartwear. These opportunities include an artist-in-residence program and a series of open calls for exhibitions, live performances, dress events, and community engagement initiatives. We are currently accepting expressions of interest from artists, designers and performers who would like to submit proposals for an art & technology festival in Spring 2028 on the theme of SUPPORT.

More information about the technical aspects of the project, how Smartwear Revolution invites participation and co-design from people with lived experience of muscle weakness, as well as information about our artist opportunities can be found on the project website smartwearrevolution.com.

On the next track, I describe an artwork located just to the right of this panel.