CFI UPDATE

**A periodic update from the vice presidents of the
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)**

November 2016

In this issue:

- **The latest on the 2017 Innovation Fund competition**

- **Cyberinfrastructure Initiative — next Challenge 1 competition to be launched in early 2017**

- **2016 *Report on results* available soon**

- **CFI @ CARA 2016 regional meetings and le Colloque 2016 de l'ADARUQ**

- **New on our website — "Sharing of good practices"**

- **CFI @ 20: Keep sharing your stories**

- **Reminder: send us your industry liaison contacts**

The latest on the 2017 Innovation Fund competition

On October 11 of this year, we received 351 proposals from 59 institutions for the 2017 Innovation Fund competition. The proposals request nearly $1.2 billion from the CFI and represent total project costs of approximately $3.2 billion. See page 4 of this newsletter for a *snapshot of the 2017 Innovation Fund competition.*

CFI funding requests range from $300,000 to $29.8 million. Ten proposals (2.8 percent) request more than $10 million from the CFI, representing 13.5 percent of the total requested from the CFI. Sixty projects (17.1 percent) request less than $1 million; these comprise less than four percent of the total requested from the CFI.

The expert committee review meetings will take place from November 2016 to February 2017. Programs staff are finalizing the recruitment of 73 expert committees, of which 41 will meet in person; the remaining committees will be reviewing three or fewer proposals and will convene by teleconference.

Finally, we have identified 25 proposals that will be assessed in face-to-face meetings between the expert committee and institutional representatives; these fall in two categories: a) proposals requesting more than $7.5 million from the CFI and b) proposals that are sufficiently complex in nature where a face-to-face meeting is deemed necessary.

Cyberinfrastructure Initiative — next Challenge 1 competition to be launched in early 2017

We are planning to launch the second competition of Challenge 1 (for research data infrastructures) of the Cyberinfrastructure Initiative in the months ahead, with a Call for Proposals to be published in early 2017. As with the first competition, the CFI will look for communities of researchers coming together to form multi-institutional consortia to propose research data infrastructure projects that create tailored, shared and integrated data resources (e.g. databases and data repositories) capable of enabling leading-edge research on significant scientific, social and economic questions.

2016 *Report on results* available soon

Each year, the CFI's Evaluation and Outcome Assessment group prepares a *Report on results* from our single most comprehensive data collection tool, the annual project progress reports. The *Report on results* is both an accountability tool, as well as a vehicle to support CFI management and decision-making. This year's report includes data from 1,601 operational projects, representing an exceptional submission rate of 99 percent from operational projects expected for the year. The *2016 Report on results* will be available on our website in early December.

CFI @ CARA 2016 regional meetings and le Colloque 2016 de l'ADARUQ

We recently attended and participated in the federal granting agencies' update session at the 2016 CARA East regional meeting, which was held in Fredericton, N.B., on November 9–10. Watch for CFI staff at CARA Ontario (November 30 to December 1) in Toronto and at CARA West (December 1–2) in Regina. We will speak about sharing good practices on proposal development and project implementation, and will share further details on our plans for the modernization of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund. Nous serons également de la partie au Colloque 2016 de l'ADARUQ du 16 au 18 novembre à Orford!

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Good practices

CFI staff members regularly discuss the management of projects with recipient institutions. We also perform monitoring visits at institutions. These provide us with the opportunity to understand and assess the adequacy of the policies, practices, processes and controls in place for the management of CFI awards. During these interactions, we observe many good practices, which we want to share with you. Visit the "Sharing good practices" section now available on our website. Practices span the full lifecycle of a CFI award.

The initial content is mostly based on what we have seen during monitoring visits. We are hoping to continuously build on this initiative and encourage you to send us your good practices so we can share them with others. We are also hoping to showcase more practices aimed at smaller institutions and colleges.

