

Merit Indicators

1. Relevance and Outcomes

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
1.1 Significance of the intended outcomes and of the economic, social and/or environmental impact for Canada.	The proposed outcomes are of exceptional importance to Canada and may also be important internationally . This research will overcome knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will be of the highest impact for Canadians.	The proposed outcomes are very important to Canada. This research will address knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will have high impact for Canadians.	The proposed outcomes are important to Canada. This research will contribute to addressing knowledge gaps to develop new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies in Canada. The expected outcomes will have impact for Canadians.	The proposal did not adequately establish why the topic is important to Canada. It did not sufficiently identify how the research will address knowledge gaps related to developing new and innovative policies, standards, products, services, processes or technologies. It did not adequately identify how outcomes will have impact for Canadians.
1.2 The need for original research to address the topic and the potential for generating new scientific knowledge.	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through exceptionally innovative research . The research has potential to contribute to a scientific breakthrough .	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through highly original research . The research has potential for a significant advance in the field .	The proposal demonstrates that the topic will be addressed through original research . The research includes some concepts or directions that may lead to an advance in the field .	The proposal did not sufficiently demonstrate that the topic will be addressed through original research or is not well positioned within the state-of-the-art. It is not clear how the research will lead to new concepts or directions.
1.3 Extent to which the strategy to apply the research results is likely to achieve the intended outcomes.	A comprehensive strategy indicates how the partners will translate the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts are very likely to happen.	A clearly defined strategy indicates how the partners will translate the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts are likely to happen.	A strategy may lead the partners to translating the research results into application, such that the outcomes and impacts may happen.	The strategy to translate the research results into application is not convincingly presented, such that the outcomes and impacts are unlikely to happen.

Merit Indicators

2. Partnership

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
2.1 Appropriateness of the partnership to achieve the intended outcomes; leveraging of different types of organizations and the integration of their unique perspectives and knowledge in the project as appropriate.	A comprehensive combination of participants makes it very likely that the planned outcomes will be achieved. The proposal demonstrates a strong synergy among the participants. The proposed outcomes are highly relevant to the partner organizations' activities.	The combination of participants makes it likely that the planned outcomes will be achieved. The proposal demonstrates the synergy among the participants. The proposed outcomes are relevant to the partner organizations' activities.	The combination of participants may lead to the planned outcomes being achieved. The proposal demonstrates the complementarity of the participants. The proposed outcomes are related to the partner organizations' activities.	Not all participants needed to achieve the planned outcomes are present. The proposal does not adequately demonstrate a complementarity or synergy in the partnership. The outcomes are not sufficiently related to the partner organizations' activities.
2.2 Clarity of partner's roles in defining the research challenge, co-designing and implementing the research and using results to achieve the outcomes.	Each partner organization brings an essential role to the research effort and demonstrates a high level of capacity to achieve the desired outcomes.	Each partner organization brings a valuable role to the research effort and demonstrates the capacity required to achieve the desired outcomes.	Each partner organization brings an active role to the research effort and demonstrates some level of capacity to achieve the desired outcomes.	Not all partners bring an active role to the research effort or demonstrate capacity to achieve the desired outcomes.
2.3 Appropriateness of the level of cash and in-kind contributions from each partner organization.	The contributions enrich the scope of the project and are highly commensurate with the partner organization's role and with their anticipated benefits.	The contributions increase the scope of the project and are commensurate with the partner organization's role and with their anticipated benefits.	The contributions are suitable for the scope of the project and are somewhat commensurate with the partner organization's role and with their anticipated benefits.	The contributions are not suitable for the scope of the project or are not sufficiently commensurate with the partner organization's role and with their anticipated benefits.

Merit Indicators

3. Quality of the proposal

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
3.1 Clarity of the objectives and appropriateness of the proposed research to achieve the objectives and expected outcome(s); justification for the planned expenditures.	The objectives and the deliverables are comprehensive ; the planned activities are highly likely to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. The expenditures are clearly aligned with the activities and justified .	The objectives and the deliverables are clearly defined ; the planned activities are likely to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. The expenditures are aligned with the activities and justified .	The objectives and the deliverable are defined ; the planned activities are somewhat likely to achieve the objectives and the expected outcomes. The expenditures are reasonably aligned with the activities and justified .	The objectives and deliverables are not adequately defined or the planned activities are not appropriate to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. The expenditures are not adequately justified.
3.2 Appropriateness of the identified indicators and methods for monitoring progress during the project and for assessing outcomes after the project.	Indicators and methods are clearly defined and highly effective for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes.	Indicators and methods are well defined and effective for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes.	Some indicators and methods for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes are proposed and appropriate .	Indicators and methods for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes are not adequately defined or are not appropriate.
3.3 Appropriateness of academic researchers' expertise, and that found within the partner organizations, both for carrying out the planned research activities and in mentoring trainees.	The collective expertise of the participants is highly appropriate to successfully carry out the activities. The principal investigator has exceptional capabilities to manage the project, having successfully managed similar projects in the past or has clearly demonstrated the potential to do so.	The collective expertise of the participants is appropriate to carry out the activities. The principal investigator has the capabilities to manage the project, having managed similar projects in the past or has demonstrated the potential to do so.	The collective expertise of the participants is sufficient to carry out the activities. The principal investigator has largely demonstrated the capabilities to manage the project.	The application does not adequately demonstrate that the participants have the collective expertise needed to carry out the research and/or the capacity to manage the project.

Merit Indicators

4. Training

	Exceptional	Exceeds	Meets	Does not satisfy
<p>4.1 Opportunities for enriched learning experiences for undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral trainees to develop research and professional skills (e.g., leadership, communication, collaboration, entrepreneurship).</p>	<p>Through an exemplary environment or leading-edge approach, the project will provide an enriched training experience that leads to innovative and valuable skills appropriate to all level of trainees.</p>	<p>Through a high-quality environment or approach, the project will provide a training experience that leads to valuable skills appropriate to all level of trainees.</p>	<p>The project will provide a training experience that leads to relevant skills appropriate to all level of trainees.</p>	<p>The proposal did not adequately establish that the project will provide an enriched experience for research trainees. The opportunity to develop relevant skills was not sufficiently described.</p>
<p>4.2 Consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion in the training plan.</p>	<p>The proposal outlines a training plan with innovative practices that support equity, diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>The proposal outlines a training plan with advanced practices that support equity, diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>The application outlines a training plan with practices that consider equity, diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>The application does not adequately outline that diversity and gender equity have been appropriately taken into consideration.</p>