Northern Fund

Call for proposals

January 2024

INNOVATION

Canada Foundation for Innovation   Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation

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About the Canada Foundation for Innovation

With a bold, future-looking mandate, the Canada Foundation for Innovation equips researchers to be global leaders in their fields and to respond to emerging challenges. Our investments in state-of-the-art tools, instruments and facilities at universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions underpin both curiosity- and mission-driven research that cuts across disciplines and bridges all sectors. The research infrastructure we fund mobilizes knowledge, spurs innovation and commercialization, and empowers the talented minds of a new generation.

Cover: Research project participants (left to right), Aina Igiyok, Carole-Anne Gillis, Silasie Ajaku and Jaiku Airo, study Arctic char in Lake Tasirjuarusik, Nunavik

Source: Véronique Dubos/ArcticNet

Part 1 - About this funding program

Purpose of the Northern Fund

The Northern Fund will provide eligible institutions and organizations in Northern Canada with research infrastructure that will lay the foundation for research projects that address the priorities of the region and its communities. These research projects will be conceived, developed, led and managed by Northern institutions, researchers and communities.

For the purposes of this funding program, the North includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. The Northern Fund augments the Government of Canada's strategic investments in Northern research and aims to strengthen Northern research capacity.

The Northern Fund is open for proposals in all research disciplines that clearly demonstrate how the research directly engages with and serves the needs of Northern communities, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in the North.

The CFI is launching this new funding program following the Government of Canada's approval of $25 million for research infrastructure required for research projects in, and about, Northern Canada that is conducted by Northerners.

Objectives of the Northern Fund

The objectives of the Northern Fund are to:

- Support research led by Northern institutions and organizations and First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities
- Augment research capacity in the North for the North
- Generate social, cultural, health, environmental or economic benefits to Northern Canada and Northern communities including the training of academic and non-academic highly qualified personnel.

The CFI's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

The CFI is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. In all our activities, we recognize that a breadth of perspectives, skills and experiences contributes to excellence in research.

Equity: We aim to ensure all CFI-eligible institutions have the opportunity to access and benefit from our programs and CFI-funded infrastructure through our well-established, fair and impartial practices.

Diversity: We value attributes that allow institutions and their researchers — from any background and from anywhere — to succeed. This includes individual attributes such as gender, language, culture and career stage; institutional attributes such as size, type and location; and attributes that encompass the full spectrum of research, from basic to applied and across all disciplines.

Inclusion: We encourage a culture of collaboration and partnership which includes contributions from and engagement among diverse groups of people, institutions and areas of research to maximize the potential of Canada's research ecosystem.

We believe that nurturing an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture is the responsibility of every member of the research ecosystem, including funders, institutions, researchers, experts and reviewers.

Important dates

Activity	Deadline
The CFI issues the call for proposals	January 31, 2024
Deadline to submit proposals	Anytime between February 2024 and February 2028
Last round of funding decisions from the CFI	March 2029
Duration of the Northern Fund	Five years or until funds are fully committed

Eligible institutions can submit proposals to the Northern Fund at any time of the year beginning in February 2024. See Part 2, "How to apply," for details on how to complete the application process. This funding program is expected to run for five years.

Budget for this funding program

Over five years, the CFI will invest up to $25 million in research infrastructure including funding to operate and maintain it. To support their participation, up to $5 million will be reserved for proposals submitted by eligible non-profit organizations in the first three years of the funding program. Any funds that remain uncommitted by the end of the third year will be made available to all applicants.

Research infrastructure funding

The CFI will fund up to 50 percent of the eligible costs of a research infrastructure project.

The remainder of the funds (50 percent or more) must be provided by the institution and other eligible funding partners. There are two types of eligible funding partners: those who have no direct involvement in the research and technology development activities (e.g., territorial, provincial or federal governments, international governments, foundations or suppliers) and those who do (e.g., vendors of specialized instruments who are seeking technological improvements, or nongovernmental organizations including educational and research organizations).

