

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

2025 Innovation Fund

Guidelines for Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees

October 2024

INNOVATION

Canada Foundation
for Innovation

Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation



Table of contents

Part 1: What you need to know about this competition 3

- Purpose of the Innovation Fund 3
- Objectives of this competition 3
- Competition budget 3
- Streams 4
- Review process 5
- Principles of merit review 7

Part 2: How to conduct your review 9

- Tools to conduct your review 9
- Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee roles and responsibilities 9
- Steps in the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee review 10

Part 3: Criterion standards and instructions to applicants 13

- Research or technology development: Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design 13
- Team: The Declaration on Research Assessment and rethinking impact 13
- Overcoming systemic barriers 14
- Benefits: Examples of benefits of research 15
- Useful information to consider regarding highly qualified personnel 15
- Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open) 16
- Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts 18
- Stream 3: Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities 20

About the Canada Foundation for Innovation

With a bold, future-looking mandate, the CFI 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.

[The Canada Foundation for Innovation respectfully acknowledges that its head office is located on the traditional, unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People.](#)



Who should use these guidelines?

These guidelines are for members of Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees assessing proposals for the CFI's 2025 Innovation Fund competition.



A word of thanks

The CFI would like to thank you for agreeing to participate in the review process for the 2025 Innovation Fund competition. The review process relies on dedicated people like you who generously lend their time and expertise to its success. The CFI and Canada's research community greatly appreciate your efforts.

Part 1: What you need to know about this competition

Purpose of the Innovation Fund

The success of the Canadian research community rests on its ability to realize the full potential of both its people and its infrastructure. The Innovation Fund provides continued investments in infrastructure, across the full spectrum of research, from the most fundamental to applied through to technology development. The Innovation Fund serves to not only invest in new infrastructure but also to support and renew existing equipment and facilities.

The Innovation Fund supports a broad range of research programs including those in natural sciences and engineering, health, social sciences, humanities and the arts, as well as interdisciplinary research. Projects funded through the Innovation Fund will help Canada remain at the forefront of exploration and knowledge generation while making meaningful contributions to generating social, health, environmental and economic benefits and addressing global challenges, such as the ones defined by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Research infrastructure projects should:

- Align with the institution's strategic priorities
- Demonstrate **appropriate maturity** and offer the best potential for transformative impact; it is expected that projects will be finalized promptly and completed within a reasonable time frame.
- Build on established capacity to accelerate current research and technology development or bolster emerging strategic priority areas
- Empower teams to maximize the use of research infrastructure and foster world-class research.

Objectives of this competition

The objectives of the 2025 Innovation Fund are to:

- Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members
- Enhance the capacity of institutions to conduct the research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure
- Generate benefits for Canadians.

Competition budget

The CFI will invest up to \$425 million in research infrastructure funding and will fund up to 40 percent of a project's eligible infrastructure costs. We will also provide up to \$127.5 million for associated operating and maintenance costs through the [Infrastructure Operating Fund](#).

Streams

This competition includes three streams, each with tailored assessment criteria. There is no predetermined distribution of funding among the streams.

Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)

This stream is open to proposals from all disciplines.

Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts

To access this stream, the primary field of research must be in social sciences, humanities or the arts (SSHA).

Stream 3: Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities

To access this stream, all requested infrastructure must be housed in and managed by a core facility. In this stream, we have expanded eligible costs to include scientific and technical personnel for the operation and management of core facilities. Eligible activities performed by specialized personnel include:

- Platform management and coordination
- Operating and maintaining specialized equipment
- Interfacing with researchers from a variety of disciplines
- Outreach with the private sector
- Training highly qualified personnel.



What is a core facility?

A core facility provides access to the following, which are generally too expensive, complex or specialized for researchers to cost-effectively provide and sustain themselves:

- State-of-the-art research services and analyses
- Instruments and technology
- Expertise
- Training and education.

