

# Update

February 2026



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## Upcoming launch of the 2027 Innovation Fund competition

We are aiming to release the draft call for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition in April 2026 for your feedback by May. Building on the constructive and positive feedback we have already received, we can confirm that the overall structure of the 2027 Innovation Fund competition will remain similar to the 2025 competition. We will keep the same three streams and continue offering the option to submit one SSHA proposal outside of your institutional envelope.

The budget for the 2027 competition will be \$325 million compared to \$425 million for the 2025 competition. Institutional envelopes will therefore be smaller.

## Timeline for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition

CFI issues draft call for proposals	April 2026
Deadline to submit feedback on the draft call	May 2026
CFI issues call for proposals	June 2026
Deadline to submit notices of intent	End of September 2026
Deadline to submit proposals	End of January 2027
Expert Committees review	March to July 2027
Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees review	September 2027
Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee review	October 2027
Decision by CFI Board of Directors	November 2027

## Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

On December 9, 2025, as part of the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative, we announced the **Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund** (CIRIF). The initiative will attract globally recognized researchers, strengthen Canada’s innovation leadership, and enhance its competitiveness on the world stage. It will provide up to \$400 million in funding for research infrastructure through CIRIF to support the work of newly recruited research chairs funded through the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program (administered by the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS)).

The CFI will fund up to 100 percent of total eligible project costs and up to \$6 million per project. There will be flexibility in the expenditure ratio between infrastructure and operating and maintenance costs.

We are currently working closely with TIPS and ISED to finalize the program details and plan to share the guidelines for submitting a proposal by the end of March 2026. We will host webinars for institutions shortly after the release of the guidelines and we look forward to addressing your questions at that time.

CIRIF timelines will follow the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs timelines from TIPS for both intakes.

# Update

Activity	Intake 1	Intake 2
Results from TIPS	June 2026	September 2026
Accept Chair award in Convergence portal	One month after results	
Deadline to submit CIRIF proposals to the CFI	October 2026	January 2027
Decision by CFI Board of Directors	March 2027	June 2027

**For questions or clarification on the information provided to date, please contact:**

[impactplus@innovation.ca](mailto:impactplus@innovation.ca) for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

[impactplus@chairs-chaire.gc.ca](mailto:impactplus@chairs-chaire.gc.ca) for the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs

## Update to the Policy and program guide

We are pleased to announce the release of the 2026 edition of the **Policy and program guide**. This update includes targeted revisions to sections 4 (Eligible projects, costs and contributions) and 6 (Administration of CFI awards).

Key changes include:

- We have amended our requirements for travel and hospitality costs to comply with the Modern Travel Practices of the **National Joint Council Travel Directive** and the **Treasury Board Directive on Travel, Hospitality, Conference and Event Expenditures**.
- We have expanded eligibility for expenditures related to database development and maintenance in line with the broadened eligibility introduced in the 2025 Innovation Fund competition.
- We have introduced a streamlined process for finalizing multi-institutional projects, designed to help you effectively carry out projects and meet the deadlines outlined in section 4.1.1 of the guide called “Timely implementation of projects.” We have also made minor changes to the Award Finalization Form to reflect this new process.
- We have modified our financial oversight activities, including a shift from monitoring visits to an annual financial trend analysis.

This new version also includes clarifications in many sections:

- We are providing additional context regarding eligible and ineligible expenses for infrastructure projects and for the Infrastructure Operating Fund.

- We are offering additional guidance to help you report construction and renovation expenses.
- We are providing more details on the information required for submitting change requests, including end date extensions.

The purpose of these revisions is to make guidelines clearer, enhance consistency, and help you manage your CFI funded projects more effectively.

You can find more information about the recent changes in the “Summary of changes” section of the 2026 edition of the Policy and program guide.

## Upcoming changes to the CFI Awards Management System CV

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

In March, we will integrate **Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)** records 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, we will introduce award and review recognition for researchers and reviewers.

Email us at [help@innovation.ca](mailto:help@innovation.ca) with any questions you have about these changes.

## New analysis of Canada’s national research facilities

We have published an analysis of the outcomes and achievements of Canada’s national research facilities called **Investing for impact**.

The report provides an overview of the investments made by the CFI and focuses on the facilities supported through the Major Science Initiatives Fund (MSIF) for the funding period of 2017 to 2023.

Over this six-year period, the CFI contributed \$535 million through the MSIF to support the operating and maintenance needs of 16 national research facilities. This investment was matched by \$645 million from partners, resulting in a total investment of \$1.2 billion. In addition, since 1997, the CFI has invested nearly \$800 million in capital to build the capacity of these facilities.

Some of the highlighted outcomes for these facilities include:

- More than 1,000 skilled personnel employed annually
- Total number of users grew by 64 percent from 36,979 to 60,616
- Average of nearly 22,500 highly qualified personnel trained annually

- Research outputs grew from 9,131 to 12,212
- Nine facilities reported an average of 260 patents annually
- Five facilities reported an average of 47 spin-off companies annually
- International collaborations with Europe, Japan, Australia, Brazil and the United States.

The facilities also contributed socioeconomic benefits, including health improvements through COVID-19 research initiatives and economic growth via technology transfers and collaborations with industry.

We would like to thank the facilities and their institutions for providing us with the valuable information that went into this report.

## Annual financial trend analysis

We conduct an annual financial trend analysis for each institution with active CFI-funded projects. This analysis is a key part of our oversight framework and helps guide our risk-based decisions regarding payments to institutions. It allows us to better align payments with observed spending trends and our experience with each institution. We assess factors such as the number of significant delays across projects based on actual costs reported in the latest financial reports, along with other risk factors that may influence our payment decisions, including delays in obtaining timely financial reports and other requested information.

We have nearly completed our analysis and will notify your institution shortly if your planned instalments or reporting requirements will be impacted.

## Upcoming public funding announcements

We are currently negotiating dates with the Government of Canada for all outstanding national funding announcements. This means that all CFI funding decisions for the 2025 Innovation Fund, John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) and JELF partnerships 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.

## New outcome stories about research at your institution

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

- [Cyber-proofing Canada's critical infrastructure](#) (University of Guelph)
- [A robo-lutionary way to build homes faster](#) (McGill University)
- [Developing drones to safeguard Arctic sovereignty](#) (Queen's University)
- [Securing Canada's Arctic sovereignty with early warning radar tech](#) (University of Saskatchewan)

# Update

- [Perfecting 3D-printed homes](#) (University of Windsor)
- [Additive manufacturing: Faster, cleaner, cheaper](#) (The University of British Columbia)
- [Zeroing in on critical minerals](#) (The University of British Columbia)
- [A launchpad to success](#) (Red Deer Polytechnic)
- [Monitoring the Arctic with shoebox-sized satellites](#) (University of Toronto)
- [Giving industry an additive manufacturing edge](#) (Mohawk College)
- [Cultivating Canada’s emerging seaweed sector](#) (North Island College)
- [On the frontline of quantum innovation](#) (University of Waterloo)

## Important upcoming dates

March 11 to 12, 2026	CFI’s <a href="#"><u>2026 National Research Facilities workshop</u></a>
March 23 to 24, 2026	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting
End March 2026	CFI issues guidelines for submitting a proposal for the Canada Impact + Research Infrastructure Fund
April 2026	CFI issues draft call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
May 2026	Deadline to submit feedback on the draft call for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
June 2026	CFI issues call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
June 15, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund
June 15 to 16, 2026	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting
September 2026	Deadline to submit notices of intent for 2027 Innovation Fund competition
September 17, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals to the College Fund
October 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund – Intake 1
October 15, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund

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