Consult section 4.8 Eligible partner contributions of our Policy and program guide for lists of eligible and non-eligible partners.

Operation and maintenance costs

Through our Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF), we will contribute to the costs of operating and maintaining the research infrastructure we fund. Eligible institutions can request an amount from the IOF equivalent to up to 100 percent of the CFI contribution to the cost of the research infrastructure. For example, for a project with $5 million of total eligible research infrastructure costs ($2.5 million from the CFI and $2.5 million from funding partners), institutions can request an additional amount of up to $2.5 million from the IOF for operation and maintenance costs.

No partner funding is required for the portion of the funding that comes from the IOF. The IOF is included in the Northern Fund's $25 million budget.

Consult section 4.7.1 Infrastructure Operating Fund of our Policy and program guide for lists of eligible and non-eligible IOF costs.

Proposal development support

Eligible institutions can request funding to help defray the costs of holding meetings, consultations and other expenses related to the development of proposals for the Northern Fund.

Each eligible institution can access up to $50,000 per year, to a maximum of $100,000 over the projected five-year duration of the Northern Fund for these purposes.

If you would like to access these funds, send a document of no longer than three pages to northern.fund@innovation.ca describing your proposal development process, specific activities that will be undertaken and the associated cost estimates.

See Submitting a request for proposal development support for more information and examples of eligible expenses.

Eligible institutions

To apply to the Northern Fund, Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions and organizations, must meet both criteria:

1. Be headquartered in Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik or Nunatsiavut, and,
2. Be recognized as eligible by the CFI.

Email us at eligibility@innovation.ca for information about how to apply for eligibility.

Note that the CFI funds institutions and does not fund individual researchers.

Eligible research infrastructure projects

Eligible institutions can submit proposals with total CFI requests between $250,000 and $2.5 million to cover research infrastructure costs. For example, for a project that includes eligible research infrastructure costs of $5 million, an institution can request $2.5 million from the CFI and would require $2.5 million of matching funding from funding partner(s).

An eligible research infrastructure project involves acquiring or developing research infrastructure to augment research capacity and conduct research activities that are highly relevant to Northern communities. To be considered for funding, the requested research infrastructure must be essential for the institution's planned research activities and be located in Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik or Nunatsiavut.

Eligible research infrastructure costs include:

- Research equipment, including equipment that is highly and routinely used (e.g., field vehicles, centrifuges, balances, fume hoods, audio/video equipment) and specialized equipment (e.g., drones, mobile laboratories, spectroscopy instruments, meteorological towers)
- Upgrading or replacing aging research infrastructure
- Shipping, transportation and installation of research infrastructure
- Salaries of professional or technical personnel to design or install the research infrastructure
- Renovation essential to house and use the research infrastructure or to conduct research activities.

To be eligible for funding, research infrastructure expenditures and in-kind contributions must have taken place on or after **January 1, 2022**. We consider expenditures incurred once goods are received, services have been rendered or work has been performed.

For more information on eligible and non-eligible costs, consult section 4.6 Eligible costs for infrastructure projects of our Policy and program guide. For details on eligible in-kind contributions, consult section 4.9 Eligible in-kind contributions.

For more information on eligible and non-eligible costs, email us at northern.fund@innovation.ca.

Advanced research computing infrastructure

Institutions may submit proposals including advanced research computing infrastructure and related resources to carry out a research or technology development project.

Advanced research computing infrastructure normally includes systems or resources such as:

- Capacity or throughput computing
- Capability computing supporting tightly coupled, fine-grained applications
- Shared memory systems
- Systems supporting very large memory requirements
- High-performance storage
- Long-term storage
- Cloud computing
- Computing using specialized accelerators, including GP-CPU and others
- High-performance visualization systems
- Systems suitable for computational steering and interactive use.

Advanced research computing infrastructure encompasses both the software and environment needed for a given discipline to effectively utilize these types of infrastructure such as high levels of data security and integrity.

Investments in advanced research computing infrastructure are maximized when those resources are shared. New or additional research computing resources funded through the Northern Fund and which cost more than $100,000 will typically be housed, managed and operated by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada (the Alliance), when possible.