Also, a core facility:

- Is broadly available to many researchers to conduct their research activities, irrespective of their administrative affiliation and with no requirement for collaboration or co-authorship

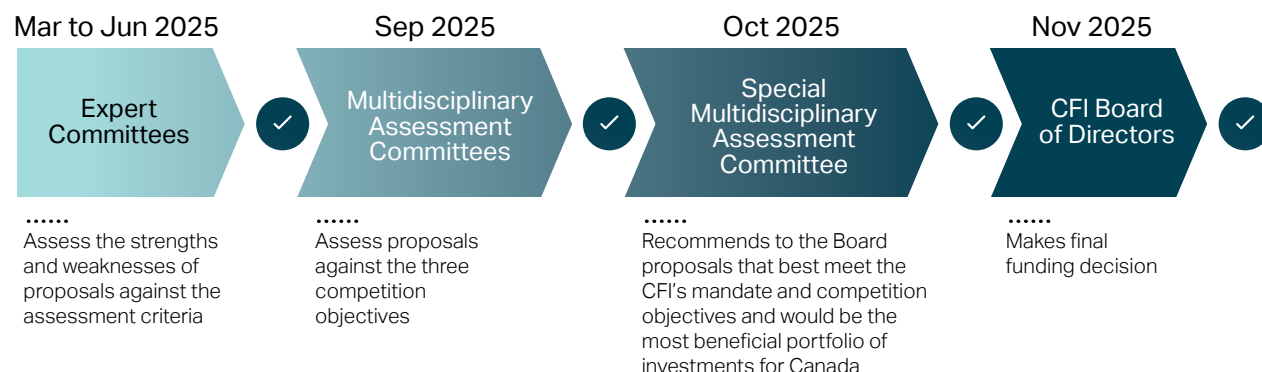
- Has dedicated equipment and space serving one or more institutions, research programs or fields
- Is formally recognized as a core facility and supported by the research institution where it is located
- Has a clearly defined governance and management structure and a sound management plan reflective of its mandate, breadth and complexity
- Has dedicated management involving individuals with the technical and subject matter expertise necessary to oversee all aspects of the facility.

Local, regional or national computing infrastructure is not eligible.

Review process

Proposals will be evaluated in a three-step review process, with final funding decisions made by the CFI's Board of Directors.

Figure 1: Review process



Expert Committees

In the first stage of review, Expert Committees review small groups of proposals from the same area of research to assess their strengths and weaknesses in relation to the assessment criteria. The assessment criteria for all streams are similar, but the sub-criteria have been tailored to better fit the types of proposals in those streams.

Only proposals that meet a minimum threshold across the five assessment criteria will move to the next stage of review. Proposals meet the minimum threshold to advance to the next stage unless they receive three or more ratings of "Satisfies the criterion standard with minor weaknesses" or one of either "Partially satisfies the criterion standard" or "Does not satisfy the criterion standard."

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees

In the second stage of review, the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees (MACs) review groups of proposals of similar size or complexity and assess them against the three competition objectives. Proposals from all three streams will be assessed together.

One or more MACs exclusively review proposals submitted by small institutions. Small institutions are defined as those whose share of research funding received from the three federal research funding agencies is less than one percent.

The MACs conduct a careful analysis of the proposals and of the Expert Committee reports. They have two responsibilities:

- Identifying proposals that demonstrate excellence and best meet the three competition objectives relative to other competing requests
- Providing a funding recommendation and funding amount for each proposal for the next stage of review.

Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee

In the third and final stage of review, a Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee (S-MAC) reviews reports from the MAC meetings for the proposals that the MACs recommend for funding. The S-MAC makes sure the MACs were consistent in their assessment. If recommendations from the MACs exceed the available budget, the S-MAC recommends to the CFI Board of Directors the proposals that best support the CFI's mandate, meet the competition objectives and represent the most beneficial portfolio of investments for Canada.

Funding decisions

The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions for this competition at its November 2025 meeting. Following this meeting, we will notify institutions of the decisions and share the committee reports with them.

