Evaluation Criteria – Research Professionals Initiative

At ResearchNB, we fund research projects based on scientific merit and the expectation is that you are submitting an application that is scientifically sound, which can be demonstrated through Tri-council (or other organizations) reviews, earlier or other publications of your work in the given area, letters of support from industrial partners applying the innovation or other similar means.

It is assumed that applications are written in plain language (where possible), while addressing the evaluation criteria listed below:

1.	Is the project as described innovative? a. Does the project use a novel technology, process or program to solve a well-defined problem for New Brunswickers? b. Are you adapting an existing technology. process or program for a new purpose to solve a well-defined problem for New Brunswickers? c. How does the question being posed by PI have the potential to unlock further discovery?
2.	Is there potential for significant socioeconomic impact (direct or indirect) for NB from this work and is the impact pathway well delineated? a. Are there potential indirect socio-economic impacts? i. Will the results of the work be leveraged to form policy, inform government decisions or best practices, inform more efficient use of public funds or contribute to a knowledge base that can be leveraged by the non-for-profit sector and public at large? Be translated to knowledge users? b. Is knowledge mobilization/translation planning in place for the project? i. Have sufficient efforts have been made to explain the plans for the knowledge generated from the project so that it is communicated beyond the scientific community?

3.	Have the principal investigator and their collaborators demonstrated capacity to execute the project – in terms of the following? a. Infrastructure and Equipment (lab space and capacity, industrial partnerships). b. Personnel (both directly in the PI's team and the collaborators engaged, be they primary researchers, post-docs or students). c. Support from the PIs institution (course release, direct funding, support for students, letters of support). d. The principal investigator and their collaborators in the project have good standing within their specific field of study.
4.	How will the expected skills and expertise of the research professional benefit the research program? a. The principal investigator provides a clear description of the expertise and experience sought in the research professional and how the RP may advance the goals of the research program described. This can be achieved by supplying a CV of the identified candidate and a narrative description in the application form. In the case where the professional has not been identified and no CV is available, this can be achieved by providing a job description.
5.	Are the contributions of the research professional well thought out and described? a. The research professional will be undertaking work that is critical to the research program; their involvement and milestones are identified. b. The research professional will have the opportunity for professional growth through learning new skills such as the operations of technical equipment, new training opportunities, growth in both academic and non-academic settings, development of processes, management of a research program, business development activities. c. Will the research professional will have opportunities to improve their prospects with respect to career advancement, whether that be internally, through gaining new marketable skills/accomplishments, or through building professional networks. d. The research professional will have the opportunity to play a key role in the mentoring and training of other HQPs, including students or other lab personnel.