If you are planning to request advanced research computing infrastructure, visit the Alliance's website to read about their grant consultations process and email them at CFI-FCI@alliancecan.ca for more information on starting the process.

To facilitate and expedite the consultation process, and allow timely responses to institutions, the CFI will share with the Alliance the proposals for projects requesting advanced research computing infrastructure for which the amount requested exceeds $100,000. Release of this information will be done in a timely manner and confidentially. By submitting a proposal to the CFI requesting advanced research infrastructure in excess of $100,000, you acknowledge that this information can be shared with the Alliance for the purpose of determining if the infrastructure should be integrated at a national host site.

Review process

The review process for the Northern Fund will assess whether proposals meet the five review criteria for this funding program.

In collaboration with Northern institutions, communities and other stakeholders, we will create a Northern Fund Review Committee. Members of the committee will have relevant knowledge, experience and perspectives in Northern and Indigenous research. The membership will include First Nations, Métis or Inuit representation. The Review Committee will have a mandate to assess proposals submitted to this funding program and to advise the CFI about the funding program's implementation and evolution. Its members will be invited to serve for a three-year term.

Each proposal will be reviewed by a Proposal Review Committee composed of a subset of members of the Northern Fund Review Committee and additional experts with complementary and relevant discipline expertise, as required. As part of the review process, the Proposal Review Committee will hold a meeting with representatives of the applicant team, the institution and partner community organization(s). This meeting will enable the committee to pose questions to the applicants and to gain

further knowledge and understanding about the proposed project and the role(s) of the community organizations (e.g., in co-design, co-development or co-management of the project). The insights gained from these discussions will assist the Proposal Review Committee in their assessment and in formulating a funding recommendation to the CFI Board of Directors.

Review criteria

The Proposal Review Committee will evaluate each proposal based on five review criteria:

Research in the North for the North — The research activities are of high relevance to Northern communities, are feasible, and have been co-created, co-developed or co-managed with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, as appropriate.

Team — The team has the relevant knowledge and experience to conduct the research activities. First Nations, Métis or Inuit team members play meaningful and leadership roles in the research activities.

Infrastructure — The research infrastructure is necessary and appropriate and will augment research capacity in the North.

Sustainability — The research infrastructure will be well managed and efficiently used.

Benefits to Northern communities — There are clear pathways to transfer research results and/or to mobilize knowledge to residents of Northern communities including First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities and potential partners. The results are likely to lead to social, cultural, health, environmental or economic benefits to Northern Canada including the training of highly qualified personnel.

Collaboration with territorial, provincial and regional autonomous governments

In the interest of collaborating with potential funding partners such as funding bodies within territorial, provincial or regional autonomous governments (e.g., ministries that fund research at postsecondary institutions), the CFI may coordinate the review process with such funders to avoid duplication of efforts. Coordination of review processes may include sharing proposals or review reports with the relevant funding body, as appropriate. We will do so only in accordance with agreements between the CFI and territorial, provincial and regional autonomous governments, as permissible pursuant to the Privacy Act.

For further information about CFI agreements with funding bodies, email us at northern.fund@innovation.ca.

We may also invite representatives of the relevant territorial, provincial or regional autonomous funding bodies to participate as observers at Proposal Review Committee meetings.

We encourage institutions to work with their respective territorial, provincial or regional autonomous funding bodies at an early stage in the planning and development of proposals.

Funding decisions

The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions for this funding program at its meetings in March, June and November every year. Following the meeting, we will notify institutions of the decisions and share the review material for their proposals with them.

We will aim to provide funding decisions within six months from the date a proposal is submitted.

Security considerations

To identify and mitigate research security risks, the CFI has adopted an approach aligned with the Government of Canada's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP).