Assessing proposals against the competition objectives

MACs assess proposals against the three competition objectives after Expert Committees have assessed proposals based on five assessment criteria that expand on the competition objectives. In the call for proposals, we instructed applicants to provide enough information to clearly present how their project meets each assessment criterion and competition objective so that you can evaluate the project's merits. (See "[Part 3: Criterion standards and instructions to applicants](#)")

Table 1: Relationship between competition objectives and assessment criteria

Competition objectives (reviewed by MACs)	Assessment criteria (reviewed by Expert Committees)
Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members	Research or technology development
	Team
Enhance the capacity of institutions to conduct the research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure	Infrastructure
	Sustainability
Generate benefits for Canadians	Benefits

Rating scale

We use a five-point rating scale with statements about the degree to which a proposal meets each competition objective (See "Figure 2: Rating scale"). Your rating must be supported by the strengths and weaknesses that you identify in the proposal.

Figure 2: Rating scale



Table 2: Interpreting the rating scale

Rating	Interpretation
4+	The proposal clearly satisfies the competition objective. The proposal exhibits qualities or strengths that exceed what is required.
4	The proposal clearly satisfies the competition objective. No weaknesses have been identified.
3	The proposal mostly satisfies the competition objective. While minor weaknesses have been identified, they could be addressed by the research teams. The strengths outweigh the weaknesses.
2	The proposal partially satisfies the competition objective. The major weaknesses identified would be difficult for the research team to address without significant changes to the project. The weaknesses outweigh the strengths.
1	The proposal does not satisfy the competition objective. The information provided is inadequate or does not address the competition objective.

Principles of merit review

Our merit review process is governed by the underlying principles of integrity and confidentiality. This is to ensure that we continue to have the trust and confidence of the research community, the government and the public.

Integrity

We expect reviewers to maintain the highest standards of ethics and integrity. This means that personal interests must never influence, or be seen to influence, the outcome. You are appointed as an individual, not as an advocate or representative of your discipline or organization.

All MAC members must follow our [Conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement](#).

Consult the list of team members and affiliated institutions for the proposals being reviewed by your committee and declare to the CFI any conflicts of interest in advance of the committee meeting. We will determine if the conflict of interest is manageable or if it would be best for you not to review this proposal.

Confidentiality

Our review process is confidential. When you agree to review for the CFI, you are bound by our [confidentiality agreement](#). This means that everything we send you is confidential and must always be treated as such. You must not discuss or share proposals with anyone who is not a member of the committee. If you do not think you have the expertise to provide a useful review without discussing it with a colleague, you should decline the invitation. All notes and supporting materials must be destroyed once the review meeting is complete.

The CFI may sometimes, with consent from the committee members, record committee discussions to facilitate writing Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee reports. These recordings are kept confidential and are for CFI use only. They are destroyed once the review process has concluded.

Use of generative artificial intelligence

Please avoid using generative AI tools in the review of proposals. Inputting proposal information into generative AI tools such as ChatGPT or DeepL, which may store and reuse the data for future enhancement of the tool, could result in breaches of privacy and the loss of custody of intellectual property and would place you in breach of our [Conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement](#). For more information, we encourage you to review and follow the Government of Canada's [Draft guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals](#).

Avoiding bias

Merit review is subjective by nature. Bias can be unconscious and show up in several ways. It could be based on:

- A school of thought or ideas about fundamental versus applied or translational research, areas of research, sub-disciplines or approaches (including emerging ones)
- The size or reputation of a participating institution
- The age, language, identity factors or gender of the applicants.

We strongly encourage you to complete the [Bias in Peer Review training module](#) developed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This short, online module promotes understanding of bias, how it can affect merit review and ways to mitigate bias.

Official languages

The CFI offers its services in both of Canada's official languages — French and English. Committees must ensure that all proposals in either official language receive a full and detailed review. If you have been assigned a proposal in a language that you cannot understand, contact us immediately and we will reassign the proposal to another reviewer. We normally conduct committee meetings in English.

Part 2: How to conduct your review

Tools to conduct your review

Use the [CFI Awards Management System \(CAMS\)](#) to access the documents and information you need to conduct your review. If you do not already have a CAMS account, we will create one for you.

