

## VP UPDATE

A periodic update from the Vice Presidents of the Canada Foundation for Innovation

October 2015

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### DETAILS ON OUR PAN-CANADIAN CONSULTATION

*CFI has set up meetings with stakeholders across the country for November and December. RSVPs requested*

CFI staff will meet with a large number of our stakeholders over the next two months, including a series of meetings across the country. See the schedule below for the dates and locations of these meetings (times noted reflect local times in each city). Please RSVP to [rsvp@innovation.ca](mailto:rsvp@innovation.ca) with the name of your institution, the number of participants from your institution and the city or location of the session you will attend, no later than one week prior to the session. We encourage all interested research administrators, funding partners, researchers and other stakeholders to attend.

The CFI will also be at the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) regional meetings and the 2015 Association des administratrices et administrateurs de recherche universitaire du Québec (ADARUQ) meeting as part of our consultation:

- CARA East: November 13
- ADARUQ: November 20
- CARA West: December 4
- CARA Ontario: December 7

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>City, Province</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>October 26, 2015</b>	1 – 3 p.m.	Vancouver, B.C.	Sheraton Wall Centre Port McNeill Room <i>Capacity: 100 people</i>
<b>October 27, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Victoria, B.C.	University of Victoria Haro Room, Cadboro Commons Bldg. <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>October 27, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Halifax, N.S.	Delta Barrington Hotel Sackville Room <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>October 28, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Fredericton, N.B.	Crowne Plaza Fredericton Lord Beaverbrook St. John Room <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>October 28, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	St. John's, N.L.	Memorial University of Newfoundland Engineering Main Boardroom <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>November 3, 2015</b>	1 – 3 p.m.	London, Ont.	Western University IR40 – Arts and Humanities Bldg. <i>Capacity: 100 people</i>
<b>November 4, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Waterloo, Ont.	Delta Waterloo Grand River Room <i>Capacity: 75 people</i>
<b>November 5, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Toronto, Ont.	Intercontinental Toronto Yorkville <i>Capacity: 150 people</i>
<b>November 10, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Ottawa, Ont.	Ottawa Marriott Hotel Wellington Salon <i>Capacity: 100 people</i>
<b>November 16, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Edmonton, Alta.	University of Alberta <i>Capacity: 75 people</i>
<b>November 16, 2015</b>	1 – 3 p.m.	Quebec, Que.	The ALT Hotel Rochette Room <i>Capacity: 100 people</i>
<b>November 17, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Calgary, Alta.	University of Calgary <i>Capacity: 75 people</i>
<b>November 17, 2015</b>	1 – 3 p.m.	Montreal, Que.	Delta Montréal Opus 2 <i>Capacity: 100 people</i>
<b>November 18, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Winnipeg, Man.	University of Manitoba <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>November 23, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Saskatoon, Sask.	University of Saskatchewan <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>
<b>November 25, 2015</b>	9 – 11 a.m.	Regina, Sask.	University of Regina <i>Capacity: 50 people</i>

*Find out more about the consultation*

For more information about this fall's pan-Canadian consultation, visit the [CFI's website](#) where you'll find all the relevant details including the [consultation document](#) and the meeting schedule.

### **CFI WELCOMES NEW FACES IN THE PROGRAMS TEAM**

*Four new staff join the team, including our new Director*

**Mohamad Nasser-Eddine** joined the CFI as Director, Programs on October 13, 2015. Many of you know Mohamad from his former role as the Director, Office of Strategic Development Initiatives at the University of Ottawa, a position he held for the last four years. As Director, he was responsible for the University of Ottawa's CFI portfolio, the Ministry of Research and Innovation's Ontario Research Fund and institutional core facilities. Mohamad completed a Master's and PhD in chemistry at the Université de Haute-Alsace in France, and an Executive MBA with a concentration in Technology Management at l'Université du Québec à Montreal. Before joining the University of Ottawa, Mohamad spent three years as a research scientist focused on drug delivery at Labopharm in Montréal.

**Marc Lapointe** joined the CFI on October 5, 2015 as Programs Officer for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund to replace Mireille Labrie after her promotion this past summer. After completing a Master's degree in pharmacy from l'Université Laval, Marc worked as project manager and Research Professional at the Centre de Recherche de l'Institut Universitaire de Cardiologie et de Pneumologie de Québec (CRIUCPQ).

**Lisa Chen Obrist** started a one-year assignment at the CFI as Programs Officer on September 21, 2015..Lisa earned a PhD in Medieval Studies and Book History & Print Culture from the University of Toronto. She has diverse experience at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), notably as Programs Officer and most recently as Policy and Planning Officer. Lisa will be replacing Claudia Fall during her maternity leave.

**Stéphane Mercure**, who many of you know from his role as Senior Evaluation Officer at the CFI for the past five years, recently started a one-year professional development opportunity as Senior Programs Officer during Heidi Bandulet's maternity leave. Stéphane completed his PhD in microbiology and immunology at l'Université de Montréal and obtained an MBA from l'École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal

Please join us in welcoming Mohamad, Marc and Lisa to CFI and in wishing them and Stéphane much success and fun in their new roles!

## **NEW CHANGES TO HOW WE APPROACH MONITORING VISITS**

*Refinements introduced in September in the spirit of continuous improvement*

Three years ago, we introduced significant changes to our approach to monitoring visits, making it risk-based and more holistic by including the review of activities performed by institutions over the full life cycle of a CFI award. The feedback received from institutions was positive. After performing several visits using the new approach, we examined whether any further improvements could be made. As a result of this exercise, the following changes were implemented in September 2015:

1. In response to feedback received from institutions, we will soon start monitoring visits at smaller institutions. These visits will be a scaled-down version of those performed at larger institutions, tailored to the size and nature of the institution's projects. These visits will allow us to interact more closely with smaller institutions, disseminate information on CFI policies and guidelines, and share examples of good practices.
2. We will now perform review activities related to the tracking and communication of outcomes and impacts associated with CFI funding. These are important aspects of the life cycle of a CFI award.
3. We are committing to issuing preliminary monitoring visit reports more quickly after each visit in order to provide timely feedback to institutions.
4. We will now include a conclusion in the monitoring visit report that addresses proposal development and portfolio implementation. This comes as a result of having a better understanding of practices in these areas.

We would like to thank all institutions that have provided feedback on our monitoring visit approach over the years. Your input has allowed us to further refine our approach and to provide added value to institutions.

## **SHARING GOOD PRACTICES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CFI AWARDS**

*We are looking for better ways to share good practices for managing CFI awards, including for strategic planning, risk management and more*

We have heard from many of you that it's useful to share good practices between recipient institutions for how to best manage CFI awards. Although the CFI often shares good practices during monitoring visits, at conferences and through daily interactions with institutions, we are seeking better ways to collect and disseminate these practices to all institutions.

Back in 2005, the CFI created a document entitled "Sharing of Good Practices – Administration of CFI Awards." However, this document is outdated, giving us an excellent opportunity to modernize our approach by incorporating good practices that go, beyond just financial good practices to include those that span the full life cycle of a CFI award. These include, for

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example, strategic planning, proposal development, project implementation, sustainability, risk management, tracking and communication of impacts and outcomes and governance and management of large initiatives.

We will be discussing this with participants at the upcoming CFI sessions at ADARUQ and the CARA regional meetings. You can also share your ideas and suggestions via email to Christine Charbonneau, Director, Finance at the CFI at [christine.charbonneau@innovation.ca](mailto:christine.charbonneau@innovation.ca).