

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Development of MRF Implementation Plan

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February 6, 2024

INNOVATION

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Milestones

- **May 2024** – Government of Canada approves MRF Framework
- CFI mandated to implement in collaboration with ISED
- **June 2024 - Preliminary Implementation Plan** submitted to Minister of ISI
- **September 2024 - Consultation** with MSIF supported facilities & TRIUMF
- **November 2024 - Summary Report** of Consultation
- **April 2025 –Final Implementation Plan** due for submission to Minister of ISI



CLS





Portfolio approach

Portfolio Approach: What's in the Framework?

- ❖ Goal: Maintain a diverse portfolio to maximize scientific and socioeconomic benefits for Canada
- ❖ Investment & Divestment: Decisions based on strategic priorities, competing needs, opportunities and transparent processes
- ❖ Minister of ISI Role:
 - ensures alignment with national priorities
 - Sets proposal themes
 - Approves facilities/projects eligible to apply —established or in development
- ❖ Current & Future portfolio:
 - Six designated Major Research Facilities
 - Potential expansion: TRIUMF may transition to MRF
Additional facilities considered based on eligibility, resources, and portfolio review



Facilities within the scope of the MRF framework are

- national in both scope and significance, advancing Canada's scientific interests and objectives, resulting in benefits of national strategic value, and critical research infrastructure;
- international in reach, contributing to the advancement of international science, hosting international users, and participating in international agreements, networks, and projects;
- unique in the capabilities they offer and the breadth of multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral communities they serve;
- complex, requiring extraordinary planning and engagement of multiple players; and
- large-scale, carrying significant and long-term operating costs, and typically exceeding \$100 million in capital costs.



Portfolio Approach: What Did We Hear?

❖ Guiding Principles:

- Clear objectives & inclusive of multiple disciplines
- Consider interactions across facilities & international collaborations
- Strong backbone of digital infrastructure (e.g. Digital Research Alliance of Canada and CANARIE)

❖ Strategic Review Committee:

- Diverse expertise and balanced disciplinary representation
- Periodic reviews to ensure responsiveness to new ideas and opportunities
- Structured pathways for new facilities & major upgrades



Portfolio Approach: What Did We Hear?

❖ Resource Allocation:

- Avoid spreading resources thin; each MRF supported to ensure optimal operations and long-term goals
- New MRF require additional funding



Portfolio Approach: What Do We Propose?

- ❖ Portfolio of Canadian Research Facilities of National Importance:
 - ✓ **MRF (Major Research Facilities):** Strategic selection
 - ✓ Including **investment in access to international facilities**
 - ✓ **MSIF (National Research Facilities):** Bottom up, based on excellence & strategic input
- ❖ Objective: Portfolio of MRF & MSIF creates a range (network) of capabilities that serves the national interests & advances scientific progress.
- ❖ Key component: Digital infrastructure & services – Collaboration with community (Data working group & survey)



Portfolio Approach: What Do We Propose?

❖ Strategic Review Committee

- ✓ Standing Committee with multidisciplinary research and industry leaders with strong understanding of the lifecycle of research infrastructures and Canada's research and innovation priorities
- ✓ Advises on budget requests & portfolio composition
- ✓ Can recommend major upgrades, new additions, divestment –ministerial approval required

❖ Informed Recommendations:

