

Update

June 2026



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- An update to the CFI's 2023–28 strategic plan
 - Call for proposals for the College Fund competition
 - Call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
 - 2025 Innovation Fund competition: analysis of committee reports
 - Update on the Canada Research Chairs Program
 - Update on the Canada Impact + Research Infrastructure Fund
 - 2025 Report on results now online
 - Upcoming changes to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS)
 - Deadline imminent: Infrastructure operational status questions and project progress reports
 - New outcome stories about research at your institution
 - Important upcoming dates
-

An update to the CFI's 2023–28 strategic plan

We have published an [addendum to our 2023–28 strategic plan](#), setting out how we are responding to a shifting research environment.

Since launching the plan, Canada's priorities have been reshaped by geopolitical instability, economic pressures and rapid technological change.

In response, the CFI is aligning more directly with national priorities while maintaining our commitment to research excellence and strengthening Canada's research and innovation ecosystem by:

- Continuing to invest in research infrastructure that supports both discovery and mission-driven research
- Reinforcing the capacity of Canadian institutions to attract and retain global research talent
- Enhancing research security and integrity
- Leveraging research infrastructure to accelerate commercialization and productivity
- Demonstrating value for money through stronger performance measurement and continuous program improvement.

We refer to this recalibration as CFI 3.0 — a deliberate adjustment, enabled by our arm’s-length model, to respond to a more complex and demanding environment.

This work complements the efforts of science-based federal departments and research funding agencies, helping maximize the impact of public investments in research infrastructure while building on the foundation of our existing strategic pillars.

Call for proposals for the College Fund competition

We published the [call for proposals](#) for the 2026 competition of the College Fund on May 21. The proposal forms are available through the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS).

What’s new in the College Fund in 2026?

Colleges can submit proposals with total CFI requests of between \$60,000 and \$2 million. Each college can request a combined total of \$3 million or less for all proposals, for a maximum of three proposals. The other fund parameters and review criteria remain unchanged. Proposals are due by September 17. Funding decisions will be made at the March 2027 meeting of the CFI Board of Directors.

If you have any questions, please contact your Senior Programs Officer.

Call for proposals for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition

The final **call for proposals** for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition was released on June 3. We extend a big thank you to all those who submitted comments, questions and feedback on the draft call for proposals.

Recognizing that Canada’s strategic environment has evolved significantly since the previous competition was launched, the 2027 Innovation Fund competition is designed to help institutions respond to these changes and to strengthen the country’s long-term competitiveness, security and prosperity.

The competition objectives are to:

- Strengthen Canadian researchers' ability to excel and compete internationally
- Build sustainable research capacity
- Generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians.

Competition budget

The CFI will invest up to \$325 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 \$97.5 million for associated operating and maintenance costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund.

Competition streams

For the 2027 competition, as introduced in the 2025 Innovation Fund competition, there are three streams with tailored assessment criteria:

- Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)
- Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts (SSHA)
- Stream 3: Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities

There is no predetermined distribution of funding among the streams.

Information sessions

In mid-June, the Innovation Fund team hosted two information sessions (one in English, one in French), where institutions, researchers and core facility personnel were able to get clarifying details on the call for proposals and had the opportunity to ask questions live.

Recordings will be available on [Innovation.ca](https://www.innovation.ca) for those who were unable to attend.

Competition timeline

Activity	Deadline
CFI issues call for proposals	June 3, 2026
Deadline to submit notices of intent	September 29, 2026
Deadline to submit proposals	February 2, 2027
Review by Expert Committees	March to July 2027
Review by Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees	September 2027
Review by Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee	October 2027
Decision by CFI Board of Directors	November 2027

2025 Innovation Fund competition: analysis of committee reports

After the delivery of the 2025 Innovation Fund competition, we undertook comprehensive, qualitative coding of all 2025 Innovation Fund Expert Committee reports and Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee reports. We analyzed the data by stream to assemble lists of the most frequent strengths and weaknesses reported for each criterion and to specifically highlight strengths coded as 4+. The compiled results are available on our [Innovation.ca](https://www.innovation.ca).

