

# Update

October 2024



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## New leadership at the CFI

On October 1, **Sylvain Charbonneau** started his tenure as the CFI's sixth President and CEO. A former researcher, entrepreneur and research administrator, he most recently held the position of Vice-President, Research and Innovation, at the University of Ottawa.

On October 3, the Government of Canada announced that **Nancy Déziel** had been appointed Chair of the CFI's Board of Directors for a three-year term. She brings a wealth of experience in the science and research sectors, including working with Quebec's college centres for the transfer of technology for over 24 years and serving on the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Board of Directors.

## 2025 Innovation Fund competition — It's time to review the list of notices of intent

The deadline to submit a notice of intent (NOI) for the 2025 Innovation Fund competition was October 2, 2024 and we have now posted [a list](#) of the ones we received (under *What is the process to apply?*). If your institution submitted one for this competition, we invite you to review the list: look for projects that complement those you submitted or that present opportunities for potential collaborations or multi-institutional initiatives. The list includes a short description of each project as well as the team leaders, administrative and collaborating institutions, and keywords.

We have updated page 19 of the **call for proposals** under "The Declaration on Research Assessment and rethinking impact" to clarify that if applicants use quantitative metrics (e.g., citation counts) to demonstrate uptake of their work, they should also provide qualitative information to demonstrate quality of impact.

We received 357 notices of intent from 68 eligible institutions, requesting around \$1.35 billion in CFI funding.

### By stream

Stream	# of NOIs received (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request (\$)
Stream 1 (Open)	236 (66%)	\$2,493M (70%)	\$943M (70%)	\$4.00M
Stream 2 (SSH)	36 (10%)	\$261M (7%)	\$104M (8%)	\$2.89M
Stream 3 (Core)	85 (24%)	\$802M (23%)	\$306M (23%)	\$3.60M

## By institution size

Institution type	# of NOIs received (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request (\$)
U15 + affiliates	233 (65%)	\$2,516M (71%)	\$958M (71%)	\$4.11M
Medium	53 (15%)	\$454M (13%)	\$177M (13%)	\$3.35M
Small	71 (20%)	\$586M (16%)	\$218M (16%)	\$3.08M

## By project size

CFI request	# of NOIs received (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)
≤ \$2M	94 (26%)	\$119M (9%)
> \$2M to ≤ \$4M	145 (41%)	\$431M (32%)
> \$4M to ≤ \$6M	71 (20%)	\$339M (25%)
> \$6M to ≤ \$8M	23 (6%)	\$154M (11%)
> \$8M	24 (7%)	\$311M (23%)

We use notices of intent to assemble review committees. If you must make changes to the team leaders and team members, administrative or collaborating institutions, stream or suggested reviewers, contact us at [innovation.fund@innovation.ca](mailto:innovation.fund@innovation.ca) as soon as possible. We will make the change in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) for you.

## Research security requirements associated with the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships

Following the submission of several Risk Assessment Forms (RAFs) in the last few months, we identified the following two aspects that required clarification:

1. In the context of the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP), what types of private-sector partner organizations are subject to the Risk Assessment Form?
  - Private-sector partner organizations subject to the Risk Assessment Form include for-profit organizations (excluding Canadian Crown corporations) and organizations that assist, support, connect and/or represent the common interests of a group of for-profit organizations, such as industry associations and formal or informal consortia. Producer groups are excluded from this definition and are not subject to the Risk Assessment Form.

2. When does an institution need to provide a Private-sector partner identification form for a partner that only meets the criterion “Contributes more than \$500,000 to the infrastructure through a cash or in-kind contribution to any single item”?
  - We require a Private-sector partner identification form once you have identified a partner: in this case, a supplier. It is common for a supplier to remain unknown during the proposal stage and to be identified later in the procurement process. In such cases, you should submit a Private-sector partner identification form only once you identify the supplier.
  - If no RAF was yet submitted for this project, then the institution will also need to submit an RAF as soon as a partner that contributes more than \$500,000 is identified, regardless of what stage the project is at.
  - If an RAF was already submitted for this project, then it will need to be updated to take into consideration the newly identified partner.

See our [research security web page](#) for more information.