CAMS is divided into dashboards for different types of users. The “Reviewer” dashboard is where you will access the review materials and conduct your preliminary assessments. To access the review materials, click on the committee name. This will bring you to the “Review and documentation” page, where you will find:

- Expert Committee reports
- Proposals
- Assignment table
- Preliminary assessment form
- Meeting agenda

Consult [Getting started with CAMS: A guide for reviewers](#) for more information on using CAMS.

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee roles and responsibilities

Chairs

The Chair is responsible for leading the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee meeting and ensuring that the committee functions effectively. We expect the Chair to read all the proposals in advance of the meeting and uphold the CFI’s values of providing an equitable and constructive review process.

During the meeting the Chair will ensure that:

- All members are given speaking time and consideration
- All proposals are reviewed fairly, consistently and in accordance with the guidelines in this document
- Each proposal is discussed in sufficient detail
- A consensus rating is achieved for each competition objective
- The ratings are sufficiently substantiated for the consensus report, which is drafted by the CFI.

The Chair is also responsible for ensuring that the consensus report for each proposal accurately reflects the discussion at the meeting.

Members

MAC members have a broad understanding of the research environment, the niches of excellence in institutions and the breadth of outcomes and impacts of research. You will be assigned a role as either reviewer or reader for each proposal to be assessed by your committee.

Reviewers will provide preliminary comments and ratings for their assigned proposals in advance of the committee meeting. Each MAC member will review approximately 10 proposals, some of which will intentionally be outside of their general area of expertise. They will present their review at the committee meeting and will be asked to achieve a consensus rating.

Proposals for which you are a reviewer are identified on the “Your review” tab on the “Review and documentation” page in CAMS. You are required to enter your ratings and your comments in CAMS only for those proposals assigned to you as a reviewer.

Readers will have access to all proposals but are not required to submit a preliminary review. Their participation in the discussions is welcomed and will aid in reaching consensus ratings. For proposals for which you have been assigned the role of reader, please read, at minimum, the three-page project summaries and the Expert Committee reports.

CFI programs officers

The CFI programs officers assigned to the committee are responsible for supporting the Chair. They will provide insight and clarity about the competition objectives, the rating scale and any other aspect of the 2025 Innovation Fund competition and will take detailed notes and draft a MAC report for each proposal.

Observers

Sometimes, additional CFI staff observe committee meetings.

Steps in the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee review

Before the meeting

Access the review materials

You will receive an email to activate your account on the [CFI Awards Management System \(CAMS\)](#). If you already have an account, you will receive an email to notify you when the review materials are available in CAMS. Consult [Getting started with CAMS: A guide for reviewers](#) for more information on using CAMS.

Attend a briefing session

The CFI will schedule briefing sessions on the review process. These briefing sessions will primarily focus on your role as a MAC member to ensure there is a shared understanding of the competition objectives and rating scale. This will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the review process.

Complete a bias in peer review training session

To ensure an equitable review process, we ask that you complete the recommended [Bias in Peer Review training module](#) prior to evaluating your assigned proposals.

Conduct your preliminary assessment

The materials provided must be the sole information source upon which you base your review. Applicant institutions were asked to demonstrate in the proposal how the project satisfies each competition objective.

For each proposal, you will:

- Identify the proposal's relevant strengths and weaknesses based on the competition objectives
- Use the five-point rating scale to assess the degree to which the proposal meets each competition objective based on the strengths and weaknesses identified
- In CAMS, select your rating for each competition objective from a drop-down menu and input the strengths and weaknesses in the relevant comments section. You may also submit your comments in a Word document template we will provide.
- Complete and submit your preliminary assessment **at least one week before the committee meeting.**

Preliminary assessments will not be provided to applicant institutions. They will only be used to help us identify areas for discussion at the meeting and to inform MAC reports.

At the meeting

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees will meet by videoconference on Microsoft Teams. Based on the number of proposals to review, the committee will take place over multiple sessions.

The committee will discuss each proposal in turn for approximately 25 minutes. The discussion will be moderated by the committee Chair.

