

Update

October 2025



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Update on the 2025 Innovation Fund competition

The 2025 Innovation Fund competition is progressing well. We concluded the second stage of the review process in September. Ten Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees reviewed proposals against the three competition objectives and provided funding recommendations. As their recommendations exceed the available budget, a third and final stage of review is needed. The Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee will meet on November 5. The committee will recommend a final list of proposals that best support the CFI's mandate, meet the objectives of the competition and represent the most beneficial portfolio of investments for Canada. The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions on December 2. We will share results with your institution in the following days.

New process for multi-institutional agreements

According to [section 6.2.6](#) of the **2024 Policy and program guide**, when a recipient institution shares CFI funding with other eligible institutions, it is required to submit to the CFI a copy of a signed inter-institutional agreement before the award agreement is issued. Similarly, when infrastructure is housed at non-eligible institutions, institutions are required to submit to the CFI a Memorandum of Understanding before the award agreement is issued. However, this often causes delays in issuing award agreements, and most importantly, the rapid implementation of projects. To address these challenges and allow your institution to more efficiently implement projects and adhere to the completion timelines specified in [section 4.1.1](#) of the guide — we **no longer require** your institution to send us a copy of these agreements, although they must be kept on file as outlined below.

In this revised process, the recipient institution can submit the award finalization form **before** inter-institutional agreements have been executed. We will issue the award agreement and typically issue an initial payment. Once all required inter-institutional agreements have been fully executed, the recipient institution will inform the CFI, after which subsequent payments can be scheduled and issued. Your institutions will need to retain the required inter-institutional agreements on file for audit purposes and make these available to the CFI upon request. These changes will apply to projects with an award agreement or revised award agreement issued after an updated policy and program guide is published on our website. We are planning an update this winter.

Reminder — timely completion of infrastructure projects

As communicated in the **June 2024 edition of the CFI update** and subsequently introduced in the October 2024 version of the policy and program guide ([section 4.1.1](#)), we have introduced stricter implementation timelines to meet the spending profile described in our contribution agreement with the Government of Canada. To support the efficient and timely execution of projects, we continuously seek opportunities to improve our processes. The revised approach to finalizing multi-institutional projects, as highlighted above, is part of this initiative to streamline processes. Nevertheless, it remains critical that your institution contributes to the rapid implementation of all funded projects.

Operationally, we will enforce these new timelines for projects with funding decisions on or after January 1, 2025, which coincides with the inclusion of the new guidelines in the documentation for our various funding programs and in the **2024 Policy and program guide**. Recognizing that older projects were planned before these timelines were announced, we may afford more flexibility on a case-by-case basis to projects awarded before then, while still expecting timely completion.

In some exceptional cases, infrastructure projects may require efforts that exceed these timelines. You should not discount these projects. Instead, we encourage you to reach out to us before submitting a proposal so that we can continue working together towards fostering high quality, leading-edge and competitive research in Canada.

Your assistance is appreciated as continued collaboration is essential to ensuring researchers have the tools they need to innovate.

Update on travel and hospitality costs

The Government of Canada has required the addition of new travel and hospitality clauses to our contribution agreement. These changes will have an impact on CFI-funded projects and will be reflected in the updated policy and program guide and the Major Science Initiatives Fund (MSIF) oversight framework, to be published this winter. The key changes include:

- Travel and hospitality costs must adhere to the **Travel Directive** and the standards set out in the current Treasury Board **Directive on Travel, Hospitality, Conference and Event Expenditures**.
- Your institution must submit a financial report annually (at minimum) by June 15 for any project that includes travel costs. For MSIF projects, this may include both travel and hospitality costs. These reports are essential for us to meet our annual travel and hospitality reporting obligations to the Government of Canada. As such, travel and hospitality costs may be deemed ineligible if the financial report is not submitted on time.

These changes will only apply to projects with an award agreement or revised award agreement issued after the updated policy and program guide is published on our website.

Effective April 1, 2026, travel and hospitality expenses for projects funded through the MSIF must be included as distinct items in annual budget updates in CAMS and reported in the same manner for the financial reporting period starting on this date.

Annual reporting requirements and institutional payments

We thank you for submitting your project progress reports (PPRs) and financial reports. The submission rate is over 99 percent for PPRs and 90 percent for financial reports.

Data collected through the nearly 2,000 PPRs due this year will be used to develop our annual report on results. This report is a key accountability tool that we use to demonstrate the outcomes of CFI funding. We expect to publish the 2025 Report on results on our website in early 2026.

This new PPR data will also inform our online PPR interactive dashboard that provides up-to-date trend information on key outputs and outcomes achieved over the past several years. An online interactive dashboard that presents results of projects funded through the College Fund will also be made available on our website this fall.

We use the financial report data for annual financial analyses, which inform our risk-based approach for making payments to your institution. We also use the financial reports to manage projects. We perform follow-up procedures on issues we identify from the reports. Your response to these issues is important, and we encourage you to address them as soon as possible.

Your institution is also required to submit a report for the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) every year, whether it had any actual or forecasted expenditures to report.

The deadline for submitting interim financial reports and IOF annual reports was June 15; the deadline for project progress reports was June 30.

If your institution has not yet submitted a PPR or financial report, please submit these as soon as possible. If we do not receive these by November 17, we will hold back future instalments for all CFI-funded projects (including new awards to be finalized, if any). We will resume instalments once your institution has submitted all overdue reports and any other outstanding items have been resolved.

We sent reminders earlier in October to your institution's CFI account administrator and CFI liaison, advising them of any outstanding reports. You can consult your institutional overview page in the CFI Awards Management System at any time to see if your reports are overdue.

Upcoming changes to the CFI Awards Management System CV

We will no longer use the Canadian Common CV (CCV) as it is being decommissioned. Starting March 31, 2026, researchers will no longer be able to populate their CAMS CV using content from their CCV. **Find out more** about this change, including how researchers can retrieve personal information from their CCV.

In February, we will integrate **ORCID** into CAMS, allowing researchers to populate their CAMS CV using key fields from their ORCID profile. We also plan to gradually enhance the CAMS-ORCID integration and in spring 2026 will introduce grant and review recognition for researchers and reviewers.

Email us at help@innovation.ca with any questions you have about these changes.

Digital research infrastructure quick reference guide

In collaboration with the [Digital Research Alliance of Canada](#), we have developed a “[Funding Pathways](#)” quick reference guide to assist you in determining the most suitable organization to contact for your research computing requirements. The value of investments in research computing infrastructure is maximized through the promotion of resource sharing, and we anticipate that any new or additional computing resources funded through our competitions will typically be housed, managed and operated by the Alliance. However, there are situations where, for compelling reasons, it is more appropriate for computing resources to be housed, managed and operated by individual institutions. Consult the quick reference guide for more information.

How CFI support bolsters key economic sectors

We have launched a new content initiative that showcases how our investments contribute to key sectors for Canada: affordable housing; security and sovereignty; advanced manufacturing; agrifood and agritech; and energy. Quantum and AI will launch in the coming weeks. The series, called “[Strategic investments, national impact](#),” features labs and success stories from institutions across the country and highlights the critical role research plays in responding to these areas of importance to Canada. We will continue to add new material to these pages over the coming months and will be sharing the content widely with our government and other stakeholder audiences.

Important upcoming dates

December 1 – 2, 2025	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting
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