



## Review Committee Member: Michael Urban- Lead Org: ACA

Assessment Form: Targeted Call 2021

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Project Name: College Transformation des  
Colleges

Lead Organization: Atlantic  
Colleges Atlantique (ACA)

Link to reviewer packet: [ACA Reviewer Packet](#)

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### Conflict of Interest Verification

*Conflict of Interest Verification : I have acknowledged and agreed to follow FSC-CCF's Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Policy and I have no Conflict with this grant application.*

### A. Relevance

Project aligns with FSC's priorities, addresses recognized systemic challenges about future skills in Canada, and demonstrates demand for service.

#### A1: Alignment with FSC's strategic priorities

Displays little or no alignment with FSC's Strategic Priorities.

Pursues FSC's Strategic Priorities, but alignment lacks clarity.

Adequately aligns with FSC's Strategic Priorities.

Presents outstanding alignment with FSC's Strategic Priorities in a way that demonstrates that FSC should not miss the opportunity to partner with this project.

\*[FSC's Strategic Plan](#) for your reference

#### A2: Addressing systemic challenges

- Shows little or no scope to address recognized systemic challenges about future skills in Canada.
- ⊙ Presents general but limited scope to address recognized systemic challenges about future skills in Canada.
- Presents clear and relevant scope to address recognized systemic challenges about future skills in Canada.
- Demonstrates outstanding potential to address recognized systemic challenges about future skills in Canada with a strong and well-defined scope that sets this project aside from other initiatives.

**A3: Demand for service**

- Demonstration of the demand for this service is irrelevant or poorly articulated.
- ⊙ Demonstrates that there is some demand for this service but explanation lacks clarity.
- Clearly demonstrates that there are high levels of demand for this service and explains how the project adequately fulfills this demand.
- Articulates a deep understanding of the high levels of demand for this service and makes a strong case for how providing this service is timely.

**B. Innovation and Evidence**

Project pursues a new way of doing things that can advance knowledge and/or is an evidence-informed model.

**B1: Innovative nature**

- It is not innovative, seeks funding for business as usual and, if applicable, is not informed by evidence.
- ⊙ While it is a departure from business as usual, interventions proposed are not particularly novel and, if applicable, are only vaguely informed by evidence.
- Proposes clearly innovative solutions and, applicable, articulates how the novel interventions are adequately informed by evidence.
- Proposes solutions that are without a doubt one of a kind and highly innovative and, if applicable, makes a strong case for how the interventions are grounded on evidence that is relevant and applied in a novel way.

**B2: Evidence generation and new knowledge**

- Presents unclear or no plan to generate insights or to advance knowledge.
- ⊙ Demonstrates intent to generate insights and advance knowledge that can benefit the skills ecosystem but the plan lacks clarity.
- Presents a clear and adequate plan to generate insights and advance knowledge that will benefit the skills ecosystem at large.
- There are strong and well-designed strategies in place to generate insights and advance knowledge in a way that sets this project aside from other initiatives.

**C. Learning**

Project has already generated learning that informed the additional scope and identifies concrete problem statements and learning questions to address in the next phase.

### **C1: Application of learnings from current project**

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Does not demonstrate how learning generated from the current project informed additional scope. | <input type="radio"/> Presents general but limited connection between learning generated from the current project and additional scope. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Presents a clear and relevant connection between learning generated from the current project and additional scope. | <input type="radio"/> Makes an outstanding case for how the additional scope is grounded on learning generated from the current project and expertly demonstrates ability to continue to pursue learning. |
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### **C2: Problem statements and additional learning questions**

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|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Presents vague or no concrete additional learning questions. | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat defines concrete and additional learning questions but the connection between questions and the problem statements lacks clarity. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Clearly identifies additional learning questions that are concrete and relevant to address the problem statements. | <input type="radio"/> Articulates well-defined and concrete learning questions that will without a doubt contribute to addressing the problem statements within and beyond the scope of the project. |
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## **D. Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)**

Project incorporates the perspectives of end-users and other stakeholders, particularly groups facing barriers, in the design and execution of the project, presents practices grounded in EDI principles, and shows potential to further EDI.

