

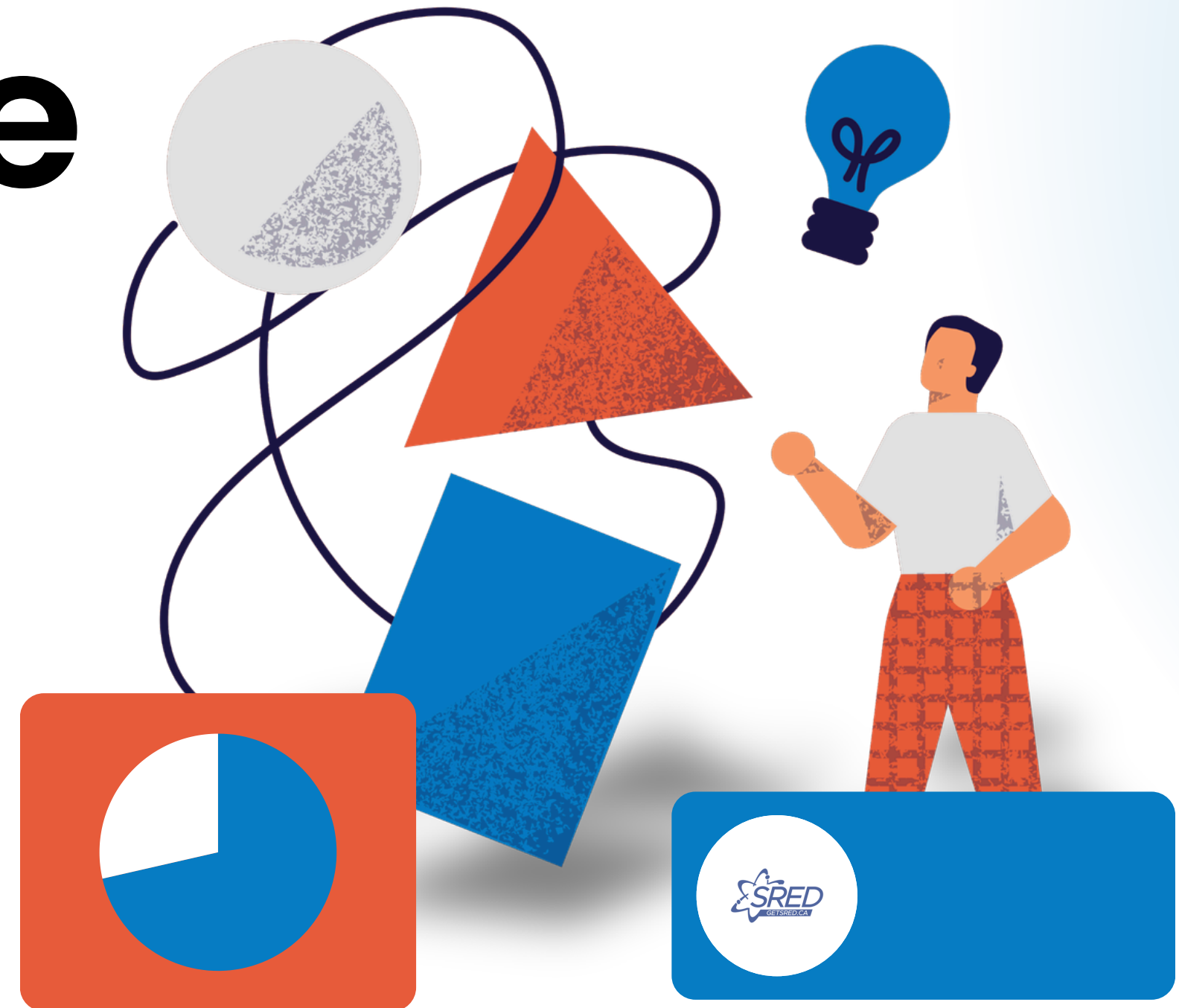
SRED Consultants Inc.

Should You File Your SR&ED Claim Yet?

A Pre-Filing Decision Sheet for
First-Time Claimants

Get Started →

Learn More



Part 1: The Core Question

If CRA reviewed your claim today, would your file stand on its own without explanation?

- Yes, the documentation and narrative are clear
- Partially, but would need clarification
- No, it relies heavily on internal explanation



If your answer is not a confident "Yes," your claim is not ready yet.

Part 2: The Three Breakpoints

These are the three areas where most claims fail.

Clarity of Uncertainty

- We can clearly explain what could not be solved at the start
- The uncertainty is technical, not business or operational
- We are not relying on “complexity” as justification

What strong claims look like:

A third party can understand the problem without seeing the final solution.

Where claims break:

“We were building something new” is used instead of defining what was unknown.

