

GGIA Scoring and Evaluation Criteria



Governor General's
Innovation Awards

GGIA OBJECTIVES

To celebrate excellence in innovation across all sectors of Canadian society and inspire Canadians, particularly youth, to be entrepreneurial innovators.

NOMINATION SUMMARY

The GGIA's will be given to individuals, teams and/or organizations whose innovations are truly exceptional, transformative and positive in their impact on the quality of life in Canada.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All four eligibility criteria must be checked for the nomination to be eligible for the GGIA and proceed to scoring.

- ☐ The nominee is a Canadian or permanent resident of Canada
- ☐ The nomination is for a specific innovation
- ☐ The impact of the innovation is already happening
- ☐ The nomination is *not* in recognition of lifetime achievement

INSPIRATION

- **Definition:** Inspiration should demonstrate how the innovation and its developer(s) serve as a source of motivation for future innovators in Canada through visionary thinking, determination, creativity, and a commitment to addressing important challenges.
- **Key Questions:** How does the process leading to this innovation, its implementation and its developer(s) inspire future innovators in Canada?

LEADERSHIP

- **Definition:** Leadership should demonstrate how the innovator(s) guided the development and implementation of the innovation through initiative, collaboration, risk-taking, and effective problem-solving. Nominations should focus on the specific actions and decisions that enabled the innovation to succeed.
- **Key Questions:** How did the innovator(s) demonstrate leadership in their work on this innovation? Discuss evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking and problem-solving in the process of developing and implementing the innovation.

IMPACT

- **Definition:** Impact refers to the measurable or demonstrable positive change created by the innovation. Nominations should show how the innovation has achieved meaningful and transformational outcomes through quantitative metrics and/or compelling qualitative evidence, including effects on communities, sectors, economies, cultures, or the environment.
- **Key Questions:** Does the innovation in question have a positive effect in the world? Describe the successful implementation of the innovation in the sector, economy, society or culture, and the role of the nominee(s) in that implementation. Also, please describe how this innovation represents a novel or unique solution compared to others in the field.

INNOVATION is the development and implementation of new or improved ideas, creations, processes, services, or approaches that create meaningful impact in society, culture, the economy, and create lasting positive change.



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CRITERION	1-2 VERY WEAK	3-4 WEAK	5-6 GOOD	7-8 VERY STRONG	9-10 EXCEPTIONAL
INSPIRATION	• Innovation, problem, or motivation are unclear, unsupported, or difficult to verify. • Little to no evidence of visionary thinking, creativity, or originality. • No compelling supporting examples demonstrating inspirational value. • The significance or relevance of the innovation is unclear.	• Innovation and problem are described but lack clarity or sufficient detail. • Some evidence of originality or creativity. • Evidence lacks depth, detail, or supporting examples. • Inspirational value is suggested but not clearly demonstrated.	• Clearly explains the innovation and the challenge it addresses. • Demonstrates motivation, creativity, and perseverance in development. • Provides a few examples that suggest potential to inspire future innovators. • Significance and influence remain largely limited to a specific organization, community, or sector.	• Presents a clearly defined innovation that addresses an important challenge. • Strong examples and/or supporting evidence demonstrate meaningful inspirational influence. • Demonstrates bold thinking, creativity, and determination. • Influence extends beyond a single organization, community, or region.	• Clearly articulates a transformative innovation and why it is vital in addressing a significant challenge or opportunity. • Provides compelling examples and/or supporting evidence of visionary thinking, creativity, and determination. • Serves as a benchmark of excellence and inspiration for future Canadian innovators.
LEADERSHIP	• Leadership contributions are unclear, unsupported, or difficult to verify. • No evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking, or problem-solving. • Nominee's role in development or implementation is unclear. • Contribution is narrow in scope and significance.	• Some evidence of leadership is present but examples lack depth, detail, or demonstrated results. • Limited evidence of initiative, collaboration, risk-taking, or problem-solving. • Leadership remains largely confined to a project, organization, or local context.	• Demonstrates meaningful leadership through initiative and collaboration. • Provides evidence of problem-solving and contributions to implementation. • Leadership remains largely within a specific organization, community, or sector.	• Demonstrates outstanding leadership through clear actions and decisions. • Shows strong initiative, collaboration, problem-solving, risk-taking and effective navigation of challenges. • Examples clearly link the nominee's leadership to meaningful outcomes. • Leadership and influence extend beyond a single organization, community, or region.	• Demonstrates exceptional and transformative leadership with clear evidence that the nominee's actions, decisions, and influence were critical to the innovation's success. • Exemplifies excellence in initiative, collaboration, risk-taking, and problem-solving. • Focus remains on leadership related to the innovation rather than cumulative career or lifetime achievements.
IMPACT	• No quantitative evidence of successful implementation or meaningful outcomes. • No compelling qualitative examples, testimonials, case studies, or stories demonstrating impact. • Contribution is narrow in scope and significance.	• Limited quantitative evidence of successful implementation or meaningful outcomes. • Qualitative examples, testimonials, case studies, or stories are vague, anecdotal, or insufficiently substantiated. • Impact is largely confined to a project, organization, or local context. • Novelty or uniqueness is only partially demonstrated.	• Successful implementation is evident, and quantitative evidence demonstrates positive outcomes; however, the scale, significance, or broader impact is not yet fully established. • Qualitative examples, testimonials, case studies, or stories provide credible evidence of impact but lack sufficient depth, and/or detail to fully demonstrate significance. • Impact remains largely limited to a specific organization, community, sector, or region. • Innovation demonstrates some novelty or distinctiveness.	• Strong quantitative evidence demonstrates meaningful outcomes, successful implementation, and significant positive impact beyond the immediate context. • Strong qualitative examples, testimonials, case studies, or stories clearly demonstrate meaningful outcomes and help communicate the significance of the innovation. • Impact extends beyond a single organization, community, or sector. • Innovation demonstrates clear value and distinctiveness.	• Exceptional quantitative evidence clearly demonstrates substantial, sustained, and transformative impact, with outcomes that are outstanding in scale, significance, and influence. • Compelling qualitative evidence and clear storytelling persuasively demonstrate transformative impact, illustrating why the innovation matters and how it has created lasting positive change. • Innovation represents a novel or groundbreaking solution.