## **Access privileges for the research security module in CAMS**

Since June 25, 2024, institutional liaisons have access privileges to the research security module in CAMS. Users with access to this module can manage the requirements related to research security. The institutional liaison can assign access privileges for the research security module to other administrators at your institution. Consult section 15 of [Getting started with CAMS: An overview for institutional administrators](#) to learn more about managing institutional access privileges.

## **Updates to your institutional agreement**

Remember to send an updated institutional agreement when there are changes to your signing authorities. This is necessary for your institution to remain eligible to apply for funding, and to avoid delays in finalizing your awards and receiving CFI funds. You can find instructions on how to update your institutional agreement on our website: [Resources to apply and manage your award | Canada Foundation for Innovation](#).

## **Recent changes to the “suggested reviewers” section of CFI proposals**

We have updated the “suggested reviewers” section in CAMS to reflect the CFI’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). When suggesting reviewers, consider the expertise and knowledge needed to review proposals based on EDI principles as well as on research and infrastructure elements. To help us reach a more diverse range of experts, look for suggested reviewers at different stages of their careers, including early-career researchers, as well as ones from outside academia and from private-sector or non-profit organizations. Also include experts from underrepresented groups, such as women; Indigenous, racialized or 2SLGBTQI+ people; and persons with disabilities. Having diverse reviewers aligns with our efforts to reduce systemic barriers to marginalized groups and to diversify the perspectives, experience and knowledge of our review committees.

## **Annual reporting requirements and institutional payments**

We thank institutions for submitting their project progress reports (PPRs) and financial reports. The submission rate is over 99 percent for PPRs and 85 percent for financial reports.

Data collected through PPRs for April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, will be used to develop our annual report on results. This report is a key accountability tool that we use to demonstrate the outcomes of CFI funding. We expect to publish our next report on our website in early 2025.

We use the financial report data for annual financial analyses, which inform our risk-based approach for making payments to institutions. We also use the financial reports to manage projects. We perform follow-up procedures on issues we identify from the reports. Your response to these issues is important, and we encourage you to address them as soon as possible.

The deadline for submitting interim financial reports and Infrastructure Operating Fund annual reports was June 15; the deadline for project progress reports was June 30. Your institution is required to submit a report for the Infrastructure Operating Fund annual every year, whether or not it had any actual or forecasted expenditures to report.

If your institution has not yet submitted a PPR or financial report, please submit these as soon as possible. If we do not receive these reports by November 15, 2024, we will need to hold back future instalments for all CFI-funded projects (including new awards to be finalized, if any). We will resume instalments once your institution has submitted all overdue reports and any other outstanding items have been resolved.

We sent reminders in October to your institution’s CFI account administrator and CFI liaison, advising them of any outstanding reports. You can consult your institutional overview page in the CFI Awards Management System at any time to see if your reports are overdue.

## Project end dates

We will soon begin to closely monitor project end dates reported in final financial reports. If the actual project end date you enter in the final financial report is later than the end date approved by the CFI (six months after the anticipated end date listed in the award agreement, or based on the latest approved amendment request), we may return the final financial report to you for corrections. Due to system limitations, institutions have to recreate the final financial report to correct the actual end date. For this reason, we caution you to enter the project end date with care when you create your final financial report; please consult your Senior Programs Officer if you have questions.

As Section 6.6.2 of the [Policy and program guide](#) states:

Institutions must normally complete the project within the anticipated end date indicated in the award agreement. Institutions can incur expenditures after the anticipated end date without requesting preapproval from the CFI as long as the actual end date falls within six months of the anticipated end date. The actual end date of a project is the date at which the infrastructure has been acquired or developed and is operational and all expenditures have been incurred (i.e., goods received, services rendered or work performed). The end date is not the date of submission of the final financial report.

However, institutions must request pre-approval from the CFI if they will not be able to acquire or develop the infrastructure within six months of the anticipated end date per the award agreement. If the end date of a project has been extended once, any further revisions to the end date require pre-approval from the CFI.

## Revision of the Canadian Research and Development Classification

Statistics Canada, the CFI and the three federal research funding agencies worked together to develop and release version 1 of the Canadian Research and Development Classification in October 2020. In the summer of 2023, the partners reviewed the classification that focused on minor updates or changes to the Field of Research. The process included a public consultation by Statistics Canada to gather suggestions, while the tri-agency and the CFI analyzed data and comments submitted.