Structure of the Work

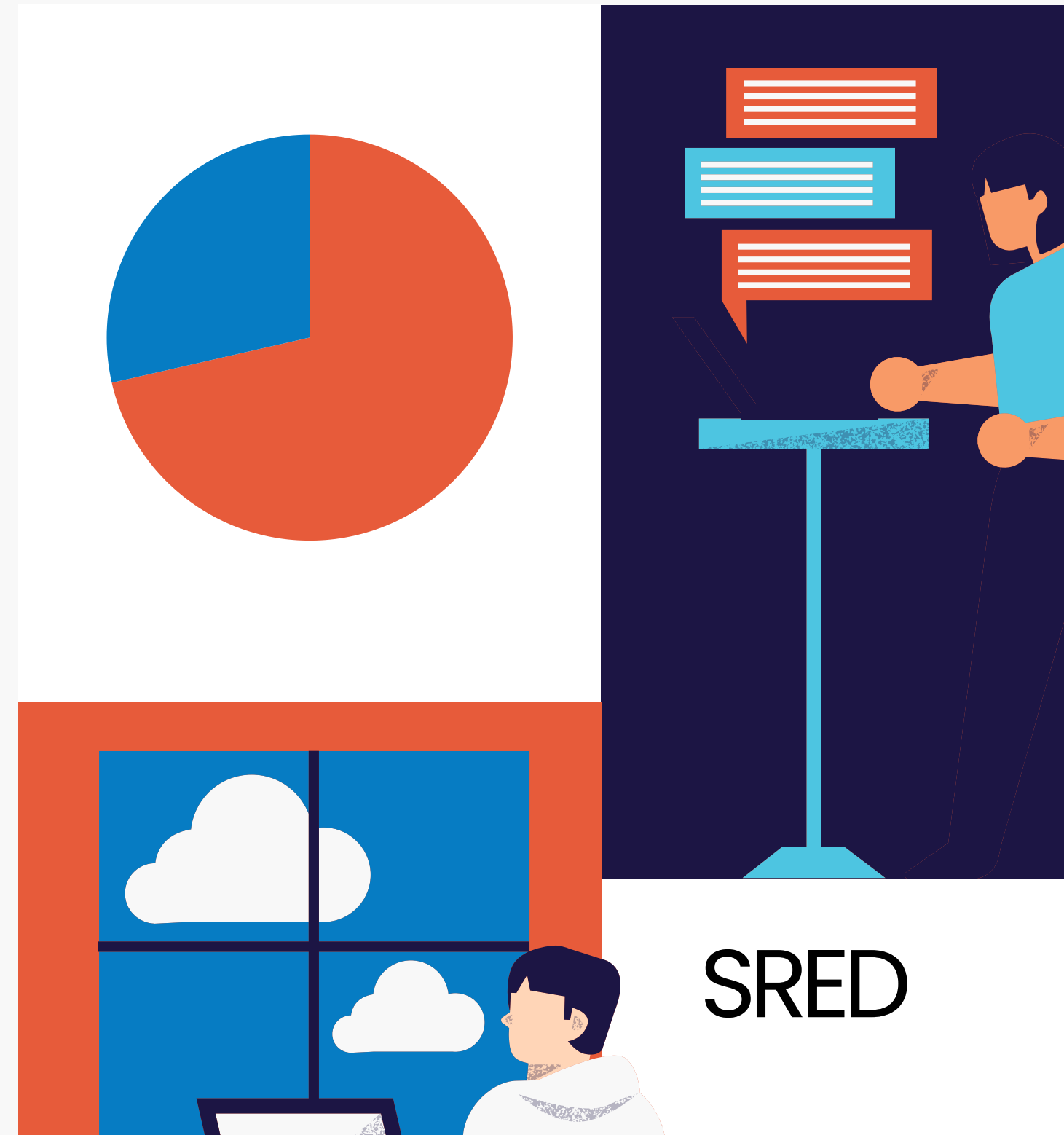
- The work followed a clear technical process
- We can show how each step led to the next
- We documented decisions, not just activities

What strong claims look like

The work reads like a technical investigation, not a project summary.

Where claims break

A list of tasks is presented without showing the reasoning behind them.



Strength of Evidence

- We have documentation created during the work
- We can show failed attempts and learning
- The records support the narrative consistently

What strong claims look like

The documentation tells the same story as the claim.

Where claims break

The narrative is strong, but the supporting records are weak or missing.



The Financial Reality Check

Even if the work is strong, this can weaken the claim.

- ❑ Costs are directly tied to SR&ED activities
- ❑ Salaries reflect actual involvement in the work
- ❑ Contractor work aligns with the technical narrative
- ❑ We are not including broad or indirect project costs
- ❑ Capital Expenditure

Insight:

Over-claiming is one of the fastest ways to trigger adjustments.

