

Update

April 2025



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Evolving tariff situation

Tariffs imposed by the United States, along with Canada's response, are creating circumstances that could significantly impact research infrastructure projects. We recognize that limited alternative sources for research equipment could result in increased financial pressure on institutions.

We also understand that the rapidly shifting landscape makes forecasting and planning particularly challenging. While we encourage you to prepare for likely scenarios, including inflation and possible tariffs, we acknowledge the difficulties in making informed projections under these uncertain conditions.

We remain in continual dialogue with ISED to stay current on unfolding developments and to communicate their impacts on both the research community and the projects we support. Please keep us informed about how these measures are affecting your ability to plan and implement infrastructure projects effectively.

We value your feedback regarding the challenges you face in this dynamic environment and remain committed to supporting the successful implementation of all CFI-funded projects.

John R. Evans Leaders Fund

2023-26 allocation

The 2023–26 John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) allocations are coming to an end. As in previous cycles, projects submitted in the June 2025 and October 2025 rounds, as well as the fall intake of the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) – JELF partnership proposals will count towards the current (2023–26) allocation.

2026–29 allocation

\$270 million is available for the 2026–29 JELF allocation. This three-year cycle will begin with the submission of proposals to the February 2026 intake. We will inform each institution by email of their individual envelopes in late May 2025.

Recognizing that institutions may be able to take advantage of new opportunities to attract talent, we will provide some flexibility with allocation management. As soon as an institution's current allocation is depleted, their new 2026–29 allocation can be accessed and borrowed against.

An overview of your institution's current JELF allocation is available from the institutional dashboard of the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS).

Please contact your Senior Programs Officer if you have any questions.

Upcoming public funding announcements

Following the federal election and swearing in of a new Cabinet, we will begin to discuss dates with the Government of Canada for outstanding national funding announcements. This means that all CFI funding decisions for JELF and JELF partnerships (November 2024 and March 2025) and the College Fund (March 2025) remain under embargo. As always, we will share details of funding announcements as early as possible. In the meantime, please contact our Senior Communications Advisor, [Cynthia Beaudin](#), with any questions.

Canadian Conference on Research Administration

We will once again be attending the **Canadian Conference on Research Administration**, which will be held in Fredericton in May. Both our Programs and Finance teams will be present, offering presentations and answering questions on a variety of topics including program updates, research security, post-award management, our financial trend analysis oversight tool, how we make payments from the IOF and monitor this fund, and the Research Facilities Navigator. Maintaining strong connections with research administrators is crucial, so we encourage you to visit us at the conference.

Project financial reports

Interim reports for the period ending March 31, 2025, must be submitted by June 15, 2025, for ongoing infrastructure projects that received CFI funds prior to April 1, 2025. If your institution is planning to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2025, you do not need to submit an interim report by June 15, 2025. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available in CAMS. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

Infrastructure Operating Fund annual report

Your Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2025. This report must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2025 and your projected expenditures for 2025–26. This report is due regardless of whether your institution had any actual or forecasted expenditures to report. It must be submitted electronically in CAMS. You can now find updated electricity costs and facilities charges rate tables for 2024–25 on our website. You can use these tables to calculate **electricity costs** and **facilities charges** if you choose to report these costs in your IOF annual report using the simple method. We update these tables annually, usually in April. Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

Spring 2025 payments from the IOF

We make payments from the IOF (Infrastructure Operating Fund) each spring, two years after the associated infrastructure award is finalized. As such, in spring 2025, we will make payments to institutions for any unused portion of their IOF allocation that was made available before April 1, 2023.

We use a risk-based approach for making payments to institutions. For example, an institution will receive this advance spring payment only if our analyses of its recent IOF annual reports suggest the institution would take no more than five years to use the funds.

You will receive a letter if such a payment will be made to your institution. The letter will include the payment amount and calculation details. Your institution can request additional payments from its allocation in its IOF annual report (due June 15, 2025) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover your needs for the year.

We will also notify institutions that will not receive the advance spring payment and explain the reason.

We have recently updated our IOF award agreement template, therefore you will be required to sign a revised agreement before we can issue your next payment from the IOF. We will send this to you by email (DocuSign) before we process your next payment.

Visit the [IOF webpage](#) for more information.

2024 Report on results now online

Our **2024 Report on results** is now available online. The report provides a visual summary of the outputs and outcomes achieved between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024 through research infrastructure funded by the CFI. It is based on information collected through 1,741 project progress reports submitted by 85 institutions across Canada pertaining to the role research infrastructure plays in:

- Attracting and retaining researchers from around the world
- Supporting the development of the next generation of researchers
- Promoting collaborations
- Generating new knowledge
- Fueling innovation-related outcomes in Canada.

We have also updated the **interactive dashboard** available on the CFI website with the latest from the CFI project progress reports (PPR). The dashboard enables a comparison of data trends on some key outputs and outcomes over the past five years (2019–20 to 2023–24).

We would like to thank institutions and researchers for providing the CFI with information of high quality and value.

Project progress reports

The 2025 operational status question and PPRs) can now be accessed in CAMS. The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2025. We use PPRs as a key source of information to help us manage projects and to assess and report on the impact of our investments.

News from the Navigator

More opportunities to collaborate through the Research Facilities Navigator

Starting April 1, 2025, any research lab at a CFI-eligible institution, regardless of CFI funding, can now join our online directory of labs. With more than 850 labs represented from coast-to-coast-to-coast, the Navigator is the most comprehensive resource of its kind. Don't miss this opportunity to help your researchers connect with innovators across the private, public and non-profit sectors. Learn more at listyourlab.innovation.ca.

Have a success story about a connection, project or long-term collaboration made through the Navigator? Please share it with us! Your story could be featured in *CanadianSME* magazine, showcasing how researchers are driving innovation and success for businesses across Canada. Get in touch at navigator@innovation.ca.

New stories and podcasts about research at your institutions

We regularly promote stories about the research projects we fund. Check out our latest:

Mining and metallurgy 4.0: A **McGill University** laboratory is developing simulation tools that will help the mineral industry fully enter the fourth industrial revolution.

How Canada is at the forefront of unpacking the potential of DNA data storage: Could “DNA origami” offer a way to store some of the world’s 149 trillion gigabytes of information and help solve big data’s big storage problem? At **UBC Okanagan**, Will Hughes is exploring the possibilities.

Working at the forefront of geotechnical engineering (podcast): **Polytechnique Montréal** researcher Pooneh Maghoul looks at how our critical infrastructure can withstand the effects of climate change.

Important upcoming dates

June 15, 2025	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
June 18–19, 2025	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting

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