

CFI Update

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

May 2021

In this issue, find the latest on the:

- **Federal budget 2021**
- **Major Science Initiatives Fund competition 2023–2029**
- **2020 Innovation Fund**
- **Upcoming changes to the award finalization form submission process**
- **Revised self-identification questions in the CAMS user profile**
- **Enquiries about equity, diversity and inclusion**
- **Project progress reports**
- **Infrastructure project financial reports**
- **Infrastructure Operating Fund annual report**
- **Research Facilities Navigator**
- **Important upcoming dates**

Federal budget 2021

[The federal Budget 2021, announced April 19, 2021](#) recognized the important role Canada's life sciences and bio-manufacturing sector plays in our COVID-19 response. It also highlighted the need to boost the sector to ensure Canada is prepared for future health crises.

Budget 2021 proposed a total of \$2.2 billion over seven years to help grow a vibrant, domestic life sciences sector and build Canada's bio-science talent pipeline and research systems. This funding included \$500 million over four years for the CFI to support bio-science capital and research infrastructure needs.

We await discussions with the federal government about the details of this funding and will communicate them with you as we are able.

CFI Update

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

Major Science Initiatives Fund competition 2023 – 2029

The CFI's Board of Directors has endorsed our plans to launch the next Major Science Initiatives (MSI) Fund competition 2023 – 2029. The draft call for proposals for this competition will be issued on June 3, 2021. We will invest up to \$660 million over six years for this competition. Funding decisions will be made in June 2022.

For this competition, we will:

- contribute to the ongoing operating and maintenance needs of facilities of national importance;
- refine the Fund's objectives, and its eligibility and evaluation criteria, to better reflect the current landscape of large research facilities;
- improve and streamline our review process; and
- enable a competitive and merit-based assessment of both existing MSI-funded facilities and new applicants to the Fund.

Further information on the parameters and timelines of the next MSI Fund competition is in the slide deck and recording (coming soon) of our presentation at the [MSI 2021 workshop](#) on April 27, 2021.

2020 Innovation Fund

We would like to share with you the [2020 Innovation Fund: By the numbers](#). This document highlights various aspects of the merit-review process, as well as the distribution of Innovation Fund support by type of institution, region, requested amount and sector. It also offers a historical perspective on Innovation Fund success and funding rates from 2004 to 2020. [This document is also available on the 2020 Innovation Fund web page](#) under Past funding competitions.

An in-depth post-mortem analysis of the 2020 Innovation Fund is currently underway. It will help inform the development of the next Innovation Fund competition. At the upcoming Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) meeting, we will seek institutional suggestions on future Innovation Fund competitions. We will communicate the timeline for the next competition to institutions before the end of June 2021.

Upcoming changes to the award finalization form submission process

We will soon be rolling out a new process, fully integrated, in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) for submitting the award finalization form. The form remains unchanged, but you will no longer need physical or digital signatures.

Starting May 31, 2021, you will no longer be able to upload signed award finalization forms. Instead, you will fill in and submit the award finalization form in CAMS in a one-step process in the award finalization section of the institutional dashboard.

Only individuals named in the Institutional Agreement can submit an award finalization form.

More information [is available here](#).

CFI Update

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

Revised self-identification questions in the CAMS user profile

Since March 30, 2021, all CAMS users are prompted to update their user profile by answering revised self-identification questions. The CFI worked with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to revise the self-identification questions that support equity, diversity and inclusion analyses. The goal is to:

- improve data management and quality;
- harmonize the data collected across funding agencies to ensure comparable reporting; and
- minimize the burden for respondents.

The revision is also a result of the requirement for the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program to expand data collected to include all members of LGBTQ2+ groups. The revised questions are currently being used by the CRC program, and all agencies are planning to implement the updated questionnaire over the course of the 2021–22 fiscal year.

We are finalizing a “frequently asked questions” document with more details about the development, use and content of the revised self-identification questionnaire. This FAQ will be posted to our website soon.

Enquiries about equity, diversity and inclusion

For specific enquiries about equity, diversity and inclusion, including the self-identification questions, we encourage you to contact our recently created email address: EDI@innovation.ca.

Project progress reports

The 2021 operational status question and project progress reports (PPRs) can now be accessed in CAMS. The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2021. This year, we expect to receive approximately 1,500 PPRs. We use PPRs as a key source of information to help us manage projects and to assess and report on the impact of our investments.

New this year, researchers and research administrators accessing PPRs in CAMS for projects submitted before October 2020 will first be asked to reclassify the project using the new Canadian Research and Development Classification (CRDC) system. This information will enable us to broaden the use of the CRDC in future analyses of CFI-funded projects, including those projects categorized according to our former research classification model.

CFI Update

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

Infrastructure project financial reports

Interim reports for the period ending March 31, 2021 must be submitted by June 15, 2021 for ongoing infrastructure projects that received CFI funds prior to April 1, 2021. If your institution is planning to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2021, you do not need to submit an interim report by June 15, 2021. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available in CAMS. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

Infrastructure Operating Fund annual report

Your Infrastructure Operating Fund annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2021. This report must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2021 and your projected expenditures for 2021–22. It must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

Research Facilities Navigator

Telling stories about research collaborations: The Research Facilities Navigator launched a new stories page featuring successful collaborations between businesses and Navigator-listed facilities. These stories show the benefits of working with research experts. [Discover our new content.](#)

List your lab: Are you looking to form partnerships with business, government or academic partners? Learn about the [benefits of listing](#) your institution's labs and facilities on the Navigator.

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:

May 15, 2021	Deadline for College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 1 submission of proposals
June 14, 2021	CFI Board of Directors meeting
June 15, 2021	Deadline for John R. Evans Leaders Fund (unaffiliated) proposals

Stay connected and updated on CFI activities and announcements: [subscribe](#) to our communications today.