CGCN Bulletin – Call for LOI

How Letters of Intent (LOIs) Will Be Evaluated

The British Columbia Wine Grape Council (BCWGC), in partnership with the Canadian Grapevine Certification Network (CGCN) is pleased to announce the upcoming call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the 2028–2033 AgriScience Grape & Wine Cluster (Next Policy Framework).

To assist researchers in preparing competitive LOIs, the following key evaluation criteria should be considered:

Direct Benefit to BC: Projects must address real challenges facing British Columbia grape growers or winemakers. Research findings and resulting tools must be accessible and usable by BC levy-payers. Standard institutional compliance and alignment with BCWGC and standard provincial/federal contracting terms is a requirement.

Research Novelty & Complementary Adaptation: Proposed research should address documented knowledge gaps without duplicating established work. The committee values both original, pioneering concepts that tackle unaddressed challenges and applied research that adapts, validates, or recalibrates existing national or international findings to unique BC vineyard conditions. We strongly encourage researchers to look at work already completed or underway in other regions (e.g., Washington, Oregon, Eastern Canada, or Europe) prior to writing their LOI, to ensure their efforts are non-duplicative.

Practical Value & Adoption: Proposals should demonstrate a realistic pathway toward industry application, including low barriers to producer implementation and clear knowledge translation (KTT) plans (such as grower guides, demonstration trials, or workshops). Research across all Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)—from foundational discovery science (early TRL) to applied on-farm validation and demonstration (late TRL)—will be considered equitably based on scientific rigor and measurable progression along the innovation continuum. Involving commercial growers or wineries as advisory partners or trial host sites is strongly encouraged

Scientific Rigor & Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Proposals must demonstrate clear, achievable objectives that comport with the project timeline, sound experimental methodology, and capable research leadership. Collaborative partnerships bridging institutions (e.g., AAFC, UBCO, Okanagan College) and complementary disciplines are highly valued.

Key Submission Deadlines:	
December 11, 2026: Recommended deadline for AAFC scientists for internal Science and Technology Branch (STB) review.	**January 15, 2027:** Deadline to submit completed LOIs to the BCWGC.