To comply with the NSGRP, institutions applying to the Northern Fund are required to provide one of the following along with their proposal:

- A National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships' Risk Assessment Form (RAF) if the project involves a private-sector partner that:
  - ‣ Has an active role in the research activities described in the proposal (e.g., sharing of intellectual property, providing expertise, actively participating in research activities, contributing financially to the research activities); or
  - ‣ Houses all or part of the research infrastructure; or
  - ‣ Contributes more than $500,000 to the infrastructure through a cash or in-kind contribution to any single item

Or,

- Confirmation by email to northern.fund@innovation.ca that the project involves no private-sector partners that meets any of the above criteria.

For each private-sector partner that meets any of the criteria in the first bullet above, institutions must also provide a completed Private-sector partner identification form.

CFI staff will assess and validate the RAFs against risks to national security. When the CFI cannot ascertain the risk or it cannot determine whether or not the proposed mitigation measures are sufficient, the proposal and the RAF will be referred to the appropriate Government of Canada agency for further review. Following this referral, the CFI may require that the institution put in place specific mitigation measures, including ending specific partnerships.

Institutions are encouraged to conduct open source due diligence when completing the Risk Assessment Form and to consult with their private-sector partner(s), where appropriate, to validate the information. For more information, consult the comprehensive guide Conducting Open Source Due Diligence for Safeguarding Research Partnerships.

Consult our website for more information on research security requirements for when you apply and for after your institution receives funding.

Public announcement

The Government of Canada makes public announcements of new funding from the CFI. We organize these national announcements in collaboration with institutions.

Public announcements provide institutions, communities, researchers and partners, along with government representatives, the media and the CFI, opportunities to highlight the research and technology development enabled by CFI-funded infrastructure.

We encourage institutions to work with local and national media after the announcement to promote the benefits of research and technology development in the North.

Part 2 - How to apply

Below, find instructions for submitting the following:

- Requests for proposal development support (up to $50,000)
- Northern Fund proposals ($250,000 to $2.5 million).

Proposal development support is optional and is not required to submit a Northern Fund proposal.

Submitting a request for proposal development support

If you have an idea for a research infrastructure project, you can request financial support to develop the idea into a Northern Fund proposal. Only CFI-eligible Northern institutions and organizations may request proposal development support.

To request proposal development support, the authorized signatory of your institution should email us at northern.fund@innovation.ca with a request of no longer than three pages that describes the following:

- The idea and rationale for the research activities that require the research infrastructure
- The names and affiliations or roles of the team leader(s) and members
- The name of the administrative institution (The administrative institution is the one that receives the CFI funds and has administrative control during the proposal development. In most cases, the applicant institution is also the administrative one. The exceptions are multi-institutional projects where the applicant institution does not have to be the administrative one.)
- A list of potential collaborators
- The anticipated benefits of the research activities
- A brief description of the research infrastructure you expect to request (i.e., type of research infrastructure and approximate costs)
- Your plans to develop the proposal including with whom you will engage and how, potential partners, meetings, consultations, logistics, timeline and budget development
- A cost estimate for the proposal development activities, broken down by activity.

Each eligible institution can access up to $50,000 per year, to a maximum of $100,000 over the projected five-year duration of the Northern Fund. The CFI will reimburse these expenses based on the actual costs incurred.

Eligible costs for proposal development support include:

- Travel and accommodation expenses for proposal development team and partners
- Audio and video equipment rental
- Third-party facilitation of proposal development activities
- Third-party grant-writing or editing support
- Community advisors for creating or strengthening community partnerships
- Other expenses pre-approved by the CFI.

Requests for proposal development support will be assessed by CFI staff rather than as part of the Northern Fund review process. Funding for proposal development support does not require matching partner funding.

For more information on eligible and non-eligible costs for proposal development support email us at northern.fund@innovation.ca.

Submitting a Northern Fund proposal

Tools to apply

Use the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) to prepare, share and submit your proposals. This call for proposals and the Getting started with CAMS documents on our website contain all the information you need to apply to this funding program, including guidelines to prepare proposals.

Submitting proposals

The proposal should clearly present the project's merits and relevance to the North. Provide enough information to enable reviewers to assess the proposal according to the review criteria.