Each competition objective will be discussed in turn, focusing on those where there are significant discrepancies among the members' preliminary assessments. The discussion will proceed, as follows:

- The Chair will invite a reviewer to provide a brief overview of the proposal.
- They will provide their rating and a brief rationale that highlights the proposal's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the first competition objective.
- The Chair will invite other assigned reviewers to provide their rating and any additional information or differing viewpoints.
- The Chair will open the discussion to the rest of the committee members.
- The Chair will summarize the strengths and weaknesses identified and will help the committee to reach a consensus rating for the competition objective before moving to the next competition objective.
- The rating assigned should accurately reflect the proposal's strengths and weaknesses identified during the discussion for each competition objective. Where there are discrepancies between the MAC's assessment and comments in the Expert Committee report, a substantive explanation will be required.
- The Chair will ask the committee to agree on a funding recommendation for each proposal.

After the meeting

MAC reports

The CFI programs officer will draft a report for each proposal that summarizes the committee's consensus ratings and comments. The Chair will be asked to review and approve the reports. MAC reports do not list the committee membership.

Table 3: Summary of key activities for Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees

Timing	Activities
<p>Before the meeting (June to August 2025)</p>	<p>Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate your account and log in to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) • Access the review materials on the “Reviewer” dashboard • Inform the CFI of any potential conflict of interest • Participate in a briefing session • Complete the recommended Bias in Peer Review training module • Read the Expert Committee reports and the proposals <p>Committee members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate your account and log in to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) • Access the review materials on the “Reviewer” dashboard • Inform the CFI of any potential conflict of interest • Participate in a briefing session • Complete the recommended Bias in Peer Review training module • Evaluate the proposals against the competition objectives • Provide preliminary assessments to the CFI at least one week before the meeting
<p>At the meeting (September 2025)</p>	<p>The Chair guides the committee in reviewing each proposal in turn. The committee discusses the strengths and weaknesses for each competition objective to reach consensus on a rating. This discussion informs the MAC report.</p>
<p>After the meeting (September 2025)</p>	<p>The CFI programs officer drafts the MAC consensus report for each proposal. The Chair reviews and approves the reports.</p>

Part 3: Criterion standards and instructions to applicants

This section describes important concepts that applicant institutions had to keep in mind in the development of their proposals followed by detailed instructions on what to include in their proposals according to which stream they applied to.

Research or technology development: Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design

Designing research around equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles fosters excellent research outcomes that are both impactful and reflective of the broader Canadian population. While the relevance of EDI in research design may vary across fields, we expect all applicant institutions to incorporate these principles into their proposals where applicable.

Rigorous research involves embracing inclusive practices at every step, from the original research questions to selecting collaborators, and from interpreting findings to sharing results. By addressing barriers to participation in research, we enhance innovation, foster creativity, encourage diverse problem-solving approaches, and achieve excellence.

Here are some examples of research-related practices to consider, where applicable:

Research planning and design:

- Include diverse perspectives from marginalized or underrepresented groups.
- Ensure research design accounts for biases and includes measures to mitigate.
- Identify stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and include them in the process.

Literature search:

- Include databases, journals and repositories from different regions and languages.
- Be mindful of citation bias.
- Include authors from diverse backgrounds.

Data collection and analysis:

- Ensure that data collection methods are culturally sensitive and inclusive of diverse populations.
- Pay attention to intersecting factors to understand differing impacts in the analysis.

Team:

The Declaration on Research Assessment and rethinking impact

As a signatory to the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the CFI is committed to recognizing and assessing diverse forms of impactful research. Capturing research output often relies on familiar quantitative metrics like h-index, journal impact factor and citations, despite evidence that these indicators are narrow, often misleading and insufficient to capture the full richness of scholarly work. Applicant institutions might include article-level metrics like citation counts to demonstrate uptake of their work, as well as qualitative examples of notable citations or further indicators of quality or impact. You should not consider these metrics alone as surrogates of quality when assessing proposals.

Academic achievements and outcomes should be assessed through a wider range of research outputs including, but not limited to:

- Publishing research articles, technical reports or books
- Presenting at conferences or other venues
- Discussing an article, book or presentation on social media, podcasts or blogs
- Producing software
- Creating intellectual property
- Developing new technologies
- Producing community products such as Indigenous scholarly works or cultural sensitivity training
- Curating public exhibitions or events
- Contributing to policy or business decisions
- Conducting community engagement or outreach activities
- Training highly qualified personnel.

