

# CFI Update

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

## March 2020

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### Message from our President and CEO

Warm greetings!

We are looking forward to welcoming [Dr. Claire Samson to the Canada Foundation for Innovation in March as Vice-President, Programs and Planning](#). She will be joining us from the École de Technologie Supérieure in Montreal where she served as Dean of Research.

Dr. Samson has a wide range of valuable career experiences including academic teaching and research, academic administration and industrial research both in Canada and abroad. She has served as Director of the Department of Earth Sciences and Vice-Dean in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at Carleton University, and has worked with Shell International and Neptec Design Group, a subcontractor for the Canadian Space Agency and NASA.

We are truly grateful to Dr. Mohamad Nasser-Eddine, Director of Programs, who took on the additional role of Acting Vice-President in the interim. This included managing the CFI's funding programs and providing leadership and policy advice. In all cases he was, and remains, responsible to ensure the highest standards of excellence in program delivery.

Together, Dr. Samson and Dr. Nasser-Eddine will provide expert leadership in supporting researchers and research infrastructure across Canada. We are most fortunate to have them both on our team.

*~ Roseann O'Reilly Runte*

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## **The latest on the 2020 Innovation Fund competition**

On January 20, we received 307 proposals from 58 institutions to the 2020 Innovation Fund competition. Together, these proposals requested over \$1.1 billion from the CFI, representing total project costs of over \$2.9 billion.

As the first part of the review process, we will conduct 69 Expert Committee meetings from March 1 through to mid-June 2020. Forty-four meetings will take place in person and 25 committees, reviewing only one or two proposals each, will meet by teleconference.

Programs staff are finalizing the recruitment of members for these committees. For proposals that requested over \$10 million from the CFI or that are particularly large and complex, we have invited institutional and team representatives to face-to-face meetings with the Expert Committees reviewing their respective proposals.

## **A snapshot of the 2020 Innovation Fund competition**

**307** proposals:

- Requesting over **\$1.1 billion**
- Total project costs more than **\$2.9 billion**

**58** institutions submitted proposals:

- **24** U15 + affiliated hospitals
- **9** mid-size universities
- **21** small universities
- **1** non-profit research institution
- **3** colleges

[Find out more about the 2020 Innovation Fund competition on our website.](#)

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## By institution type

	Proposals submitted (%)	Total cost (%)	CFI request (%)	Average CFI request
Large universities	274 (89%)	\$2.74 billion (93%)	\$1.04 billion (93%)	\$3.80 million
Small universities	29 (9%)	\$182 million (6%)	\$71 million (6%)	\$2.45 million
Colleges, cégeps and non-profit research organizations	4 (1%)	\$25.4 million (1%)	\$9.4 million (1%)	\$2.34 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$2.95 billion</b>	<b>\$1.12 billion</b>	<b>\$3.66 million</b>

## By region

	Proposals submitted (%)	Total cost (%)	CFI request (%)	Average CFI request
Western Canada and the Territories	85 (27.7%)	\$799 million (27.1%)	\$309.0 million (27.5%)	\$3.63 million
Ontario	120 (39.1%)	\$1.28 billion (43.5%)	\$487.5 million (43.4%)	\$4.06 million
Québec	90 (29.3%)	\$776 million (26.3%)	\$291.5 million (26%)	\$3.24 million
Atlantic Canada	12 (3.9%)	\$89.4 million (3.0%)	\$34.5 million (3.1%)	\$2.88 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$2.95 billion</b>	<b>\$1.12 billion</b>	<b>\$3.66 million</b>

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## By size of CFI request

	Proposals submitted (%)	CFI request (%)
≤ \$1 million	36 (11.7%)	\$26.64 million (2.4%)
\$1 - \$4 million	175 (57%)	\$431.31 million (38.4%)
\$4 - \$6 million	47 (15.3%)	\$236.43 million (21.1%)
\$6 - \$10 million	40 (13%)	\$305.39 million (27.2%)
≥ \$10 million	9 (2.9%)	\$122.68 million (10.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$1.12 billion</b>

## Multi-institutional projects

Three or more collaborating institutions (including administrative institution)	Proposals submitted (%)	Total cost (%)	CFI request (%)	Average CFI request
	66 (21.5%)	\$988 million (33.5%)	\$358.6 million (31.9%)	\$3.45 million

## By primary research sector

	Proposals submitted (%)	CFI request (%)	Average CFI request
Engineering	89 (29.0%)	\$307.29 million (37.4%)	\$3.45 million
Environment	17 (5.5%)	\$69.12 million (6.2%)	\$4.06 million
Health	137 (44.6%)	\$526.5 million (46.9%)	\$3.84 million
Science	53 (17.3%)	\$205.49 million (17%)	\$3.88 million
Social sciences and humanities	11 (3.6%)	\$14.07 million (1.3%)	\$1.28 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>\$1.12 billion</b>	<b>\$3.66 million</b>

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## **2020 College-Industry Innovation Fund**

### **Stream 2: Research infrastructure associated with a College and Community Innovation Program – Build Innovation Enhancement Grant, competition 18**

We will continue our collaboration with the tri-agencies' College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program – Build Innovation Enhancement (IE) Grants by participating in competition 18. We will accept research infrastructure proposals associated with a five-year Build IE grant application submitted to NSERC. This joint initiative allows colleges to apply for a comprehensive funding package supporting both research costs (through a Build IE grant) and research infrastructure (through CFI's College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 2). NSERC will receive the Build IE Letters of Intent (LOIs) which are due by May 21, 2020. Following a review of the LOIs by the CCI committee in summer 2020, those containing a CFI request, and which are invited to proceed to a full proposal, will need to submit a proposal to the CFI by October 22, 2020 along with the Build IE proposal submitted to NSERC.

## **Carbon offsets**

In an effort to cut down the environmental impacts of air travel, the CFI has recently decided to purchase carbon offsets to compensate the carbon emissions from flights related to CFI business. This will include flights taken by CFI employees, Board Directors and Members, and reviewers. We recognize that carbon offsetting is not the perfect solution to solve the complex issue of climate change and we will strive to find other ways to reduce, conserve and be more environmentally conscious.

## **Subscribe to stay connected**

We are improving how we communicate by email. You can now choose your preferred language and the kinds of content you want to receive from us. Please take a moment to [subscribe to our mailing list](#) and customize your preferences so you can continue to receive the latest communications from the CFI.

## **Introducing innovision, a new blog from our President and CEO**

In January, we launched a new blog by our President and CEO, Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte. [innovision – Reflections on research](#), provides insights on research, innovation and research policy and funding in Canada. We invite you to [subscribe to receive monthly posts](#) directly to your inbox.