

Chairperson

Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

Selection Criteria

Education

A degree from a recognized university in a relevant field of study or a combination of equivalent education, job-related training and experience. A graduate or post-graduate degree would be an asset.

Experience

- Significant board experience (procedures and practices), preferably as Chairperson, or an acceptable equivalent experience;
- Strong leadership skills with significant accomplishments in business, government, academia and/or the not-for-profit sector;
- Experience in organizational management so as to ensure that appropriate monitoring and control systems are in place; and
- Experience in research or research management would be an asset.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of the Corporation's mandate and activities, as well as the legislative framework within which it operates;
- Knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and the Board of Directors;
- Knowledge and understanding of the research and post-secondary environments;
- Knowledge of capital and infrastructure investments as they pertain to research, evaluation criteria for financial investment opportunities and merit-based assessment processes;
- Knowledge of financial management and corporate governance principles and best practices;
- Knowledge of the operations of the federal government and public policy.

Abilities

- Excellent leadership, managerial and motivational skills;
- Ability to foster debate and discussion among board members, facilitate consensus and manage conflicts, should they arise;
- Ability to anticipate emerging issues and develop strategies to enable the board to seize opportunities or solve problems;
- Ability to develop and maintain strategic partnerships to build on the Board's strategic position and provide the organization with the means to leverage its capital;
- Superior communication skills, both written and oral, and ability to act as a spokesperson in dealing with stakeholders, media, public institutions, governments and other organizations.

Personal Suitability

- High ethical standards and integrity
- Sound judgment
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Tact
- Discretion

Language Requirements

Proficiency in both official languages is preferred.

Working Conditions

The position of Chairperson is a part time appointment. The Board of Directors meets three to four times per year in different locations across Canada. The incumbent must be willing to travel and participate in occasional meetings by conference call in advance of Board meetings. The average annual time commitment for this position is approximately 30 days.

Other Requirements

Pursuant to the CFI legislation and by-laws, the Chairperson:

- Must be a resident of Canada;
- Cannot have a bankrupt status; and
- Cannot be an employee or agent of Her Majesty in Right of Canada, a province or territory, or a member of the Senate, House of Commons or the legislature of a province or territory.