

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

# Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

Call for proposals

March 2026

**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 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.](#)

*Please note that as of March 31, 2026, the CFI had yet to finalize its contribution agreement with the Government of Canada for its \$400 million allocation from the 2025 federal budget. Accordingly, this document may be subject to change, pending the terms that will be detailed in the signed contribution agreement.*

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# What you need to know about this funding program

In December 2025, the [Government of Canada announced the Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative](#), a suite of programs that will attract leading international researchers to Canada.

This initiative represents one of the largest recruitment programs of its kind globally, uniquely designed for speed and flexibility in securing top research talent to ensure Canada remains at the forefront of scientific innovation.

Through this initiative, the Government of Canada will invest up to \$1.7 billion over 12 years to attract and support more than 1,000 leading international and expatriate researchers, including Francophone researchers. Recruitment will target individuals who are advancing world-leading research in critical fields that will deliver direct economic, societal and health benefits for Canadians.

This initiative has four streams:

- The [Canada Impact+ Research Chairs](#) program offers \$1 billion over 12 years to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers. New Chairs and their teams will advance transformational research projects that can be applied and/or commercialized by connecting with receptors in industry, government and society, while also developing the next generation of highly qualified personnel. Importantly, the program funds both researcher salaries and supporting infrastructure, ensuring comprehensive support for recruited researchers.
- \$120 million over 12 years is being provided for institutions to attract international early career researchers (ECRs) through the [Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders](#) program. This program will add more global talent to the Canadian research ecosystem, bringing in fresh ideas, diverse perspectives and significant potential.
- \$400 million for the [Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund](#) over six years to establish a complementary stream of research infrastructure support to ensure the recruited research Chairs and Emerging Leaders have the world-class facilities they need to achieve their research goals.
- The [Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards](#) will invest \$133.6 million over three years to enable top international doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to relocate to Canada.

## Strategic priorities

Canada Impact+ Research Chairs are awarded in strategic priority areas established by the Government of Canada to address pressing global and domestic challenges, strengthen Canada's contribution to international research and innovation, and generate lasting social and economic benefits.

Chairs are expected to build significant new partnerships and collaborations with both Canadian and international entities (industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations), as well as by and with Indigenous Peoples and communities, where appropriate.

A core expectation is that Chairs, and their research teams, will actively translate and mobilize research outcomes into practice, policy, and commercialization pathways that deliver measurable social and economic benefits for Canada and the world.

The Chair's research will advance one or more of the following strategic priority areas:

- Advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity)
- Health, including biotechnology
- Clean technology and resource value chains
- Environment, climate resilience and the Arctic

- Food and water security
- Democratic and community resilience
- Manufacturing and advanced materials, and/or
- Defence and dual-use technologies.

## Purpose of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

The Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF) is designed to support Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and, where applicable, Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders (administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS)) with the tools, facilities and infrastructure they need to undertake world-class research and transform their groundbreaking discoveries into innovative products, policies and solutions that benefit Canadians. TIPS will run two intakes for its Chairs program and the CFI will run two subsequent intakes for CIRIF to provide research infrastructure to the chairholders.

## Objectives of this funding program

The objectives of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund are to:

- Ensure the recruited Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and, where applicable, the Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders have access to the world-class research equipment and facilities they need to achieve their research and innovation goals
- Expand Canada’s research capacity in strategic priority areas to address pressing global and domestic challenges
- Facilitate the transformation of bold discoveries into innovative products, ideas, policies and solutions that benefit Canada and the world
- Incentivize strategic partnerships across sectors, such as industry, health systems, government and not-for-profit organizations, to accelerate the translation of research into practice and enhance long-term adoption and impact.

## How to apply

Institutions will submit proposals to CIRIF in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). By the end of June 2026, we will publish a supplementary document to this call for proposals called “How to apply to the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund” with more detailed instructions.

## Important dates

**Table 1: CIRIF Deadlines**

Activity	Intake 1	Intake 2
CFI publishes call for proposals	March 2026	
TIPS releases results of the Chairs competition to institutions	June 2026	September 2026
Chairs and institutions accept award in Convergence portal	One month after results	
Institutions submit proposals to the CFI	October 2026	February 2027
CFI Board of Directors makes decisions	March 2027	June 2027
All infrastructure expenditures must be incurred	September 30, 2032	
All O&M expenditures must be incurred	March 31, 2035	

Institutions must submit their CIRIF proposals to the CFI within three months of accepting the award, including for Chairs awarded from TIPS's reversion list. The CFI will aim to have these proposals reviewed for a decision at its next scheduled Board meeting.