### **D1: Incorporation of the perspectives of end-users and other stakeholders**

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Does not incorporate the perspectives of end-users and other stakeholders in the design and execution of the project. | <input type="radio"/> Shows that end-users and other stakeholders are somewhat involved in the design and execution of the project, but lacks clarity around the effective incorporation of their perspectives. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Presents clear evidence that end-users and other stakeholders are involved in the design and execution of the project in effective and relevant ways. | <input type="radio"/> There are strong and well-designed strategies in place to involve end-users and other stakeholders, demonstrating an outstanding commitment to incorporating their perspectives at every stage of the project. |
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### **D2: EDI practices & activities**

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|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Project practices and activities do not directly support and are not explicitly grounded in EDI principles. | <input type="radio"/> Project practices and activities somewhat support but are only loosely grounded in EDI principles. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Project is clearly grounded in EDI policies, practices or activities. | <input type="radio"/> Project is clearly grounded in EDI policies, practices or activities and clearly demonstrates commitment to EDI and potential to be a leader in promoting EDI in the skills |
|---|--|--|---|

ecosystem.

### D3: Impact on furthering EDI

- Anticipated impact on furthering EDI under the project scope is irrelevant or vague.
- Demonstrates intent to further EDI under the project scope, but rationale lacks clarity.
- ⊙ Anticipated impact on furthering EDI under the project scope is clear and relevant.
- Presents promising and strong strategies to further EDI in the field or sector with potential to impact the skills ecosystem at large.

## E. Capacity

The lead organization (and partners if applicable) have the skills, experience and resources to execute the project successfully and hold a good track record with FSC.

### E1: Skills, experience & resources

- Project team lacks skills, experience and resources needed to execute the project.
- ⊙ Project team has some of the skills, experience and resources needed to execute the project.
- Project team clearly demonstrates adequate skills, experience and resources to execute the project.
- Project team demonstrates strong skills, experience and resources to succeed in the project and to be a leader who influences the skills ecosystem.

### E2: FSC track record

- Presents little or no evidence of a good track record with FSC and of addressing challenges faced during the current project, indicating that the organization may struggle to manage the new project effectively and responsibly.
- ⊙ Presents somewhat adequate evidence of a good track record with FSC and of addressing challenges faced during the current project, indicating that the organization may have limited capacity to manage the new project effectively and responsibly.
- Presents adequate evidence of a good track record with FSC and of addressing challenges faced during the current project, indicating that the organization will manage the new project effectively and responsibly.
- Shows clear evidence of an impeccable track record with FSC and has expertly addressed challenges faced during the current project, indicating that the organization has strong project and risk management systems in place to take on the new project.

## F. Coherence

Project displays a logical connection between proposed activities and project objectives with a work plan and a budget that are reasonable, appropriate and aligned.

### F1: Connection between activities & objectives

- Lacks logical connection between
- ⊙ Activities and objectives are somewhat connected,
- Presents a clear and logical connection between activities and
- Activities and objectives are without a doubt strongly connected in a

activities and objectives. but the link lacks clarity. objectives. thoughtful way.

**F2: Budget**

- Budget is not reasonable, appropriate or aligned with workplan.
- Budget is somewhat reasonable and appropriate, but is only loosely aligned with workplan.
- Budget is clearly reasonable, appropriate and aligned with workplan.
- Presents an outstanding value for money and strong alignment with workplan.

**Reviewer overall recommendation**

Considering the proposal as a whole, do you think FSC should fund this project as a worthwhile contribution to the skills ecosystem?

**Overall Recommendation:**

- I recommend this project for funding
- I recommend this project for funding conditional on changes and/or more information
- I do not recommend this project for funding

**Explain your reasoning for this recommendation.**

This project brings together a large number of institutions and partners in regions with clear needs germane to FSC's mission and proposes to test solutions to these challenges. But, due to the size of the proposal, it is difficult to gain much clarity regarding what the individual components will actually be doing, and consequently whether what is being proposed is actually innovative or replicating "what works" in other contexts. Additional information on what the various component projects will actually do would be needed before I was prepared to recommend the significant investment being requested.

**What do you think are the strongest aspects of this project?**

The breadth of the project, along with the significant in-kind contributions, are impressive and suggest that significant impact, evidence, and learnings could be generated by this project if it was well designed and executed.

**Where do you think the project has gaps or challenges?**

The project proposal suffers from a significant gap in terms of information about the actual innovations that will be implemented (and the evidence prompting the design of these innovations) and/or the evidence that the solutions being proposed have been shown to "work" in other contexts. This may simply be a function of the size of the project and the limitations of the application process/templates. Nonetheless, it does represent a gap. Additionally, a project of this size which includes this number of component parts, would seem to require a strong rationale for being combined into a single proposal. The application materials do not provide, at present, a strong case to me for including these disparate projects under a single application. The gains that could be realized via coordination, sharing between institutions, and economies of scale are hinted at, but not even really sketched out let alone well explained.

**Comments**

Please share any other comments.