We would like to thank CARA and CAUBO for their participation in this initiative, as well as the members of the External Advisory Group that helped us review the practices and provided valuable feedback:

- Deanne Babcock, Western University
- Dawn Davidson, George Brown College
- Patrick Foré, University of Ottawa
- Nancy Hayter, Dalhousie University
- Martin Kirk, University of British Columbia
- Gillian Laird, University of Lethbridge
- Matthew Nowakowski, Université de Montréal
- Belinda Potter, Hospital for Sick Children
- Terry Summers, University of Saskatchewan

CFI at 20: Keep sharing your stories

We are nearly two months into our 20th anniversary campaign under the theme, *Research builds my community*, and want to thank you for sharing your stories with us on Twitter using #CFI20yrs. You may also have seen the postcards we sent to CFI liaisons a few weeks ago to send to several of your research labs and facilities. We hope they spark more sharing on Twitter by your researchers and students. We have been thrilled to read your stories and greatly appreciate your support throughout this campaign.

Reminder: send us your industry liaison contacts

In our September *CFI Update*, we mentioned that companies looking to form research partnerships find it useful to access industry liaison offices at institutions. Your response to our request to compile a comprehensive list of these contacts on our Research Facilities Navigator has been good. If you would like your industry liaison office to be part of this list, please submit contact information, including email, telephone number and address, to industry-industrie@innovation.ca. The list will be published early in the new year.

A snapshot of the 2017 Innovation Fund competition

351 proposals, total projects costs of nearly **$3.2 billion** and total CFI request of approximately **$1.2 billion**

59 institutions submitted proposals:
- **23** U15 + affiliated hospitals (U15+H)
- **8** mid-size universities (M)
- **22** small universities (S)
- **4** not-for-profit research institutions (NFP)
- **2** colleges (C)

By the type of institution

Institution	Proposals submitted		Total cost		CFI request		Average CFI request (M$)
	#	%	M $	%	M $	%	
U15 + H	240	68.3	2,506	78.5	919	77.8	3.8
M	56	16.0	362	11.3	139	11.8	2.5
S	49	14.0	253	7.9	95	8.0	1.9
NFP	4	1.1	62	2.0	25	2.1	6.2
C	2	0.6	9	0.3	3	0.2	1.3
Total	**351**	**100**	**3,192**	**100**	**1,181**	**100**	**3.4**

By province

Province	Proposals submitted		Total cost		CFI request		Average CFI request (M$)
	#	%	M $	%	M $	%	
ON	159	45.3	1,462	45.8	503	42.6	3.2
QC	99	28.2	840	26.3	330	28.0	3.3
BC	44	12.6	390	12.2	154	13.0	3.5
AB	25	7.1	283	8.9	110	9.4	4.4
MB	8	2.3	64	2.0	23	1.9	2.8
NS	7	2.0	59	1.8	23	2.0	3.3
SK	5	1.4	56	1.8	23	1.9	4.5
NB	2	0.6	8	0.3	3	0.3	1.6
NL	2	0.6	30	0.9	12	1.0	5.8
Total	**351**	**100**	**3,192**	**100**	**1,181**	**100**	**3.4**

INNOVATION.CA
CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION | FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR L'INNOVATION

20 YEARS • ANS

By size of CFI request

Size of CFI request	Proposals submitted		Total cost		CFI request	
	#	%	M $	%	M $	%
>10M	10	2.8	562	17.6	159	13.5
6M to 10M	34	9.7	659	20.6	260	22.0
4M to 6M	58	16.5	712	22.3	279	23.7
3M to 4M	48	13.7	434	13.6	168	14.2
2M to 3M	61	17.4	384	12.0	150	12.7
1M to 2M	80	22.8	326	10.2	122	10.4
<= 1M	60	17.1	116	3.6	41	3.5
Total	351	100	3,192	100	1,181	100

Multi-institutional projects

Three or more collaborating institutions (including administrative institution)	Proposals submitted		Total cost		CFI request		Average CFI request (M $)
	#	%	M $	%	M $	%	
	49	14.0	821	25.7	257	21.7	5.2

By primary research sector

Research sector	Proposals submitted		Total cost		CFI request		Average CFI request (M $)
	#	%	M $	%	M $	%	
Natural sciences and engineering	236	67.2	2,132	66.8	765	64.8	3.2
Health sciences	101	28.8	1,007	31.6	398	33.7	3.9
Human and social sciences/arts and literature	14	4.0	53	1.7	18	1.5	1.2
Total	351	100	3,192	100	1,181	100	3.4

INNOVATION.CA
CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION | FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR L'INNOVATION

20 YEARS · ANS