GRANT WRITING
TIP SHEET

BOMBUS R&I
Driving meaningful impact in our ecosystem

1

PLAN AHEAD

I know, easier said than done. But giving yourself time to be strategic with your energy, take advantage of resources, and write higher quality grants will yield better success (and result in less scrambling for funding).

2

DON'T RECYCLE PREVIOUS GRANTS

Each grant program will have their own goals and priority areas. Build your grant around the specific areas this program is looking at. If you find yourself copy and pasting from another grant application, you're likely to miss the mark.

3

UNDERSTAND THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Get your hands on the evaluation rubric, and look into how reviewers are being instructed to score. Make sure your proposal focuses on each item to be scored within the rubric, and that it touches on the areas reviewers are looking for.

4

REACH OUT TO THE GRANT ADMIN TEAM

Reach out to the team administering the grant, and ask them what they are looking for, how the review process works, and what is in/out of scope. For larger programs that might not have the same responsiveness, attend info sessions (even if you're familiar with the program).

5

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUPPORTS

If you're in a large institution, reach out to your research services office for advice BEFORE you are ready to submit. These teams are highly qualified and have nuanced understanding of what large grant programs (CFI, tri-council) are looking for. This will of course require you to plan ahead...

6

BRING PARTNERS IN EARLY

Good research and innovation doesn't happen in a vacuum. Chances are you'll need collaborators at the table to make an impact. Bring them in while you're designing the work and writing grants, and have them provide letters of support so the evaluation team sees the fruits of those partnerships.

7

DITCH THE JARGON

Even if you're writing a very technical grant application, ditch the jargon where you can. Especially when speaking about the impact and sustainability aspects of your work, you want your writing to be easily understood. If the reviewers don't know what you're talking about, they are unlikely to give you a good score.

8

BE MINDFUL USING AI

AI can be a great tool for improving grammar and readibility, elimiating jargon, or decreasing word counts. Don't let it write your proposal though, and make sure any AI prompts are removed before you hit submit!

9

STAY UP TO DATE

Keep up to date with standards and expectations for your field. This might mean making sure you disagregate sex and gender data, are up to date on GBA+ certifications, or are meeting standards for DEI practices in your lab/company. Reviewers DO look for this, especially in grants where trainees play a critical role in the work.