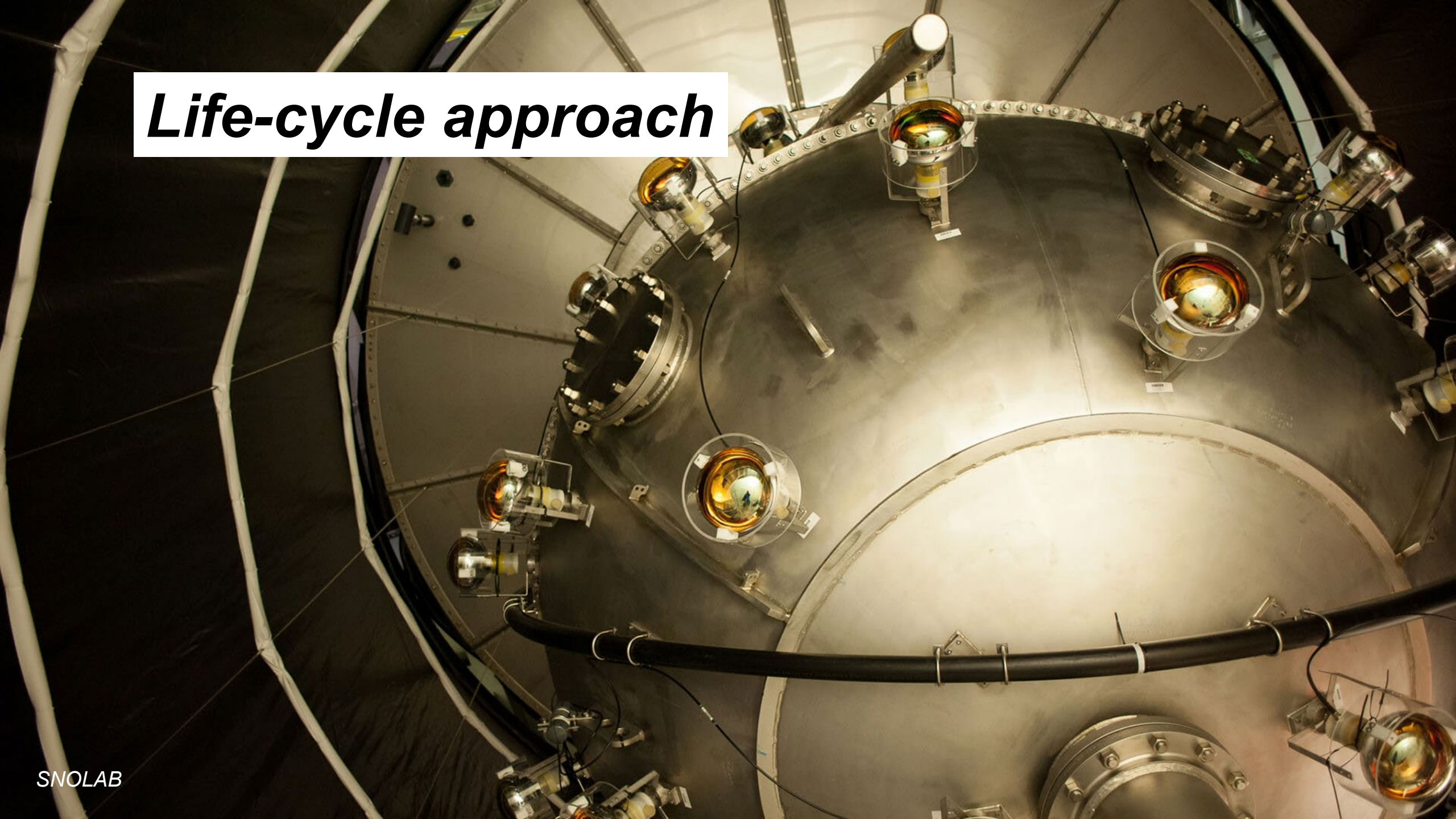
- ✓ Alignment with Canada's research capacity & national strategy for research and innovation, guided by ISED & CFI



Questions or comments?



Life-cycle approach



Lifecycle Approach: What's in the Framework?

- ❖ **Investment decisions** consider facility's full lifespan, scale & scope of resource needs
- ❖ **Funding Stability:** Portfolio funding remains fixed for fiscal stability & reviewed every 5 to 7 years
- ❖ **MRF Phase 2:** O&M - up to 80 % covered by the CFI
Capital - up to 40 % covered by the CFI
- ❖ **Minister of Industry, Science and Innovation Role**
 - Proposes federal funding adjustments based on portfolio reviews
 - Approves facility divestment proposals



Lifecycle Approach: What Did We Hear?

- ❖ **Balancing long-term stable funding and flexibility to respond**
 - Long-term funding cycles of 5–10 years, adaptable to facility needs.
 - Contingency funding & adjustments during funding periods are essential
- ❖ **Support for transition and decommissioning:** Minimum 3-year continued funding for facilities winding down
- ❖ **Enhancing Research Support:** Include funding for research scientists and R&D activities
- ❖ **Matching Funding:** Engage provinces, territories, and other funders early.
- ❖ **Resource distribution:** Ensure MRF programming doesn't reduce resources for MSIF-supported facilities. Both are vital to Canada's research ecosystem.



Lifecycle Approach: What Do We Propose?

- ❖ **Reassessing Funding levels every 6 years**
- ❖ **New mechanisms for**
 - ✓ Adjustments to address unforeseen challenges & opportunities
 - ✓ Major facility upgrades
 - ✓ New facility development
- ❖ **Transition period** in event of reduced funding or divestment decisions
- ❖ **Separate MSIF & MRF funding envelopes**
- ❖ **Advocating for Full Funding Needs**
 - ✓ Assessing and will informing government on full needs, including currently ineligible costs (e.g. \$ for research scientists)





**Questions or
Comments?**

Coordinated funding for capital and O&M



Coordinated Funding for Capital and O&M: What's in the Framework?

