

CFI Update

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

March 26, 2020

SPECIAL NOTICE

CFI activities are continuing, with some changes

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CFI activities are continuing, with some changes

The current global pandemic underlines the necessity of keeping Canada's research facilities at the ready. Recognizing the importance of delivering our funding programs in a timely way, we strive to continue conducting our regular business, to the extent possible as our staff has transitioned to telework.

The purpose of this note is to inform you of specific actions we are taking to maintain high-quality service:

- CFI staff are working remotely until further notice but remain connected through [email and phone](#). You can also direct general queries to feedback@innovation.ca or 613.947.6496.
- We will hold all currently scheduled in-person meetings by video- or teleconference.
- As we adjust to these new circumstances, we may be delayed in responding to your queries.

Current funding competitions

- The evaluation of the applications for the **2020 Innovation Fund** competition is proceeding according to [original timelines](#). We have changed the format of our Expert Committee meetings from in-person to video- or teleconference. We have also

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eliminated face-to-face meetings with representatives from institutions and projects. We invite researchers to contact their institution's CFI liaison for information related to their proposals. For all other stakeholders in the 2020 Innovation Fund, please write to if-fi.2020@innovation.ca if you have questions.

- The June 15, 2020 deadline for the next **John R. Evans Leaders Fund** competition remains unchanged. If institutions are not in a position to meet that deadline, they can still use their JELF allocations for the next JELF competition (October 15, 2020 deadline).
- We are currently consulting with colleges that have submitted notices of intent for the **College-Industry Innovation Fund — Stream 1** competition regarding the deadlines for full applications.
- We are liaising with NSERC regarding the **College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 2** competition to determine the appropriate measures we need to take.

Award finalization, payments to institutions and financial reporting

- We are extending award finalization and financial deadlines by three months.
- We continue to process award finalizations. Please continue to upload signed award finalization forms in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) to initiate the process. We are also accepting electronic signatures of these documents.
- For the time being, we will send award agreements electronically rather than in hard copy.
- We will continue to make payments to institutions.
- We are finalizing an interim process to accept and sign agreements via reply email such as the award finalization form, award agreements and institutional agreements. Details will follow.

Project progress reporting

The 2020 project progress reports and the operational status question will be accessible in CAMS April 1. While we strongly encourage institutions to respond as early as possible, we are extending the deadline to September 30, 2020.

Frequently asked questions

In the coming days, we will be posting these and other ongoing updates on our activities on our website, Innovation.ca. We will advise you once that page is live.