## Program budget

The CFI will invest up to \$400 million in research infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) funding and will fund up to 100 percent of those eligible costs for each project. Eligible projects can request up to \$6 million each from the CFI. All CFI payments for all CIRIF projects must be made by March 31, 2033.

## Eligible institutions

Canadian institutions recognized as eligible to receive funding from the CFI and which have accepted at least one Canada Impact+ Research Chair award may apply to this funding program. Make sure your institutional agreement with the CFI is up to date before you submit a proposal.

Institutions are allowed to submit one proposal for each Canada Impact+ Research Chair they accept. The researcher listed in the proposal must have been awarded a Canada Impact+ Research Chair and have accepted this award at an eligible Canadian institution.

If the institution was awarded a supplement for a Canada Impact+ Emerging Leader along with the Canada Impact+ Research Chair, and if it has confirmed with TIPS who the Emerging Leader they are recruiting is, that person can also be included in the CIRIF application with the associated Chair. Additional information about the Emerging Leader will need to be included in the proposal. These details will be outlined in the complementary document called "How to apply to the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund."



## Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

The CFI is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). 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 research 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. These include 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.

## CIRIF allocations

At each intake, institutions will receive an allocation of \$4 million for each Canada Impact+ Research Chair who accepts to join the institution.

The allocation may be used at the institution's discretion to support the infrastructure and O&M needs of its chairholders. Institutions are responsible for managing this allocation across all CIRIF proposals submitted in each intake. Following the chairholders' acceptance deadline set by TIPS, the CFI will receive a list of accepted chairholders and will confirm each institution's allocation for the intake. Allocations will not carry over between intakes.

If a Chair accepts their award and then subsequently rescinds their position as a chairholder, the institution will likely be required to return any unspent funds or allocation to the CFI.

## Eligible projects

Infrastructure projects must support the needs of the chairholders (and Emerging Leaders, if applicable) and should build on existing institutional capacity.

Eligible institutions can submit proposals requesting up to \$6 million from the CFI, including both infrastructure and O&M costs, as long as the total requested amount is within their institutional allocation for the intake, as indicated above. An eligible project involves acquiring or developing research infrastructure and the O&M costs to support a chairholder's research program.

## Eligible infrastructure costs

Eligible infrastructure costs are described in [section 4.6 of the CFI's Policy and program guide](#).

To be eligible for funding, research infrastructure expenditures and in-kind contributions must have taken place on, or after, April 1, 2026. We consider expenditures incurred once goods are received, services have been rendered or work has been performed.

## Eligible operating and maintenance costs

**Projects funded under this program will not generate funding from the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF). Rather, we will contribute to the operating and maintenance (O&M) costs of infrastructure that directly supports the chairholders and Emerging Leaders within the project budget.** Each project may request funds for O&M as part of the project budget; there is no pre-set ratio between infrastructure costs and O&M costs. These O&M costs can be related to the research infrastructure associated with the CIRIF project, or to another CFI-funded project, or to non-CFI-funded research infrastructure, as long as the infrastructure directly supports the work of the chairholder (and/or that of the Emerging Leader, if applicable). Details on how to include this in the project budget will be provided in the document called "How to apply to the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund."

Costs that are normally eligible under the IOF (described in [section 4.7.1 of our Policy and program guide](#)) are eligible for O&M funding through CIRIF.

## Projects located at national or international research facilities

If the proposed research infrastructure will be located at a national or international research facility, before submitting the proposal, your institution must:

- Contact the host facility
- Comply with the facility's established planning and project approval processes
- Obtain the approval of the host facility before submitting a proposal.

We may seek confirmation from the research facility regarding its commitment to host the infrastructure.

## Assessment

For the purposes of this funding program, the core of the review process will be based on the justification of the need for the infrastructure and O&M budget. The intent of CIRIF is to support the infrastructure needs of all chairholders. As such, proposals will not compete against one another. Since the chairholder's research program and qualifications will have been assessed through their application submitted to TIPS, the CFI will not reassess these elements, but we ask institutions to include them in the proposal for context.