- ❖ Decisions on capital and O&M will be coordinated to better consider both immediate and long-term needs in the context of a facility's entire lifecycle



Coordinated Funding for Capital and O&M: What Did We Hear?

- ❖ A single budget for capital and O&M to support long-term planning
- ❖ Ensure coherence across capital and O&M investments to avoid gaps or redundancies
- ❖ MSIF requires coordination of funding decisions for capital and O&M



Coordinated funding for capital and O&M: What Do We Propose?

❖ For MRF:

- ✓ Combined funding request** for O&M and capital funding

❖ For MSIF:

- ✓ Improved coordination** of O&M funding (MSIF) and Capital (IF) funding decisions

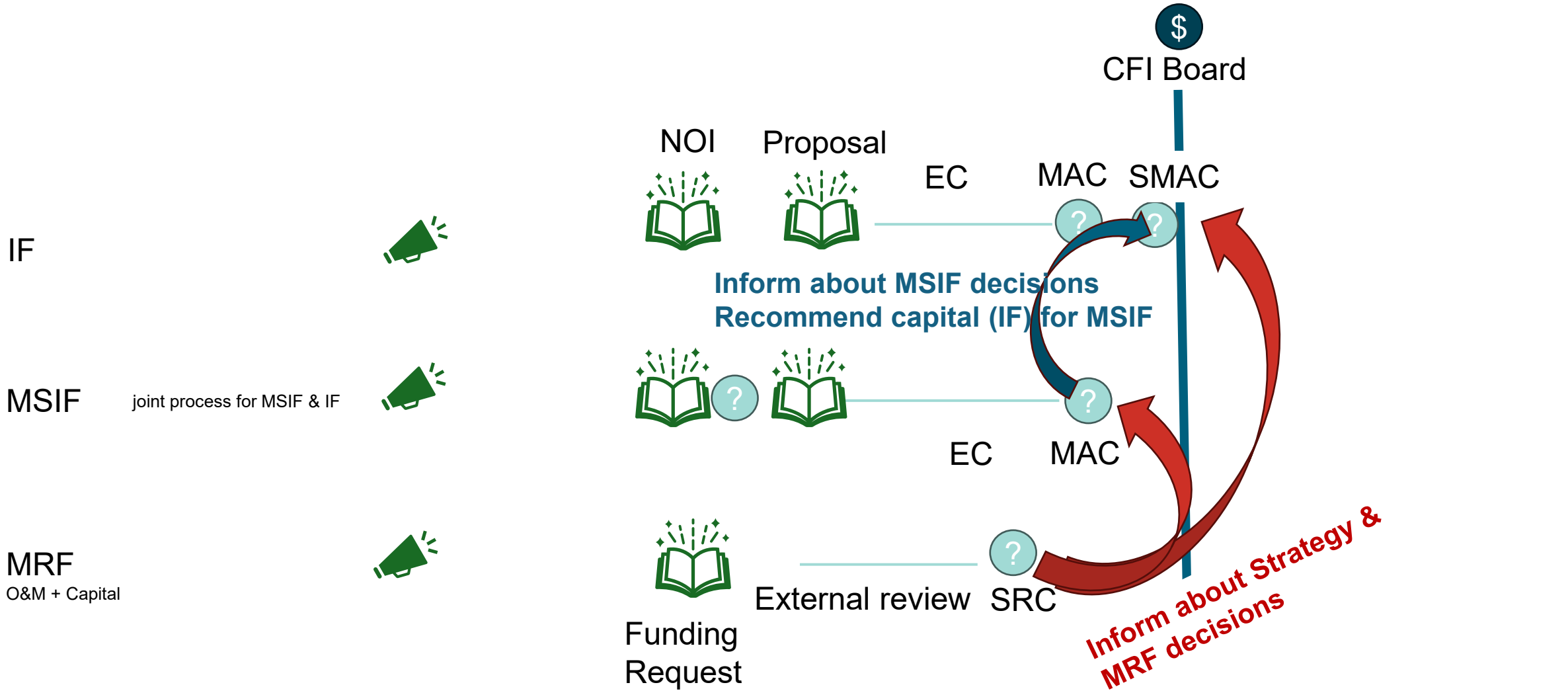


Fiscal Year 1

Fiscal Year 2

Fiscal Year 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3



***Questions or
comments?***



Where do we go from here?

The CFI will

- Review of feedback from today's consultation
- Finalize implementation plan
- Share with CFI Board of Directors
- Submit to the Minister of ISI by April 30, 2025

Research Facilities & the CFI




- Engage with Provinces, Industry and other sectors
- Continue to demonstrate the value proposition Research Facilities of National Importance bring to Canada



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Thank you

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