The review recently concluded. The partners added eight new Field of Research subclasses (e.g., Black studies, Indigenous studies, translation studies) and made minor changes to a few existing subclass names and definitions. Consult the [full list of changes](#). In mid-June, all the specified changes were implemented in CAMS.

## **Interactive dashboard to report on results**

Once a year, the CFI publishes a report on results, which provides an overview of the outputs and outcomes resulting from the use of funded research infrastructure. As this report is meant to provide a snapshot of the latest annual data that we get through project progress reports, the parameters of the information presented are static. This makes it difficult to compare trends across years and impossible to analyze by region or funding program. To overcome such limitations, we developed an interactive data visualization tool. The tool allows comparison over the past four years as well as filtering by criteria for some key data collected each year through the project progress reports. The dashboard is available on our website under [Reporting on results](#). We plan to update the dashboard annually.

## **Showcase of the new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs**

This week, we are launching “Building prosperity,” a promotional campaign showcasing innovators and entrepreneurs across Canada whose hands-on experience in CFI-funded facilities helped them turn their bold ideas into businesses. The campaign highlights how labs serve as state-of-the-art training grounds and launch pads for Canada’s new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs who are starting companies, inventing new products, creating jobs and helping build prosperity in Canada. [Find out more.](#)

## **Heartfelt thanks for helping us celebrate Navigator’s 10th anniversary!**

Our 10th anniversary generated notable attention from researchers and institutions alike. Many facilities listed on the CFI’s [Research Facilities Navigator](#) polished their profiles, submitted [videos](#) highlighting the expertise they provide to the private sector and engaged with our anniversary posts on social media. We take pride in supporting your labs’ partnership objectives by showcasing their R&D capabilities to innovators across Canada. Thanks for showing your Navigator pride!

## **New stories and podcasts about research at your institutions**

We regularly produce stories and podcasts about the research projects we fund. Check out our newest additions:

*From St. Francis Xavier University:*

### **[Can plant-based proteins taste better?](#)**

Marcia English wants to give consumers all the benefits of pulse proteins without the beany flavour. That’s good news for Canada’s \$6.3 billion pulse industry.

*From the University of Toronto:*

## **Creating a mental health playbook for student athletes**

How sports psychology expert Katherine Tamminen is helping competitors thrive now — and long after they've put away their jerseys

*From McMaster University:*

## **Is bad air quality making you sick?**

The air you breathe contains thousands of natural and synthetic chemicals. Joseph Okeme is identifying which ones cause chronic diseases.

*From the University of Waterloo:*

## **The future of flight depends on sustainability that goes beyond biofuels**

The University of Waterloo's Suzanne Kearns is a global leader in sustainable aviation, but her flight path wasn't without turbulence.

## **Research and innovation opportunities through Horizon Europe**

Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation funding program. A recent agreement gives Canadians access to more opportunities to elevate their research and innovations through global partnerships.

On July 3, 2024, Canada and the European Commission signed an agreement enhancing Canada's participation in Horizon Europe **under its Pillar 2**. The Government of Canada will allocate €99.3 million (around CAN\$147 million) over four years to fund this association with Horizon Europe.

Academics, industrial researchers, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and other research and innovation actors in Canada can apply for funding and participate in calls under similar conditions as EU member states. Canadian researchers can also access non-nuclear research infrastructure, training and capacity-building opportunities that the European Commission's **Joint Research Centre** offers.

Please visit the Government of Canada's Horizon Europe **website** to learn more, access **helpful links and resources**, sign up for their newsletter and find **national contact information**. For general queries, contact **horizoneurope@ised-isde.gc.ca**.



# Update

## Important upcoming dates

You can always find key dates for all the [CFI's funding opportunities](#) on our website. Here are a few important dates coming up:

November 15, 2024	Date at which the CFI will stop payments to institutions with overdue reports
November 18-19, 2024	CFI Board of Directors' meeting
February 4, 2025	Deadline to submit proposals for the 2025 Innovation Fund competition
February 15, 2025	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
March 17-18, 2025	CFI Board of Directors' meeting

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