For more information, see the [Declaration on Research Assessment website](#) and the document [Rethinking Research Assessment: Building Blocks for Impact](#).

Overcoming systemic barriers

Systemic barriers are policies or practices that result in the marginalization of specific groups of people. Individuals from these groups are receiving unequal access to or being excluded from participation in employment, services or programs, which ultimately, perpetuates their marginalization and underrepresentation. Underrepresented groups can include, but are not limited to: women; Indigenous, racialized or LGBTQ2S+ people; persons with disabilities; and, early-career researchers.

We expect that proposals submitted to this competition will identify the systemic barriers to participation of underrepresented groups and will demonstrate concrete, evidence-supported practices that will help overcome them and create an inclusive team environment. It is insufficient to rely exclusively on institutional guidelines and policies; research teams should develop and apply their own plans and have mechanisms to demonstrate if they are working. Plans must consider recruitment and how to support members of underrepresented groups once they have been hired.

Examples of concrete practices include, but are not limited to:

- Appropriate institutional financial support for EDI actions
- Development of team culture statements
- Equitable and inclusive access practices (e.g., independent access committee)
- Focus on cultural humility and establishment of an environment of constructive cultural learning
- Implementation of gender equity and equality programs (e.g., Athena SWAN)
- Inclusion of early-career researchers within the leadership and advisory bodies
- Inclusive recruitment and hiring practices
- Individuals with clearly identified responsibilities to support underrepresented groups
- Plans to re-assess EDI activities regularly
- Robust and safe feedback mechanisms
- Targeted financial support for underrepresented groups (e.g., reduced cost to access infrastructure).

Benefits:

Examples of benefits of research

The benefits of research are wide-ranging:

- Health benefits could be new diagnostic tools, treatments or therapeutics
- Environmental benefits could be monitoring of climate change impacts, land and water conservation, pollution reduction, carbon emission reduction, or informing policies for environmental protection
- Sociocultural benefits could be improved wellbeing through strengthening communities, new policies or practices, increased public engagement, or improved decision making
- Economic benefits could be new jobs, products, services or sustainable industries.

Useful information to consider regarding highly qualified personnel

When describing the training of highly qualified personnel, applicant institutions were instructed to indicate how many technicians, research associates, undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will be trained and to describe which skills they will acquire. They were also instructed to describe potential career paths or further related contributions.

Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)

STREAM
1

Objective 1:

Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members

Assessment criterion: Research or technology development

Criterion standard: The research or technology development program is innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

Proposal must describe:

- Details of the research or technology development program
- The innovative aspects and the breakthrough potential of the proposed activities within the national and international context (include references)
- The approach, methodology and key challenges as well as how the team will overcome them
- How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the design of the research or technology development program (if not applicable, explain why).

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team has all the experience and expertise needed to conduct the proposed activities and will do so in an inclusive and equitable working environment.

Proposal must describe:

- The expertise needed to conduct the proposed activities and use the requested infrastructure (include a competency matrix)
- The experience and output of each team member as it relates to their career stage and role in the team
- Evidence-based actions taken to enable full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers
- Evidence-based actions taken to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible working environment.

STREAM
1

Objective 2:

Enhance the capacity of institutions to conduct the research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development program.

Proposal must describe:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need (include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies)
- How the requested infrastructure complements the existing infrastructure at the institution and at partner institutions

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, accessible and optimally used over its useful life.

Proposal must describe:

- How the infrastructure will be operated and maintained
- How the infrastructure will be optimally used (e.g., user access, level of use, plan to maximize usage)
- Evidence-based actions taken to ensure equitable and inclusive access
- How data will be securely and ethically managed
- The operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources.

Objective 3:

Generate benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer research or technology development results and mobilize knowledge. The results are likely to lead to benefits for Canadians.

