CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

2027 Innovation Fund

Call for proposals

June 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.

Part 1: What you need to know about this competition

Purpose of the Innovation Fund

Canada is entering a period of significant global and technological disruption. To navigate this pivotal moment successfully, institutions need to transform research strengths into concrete advantages for the country. These include building national resilience, creating new economic opportunities, and strengthening our capacity to act independently and confidently on the world stage. The Innovation Fund helps achieve this by giving researchers access to the modern, high-quality research infrastructure they need to lead and succeed.

The Innovation Fund provides investments in research infrastructure across the full research spectrum, from the most fundamental investigations to applied research and technology development, and across all research disciplines from natural sciences and engineering, life sciences and health, to social sciences, humanities and the arts. These investments help keep Canada competitive, resilient and ready to tackle complex national and global challenges. Through this competition, we will invest in research environments that are equitable, inclusive and equipped to build Canada into the world's leading hub for science and innovation.

We recognize that Canada's ability to compete internationally will increasingly depend on institutions working together by leveraging shared expertise, infrastructure and diverse perspectives to accelerate discovery and innovation. Accordingly, we encourage proposals that demonstrate meaningful interinstitutional collaboration and articulate how such partnerships position Canada as a coordinated and influential global research leader.

Projects submitted to the Innovation Fund may create or upgrade critical facilities, support mission-driven research that contributes to a stronger and more sustainable economy and expand Canada's capacity in areas that matter most for the future. Examples include artificial intelligence, quantum science and cybersecurity, advanced materials and manufacturing, clean technology and resource value chains, defence and dual-use technologies, environment, climate resilience and the Arctic, food and water security, health and biotechnology, as well as democratic and community resilience. Projects may also support emerging lines of research that provide insights into how Canadians can adapt to rapid social and technological change.

What matters most is that projects generate meaningful and practical outcomes for Canadians. This may include disruptive discoveries, improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, commercialization pathways and training opportunities that help Canada develop the talent it needs. It is imperative to do so in ways that reflect Canada's commitment to reconciliation, inclusion, and the full participation of diverse communities in shaping our scientific and economic future.

Research infrastructure projects should:

- Address Canada's research needs that are relevant in the current global context
- Demonstrate a high level of readiness and the ability to achieve significant impact within a reasonable timeframe
- Build on existing strengths and partnerships where Canada is or can become a global leader.

Objectives of this competition

The 2027 Innovation Fund competition is designed to help Canadian institutions respond strategically to a constantly changing world and to strengthen the country's long-term competitiveness, security and prosperity. The objectives of this competition are to:

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

Important dates

Table 1: Deadlines

Activity	Deadline
CFI issues draft call for proposals	April 14, 2026
Deadline to submit feedback on the draft call for proposals	May 14, 2026
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

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 this competition, there are three streams with tailored assessment criteria. There is no predetermined distribution of funding among the streams.

Stream 1: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)

This stream is open to proposals from all disciplines.

Stream 2: Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts (SSHA)

To access this stream, the primary field of research must be in SSHA.

Stream 3: Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities

To access this stream, all requested infrastructure must be housed in and managed by a core facility.

What is a core facility?