**The proposal must demonstrate that the requested infrastructure and/or O&M support complements existing institutional capacity and creates an environment that fully supports the chairholder's research program (and that of the Emerging Leader, if applicable) in Canada.**

Within the proposal:

- Describe how the research infrastructure supports the chairholder's research program and strategic priority area. List each item, or functional grouping of items. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.
- Explain how the requested infrastructure complements the existing capacity at the institution in this area.
- If applicable, describe how the infrastructure supports the Canada Impact+ Emerging Leader's research program.
- Describe the operating and maintenance (O&M) costs and how they will be used to support the requested or existing research infrastructure in support of the chairholder and/or the Emerging Leader, including the role of any personnel for whom funding is requested. List each item, or functional grouping of items. Provide a cost breakdown for any grouping of items.
- For construction or renovation, provide a description of the space including its location, size and nature. Use the item number, quantity, cost and location found in the "Cost of individual items" table in CAMS. Note that for construction or renovation, a detailed cost breakdown, timeline and floor plans must be provided in a separate document as part of the CAMS finance module.

## Page limits

The page limit for your PDF document depends on whether you write your proposal in French or English. We allow more pages for proposals written in French. This provision is in support of evidence demonstrating that documents written in French require approximately 20 percent more space than similar documents in English, and will ensure an equitable amount of space for proposals written in either official language.

**Table 2: Page limits**

Language of proposal	Number of pages
English	five pages
French	six pages

## Maximum time to implement projects

**The timelines for implementing CIRIF projects differ from those set out in our Policy and program guide (PPG). Institutions must adhere to the timelines outlined in this call for proposals.**

Regardless of the CFI contribution to a project, all CFI payments for all CIRIF projects must be made by March 31, 2033. The CFI may consider making pre-payments on O&M expenditures, based on the risk level of each project.

The CFI expects institutions to submit award finalization documents promptly and to complete funded projects within an accelerated timeframe. As up to 100 percent of eligible project costs may be funded through CIRIF, projects are expected to be finalized and operationalized more quickly than under other CFI funding programs in order to provide timely support to chairholders (and Emerging Leaders, if applicable).

There are two milestone dates to keep in mind for all CIRIF projects:

- September 30, 2032: All infrastructure expenditures must be incurred and reported to the CFI.
- March 31, 2035: All O&M expenditures must be incurred and reported to the CFI.

The CFI reserves the right to withdraw its support for projects that do not meet either of these milestones.

## Eligible partner funding (if applicable)

The CFI may fund up to 100 percent of a project's eligible research infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs, to a maximum of \$6 million per project. Institutions are encouraged to seek additional partner funding where feasible, provided it does not delay project implementation.

## Security considerations

Institutions applying for CFI funding have research security obligations at the time of application under both the [Government of Canada's National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#) and the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#). Visit [our website](#) to find out what your institution needs to provide with proposals to the Canada Impact + Research Infrastructure Fund to meet those requirements.

## 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. However, proposals that focus predominantly on major, collective and shared advanced research computing infrastructure are not eligible for funding. These advanced research computing needs are addressed through the [Digital Research Alliance of Canada](#) (the Alliance). Refer to the infographic about funding pathways provided on the [Alliance's website](#) for further clarification.

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 GPU, CPU and others
- High-performance visualization systems
- Systems suitable for computational steering and interactive use.

Investments in advanced research computing infrastructure are maximized when those resources are shared. Since the CFI expects advanced research computing infrastructure costing more than \$100,000 to be integrated into a national platform, institutions should consult with the Alliance ([CFI-FCI@alliance.ca](mailto:CFI-FCI@alliance.ca)) before submitting proposals requesting advanced research computing infrastructure. The CFI may share such proposals with the Alliance.

## Review process

The merit of each proposal will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary committee with appropriate expertise. The committee(s) will make funding recommendations for each proposal to the CFI's Board of Directors.

## Funding decisions

The CFI Board of Directors will make the final decision on funding for each proposal. Institutions will be notified by email when decisions and review materials are available in CAMS.

## Public announcement

The Government of Canada organizes and makes public announcements of new funding. Public announcements provide institutions, their 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 in their communities. We encourage institutions to work with local and national media after the announcement to promote the benefits of research and technology development to Canadians.

## Use of generative artificial intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in preparation of proposals is an emerging and complex issue. We encourage you to review and follow the Government of Canada's [Guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals](#). Institutions remain accountable for the complete contents of their application.

## Contact us

CIRIF is intended to support the research infrastructure and operating and maintenance (O&M) needs of the research programs of Canada Impact+ Research Chairs and Emerging Leaders across Canada. In this call for proposals, we have tried to provide as much flexibility as possible. If a situation arises where your institution feels that the program does not respond to the real needs of a chairholder, we ask that you contact us at [impactplus@innovation.ca](mailto:impactplus@innovation.ca) so we can discuss the situation and explore potential solutions.