Proposal must describe:

- Anticipated benefits of the research or technology development activities and their impact
- Potential pathways to transfer results to end users and partners (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector)
- How principles of equity and inclusion for any people or communities that may be impacted by the proposed activities have been considered
- The training of highly qualified personnel
- How diversity and equity have been integrated in the training and mentorship programs.

Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts

Objective 1:

Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members

Assessment criterion: Research or technology development

Criterion standard: The research or technology development program is innovative, feasible and internationally competitive

Proposal must describe:

- Details of the research or technology development program
- The innovative aspects and the breakthrough potential of the proposed activities within the national and international context (include references)
- The approach, methodology and key challenges as well as how the team will overcome them
- How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the design of the research or technology development program (if not applicable, explain why).

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team has all the experience and expertise needed to conduct the proposed activities and will do so in an inclusive and equitable working environment.

Proposal must describe:

- The expertise needed to conduct the proposed activities and use the requested infrastructure
- The experience and output of each team member as it relates to their career stage and role in the team
- Evidence-based actions taken to enable full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers
- Evidence-based actions taken to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible working environment.

Objective 2:

Enhance the capacity of institutions to conduct the research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development program.

Proposal must describe:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need (include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies)
- How the requested infrastructure complements the existing infrastructure at the institution and at partner institutions.

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, accessible and optimally used over its useful life.

Proposal must describe:

- How the infrastructure will be operated and maintained
- How the infrastructure will be optimally used (e.g., user access, level of use, plan to maximize usage)
- Evidence-based actions taken to ensure equitable and inclusive access
- How data will be securely and ethically managed
- The operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources.

Objective 3:

Generate benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer research or technology development results and mobilize knowledge. The results are likely to lead to benefits for Canadians.

Proposal must describe:

- Anticipated benefits of the research or technology development activities and their impact
- Planned knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, contributions to public debate and the media)
- How principles of equity and inclusion for any people or communities that may be impacted by the proposed activities have been considered
- The training of highly qualified personnel
- How diversity and equity have been integrated in the training and mentorship programs.

Stream 3: Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities

Objective 1:

Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members

Assessment criterion: Research or technology development

Criterion standard: The facility enables researchers to conduct research or technology development that is innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

Proposal must describe:

- A high-level description of the types of projects the infrastructure will enable, and, in more detail, a representative sample of the projects to be conducted (include a link to the facility's website)
- The innovative aspects and the breakthrough potential of the projects within the national and international context (include references)
- The network of users and collaborators in academia, communities, public or private sector
- How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in the design of the projects (if not applicable, explain why).

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team has all the experience and expertise needed to enable multiple research or technology development activities and will do so in an inclusive and equitable working environment.

Proposal must describe:

- The expertise and specialized skills needed to enable multiple research or technology development activities and use the requested infrastructure
- The experience and output of each team member as it relates to their career stage and role in the team
- Evidence-based actions taken to enable full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers
- Evidence-based actions taken to provide an equitable, inclusive and accessible working environment.

Objective 2:

Enhance the capacity of institutions to conduct the research or technology development program over the useful life of the infrastructure

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary, appropriate and will enhance the facility's services.

Proposal must describe:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need (include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies)
- How the requested infrastructure integrates with the existing infrastructure and fits within the mission of the facility

- The role in operating, maintaining or managing the facility of any personnel for whom funding is being requested.

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, accessible and optimally used over its useful life.

Proposal must describe:

- How the facility will be operated and managed
- How the infrastructure will be optimally used (e.g., user access, level of use, plan to maximize usage)
- Evidence-based actions taken to ensure equitable and inclusive access
- How data will be securely and ethically managed
- The operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources.



Objective 3:

Generate benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer research or technology development results and mobilize knowledge. The results are likely to lead to benefits for Canadians.

Proposal must describe:

- Anticipated benefits of the activities enabled by the facility and their impact
- Potential pathways to transfer results to end users and partners (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector)
- How principles of equity and inclusion for any people or communities that may be impacted by the proposed activities have been considered
- The training of highly qualified personnel
- How diversity and equity have been integrated in the training and mentorship programs.