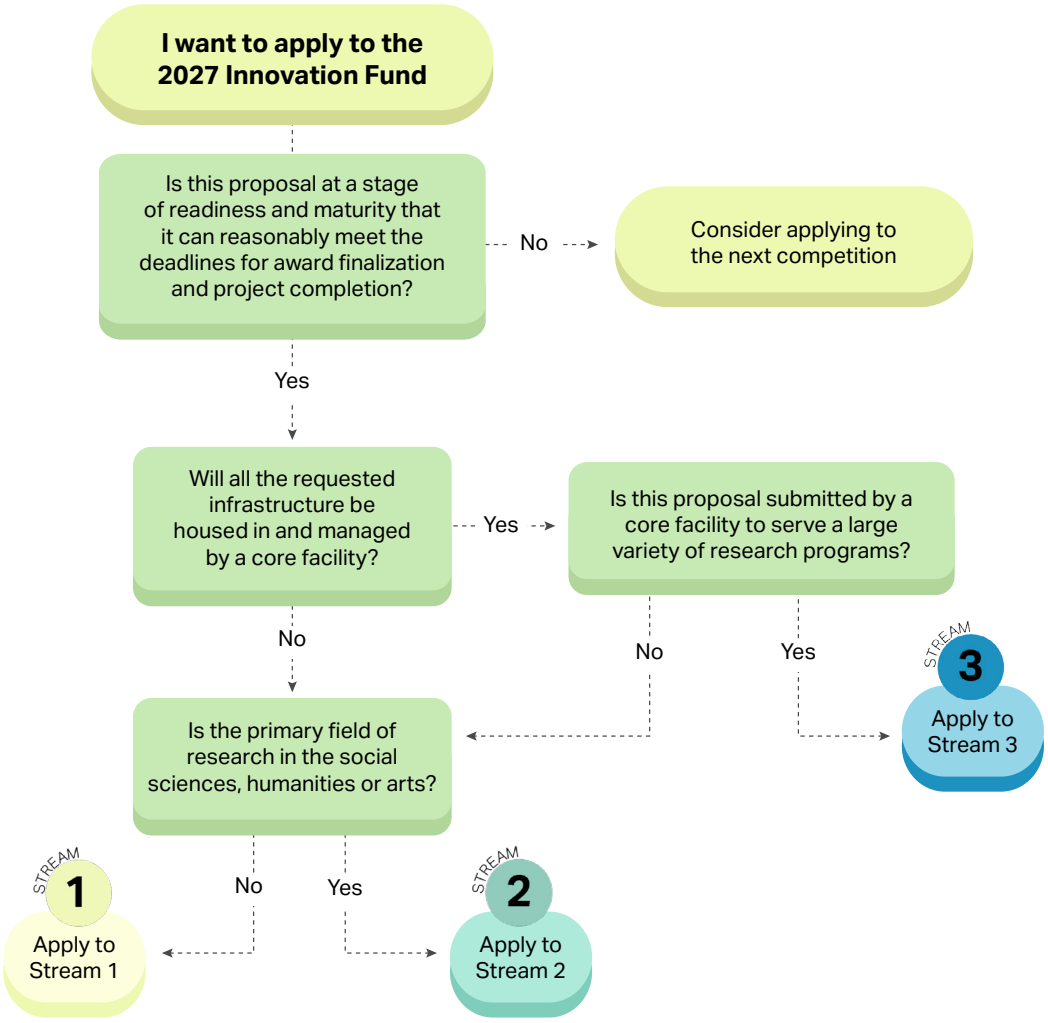
A core facility provides access to state-of-the-art research services, analyses, instruments, technology, expertise, training and education which are generally too expensive, complex or specialized for researchers to cost-effectively provide and sustain themselves.

A core facility:

- Is broadly available to many researchers to conduct their research activities, irrespective of their administrative affiliation and with no requirement for collaboration or co-authorship
- Has dedicated equipment and serves a large variety of research programs
- Is formally recognized as a core facility and supported by the research institution where it is located
- Has a clearly defined governance and management structure
- Has a sound management plan reflective of its mandate, breadth and complexity
- Has dedicated management involving individuals with the technical and subject matter expertise necessary to oversee all aspects of the facility.

A core facility focused predominantly on computing infrastructure is not eligible. (See "Advanced research computing infrastructure.")

Figure 1: To which stream should I apply?



Institutional envelopes

Institutional envelopes fix the upper limit of funding an institution can request if it submits or collaborates on multiple proposals. The envelope size is based on the share of research funding the institution received from the three federal research funding agencies over the period 2022-2023 through 2024-25 (which is the most recent available data).

Research hospitals and research institutes must apply within the institutional envelope of the eligible university with which they are affiliated.

The sum of all institutional envelopes is 2.5 times the competition budget, which allows the CFI to aim for a funding rate of 35 to 40 percent. Refer to Appendix 1 of this document for the list of institutional envelopes. Eligible institutions without a specified institutional envelope will receive an envelope of $4 million.

For multi-institutional projects, the envelope contribution of each institution must be proportional to the value of the infrastructure it will house or to its scientific contribution to the project.