The proposal consists of two separate CAMS modules:

Project module — Information about the proposed project, how it meets the funding program's objectives and review criteria

Finance module — Information about the budgetary details of the proposal

The forms in CAMS will indicate the maximum number of characters that can be included in each section and/or the page limits for uploaded attachments.

Project module

The project module consists of the following sections:

- Project information
- Plain language summary
- Team
- Collaborating institutions
- Financial resources for operation and maintenance
- Review criteria

Project information

The "Project information" section captures basic information about the project such as the project's title, name of the eligible institution and keywords.

Plain language summary

(1,500 characters)

Provide a short summary in plain language of the proposed research activities: what would be researched, how it would be done and why it would be important to the North and to First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities. Focus on the expected impacts and benefits to Northern communities and people.

This summary will not be used in the review process. If the project is funded, we may use this summary in our communications products and on our website.

Team

The team must include members of First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, and researchers from the applicant institution. It may also include technical staff, academic collaborators from other institutions or other community members and partners. You can identify up to 10 team members (name and affiliation), including up to two team leader(s). CVs are not required for these proposals.

When composing your team, consider the criterion standard and aspects to be addressed under "Team" in Part 3 – Criterion standards and instructions of this document.

Identify one or two team leaders. Identifying two team leaders is an opportunity to recognize another leader and to provide more diverse leadership for the team. Team leaders must be affiliated with institutions in the North or be residents of communities in the North.

The team leader who creates the proposal in CAMS must be associated with the administrative institution and will be an administrative team leader by default. This person will be responsible for tasks such as completing forms in CAMS and submitting the proposal to the institution. Only the institution's authorized signatories can complete the final step of submitting the proposal.

Team leaders and team members must:

- Have an active CAMS account; and
- Accept to participate in the project before the proposal is submitted.

CAMS will allow team leaders to read, write and edit the proposal, while team members will have read-only access.

Collaborating institutions

If applicable, identify the CFI-eligible institutions collaborating on this project. A collaborating institution is one that receives part of the infrastructure. Collaborating institutions must be located in the North. Before you can submit the proposal, collaborating institutions must confirm their participation in CAMS.

Financial resources for operation and maintenance

This section of the project module captures the annual costs and sources of committed support to ensure the effective operation and maintenance of the research infrastructure for the first five years after it is implemented. (See Operation and maintenance costs.)

If the useful life of some of the infrastructure items requested is longer or shorter than five years, provide information in the "Review criteria" section of the proposal regarding the operation and maintenance needs for these items over their useful life.

The useful life of the research infrastructure is the period over which it is expected to provide benefits and be usable for its intended purpose, factoring in normal repairs and maintenance.

Do not include costs related to research and/or technology development in the "Funding sources for operation and maintenance" table.

The amount requested for operation and maintenance support from the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF), which can be an amount equivalent to up to 100 percent of the CFI contribution to the cost of the research infrastructure, should be listed in the "Other" category in the "Funding sources for operation and maintenance" table.

Include the rationale for the amount requested for operation and maintenance support in the "Sustainability" section of the Review criteria document.

For more information on eligible and non-eligible costs for operation and maintenance, consult section 4.7 Eligible costs for operation and maintenance of the infrastructure of our Policy and program guide.

Review criteria

For instructions on how to address each of the review criteria, see Part 3 – Criterion standards and instructions.

Structure of attachment

Address the review criteria in a PDF document and upload it to CAMS. Include key information on how the proposal meets the review criteria. Address each criterion in the order that they appear in Part 3 of this document. Clearly identify the beginning of a new criterion with a title.

Page limits

The CFI is able to accept proposals submitted in French or English. The page limit for your PDF document depends on which of these two languages you use to write your proposal.

The page limit to address the five review criteria is 15 pages (English) or 18 pages (French).

You have flexibility in how you address each criterion in the document you submit, including how many of the total pages you use for each criterion and whether you include figures or diagrams.

Format for attachments

CAMS will automatically paginate proposals when they are submitted. Do not paginate your document before uploading it to CAMS.