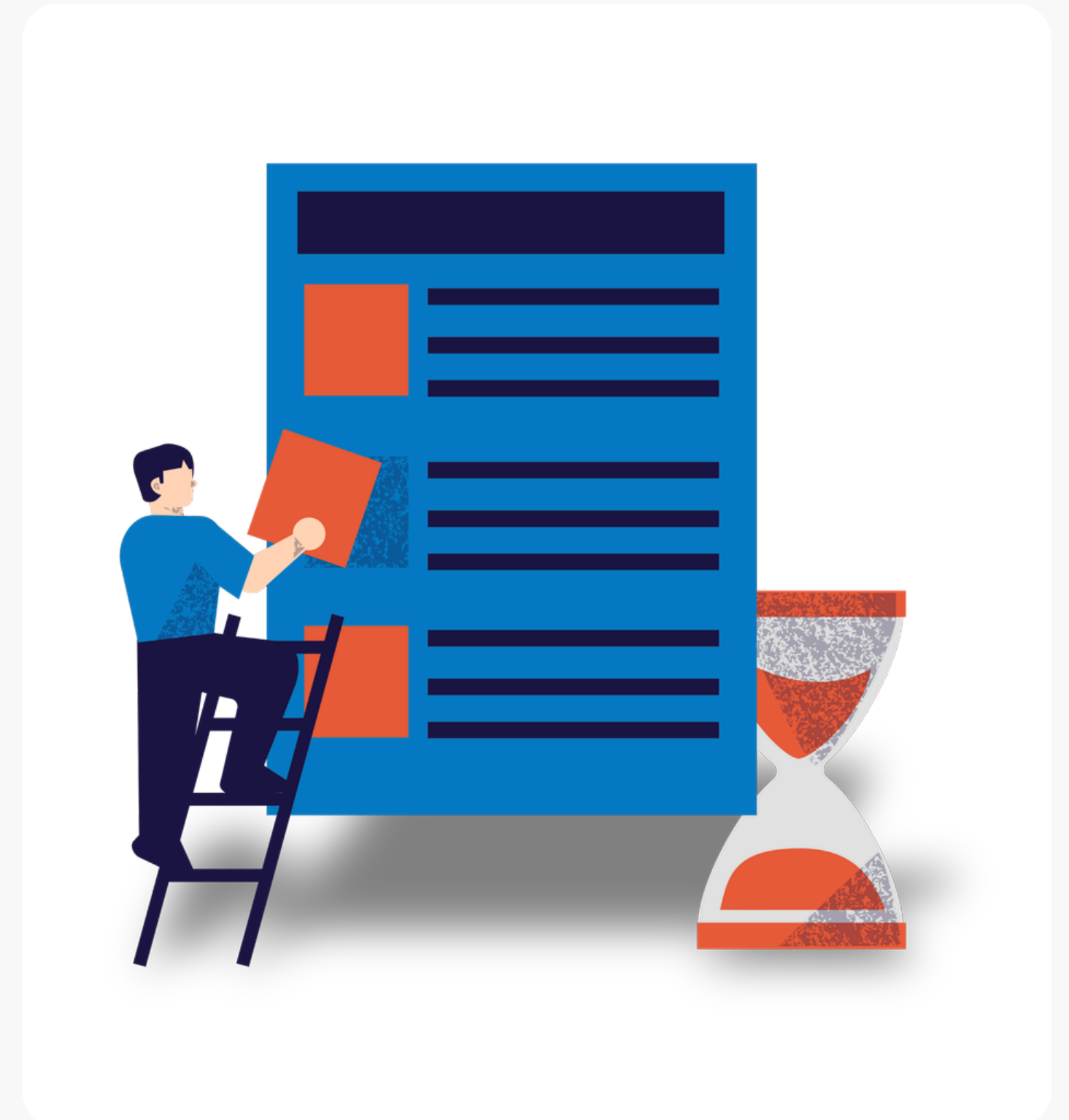


The Alignment Test

This is where many first claims quietly fail.

- The technical story and financial claim match
- The timeline of work aligns with recorded costs
- The level of detail is consistent across all sections

If these do not align, the claim becomes harder to defend.



Your Filing Position

Ready to File

- All sections are clear, consistent, and supported
- Your claim is likely defensible

Borderline

- Some areas are unclear or weak
- Your claim may qualify, but carries risk

Not Ready

- Key areas are missing or unsupported
- Filing now increases the chance of adjustments or rejection

What Most First-Time Claimants Get Wrong

Next?

- Filing based on effort instead of eligibility
- Describing outcomes instead of uncertainty
- Treating development work as experimentation
- Reconstructing documentation after the fact
- Misaligning technical and financial claims

Final Thought

- A claim is not strong because the work was impressive.
- A claim is strong because it is clear, consistent, and defensible.

Thank You.

GET SRED TODAY →

