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Fondation Rideau Hall Foundation

Ingenious+ Award – Adjudication Rubric

Problem or Opportunity: *Assesses understanding of the problem, opportunity, and need for innovation.*

10-9 Points	8-7 Points	6-5 Points	4-2 Points	1-0 Point
Analyzes the problem/opportunity by explaining why it exists, who is affected, and why a solution is needed. Evidence or supporting rationale is provided.	Explains the problem/ opportunity and why a solution is needed. Some supporting rationale is provided.	Identifies the problem/ opportunity but provides only a partial explanation of its significance, scope, or impact.	Mentions a problem/ opportunity but provides limited analysis or support.	Does not adequately identify the problem/ opportunity or establish a need for a solution.

Solution: *Assesses quality of the proposed solution and alignment with the identified need.*

10-9 Points	8-7 Points	6-5 Points	4-2 Points	1-0 Point
Proposes a well-developed solution that directly addresses the identified problem. The connection between the problem and solution is clear, logical, and feasible.	Proposes a strong solution that addresses the identified problem. Feasibility or alignment requires further development.	Proposes a solution that partially addresses the problem but lacks sufficient detail, feasibility, or alignment.	Proposes a solution with limited relevance to the identified problem or significant feasibility concerns.	Does not present a viable solution.

Research: *Assesses effort to understand the problem, users, and proposed solution.*

5 Points	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1-0 Point
Conducts comprehensive research or evidence, demonstrating a strong understanding of the problem and informing the proposed solution.	Research has been conducted and is generally relevant to the problem and solution.	Some research has been conducted, but its relevance or application to the solution is unclear.	Minimal research or evidence is demonstrated.	No meaningful research or evidence is provided.

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Experimentation and Learning: *Assesses evidence of experimentation, validation, or learning*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Demonstrates meaningful experimentation, testing, prototyping, piloting, validation activities, or novel research that has informed the project.	Some experimentation or validation activities have been undertaken and influenced project development.	Early experimentation or exploration has occurred but evidence of learning is limited.	Minimal experimentation or validation is demonstrated.	No evidence of experimentation, testing, validation, or learning activities.

Expected Impact: *Assesses the potential benefit for intended users or communities.*				
10-9 Points	**8-7 Points**	**6-5 Points**	**4-2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Clearly identifies target users/beneficiaries and provides a strong, realistic explanation of how they will benefit.	Identifies target users and describes meaningful potential benefits.	Identifies target users but provides limited explanation of expected benefits.	Expected benefits are unclear, unrealistic, or insufficiently linked to users' needs.	Does not identify beneficiaries or expected impact.

Current Landscape: *Assesses awareness of existing solutions and how the proposal fits within the broader environment.*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Evaluates existing solutions, alternatives, or practices and compares them to the proposed solution, identifying how the innovation differs or adds value. If no comparable solutions exist, provides a well-supported explanation.	Evaluates existing solutions and provides a brief comparison to proposed solution. If no comparable solutions exist, provides a brief explanation.	Demonstrates some awareness of existing solutions but differentiation is only partially explained.	Demonstrates understanding of the current landscape or how the solution differs.	Does not address existing solutions or differentiation.

Implementation and Feasibility: *Assesses the ability to move the innovation forward.*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Presents a realistic implementation plan with clear next steps, resource considerations, and strategies for addressing potential barriers.	Presents a generally feasible implementation plan and identifies some barriers and mitigation strategies.	Provides an implementation approach but key elements, resources, or barriers are not fully considered.	Implementation plan is underdeveloped or unlikely to be achievable as proposed.	No meaningful implementation plan is provided.

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Collaboration: *Assess the identification future and/or existing collaborations*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Identifies relevant collaborators and/ or partners and details their current or anticipated role in advancing the innovation.	Identifies relevant collaborators and describes their involvement.	Mentions collaborators or partners, but roles are not fully developed.	Collaboration is discussed but lacks relevance or clarity.	No collaborators or partnerships identified.

Future Plans and Use of Award: *Assess how the Ing+ award (cash and mentorship) will advance the innovation.*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
Demonstrates how the Ingenious+ funding and mentorship would advance the innovation and outlines realistic future milestones or growth opportunities.	Demonstrates how the Ingenious+ award would benefit the innovation and identifies future goals broadly.	Provides a general description of future plans but lacks specificity.	Future plans are limited or weakly connected to the award.	Does not explain future plans or use of the award.

Communication: *Assess the communication of the proposal while not penalizing the overall idea*				
5 Points	**4 Points**	**3 Points**	**2 Points**	**1-0 Point**
The proposal clearly communicates the problem, proposed solution, and next steps. Sufficient information is provided to assess the innovation.	The proposal communicates the problem, proposed solution, and next steps, with minor gaps or areas requiring clarification.	The proposal communicates the main elements of the innovation, but important details are missing or unclear.	The proposal provides limited information about the problem, solution, or next steps, making assessment difficult.	The proposal does not provide enough information to understand or assess the innovation.

