



Michael Smith
**Health
Research BC**

2025 Scholar Program & 2025 Health Professional-Investigator Program

EVALUATION CRITERIA

DEADLINES

Letter of intent: November 19, 2024, 4:30 p.m. PT

Full application: January 23, 2025, 4:30 p.m. PT

Applicant Expertise and Experience	Weighting – 30%
<p>Assessment Criteria</p> <p>Please assess the applicant’s potential as an independent researcher based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications of the applicant, including research and clinical training and experience, with consideration of how the applicant’s research experience and training align with the proposed research area and methods.* Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant’s acknowledgement of their roles, responsibility, and privileges that enable the research and knowledge exchange activities. • Expertise and leadership of the applicant as demonstrated by quality of research and other professional contributions.** Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The extent and quality of the relationships and co-leadership of the research with people, communities and organizations that are impacted by the research. • Evidence of the applicant’s ability to successfully implement pathway to impact*** (knowledge translation (KT)/ knowledge exchange (KE)) strategies and activities, as appropriate to their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable.** <p>*Applicants may collaborate with others to ensure adequate expertise for their research program. **Productivity, leadership, and KT/KE skills should be weighed with consideration of the applicant’s career stage, health profession and research area. ***For more information, please refer to Section 10 of the Scholar and HP-I Programs Guidelines.</p>	
Assessment Descriptor	Score
<p>Outstanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant’s research and clinical training and experience is well aligned with the proposed research and will provide the expertise needed to complete the proposed research. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant clearly and fully outlines how their roles, responsibility, and privileges enable the research and KE activities. • The applicant has a well-established record of quality research outputs and professional contributions for their career stage. The applicant demonstrates proficiency as an independent researcher and leadership in their field and among their peers. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant fully demonstrates existing, well-established and good quality relationships with Indigenous people, community, and/or organizations. The research is community-initiated and community-led and the applicant demonstrates respect for community protocols and practices. 	<p>4.5 – 4.9</p> <p>may be funded</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant demonstrates proficiency with pathway to impact (KT/KE) strategies and activities, as appropriate to their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable. 	
<p>Excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant's research and clinical training and experience is aligned with the proposed research and will provide the expertise needed to complete the proposed research. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant adequately outlines how their roles, responsibility, and privileges enable the research and KE activities. The applicant has a record of quality research outputs and professional contributions for their career stage, demonstrating the applicant's capability as an independent researcher. The applicant demonstrates some leadership in their field and among their peers. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant adequately demonstrates existing, well-established and good quality relationships with Indigenous people, community, and/or organizations. The research is co-led with the community and the applicant demonstrates respect for community protocols and practices. The applicant demonstrates some expertise with pathway to impact (KT/KE) strategies and activities, as appropriate to their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable. 	<p>4.0 – 4.4 may be funded</p>
<p>Very Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant's research and clinical training and experience is mostly aligned with the proposed research and will provide the expertise needed to complete the proposed research, with minimal gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant partially outlines how their roles, responsibility, and privileges enable the research and KE activities. The applicant has a record of quality research outputs and professional contributions for their career stage, demonstrating the applicant's potential as an independent researcher. The applicant demonstrates the potential for leadership in their field and among their peers. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant has developed some established and good quality relationships with people, community, and/or organizations. The co-leadership role of the community is limited. There is some evidence that the applicant demonstrates respect for community protocols and practices. The applicant demonstrates capability with pathway to impact (KT/KE) strategies and activities, as appropriate to their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable. 	<p>3.5 – 3.9 may be funded (above 3.8)</p>
<p>Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant's research and clinical training and experience is partially aligned with the proposed research and will provide some of the expertise 	<p>3.0 – 3.4 not fundable</p>

