

Update

February 2025



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Introducing the CFI's new Vice President of External Relations and Communications

We have a new Vice President of External Relations and Communications. [Christine Aquino](#) Christine Aquino comes to us from the National Research Council where she was the director general of the communications branch. She starts in the role on March 3.

The latest on the 2025 Innovation Fund competition

By the February 4 deadline, we received 334 proposals for the 2025 Innovation Fund competition from 70 institutions. These proposals request over \$1.4 billion in funding from the CFI, representing total project costs exceeding \$3.7 billion.

The first stage of the review process will involve virtual Expert Committee meetings, scheduled to take place from March to July 2025. CFI staff are currently finalizing the recruitment of committee members.

For more information on the [2025 Innovation Fund competition](#), please visit our website.

By stream

Stream	# proposals submitted (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request \$
Stream 1 (Open)	229 (68.6%)	\$2,662M (72.4%)	\$1,011M (72.2%)	\$4.42M
Stream 2 (SSH)	32 (9.6%)	\$273M (7.4%)	\$107M (7.6%)	\$3.34M
Stream 3 (Core)	73 (21.9%)	\$740M (20.1%)	\$284M (20.2%)	\$3.88M

By institution size

Institution size	# proposals submitted (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request \$
U15 & affiliated	225 (67.4%)	\$2,549M (69.4%)	\$967M (69.0%)	\$4.30M
Medium	46 (13.8%)	\$460M (12.5%)	\$178M (12.7%)	\$3.88M
Small	63 (18.9%)	\$666M (18.1%)	\$257M (18.3%)	\$4.08M

By region

Region	# proposals submitted (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request \$
Ontario	118 (35.3%)	\$1,371M (37.3%)	\$529M (37.8%)	\$4.49M
Québec	101 (30.2%)	\$921M (25.1%)	\$340M (24.3%)	\$3.37M
West	96 (28.7%)	\$1,251M (34.0%)	\$483M (34.5%)	\$5.03M
Atlantic	18 (5.4%)	\$121M (3.3%)	\$45M (3.2%)	\$2.51M
North	1 (0.3%)	\$12M (0.3%)	\$4M (0.3%)	\$4.00M

By primary field of research

Primary field of research	# proposals submitted (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)	Average CFI request \$
Health	79 (23.7%)	\$971M (26.4%)	\$378M (26.9%)	\$4.78M
NSE	214 (64.1%)	\$2,360M (64.2%)	\$889M (63.4%)	\$4.15M
SSH	41 (12.3%)	\$345M (9.4%)	\$135M (9.6%)	\$3.30M

By size of CFI request

Size of CFI request	# proposals submitted (%)	Total CFI request \$ (%)
≤\$2M	74 (22.2%)	\$93M (6.7%)
>\$2M to ≤\$4M	134 (40.1%)	\$393M (28.0%)
>\$4M to ≤\$6M	71 (21.3%)	\$342M (24.4%)
>\$6M to ≤\$8M	30 (9.0%)	\$202M (14.4%)
>\$8M	25 (7.5%)	\$372M (26.5%)

Changes to the timeline for the next Innovation Fund competition

Moving forward, the CFI will run Innovation Fund competitions every two years, rather than every two-and-a-half to three years as we have done in the past. As a result, the next competition will be launched in early 2026, with decisions to be made by the CFI's Board of Directors in fall 2027.

The budget for the 2027 competition will be up to \$325 million in capital costs, with up to \$97 million in associated infrastructure operating funding. This allocation will enable us to sustain a comparable level of investment over time, in line with previous competitions.

Changes to how to submit your research security forms in the post-award phase

We have updated the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) so you can now submit all Risk Assessment Forms (RAFs) and Private-sector partner identification forms directly in the research security module.

Remember that you may need to submit or update these forms if there are changes to a project. For funded projects for which research security requirements apply, institutions are **responsible** until the final financial report is submitted. Specifically, if there are any changes to a funded project that could affect national security risk under the **National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships**, you will need to submit or update an RAF. For more details, please consult the **Research security page** of our website.

You can find more information on the process to follow in section 14.4 of the **Getting started with the CFI Awards Management System: An overview for institutional administrators**.

Consultation for the update of the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) 2020, Version 2.0

Members of the research community are invited to provide feedback on the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) 2020 Version 2.0 to ensure it reflects today's Canadian research landscape.

Visit Statistics Canada's website (**Participate in the permanent consultation for the revision of the Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC)**) to provide your feedback and comments by end of August 2025.

Annual financial trend analysis

The CFI conducts an annual financial trend analysis for each institution with active CFI-funded projects. This analysis is a key part of our oversight framework and helps guide our risk-based decisions regarding payments to institutions. It allows us to better align payments with observed spending trends and our experience with each institution. We assess factors such as the frequency of significant project spending delays based on actual costs reported in the latest financial reports, along with other risk factors that may influence our payment decisions, including delays in obtaining timely financial reports and other requested information.

Our analysis is nearing completion, and we will notify your institution in the coming weeks if your planned instalments or reporting requirements will be impacted.

Upcoming public funding announcements

Due to the current prorogation of Parliament, the November 2024 funding decisions for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) and JELF partnerships remain under embargo. Please contact our Events Coordinator, [Cynthia Beaudin](#), if you have any questions.

New stories and podcasts about research at your institutions

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

From Nipissing University: [Investigating the causes — and consequences — of war and genocide](#)

How immersive gaming, film, video and podcasting tools are giving Hilary Earl and her colleagues fresh insights into the history of state-sponsored violence

A collection of stories from Concordia University, McMaster University, McGill University, Université de Montréal and University of Waterloo: [Taking research to the next level with artificial intelligence](#)

How researchers in Canada are turbo-charging their research with artificial intelligence to solve problems, from traffic jams to climate change to discovering new pharmaceuticals

From the University of British Columbia: [Remaking connections through art\(ifacts\)](#)

Kristen Barnett is leading an Indigenous archaeology lab that will help communities reconnect with rematriated items

Update

From the University of Ottawa: How neuroendocrinology crosses sectors to create promising new insights

Nafissa Ismail focuses on the effects of hormones on the brain to pin down the interactions between our organs and our emotions

From the University of Saskatchewan: Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan are global leaders in pandemic preparedness

In 2002, German researcher Volker Gerdts relocated to Saskatoon. Cutting-edge vaccine research was the attraction. Now he is at the helm of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO).

Important upcoming dates

March 17 & 18, 2025 CFI Board of Directors meeting

Stay connected and up to date on CFI activities and announcements: Subscribe to our communications today.