

# Update

January 2023



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## **A new organizational structure for our Programs and Planning team**

We have reorganized our Programs and Planning team into four groups: research facilities; Innovation Fund and special funds; annual funds (John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) and the College Fund); and programs operations. We have also introduced a planning and project management function to help coordinate our activities. We would like to introduce the new Associate Directors and their roles:

- **Heidi Bandulet**, Associate Director for Research Facilities
- **Michèle Beaudry**, Associate Director of Planning and Project Management
- **Olivier Gagnon**, Associate Director of Innovation Fund and Special Funds
- **Mireille Labrie**, Associate Director of Annual Funds
- **Patrick Pilot**, Associate Director of Programs Operations

These changes are a result of a review of our organizational structure and responsibilities and are made to ensure that the team structure reflects the current and future needs of the CFI and its stakeholders. Over the next few months, you will notice some changes as the teams take on their new responsibilities. In the meantime, your assigned Senior Programs Officer (including those who are now Associate Directors) and Programs Officer are still your main points of contact.

## **Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund – Partnership with Stage 2 of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund**

The [results of the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund competition for biocontainment and large-animal facilities](#) were announced in November. Through that first BRIF competition, the CFI invested over \$127 million to help eligible institutions keep their facilities at the cutting edge and support the Government of Canada's [Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy](#) to advance promising discoveries and promote training and talent development in the biosciences.

Through the second competition of this funding program, called Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund – Partnership with Stage 2 of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF-BRIF Stage 2), the CFI will award the remaining BRIF funds allocated in the 2021 federal budget. The goal of the second competition is to grow a strong and competitive biomanufacturing and life sciences sector and ensure our country is prepared for future pandemics. The CFI will invest up to \$360 million through BRIF to support research infrastructure needs while up to \$225 million will be invested over four years through CBRF to support high-risk, applied research, and training and talent development.

In advance of the BRIF–CBRF Stage 2 competition, expected to be launched in winter 2023, we encourage institutions interested in applying to this fund to verify their eligibility. Institutions must be eligible to apply to the CFI as well as to one of the three federal research funding agencies to apply to this competition.

To verify your institution's eligibility, consult [our list of eligible institutions](#) as well as the list of eligible institutions for the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(NSERC\)](#) or the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \(SSHRC\)](#).

For questions about the CFI's eligibility requirements and processes, contact [eligibility@innovation.ca](mailto:eligibility@innovation.ca) or [visit our website to find out how to become eligible](#). For other questions about eligibility to Stage 2 of this competition, contact SSHRC, the competition's administrating organization at [institutional.eligibility@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:institutional.eligibility@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca).

If your institution plans to apply to become eligible, be sure to submit those applications soon to ensure sufficient processing time.

For more information about the BRIF–CBRF Stage 2 competition, you can also consult the [Canada Biomedical Research Fund website](#).

Finally, for questions related to research infrastructure requests through BRIF, contact [BRIF-FIRSB@innovation.ca](mailto:BRIF-FIRSB@innovation.ca). For all other inquiries about this program, contact [CBRF-FRBC@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:CBRF-FRBC@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca).

## **College Fund: upcoming information sessions in February**

We will present the details of the call for proposals for the [2023 College Fund](#) competition in two virtual information sessions that will take place on February 14 and 15, 2023. The sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions. The [Call for proposals](#) is available on our website.

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This session will be **in French** and will be recorded.

[Registration link - French](#)

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**Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This session will be **in English** and will be recorded.

[Registration link - English](#)

## **Striving for sustainability: Carbon offsets as eligible costs**

Looking to reduce the carbon footprint of your institution's CFI-funded research infrastructure? If your institution has policies for carbon offsetting, claiming offset costs may be an option. The CFI recognizes carbon offsets as eligible operating costs under the Major Science Initiatives Fund and Infrastructure Operating Fund. Institutions are required to follow their usual purchasing and applicable institutional policies and procedures when selecting a carbon offset program. You must document and keep on file the methodology used to determine the total amount of carbon offset costs reported to the CFI and be prepared to provide this information upon request.

## CFI-Mitacs collaboration supports Canadian innovation

The collaboration between the CFI and Mitacs continues to grow! Together, we have launched a marketing campaign that puts the [Research Facilities Navigator](#)'s 800+ facilities before a wide industry audience using Mitacs' extensive networks with the private sector, and promotion through social media and other online channels. This opportunity also allows businesses to access Mitacs funding opportunities and get business advice from experienced Mitacs advisors. [Visit our promotions page](#) for more information.

## National funding announcements – November 2022 Board decisions

We are currently discussing dates with the Government of Canada for the national funding announcements for the November 2022 decisions the CFI Board of Directors on the results of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund and College Fund competitions. We will keep you informed of details as we have them. In the meantime, as usual, please keep your funding results under embargo until they are announced to the public.

## Our new brand: make sure you are using the right tools

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations last year, we refreshed the CFI brand. We always encourage institutions and their communications staff, as well as project leaders to acknowledge CFI support in all public communications activities and products. If you are looking to include our logo for new communications initiatives or replace our old brand on existing products, you can find our new branding package, including guidelines and logo files, [on our website](#) (link located on the left side of the page). We appreciate your recognition!



## 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:

February 14, 2023	Information session for the 2023 College Fund – French
February 15, 2023	Information session for the 2023 College Fund - English
February 15, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
March 21, 2023	CFI's Board of Director's meeting
April 7, 2023	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the College Fund

# Update

June 7, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals for the College Fund
June 13, 2023	CFI's Board of Director's meeting

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