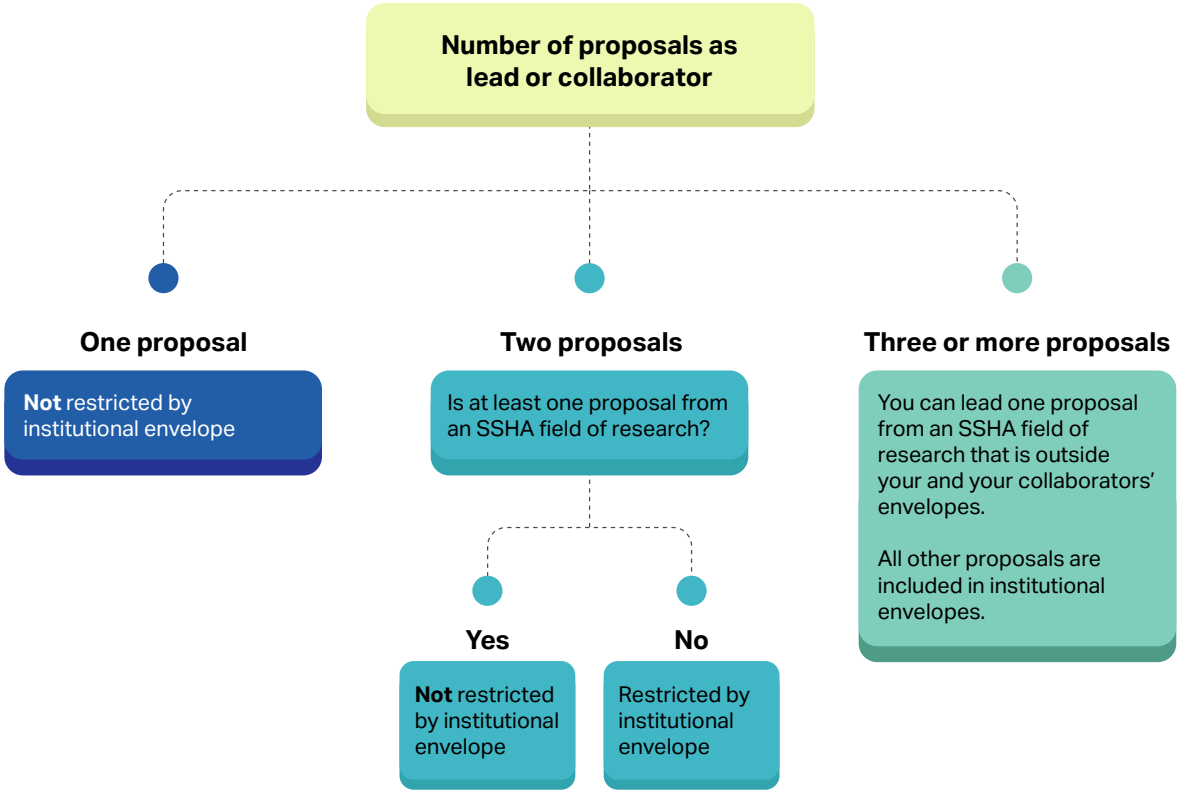
Adhering to your institutional envelope

At the notice of intent deadline, your institution can exceed its institutional envelope by up to 10 percent. However, at the proposal deadline, the total value of CFI funding requested by your institution must be within its envelope.

Envelope exemptions

Each institution can submit one proposal with a primary field of research in SSHA outside its institutional envelope. If your institution submits or collaborates on a single proposal from any research discipline or on two proposals with one from an SSHA field of research, you are not restricted by your institutional envelope.

Figure 2: Envelope exemptions



Operating and maintenance costs

We will contribute to the operating and maintenance (O&M) costs of funded infrastructure through our Infrastructure Operating Fund. Your institution will automatically receive an allocation equivalent to 30 percent of the CFI contribution to your funded projects.

Eligible institutions

Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions recognized as eligible to receive funding from the CFI can apply to this competition. If your institution is already eligible, make sure your institutional agreement with the CFI is up to date before you submit a proposal.

Institutions that are not currently eligible must provide the necessary documentation to become eligible no later than July 7, 2026. Email us at eligibility@innovation.ca to find out more about the process and required supporting documentation to apply for institutional eligibility.

Eligible infrastructure projects and costs

An eligible infrastructure project involves acquiring or developing research infrastructure to increase research capacity and support world-class research. Eligible costs are described in section 4.6 of our Policy and program guide.

To be eligible for funding, research infrastructure expenditures and in-kind contributions must have taken place on, or after, November 1, 2025. We consider expenditures incurred once goods are received, services have been rendered or work has been performed.

Maximum time to implement projects

The CFI reserves the right to withdraw its support for projects not finalized within nine months of funding decisions, or for which the final financial report is not submitted within a reasonable time frame.

Table 2: Project completion expectations

CFI contribution to a project	Deadline to submit final financial report
≤ $1 million	November 2031
> $1 million and ≤ $4 million	November 2032
> $4 million	November 2034

Personnel costs are eligible if they are incurred before the deadline to submit the final financial report.

Eligible community interface personnel

Salaries of personnel involved in the design and development of partnerships and community networks are eligible costs for proposals with a primary field of research in SSHA. Relevant activities include:

- Participating in the first stages of development of multidisciplinary projects involving several institutions
- Designing a new multidisciplinary research centre
- Facilitating the co-creation of research with Indigenous, artistic or non-profit partners
- Establishing and maintaining a network of research partners before and during data collection
- Developing relationships with community partners
- Identifying the needs of community partners and external researchers for accessing the laboratory or research centre's databases or software.