Update on the Canada Research Chairs Program

As of April 2026, the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) adopted a continuous intake model. Institutions can now submit nominations at any time, and the program will aim to provide decisions more quickly.

We are aligning our John R. Evans Leaders Fund CRCP partnership stream with this new approach while continuing to follow our Board of Directors' meeting schedule for funding decisions. The CFI Board meets three times a year. The application process for this partnership stream remains the same: institutions must submit separate proposals to TIPS and to the CFI when a Chair is nominated or renewed.

Update on the Canada Impact + Research Infrastructure Fund

We published **recordings of webinars** held in May that provide an overview of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF) call for proposals. We also published an [FAQ](#).

In June, we published a document called [Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund: How to apply](#) for institutions that receive and accept Canada Impact+ Research Chairs. The forms required to create and submit proposals are now available in CAMS.

In August, we will hold another set of webinars specifically for institutions who are eligible to apply to the first intake of CIRIF. We will provide registration information by email when we confirm institutional allocations and the application deadlines.

Updated eligibility of database subscriptions

To reflect the increasing use of database subscriptions rather than one-time purchases, we are updating our eligibility guidelines for database access fees for research use. Database subscriptions are currently an eligible cost under CIRIF, and this will be extended to all CFI programs effective immediately. Institutions must explain in their proposals why a database subscription or purchase is necessary for the proposed research.

2025 Report on results now online

Our **2025 Report on results** is now available online. The report provides a visual summary of the outputs and outcomes achieved between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025 through research infrastructure funded by the CFI. It is based on information collected through 1,912 project progress reports submitted by 83 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 would like to thank institutions and researchers for providing us with high-quality, valuable information.

Upcoming changes to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS)

As of summer 2026, researchers will be able to export their CFI award from CAMS to their **ORCID** profile. At the same time, we will start publishing award information as **Digital Object Identifiers (DOI)**.

In addition, individuals who have participated in peer review will be able to export a review recognition from CAMS to their ORCID profile. **NOTE:** To preserve reviewer anonymity, the review recognition that is exported to ORCID contains no project/competition/committee specific information.

The CFI aims to support Persistent Identifier (PID) initiatives in Canada leading to open and trusted data in the research domain. To that end, we are continuing our integration with ORCID and leveraging other PIDs such as the **Research Organization Registry (ROR)** and the Award **Digital Object Identifier (DOI)**.

Earlier this year, we integrated **ORCID** into CAMS, allowing researchers to populate their CAMS CV using key fields from their ORCID profile.

As we look to the future, we will explore other uses of PIDs to enable sharing and coordination across partner funding agencies and the research ecosystem.

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

Deadline imminent: Infrastructure operational status questions and project progress reports

Project progress reports (PPRs) must be submitted in CAMS by June 30. If your institution has pending responses to the operational status question, please ensure that researchers provide a response promptly so that PPRs of operational projects can be completed and submitted before the deadline. Failure to provide a response to the operational status question by the deadline will result in the project being deemed not operational during the 2025–26 fiscal year. The PPRs are a key source of information for the CFI. They are used to manage projects, assess the impact of investments and inform annual outcome reporting. We rely on receiving your PPRs by the deadline to ensure the accuracy of our internal and external reporting. The CFI will withhold all institutional payments when an institution does not comply with performance reporting requirements for any of its awards. To see which projects have outstanding reporting requirements, check the “Project progress reports (PPRs)” section in your CAMS dashboard.

New outcome stories about research at your institution

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

- [A testbed for oil sands research](#) (University of Alberta)
- [Could research give Canada's multibillion-dollar cheese industry better bite?](#) (Université Laval)

Important upcoming dates

June 30, 2026	Deadline to answer the operational status question in CAMS
June 30, 2026	Deadline to submit project progress reports (PPRs)
September 17, 2026	Deadline to submit proposals for the College Fund competition
September 29, 2026	Deadline to submit notices of intent for 2027 Innovation Fund competition
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 competition
November 16–17, 2026	CFI Board of Directors’ meeting

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