<p>needed to complete the proposed research, but there are concerns of some unfilled gaps in expertise. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant does not explain how their roles, responsibility, and privileges enable the research and KE activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant has a limited record of quality research outputs and professional contributions for their career stage. There is limited evidence of the applicant’s potential to succeed as an independent researcher. The applicant does not demonstrate leadership in their field or among their peers. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant has not adequately established good quality relationships with people, community, and/or organizations. There is no evidence of co-leadership with the community and/or no evidence that the applicant demonstrates respect for community protocols and practices. The applicant demonstrates limited ability with pathway to impact (KT/KE) strategies and activities, considering their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable. 	
<p>Less than Adequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant’s research and clinical training and experience are not aligned with the proposed research and there are significant concerns of unfilled gaps in the expertise needed to complete the proposed research. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant fails to acknowledge how their roles, responsibility, and privileges enable the research and KE activities. The applicant has a limited record of quality research outputs and professional contributions for their career stage. There is no evidence of the applicant’s potential to succeed as an independent researcher. The applicant does not demonstrate leadership in their field or among their peers. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: There is no evidence that the applicant has established relationships with people, community, and/or organizations, or any established relationships are of poor quality. There is no evidence that the applicant demonstrates respect for community protocols and practices. The applicant demonstrates poor understanding of pathway to impact (KT/KE) strategies and activities, considering their area of research and the communities in which they are working, as applicable. 	<p>0 – 2.9 not fundable</p>

Research Program	Weighting – 50%
<p>Assessment Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completeness of the background/literature review and relevance to the research question(s), research design, and methods. • Clarity and originality* of the research question(s) and potential of the research to address important knowledge gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The extent to which the research is relevant to the priorities of the people and communities involved and has the potential to produce valued outcomes from the perspective of the people and communities involved. • Clarity of rationale for the research design and methods. • Appropriateness and feasibility of the research design and methods. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The extent and quality of the engagement with people, communities and organizations in relation to the research. The extent to which the research design and methods abide by the <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</i> and/or Indigenous partnering community / organizational ethical guidelines. • Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The extent to which Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are incorporated throughout the research and KE activities. • Appropriateness and feasibility of the timeline for the research program. • Adequacy of the identification of risks and plans for management of potential difficulties that may be encountered during the term of the research. • Appropriateness and adequacy of the pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities. • Appropriateness and adequacy of any proposed collaborations required to carry out the research (if applicable). <p>*Originality refers to research that will generate new knowledge that may be vital to the progress of a field. Originality does not necessarily require innovation in research methods or approaches.</p>	
Assessment Descriptor	Score
<p>Outstanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background/literature review is complete and relevant to the research question(s), research design, and methods. • The research program contains clear research question(s), is original, and will address important knowledge gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: This includes strong alignment of the knowledge gaps that are being addressed with priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities involved, as demonstrated by community-leadership or co-leadership of the research. 	<p>4.5 – 4.9 may be funded</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research design and methods are clearly described, feasible, and appropriate to address the research question(s). Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The research proposal fully describes how the applicant will work with the people, communities and organizations in relation to the research and the described approach to working with the people, communities and organizations is comprehensive and inclusive. The research fully abides by the <u>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</u> and/or Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines. • Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are fully incorporated throughout the research and KE activities. • The timeline is appropriate and attainable. • The research program identifies risks that may be encountered during the term of the research and how to manage/mitigate these risks. • The pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities are clearly described and appropriate. • The proposed collaborations are complementary and will contribute to carrying out the research (if applicable). 	
<p>Excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background and literature review is sufficient and provides adequate context on the research question(s), research design, and methods. • The research program contains clear research question(s). The research is very likely to be original, and very likely to address important knowledge gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: There is good alignment of the knowledge gaps that are being addressed with priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities involved, as demonstrated by co-leadership of the research. • The research design and methods are clearly described, feasible, and appropriate to address the research question(s), with only a few minor details lacking. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The research proposal sufficiently describes how the applicant will work with the people, communities and organizations in relation to the research and the described approach to working with the people, communities and organizations is adequate and appropriately inclusive. The research fully abides by the <u>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</u> and/or Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines. 	<p>4.0 – 4.4 may be funded</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are adequately incorporated throughout the research and KE activities. • The timeline is appropriate and largely feasible. • The research program identifies risks that may be encountered during the term of the research and how to manage/mitigate these risks, with only minor details lacking. • The pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities are described and largely feasible • The proposed collaborations are complementary and will contribute to carrying out the research, although some minor details may be lacking (if applicable). 	
<p>Very Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background/literature review may lack some details, but the information is sufficient to support the research question(s), research design, and methods. • The research program contains clear research question(s) and has the potential to be original. It is likely that the research will address knowledge gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The knowledge gaps that are being addressed are mostly aligned with the priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities involved. • The research design and methods are feasible, and appropriate to address the research question(s), with only some details lacking. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The research proposal adequately describes how the applicant will work with the people, communities and organizations in relation to the research and the described approach to working with the people, communities and organizations is mostly suitable and adequately inclusive. The research abides by the <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</i> and/or Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines. • Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are partially incorporated in the research and KE activities. • The timeline is appropriate and feasible but may be missing some details. • The research program identifies all major risks likely to be encountered during the term of the research and how to manage/mitigate these risks. Some minor risks and mitigation approaches may be missing. • The pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities are largely appropriate but may lack some details and there may be some minor issues with feasibility. 	<p>3.5 – 3.9 may be funded (above 3.8)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed collaborations will contribute to carrying out the research, with only a few minor gaps in expertise or resources (if applicable). 	
<p>Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The background/literature review does not provide adequate information to support the research question(s), research design, and methods. The research question(s) are unclear and/or they require major revision. It is unclear whether the research will be original and/or whether the research will address knowledge gaps. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The knowledge gaps that are being addressed are poorly aligned with the priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities involved. The research design and methods have major flaws and/or are not appropriate to address the research question(s). Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The research proposal does not adequately describe how the applicant will work with the people, communities and organizations in relation to the research or the described approach to working with the people, communities and organizations is not completely suitable. The research does not fully abide by the <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</i> and/or Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are not adequately incorporated throughout the research and KE activities. The timeline is of questionable feasibility and/or lacks key details. The research program fails to identify important risks that are likely to be encountered during the term of the research and propose actions to manage/mitigate these risks. The pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities are not well described or not well suited to the research program. It is not clear how the proposed collaborations will contribute to carrying out the research or there are significant gaps in expertise or resources (if applicable). 	<p>3.0 – 3.4 not fundable</p>
<p>Less than Adequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The background/literature review is missing and/or does not provide adequate information to support the research question(s), research design, and methods. The research program does not contain clear research question(s), the research is not original, and/or the research does not address knowledge gaps. 	<p>0 – 2.9 not fundable</p>