Eligible database personnel

Salaries of technicians or professionals involved in the design, development and maintenance of a database are eligible. Relevant activities include:

- Data cleaning (i.e., verification, editing), coding, format conversion, data entry and data transfer
- Design, development, beta testing, piloting, commissioning and integration of the database
- Merge and organization of existing data that are not already in usable reference units
- Customization of tools to enhance value for the user (e.g., intelligent search)
- Helping researchers and other users to appropriately operate and access the database
- Maintenance of the database and integration of updated data sets and information.

Eligible core facility personnel

Salaries of scientific and technical personnel involved in the operation and management of a core facility are eligible for Stream 3 proposals. Relevant activities include:

- Platform management and coordination
- Operating and maintaining specialized equipment
- Interfacing with researchers from a variety of disciplines
- Outreach with the private sector
- Training highly qualified personnel.

It is not possible to request such personnel costs if the requested infrastructure is expected to be housed in and managed by a facility funded through the CFI's Major Science Initiatives Fund.

Minimum cost for projects

The CFI contribution to the project must be greater than $400,000 for proposals to be eligible for this competition.

Multi-institutional projects

We encourage you to include a project manager and other administrative costs associated with the management and governance of multi-institutional projects.

Infrastructure projects located at national or international research facilities

If the infrastructure you are proposing will be located at a national or international research facility, 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 notice of intent.

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

Mission-driven research: defence and dual-use technologies

The CFI is ready to respond to mission-driven research that addresses important and emerging needs. For example, proposals that support research aligned with Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy are eligible to the Innovation Fund.

Proposals may include infrastructure that enhances research capacity and research security, and enables collaborative activities within initiatives supported by the Bureau of Research, Engineering and Advanced Leadership in Innovation and Science (BOREALIS). This may also help create conditions to

leverage partner contributions from other federal programs. For example, where proposed equipment is optimally located within shared facilities such as the Defence Innovation Secure Hubs (DISH), federal investments supporting the equipment may be considered as eligible partner contributions within a proposal submitted to the Innovation Fund.

In some cases, being a test centre for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) can provide a structured pathway to advance technological developments responsibly while meeting NATO standards. DIANA supports alignment with security, resilience and interoperability requirements. Upgrades to laboratory infrastructure, including physical and digital security enhancements needed to ensure compliance and readiness, are eligible costs under the Innovation Fund.

Institutions are encouraged to consider how their proposed research may connect to, benefit from, or complement activities undertaken by other government agencies in the pursuit of sovereign capability development. For example, institutions could leverage NRC's new Drone Innovation Hub or NRC's Defence Industry Assist stream of the Industrial Research Assistance Program to explore opportunities for collaboration as their work advances from development and testing toward scalable, made-in-Canada solutions.

Collaborating with the Department of National Defence

To support mission-driven research in areas of defence, national sovereignty and dual-use technologies, we may collaborate with the Department of National Defence (DND) on the review of proposals where DND has an interest in contributing to the project. We will share the list of notices of intent with DND to allow them to identify potential proposals of interest.

To avoid duplication of efforts, we will invite representatives of the department to participate as observers to the Expert Committee review. We will share the following information, only after obtaining permission from the applicant institution, in accordance with an agreement between the CFI and DND and as permissible pursuant to the Privacy Act:

- List of notices of intent
- Notices of intent identified as supporting national defence, sovereignty and dual-use technologies
- Proposals identified as supporting national defence, sovereignty and dual-use technologies
- Expert Committee reports.

Institutions must ensure that no sensitive or classified information is included in notices of intent or proposals.

Advanced research computing infrastructure

Institutions may submit proposals including advanced research computing infrastructure and related resources to carry out a research 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) before submitting notices of intent and proposals requesting advanced research computing infrastructure. The CFI may share such notices of intent and proposals with the Alliance.

Indigenous research

The CFI is committed to supporting research by and with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples. We recognize that research excellence includes strengthening Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity in research and research training. Institutions should indicate whether a proposal involves any aspects of Indigenous research. For such proposals, the CFI will ensure that reviewers, either Indigenous or non-Indigenous, have experience, expertise and knowledge in Indigenous research.

What is Indigenous research?

- Indigenous research is research in any field or discipline that is conducted by, grounded in or engaged with First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities, societies or individuals, and their wisdom, cultures, experiences or knowledge systems.
- Indigenous research is grounded in and guided by Indigenous Knowledge, which includes traditional and contemporary understandings, skills and philosophies, rooted in a deep spiritual connection to the natural world and a profound sense of responsibility toward it.
- Whatever methodologies the research uses or perspectives it takes, researchers who conduct Indigenous research, whether they are Indigenous or non-Indigenous themselves, commit to respectful relationships with all Indigenous people and communities.
- This understanding of Indigenous research reaffirms our support of research by and with Indigenous people and communities, which emphasizes and values their existing strengths, assets and knowledge systems.

