

## DEFINITION OF RATINGS Letter of Intent

The Fund is designed to help post-secondary institutions with internationally-recognized research strengths build on these strengths, and in doing so, become globally leading institutions. It is not designed to allow institutions to build capacity in emerging areas. Institutions will have to demonstrate that they are already internationally recognized in the area(s) they propose, and that their plan to achieve global leadership status is sound and achievable.

The Letters of Intent (LOIs) will be assessed for the institution's current position and existing strengths/ scientific capacity in the area that it proposes to advance in a scientific strategy at the full proposal stage (part of criterion 1), and for the alignment of the proposed research area(s) of focus with the [federal ST&I priority research areas](#) (part of criterion 2).

The focus of selection will be whether applicants meet the threshold and standard for consideration under the Fund, i.e., do the letters of intent appropriately respond to the Fund's intended goals and ambition, based on these two key elements of the selection criteria. Specifically, the LOIs must meet a minimum rating of "Fully Satisfactory" on criterion 1, and align with the federal ST&I research priority areas for criterion 2, as rated by the Review Panel and Selection Board.

For selection criterion 1 of the LOI, please provide your rating using the following scale:

- 1) Fully satisfies and exceeds - satisfies and significantly exceeds in one or more aspects
- 2) Fully satisfies - satisfies in all aspects
- 3) Mostly satisfies - satisfies in most aspects but has some minor weaknesses
- 4) Does not satisfy - does not satisfy in most aspects and has some major weaknesses

### SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY (Part B of the application)

#### Criterion 1 – Scientific merit and demonstrated capacity to lead on an international scale – Current Position and Existing Strengths/Capacity

Please consider the following when rating:

- level of excellence of the existing research underpinning the proposed initiative;
- the institution's faculty research strength in the proposed field(s);
- quality of the institution's relevant research facilities, as well as of the opportunities and environments for research training

Rating	Descriptor
<b>Fully satisfies and exceeds</b> (satisfies and significantly exceeds in one or more aspects)	Existing research: among the <b>top 5%</b> in world.  The existing research underpinning the proposed initiative and the institution's faculty research strength in the proposed field(s) are <b>outstanding</b> . The institution is recognized for producing world-leading research results (quality, quantity and impact) in this area. The institution's relevant research facilities, as well as the opportunities and environments for research training, are <b>outstanding</b> .
<b>Fully satisfies</b> (satisfies in all aspects)	Existing research: among the <b>top 10%</b> in world.  The existing research underpinning the proposed initiative and the institution's faculty research strength in the proposed field(s) are <b>very strong</b> . The institution is producing world-leading research results (quality, quantity and impact) in this area. The institution's relevant research facilities as well as the opportunities and environments for research training, are <b>very strong</b> .

<p><b>Mostly satisfies</b> (satisfies in most aspects but has some minor weaknesses)</p>	<p>Existing research: among the <b>top 20%</b> in world.</p> <p>The existing research underpinning the proposed initiative and the institution's faculty research strength in the proposed field(s) are <b>strong, in most respects</b>. The institution has produced world-leading research results (quality, quantity and impact) in this area. The institution's relevant research facilities, as well as the opportunities and environments for research training, are <b>strong, in most respects</b>.</p>
<p><b>Does not satisfy</b> (does not satisfy in most aspects and has some major weaknesses)</p>	<p>Existing research: below the <b>top 20%</b> in world.</p> <p>The existing research underpinning the proposed initiative and the institution's faculty research strength in the proposed field(s) are <b>average</b>. The institution's relevant research facilities, as well as the opportunities and environments for research training are <b>average</b>.</p>

For selection criterion 2 of the LOI, please indicate by 'Yes' or 'No' whether the following criterion is satisfied:

**Criterion 2 – Strategic relevance to Canada**

Please consider the following when rating:

- alignment of the proposed initiative with the Government of Canada's science, technology and innovation priority research areas (note that only initiatives aligned with the Government's priority research areas will be invited to submit a full proposal).

Rating	Descriptor
Yes	The initiative <b>aligns</b> with the Government of Canada's science, technology and innovation priority research areas.
No	The initiative <b>does not align, or has weak alignment</b> , with the Government of Canada's science, technology and innovation priority research areas.