<p>Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The knowledge gaps that are being addressed are not aligned with the priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities involved or the priorities of the Indigenous peoples and the communities were not considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research design and methods are poorly described, are not feasible, or are not appropriate to address the research question(s). Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The research proposal does not describe how the applicant will work with the people, communities and organizations in relation to the research or the described approach to working with the people, communities and organizations is not suitable. The research does not fully abide by the <u>Tri-Council Policy Statement Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada</u> and/or Indigenous partnering community / organizational ethical guidelines. • Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: Indigenous knowledge processes and ethics are not incorporated in the research and KE activities. • The timeline is inappropriate or not feasible. • The research program is missing information on risk assessment and mitigation. • The pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities are missing, poorly described or inappropriate. • The application lacks information on collaborations that are needed to carry out the research, and/or there are major gaps in expertise or resources (if applicable). 	
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Environment and Support	Weighting – 20%
<p>Assessment Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An adequate level of support from the applicant’s department head (or equivalent) for the required research appointment, protected research time, and a commitment of continued support post-award. The mentorship plan is appropriate to support the applicant on their career path. Availability and accessibility of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the proposed research and perform the pathway to impact (KT or KE) activities. This includes a clear and appropriate budget statement explaining how they plan to obtain the operating funds needed to support the proposed research. Availability of collaborators to advise and support the research and KT/KE activities where appropriate. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The quality and extent of the applicant’s plans to work with people, communities and organizations, and the adequacy of supports that will be provided by people, communities and organizations to support the research and KE activities. <p>Note: Collaborators and mentors can be from within or external to the applicant's host institution.</p> <p>Reminder: Health Research BC encourages department heads to use the Department Head Form to describe any concrete practices or resources they will provide to support accessibility, diversity and inclusion in their work environment and in mentoring and professional development.</p>	
Assessment Descriptor	Score
<p>Outstanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated commitment from the department/host institution to provide the required research appointment, protection of time, and continued support post-award. The mentorship plan is comprehensive and suitable to support the applicant on their career path. The applicant will have access to all the necessary supports for the research and pathway to impact (KT) or KE activities. The budget statement is appropriate and feasible. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The people, communities and organizations that the applicant will work with are named. The plans for how they will work together are fully appropriate and clearly detailed, and all the necessary supports will be provided to complete the research and KE activities. The letters of collaboration provide evidence that the applicant has established strong connections with collaborators to advise and support research and KT or KE activities, where appropriate. 	<p>4.5 – 4.9 may be fundable</p>