Indigenous research requires that research activities respond to community and partner needs and priorities. This may involve, but is not limited to:

- Contributing to the enhancement of community capacity and community members' skills
- Exploring opportunities for reciprocal learning and transfer of skills and knowledge between the community or partner and the research team
- Supporting a community or partner in maintaining its culture, language and identity, as well as supporting its self-determination in research or more broadly
- Including Indigenous Knowledge Holders or community members in the research team or as project partners.

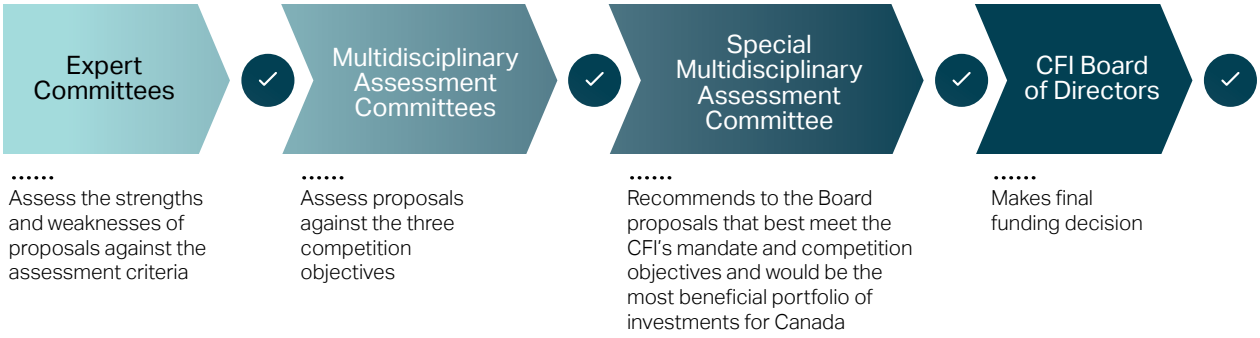
Resources for additional information:

- SSHRC Indigenous Research
- NSERC Indigenous Research
- CIHR Indigenous Health Research
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge and science in Canadian research and policy development

Review process

Proposals will be evaluated in a three-step review process, with final funding decisions made by the CFI's Board of Directors.

Figure 3: Review process



Rating scale

We use a five-point rating scale with statements about the degree to which a proposal meets each criterion standard or competition objective.

Figure 4: Rating scale

Expert Committees

In the first stage of review, Expert Committees review small groups of proposals from the same area of research. They evaluate proposals based on five assessment criteria:

- Research[1]
- Team
- Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Benefits.

The assessment criteria for all streams are similar, but the sub-criteria have been tailored to better fit the types of proposals in those streams.

See "Part 3: Criterion standards and instructions" for details on how to address each assessment criterion in your proposal.

Only proposals that meet a minimum threshold across the five assessment criteria will move to the next stage. Proposals meet the minimum threshold to advance to the MAC unless they receive three or more ratings of "Satisfies the criterion standard with minor weaknesses" or one of either "Partially satisfies the criterion standard" or "Does not satisfy the criterion standard."

1 Throughout this document "research" refers to the full spectrum of research (e.g., fundamental research, applied research, technology development or creative works).

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees

In the second stage of review, the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees (MACs) review groups of proposals of similar size or complexity and assess them against the three competition objectives. Proposals from all three streams will be assessed together.

One or more MACs exclusively review proposals submitted by small institutions. Small institutions are defined as those whose share of research funding received from the three federal research funding agencies is less than one percent.

We choose MAC members for their broad understanding of the research environment, and their expertise across many domains including health, natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and the arts. All MACs will include members who are well-versed in principles of equity, diversity and inclusion and members with core facility experience. We structure our committees to reflect the proposals they will assess; for example, the MAC that reviews proposals from small institutions will be composed of members who have experience in and knowledge of that environment.

The MACs conduct a careful analysis of the proposals and of the Expert Committee reports. They have two responsibilities:

- Identifying proposals that demonstrate excellence and best meet the three competition objectives relative to other competing requests
- Providing a funding recommendation and funding amount for each proposal for the next stage of review.

Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee

In the third and final stage of review, a Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee (S-MAC) reviews reports from the MAC meetings for the proposals that the MACs recommend for funding. The S-MAC makes sure the MACs were consistent in their assessment. If recommendations from the MACs exceed the available budget, the S-MAC recommends to the CFI Board of Directors the proposals that best support the CFI's mandate, meet the objectives of the competition and represent the most beneficial portfolio of investments for Canada.

Collaborating with provinces and territories

The Innovation Fund is delivered in collaboration with provincial and territorial funding partners as many institutions seek partner contributions from these organizations. We encourage institutions to work with their provincial and territorial organizations as early as possible in the planning and development of proposals. Since each organization has their own priorities and internal review process, consulting them early on will speed up the award finalization process.

To coordinate the review processes and avoid duplication of efforts, we will share the following with relevant provincial and territorial funding authorities:

- List of notices of intent
- Proposals
- Expert Committee reports
- MAC reports
- Funding decisions.

We will disclose these documents only in accordance with agreements between the CFI and provincial or territorial authorities, as permissible pursuant to the Privacy Act.

We invite representatives of the relevant provincial or territorial authorities to participate as observers at the Expert Committee stage. They will also have the opportunity to submit to the S-MAC their views on proposals for consideration.

Funding decisions

The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions for this competition at its November 2027 meeting. Following this meeting, we will notify your institution of the decisions and share the review material for your proposals in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS).

You may start the implementation of projects as soon as decisions have been communicated. You need not wait until the public announcement.

Public announcement

The Government of Canada organizes and makes public announcements of new funding from the Innovation Fund. Public announcements provide institutions, their researchers and partners, along with government representatives, the media and the CFI, opportunities to highlight the research 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 to Canadians.

Part 2: How to apply

Tools to apply

Use the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) to prepare, share and submit your notices of intent and proposals. This call for proposals and the Getting started with CAMS documents contain all the information you need to apply to this competition. We strongly recommend that you review the completed notice of intent and proposal forms before you submit them to make sure they comply with these guidelines.

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 are ultimately accountable for the complete contents of their proposal. Privacy, confidentiality, data security and the protection of intellectual property must be prioritized in the development and review of proposals.

Submitting notices of intent

To be able to submit a proposal to this competition, your institution must first submit a notice of intent. Please ensure that you select the appropriate stream when submitting your notice of intent. We will give you access to the proposal module in CAMS once the administrative review of your notice of intent is complete.

We use notices of intent to:

- Ensure that the project is eligible and submitted to the correct stream
- Identify what expertise is needed to assess each proposal
- Recruit committee members.

Notices of intent are not assessed as part of the review process.

We will publish a list on Innovation.ca of the notices of intent we receive. The list will include short project summaries. We encourage institutions with complementary projects to consider potential collaborations or multi-institutional initiatives, where appropriate.

If you must make changes to the team leaders or administrative institution after you submit your notice of intent, contact innovation.fund@innovation.ca as soon as possible.

The notice of intent consists of the following sections:

- Project information
- Collaborating institutions
- Short project summary
- Team
- Project description
- Suggested reviewers.

Project information

The "project information" section captures basic information about the project such as the application stream, title, applicant institution, keywords and research security information.

Collaborating institutions

Collaborating institutions must use CAMS to agree to participate in the project and confirm their contribution, if any, from their institutional envelope. Institutions can track the use of their envelope in the report repository section of their CAMS dashboard.

Short project summary

(Maximum 1,500 characters)

Provide a short summary of the project. Include enough information about the proposed research activities and requested infrastructure to allow potential collaborators to identify possibilities for collaboration or multi-institutional initiatives.

Team

We expect that the requested infrastructure will support a research team's internationally competitive research activities. The team can be comprised of researchers from different institutions, sectors and countries. For proposals in Stream 3, include scientific and technical personnel who are key to the operation and management of the facility.

You can identify up to 10 team members, including team leaders, in the notice of intent and proposal forms. Only the CVs of these 10 team members will be appended to the proposal.

Team members:

- Must have a CAMS account
- Must agree to participate in the project before you can submit the notice of intent
- May be from organizations that are not CFI-eligible.

You can select up to two team leaders to reflect team diversity.

The user who creates the notice of intent in CAMS (typically a researcher or core facility manager) must be associated with the administrative institution and will be a team leader by default. They will have the opportunity to designate an additional team leader. The newly designated team leader does not need to be associated with the administrative institution.

The CAMS user who creates the notice of intent will be responsible for completing the "Submit to institution" step in CAMS.

Project description

(Maximum three pages for proposals written in English, or four for those written in French.)

