

# CFI Update

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

## June 2021

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### CFI hosts ICRI 2021

The CFI hosted the fifth International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI) from June 1 to 3, 2021. This invitation-only conference, which occurs every two years, brings together policy experts, facility managers, leading researchers and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and emerging trends for research infrastructures around the world.

More than 600 delegates from around the world gathered virtually over three days. They discussed how research infrastructure plays a critical role in strengthening global capacity to respond to emerging challenges and how it builds bridges to a sustainable world.

The event, supported with funding from the European Union, was hosted in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Laboratories Canada, the National Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Visit [ICRI2021.ca](https://icri2021.ca) to see the program and a selection of plenary recordings from the conference.

### 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition draft call for proposals

On June 4, we released the [draft call for proposals](#) for the 2023 Major Science Initiatives (MSI) Fund competition. We welcome feedback from the Canadian research community and other stakeholders. Please send your comments to [MSI-ISM@innovation.ca](mailto:MSI-ISM@innovation.ca) by **June 30, 2021**.

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Through this competition, the CFI will invest up to \$660 million over six years (2023 to 2029) to cover a portion of the total eligible operating and maintenance O&M costs of funded facilities. See the [draft call](#) for the full competition schedule and details.

We will hold two information sessions for researchers, research administrators and other interested parties on July 14, 2021, in English, and on July 15, 2021, in French. Both sessions will occur from 1 to 2 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Use the links below to register for a session to learn more about the competition and have your questions answered:

Register for the [English session](#), July 14, 2021 at 1 p.m. EDT

Register for the [French session](#), July 15, 2021 at 1 p.m. EDT

Recordings will be available afterwards on the CFI's website for those unable to attend.

## **2023 Innovation Fund competition key information**

We have posted [key information about the 2023 Innovation Fund competition](#), including institutional envelopes, the competition timeline, and high-level assessment criteria. We will post the draft call for proposals for this competition in October 2021.

## **College-Industry Innovation Fund update**

### **Stream 1**

On May 17, we received 29 proposals submitted to the College-Industry Innovation Fund (CIIF) – Stream 1, requesting \$22 million from the CFI. This represents the largest Stream 1 competition in the fund's history.

These proposals will undergo a two-stage merit-review process. The Expert Committee meetings will take place between June and August 2021 and the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee will meet in late September 2021. The decisions for the competition will be made at the CFI's Board of Directors meeting in November 2021.

### **Stream 2**

We will not accept proposals submitted to the CIIF – Stream 2 this year. This is because NSERC announced on June 7, 2021 that the Tri-Agency College and Community Innovation – Innovation Enhancement grants program will not be accepting new applications this year.

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## **Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 next steps**

We expect that projects funded through the Exceptional Opportunities Funds – COVID-19 competitions for universities or colleges, polytechnics and Cégeps will have incurred all of their expenses by March 31, 2021. All CFI-funded projects are provided an additional six months for project completion following the anticipated end date, as per section 6.6.2 “Delays in the acquisition of the infrastructure and project completion of our Policy and program guide. These awards were intended to support the urgent needs for equipment for research and technology development related to COVID-19, therefore we encourage institutions to complete these projects as soon as possible.

We ask institutions to submit their final financial report for projects funded through these competitions before December 31, 2021. If the final financial report is submitted by December 31, 2021, an interim financial report is not necessary. We will not release any of the holdback amounts until the final financial report has been submitted and reviewed by the CFI.

If you have any questions, please contact your Senior Programs Officer.

## **2020 Report on results now online**

Our [2020 Report on results](#) is now available online. The report provides a visual summary of project progress report (PPR) data for 1,568 operational projects for the 2019–20 fiscal year. We thank institutions for the exceptionally high rate of PPRs submitted by the deadline, which was extended from June 30 to September 30, 2020. Trends in the PPR data submitted have generally remained consistent with previous years. Some observations of variances with respect to trends as compared to last year include:

- A 13 percent increase in the number of trainees using CFI-funded infrastructure, particularly doctoral (33 percent) and undergraduate (14 percent) students
- A four percent increase in the number of researchers using the infrastructure, particularly from within Canada (international users decreased by 34 percent)
- A 21 percent increase in the total number of research outputs
- A 12 percent increase in the number of provisional patents and a 12 percent decrease in the number of spin-off companies
- An 18 percent increase in the number of new jobs created, particularly jobs created within the institution.

## **Project progress report deadline approaching**

Project progress reports (PPR) and the “Operational status” question are accessible in CAMS and must be submitted by June 30, 2021. To date, approximately 90 percent of the nearly 700 expected responses have been submitted. As well, nearly 65 percent of the 1,500 PPRs expected this year have been completed.

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We use PPRs as a key source of information to assist in the proper managing of projects, to inform annual reporting, as well as to assess and report on the impact of our investments. To see which projects have outstanding reporting requirements check the “Project progress reports (PPR)” section in your CAMS dashboard.

## 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:

June 30, 2021	Deadline for comments on draft call for proposals for the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition
July 12, 2021	Launch of the call for proposals for the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition
July 14, 2021	Information session ( <b>English</b> ) for potential applicants to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition
July 15, 2021	Information session ( <b>French</b> ) for potential applicants to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition
August 10, 2021	Deadline to submit expressions of interest for the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition (not required for facilities funded in the 2017 competition)
September 20, 2021	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition
October 15, 2021	Deadline for John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
October 19, 2021	Deadline for John R. Evans Leaders Fund – Canada Research Chairs
November 4, 2021	Deadline to submit proposals to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition (facilities funded in the 2017 competition)
November 4, 2021	Invitation to submit proposals to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition (all other facilities)
November 23, 2021	CFI Board of Directors meeting

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