<p>Excellent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment from the department/host institution to provide the required research appointment, protection of time, and continued support post-award. • The mentorship plan is thorough and suitable to support the applicant on their career path. • The applicant will have access to all the necessary support for the research and pathway to impact (KT) or KE activities, with only minor details missing. The budget statement is appropriate and feasible, with only a few minor details lacking. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The people, communities and organizations that the applicant will work with are named. How they will work together is appropriate and well described and it is clear how most of the necessary supports will be provided. • The letters of collaboration provide evidence that the applicant has connected with collaborators that are needed to advise and support research and KT or KE activities, where appropriate. 	<p>4.0 – 4.4 may be fundable</p>
<p>Very Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is evidence of a commitment from the department/host institution to provide the required research appointment, protection of time, and continued support post-award. • The mentorship plan is adequate and suitable to support the applicant on their career path. • The applicant will have access to all the necessary support for the research and pathway to impact (KT) or KE activities, with some details missing. The budget statement is appropriate and largely feasible, with some details lacking. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant has identified the people, communities and organizations with whom they will work however, they are not fully appropriate and inclusive. It is not clear how the applicant and the people, communities and organizations will work together, or the way they will work together is not fully suitable. It is not clear that the necessary support will be in place for the research to be successful. • The letters of collaboration provide some evidence that the applicant has connected with collaborators that are needed to advise and support research and KT or KE activities, where appropriate. 	<p>3.5 – 3.9 may be fundable (above 3.8)</p>
<p>Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited evidence of a commitment from the department/host institution to provide the required research appointment, protection of time, and continued support post-award. 	<p>3.0 – 3.4 not fundable</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mentorship plan is limited or not designed to support the applicant on their career path. • It is not clear that the applicant will have access to the necessary support for the research and pathway to impact (KT) or KE activities. The budget statement is of questionable feasibility, lacks key details, or has important inaccuracies. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant has not identified the people, communities and organizations with whom they will work or those that are identified are not appropriate and/or sufficient. The applicant does not describe how they will work with the people, communities and/or organizations or the way they will work together is not suitable. The necessary support will not be in place for the research to be successful. • The letters of collaboration do not provide sufficient evidence that the applicant has established the necessary connections with collaborators to advise and support research and KT or KE activities, where appropriate. 	
<p>Less than Adequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commitment from the host institution is inadequate and does not guarantee the required research appointment, protection of time, and continued support post-award. • The mentorship plan is inadequate or not suitable to support the applicant on their career path. • The research support statement is missing vital information on how the applicant plans to access the necessary support for the research and pathway to impact (KT) or KE activities. The budget statement is incomplete, inaccurate or not feasible. Indigenous health research panel specific criteria: The applicant has not identified the people, communities and organizations with whom they will work. The applicant does not describe how they will work with the people, communities and/or organizations or the way they will work together is not suitable. The necessary support will not be in place for the research to be successful. • The letters of collaboration from key collaborators are missing and it is unlikely that the applicant has sufficient support to complete the research and KT or KE activities. 	<p>0 – 2.9 not fundable</p>
<p>Mitacs Accelerate Application Proposal (if applicable)</p>	
<p>Assessment Criteria</p>	
<p>Refer to the Mitacs Accelerate application proposal upload, and the relevant section in Additional Information of the Scholar or HP-I application form. The assessment of this information is not to be included in the overall score of the Scholar or HP-I application, but rather considered separately. Please comment on the following elements as they relate to the Scholar or HP-I project as a whole:</p>	

- The proposed intern(s)'s role in the Scholar or HP-I project is appropriate for their academic degree level, and beneficial to the intern(s)'s training and career development.
- The proposed project involving the intern has no adverse effects on the environment.