The project description should reflect the full scope of the planned activities. This document helps CFI staff understand the breadth of expertise required on the Expert Committee to assess the merits of your proposal. It should include a:

- High-level overview of the research activities that will be enabled by the infrastructure and the anticipated outcomes of these activities, including expected applications
- Table of the requested infrastructure including a brief description and approximate cost of the major pieces
- Table of current and planned partners and other potential conflicts of interest. The table should include the name of the partner organizations and the name of individuals involved in the research.

Suggested reviewers

We encourage you to suggest reviewers with the appropriate expertise who are at different stages of their career, with diverse backgrounds and from underrepresented groups, as appropriate for the

proposed program. Please review the conflict of interest policy to be sure that the reviewers you suggest are not in conflict with any team members, collaborating institutions or partner organizations. The decision whether to contact the reviewers you suggest remains with the CFI.

Submitting proposals

The proposal should clearly present the project's merits and excellence. Provide enough information to enable reviewers to evaluate the proposal according to the assessment criteria and competition objectives.

If you must make changes to the team leaders and team members, administrative or collaborating institutions, stream or suggested reviewers after you submit your notice of intent, contact innovation.fund@innovation.ca as soon as possible.

The proposal consists of the following modules:

- Project module
- Collaborating institutions
- Finance module
- Suggested reviewers
- Research security module
- CVs.

We describe below the various sections that must be completed in CAMS.

Project module

The project module consists of the following sections:

- Project information
- Project summary
- Team
- Assessment criteria
- Financial resources for operation and maintenance
- Project characteristics.

Project information

CAMS automatically populates this section with information provided in the notice of intent.

Project summary

Plain language summary

For the plain language summary, briefly describe the research activities, how they are conducted and why they are important. Focus on the expected impacts and benefits to Canada, beyond academic accomplishments. This summary may be used in the CFI's communications products and on its website if the project is funded.

Project summary

For the project summary, provide a general description of the research program to be conducted and an overview of the infrastructure you are requesting. This summary must address how the proposal meets the competition objectives. (See "Objectives of this competition.") The maximum length is three pages for proposals written in English, or four for those written in French. The project summary is the only section of the proposal we will provide to the S-MAC.

Team

CAMS automatically populates this section with information provided in the notice of intent.

Team members who agree to participate at the notice of intent stage do not need to reconfirm their participation at the proposal stage. However, newly added team members must have a CAMS account and agree to participate before you can submit the proposal.

Team leaders will have read and write access to the proposal while team members will each have read access.

Assessment criteria

For instructions on how to address each of the assessment criteria, see "Part 3 – Criterion standards and instructions."

Expert Committees rate the degree to which each proposal meets each criterion standard, whereas MACs rate the degree to which the proposal meets each competition objective.

Document structure

Address the assessment criteria in a PDF document and upload it to CAMS. Make sure the document follows the formatting guidelines for attachments outlined in the Getting started with CAMS documents for researchers or institutional administrators. Address the criteria and the sub-criteria in the order that they appear in Part 3 of this document.

Page limits

The page limit for your PDF document depends on the total project costs and 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 3: Page limits

	Maximum number of pages	
Total project costs	**Proposals written in English**	**Proposals written in French**
≤ $10 million	25	30
>$10 million	30	36

You have flexibility in how you address the assessment criteria. You could, for example, add figures and diagrams. The distribution of pages among criteria is at your discretion, up to the total page limits noted above.

Financial resources for operation and maintenance

This section captures the annual costs and funding sources needed to ensure the effective operation and maintenance of the research infrastructure for the first five years after it is implemented. Please refer to it when addressing the "Sustainability" criterion.

Do not include costs related to research in the "Funding sources for operation and maintenance" table. If funding sources include the Infrastructure Operating Fund, list these in the "institutional contribution" category.

Project characteristics

We use the information provided in this section for reporting purposes. You will find instructions for how to address this section in CAMS.

Collaborating institutions

Collaborating institutions must confirm their contribution, if any, from their institutional envelope. Institutions can track the use of their envelope in the "report repository" section of their CAMS dashboard.

CAMS automatically populates this section with information provided in the notice of intent. If you add new collaborating institutions to the proposal, they must also confirm their participation before you can submit the proposal. You must notify innovation.fund@innovation.ca of any new collaborating institutions as soon as possible. This will help us to avoid conflicts of interest with potential reviewers.

Finance module

The finance module in CAMS consists of the following sections:

- Cost of individual items
- Construction or renovation floor plans (if applicable)
- Contributions from eligible partners
- Infrastructure utilization
- Overview of project funding (generated automatically).

If your project involves construction or renovation, please refer to section 4.6.2 of the Policy and program guide for the detailed list of eligible costs and section 5.2.1 for requirements at the application stage.