Since reviewers may assess proposals electronically, use a standard, single column on an 8.5" x 11" page layout. Avoid using a two-column or landscape format since it is harder to read on screen.

Use a legible, 12-point, black font and single line spacing (six lines per inch) with no condensed type or spacing.

Format your document as follows:

- **Header:** Indicate the applicant institution on the top left and the project number on the top right of each page.
- **Footer:** Do not include any information in the footer as this area will be used for automatic page numbering.
- **Page margin:** Insert a margin of no less than one inch around the page. The header may be within the margin.
- **File format and size:** Only upload PDF files. Documents in other formats should be converted to PDF before being uploaded and should not be encrypted or password protected. The file size must not exceed 20 megabytes.

If you do not adhere to these guidelines, we may return your proposal to be revised.

Finance module

The finance module consists of the following sections:

- Cost of individual items
- Construction or renovation floor plans (if applicable)
- Contributions from eligible partners
- Overview of infrastructure project funding (generated automatically)

Cost of individual items

Bundle items into functional groupings when completing the "Cost of individual items" section. Provide details and justification for each item within a group when you address the "Infrastructure" criterion in the review criteria document.

Consult section 4.6 Eligible costs for infrastructure projects of our Policy and program guide for more information on eligible costs for infrastructure projects.

List only the eligible infrastructure acquisition and development costs. List the full cost of each item. Retain documentation (price lists, quotes, etc.) so they can be provided to the CFI if requested.

The total eligible costs must include taxes (net of credits received), shipping and installation. However, do not calculate taxes on the in-kind portion.

Follow your existing institutional policies and procedures when preparing budget estimates. We expect costs included in this budget to be close estimates of fair market value.

Consult section 4.9 Eligible in-kind contributions of our Policy and program guide for information on how to assess in-kind contributions.

Construction or renovation floor plans (if applicable)

All proposals that include construction or renovation must provide the following information:

- A timeline identifying key dates for the various stages of the proposed construction or renovation
- Floor plans of the proposed new area(s), showing the location of the infrastructure and the scale of the plans (when construction or renovation involves multiple rooms). The floor plans must be legible when printed in black and white on standard letter-size paper (8.5" x 11")
- The overall cost of the construction or renovation project, categorized by cost component (i.e., direct costs, soft costs and contingency costs), when these costs are expected to be in excess of $500,000.

The cost breakdown, timeline and floor plans should be uploaded as one consolidated PDF document. These pages do not count toward the page limit for the "Review criteria" section of the proposal. If any of the pages of the attachment provide information other than for the intended use, we will remove them from the proposal.

Contributions from eligible partners

List all contributions from eligible partners. Do not include the amount requested from the CFI. Provide the partner's name and type, as well as a breakdown of contributions (cash and in-kind) for each eligible partner. Bundle all expected in-kind contributions from vendors into a single line. If partner contributions are expected but have not yet been confirmed, outline the plans for securing these funds.

Overview of infrastructure project funding

CAMS automatically populates the tables in the "Overview of infrastructure project funding" section with information taken from the other sections of the finance module. The amount requested from the CFI is calculated based on the difference between the total contributions from eligible partners and the total eligible costs.

Expressions of support

Provide up to three expression(s) of support from one or more Northern communities. These should describe how the communities will engage in, or benefit from, the proposed research project. The following formats are accepted:

- PDF document (maximum of two pages with no restrictions on formatting), or
- Audio or video recording (maximum file size of 300 megabytes, each recording should not exceed 180 seconds).

Make sure to add the proposal number to the filename of your audio/video file.

Part 3 – Criterion standards and instructions

Provide information on how your proposal meets each of the review criteria. Please make sure you provide enough detail for the Proposal Review Committee to assess each criterion.

Objective 1

Support research led by Northern institutions and organizations and First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities

Review criteria under this objective are:

- Research in the North for the North
- Team

Research in the North for the North

Criterion standard: The research activities are of high relevance to Northern communities, are feasible, and have been co-created, co-developed or co-managed with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, as appropriate.

Address each of the following aspects:

- Describe the research activities that will make use of the requested infrastructure and explain how they will accomplish the proposed goals of the research project and address the priorities of Northern communities.
- Describe the research methodologies to be employed and discuss feasibility by identifying key challenges and how the team will overcome them.
- Describe how the project is co-created, co-developed or co-managed with members of First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, as appropriate.

Team

Criterion standard: The team has the relevant knowledge and experience to conduct the research activities. First Nations, Métis and Inuit team members play meaningful and leadership roles in the research activities.

Address each of the following aspects:

- Describe the knowledge required to conduct the research activities.
- Highlight the experience, expertise and knowledge of each team member and the expected contribution they will make to conducting the research activities and/or using the requested research infrastructure.

Objective 2

Augment research capacity in the North for the North

Review criteria under this objective are:

- Infrastructure
- Sustainability

Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The research infrastructure is necessary and appropriate and will augment research capacity in the North.

Address each of the following aspects:

- Describe each requested item and explain why it is necessary for the proposed research activities. Indicate the item number (corresponding to the item number in the "Cost of individual items" table), quantity, location and costs correlated to the table. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.
- For construction or renovation projects, provide a description of the space including its location, size and nature (e.g., wet lab, greenhouse).

Sustainability

Criterion standard: The research infrastructure will be well managed and efficiently used.

Address each of the following aspects:

- Describe how the infrastructure will be operated, maintained and accessed over its useful life (e.g., technical support, project management or oversight, user access policy, etc.).
- Outline the operation and maintenance costs and revenue sources over the useful life of the infrastructure.
- Include the rationale for the amount of CFI funding requested for operating and maintaining the research infrastructure (which can be an amount equivalent to up to 100 percent of the CFI contribution to the cost of the research infrastructure).
- Describe the key operation and maintenance needs and associated costs (e.g., number of personnel, their roles, and salaries).
- Refer to the "Financial resources for operation and maintenance" tables in the project module of the CFI Awards Management System. The amount requested for operation and maintenance (IOF) support should be listed in the "Other" category in the "Funding sources" table.
- Describe how the ownership, control, access and possession of research data will be handled and how knowledge will be shared and accessed by the research project's stakeholders. Refer to the First Nations Principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access and possession) listed on the website of the First Nations Information Governance Centre or the Global Indigenous Data Alliance's CARE principles for Indigenous Data Governance.

Objective 3

Generate social, cultural, health, environmental or economic benefits to Northern Canada and Northern communities including the training of academic and non-academic highly qualified personnel

Review criteria under this objective are:

- Benefits to Northern communities

Benefits to Northern Communities

Criterion standard: There are clear pathways to transfer research results and/or to mobilize knowledge to residents of Northern communities including First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and potential partners. The results are likely to lead to social, cultural, health, environmental or economic benefits to Northern Canada including the training of highly qualified personnel.

Address each of the following aspects:

- Describe the anticipated benefits of the research activities for Northern communities. Social benefits could include improved wellbeing through new policies and practices or community decision-making processes; cultural benefits may include preservation or revitalization of Indigenous languages; health benefits could be new diagnostic tools, treatments or therapeutics; environmental benefits could be monitoring of climate change impacts on Northern or remote regions, land and water conservation, pollution reduction, carbon emission reduction, or informing policies for environmental protection; and economic benefits could be new jobs, products, services or sustainable industries.

- Provide information on the academic and non-academic highly qualified personnel (HQP) that will be trained while using the infrastructure and conducting the research activities. Examples of highly qualified personnel are community-based research assistants, technicians, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, etc. Indicate how many people will be trained and describe which skills they will acquire. Describe their potential career paths or further contributions to their communities.

- Describe the potential pathways to transfer research results and/or to mobilize knowledge to Northern communities and potential partners or users (e.g., partnerships with communities and the public or private sector, as applicable).

We encourage you to contact the CFI at northern.fund@innovation.ca with any questions about the Northern Fund, CFI policies and guidelines, or the proposal submission process.