Please refer to this module when addressing the "infrastructure" criterion.

Suggested reviewers

CAMS automatically populates the suggested reviewers module with information provided in the notice of intent.

Research security module

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 2027 Innovation Fund to meet those requirements.

If you answer "yes" to any of the research security questions in the project module, you will have access to the necessary documents in the research security module including STRAC attestation forms, risk assessment forms and private-sector partner identification forms. You can complete the risk assessment forms and private-sector partner identification forms at any time, but you don't have to submit them until the proposal stage.

CVs

CAMS will append the CV of each team member to the proposal when you submit it. Make sure CVs are up to date before you submit your proposal.

Part 3: Criterion standards and instructions

This section describes important concepts to keep in mind in the development of your proposal followed by detailed instructions on what to include in your proposal according to which stream you apply to.

Research

Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design

A significant body of evidence clearly shows that designing research around equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles fosters excellent research outcomes that are both impactful and reflective of the broader Canadian population. While the relevance of EDI in research design may vary across fields and types of research activities, these principles should be considered for each proposal.

Rigorous research involves embracing inclusive practices at every step, from developing the original research questions to selecting collaborators, and from interpreting findings to sharing results. In addition, by addressing barriers to participation in research, we harness talent, enhance innovation, foster creativity, encourage diverse problem-solving approaches, and ensure excellence.

Here are some examples of research-related practices to consider, where applicable:

Research planning and design

- Include diverse perspectives from relevant populations to be studied including marginalized or underrepresented groups.
- Ensure research design accounts for different types of biases and includes measures to mitigate them.
- Co-develop your research questions and methods with a diverse range of people and groups who are interested in or have influence in your field.
- Consider what impacts your research will have on relevant people and communities (e.g., patient populations, special interest groups, potential technology users).

Literature review

- Consider databases, journals and repositories from different regions and languages.
- Consider authors or knowledge holders from diverse backgrounds (e.g., from within and outside academia).

Data collection and analysis

- Use data collection methods that are culturally sensitive and inclusive of diverse populations relevant to the research activities.
- Consider intersecting identity factors (e.g., sex/gender, ethnicity/race, disability, socioeconomic status, geography, age) during analysis to understand differential experiences and impacts.
- Clearly address data control, ownership, and stewardship, particularly for data involving Indigenous Peoples or marginalized or underrepresented communities.

Team

Capturing scholarly output: more than a number

Capturing research output often relies on familiar quantitative metrics like h-index, journal impact factor and citations, despite evidence that these indicators are narrow, often misleading and insufficient to capture the full richness of scholarly work. While it is critical to assess the quality and impact of research outputs, we recognize the value of a broad range of impact measures. You may include article-level metrics like citation counts to demonstrate uptake of your work, but you should also give

qualitative examples of important research outputs or further indicators of quality or impact. Reviewers are instructed not to use quantitative metrics alone as surrogates of quality when assessing proposals. For more information, see the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) website.

Inclusive work environment

Overcoming systemic barriers is critical to creating an inclusive work environment. Systemic barriers are policies or practices that result in the marginalization of specific groups of people and thus limit access to talent and ideas costing Canada in potential innovation. Individuals from these groups receive unequal access to or are excluded from participation in employment, services or programs, which ultimately perpetuates their marginalization and underrepresentation. Underrepresented groups can include, but are not limited to: women; Indigenous, racialized or 2SLGBTQI+ people; persons with disabilities; and, early-career researchers.

We expect that proposals submitted to this competition will identify the systemic barriers to participation of underrepresented groups, as relevant to their research domain, and will demonstrate concrete, evidence-supported practices that will help overcome these barriers and create an inclusive work environment.

It is insufficient to rely exclusively on institutional guidelines and policies. There is a large body of peer-reviewed literature to support effective and impactful best practices for implementing EDI into your work environment. You should develop and apply your own plans for your team, provide supporting references, and have mechanisms to demonstrate if they are working. Your plans must consider recruitment and how to support members of underrepresented groups once they have been hired.

Examples of concrete practices to create an inclusive work environment include, but are not limited to:

- Appropriate institutional financial support for EDI actions
- Equitable and inclusive access practices (e.g., independent access committee)
- Focus on cultural humility and establishment of an environment of constructive cultural learning
- Implementation of gender equity and equality programs (e.g., NSERC Dimensions)
- Inclusion of early-career researchers within the leadership and advisory bodies
- Inclusive recruitment and hiring practices
- Individuals with clearly identified responsibilities to support underrepresented groups, with attention to issues related to "minority tax"
- Plans to re-assess EDI activities regularly
- Robust and safe feedback mechanisms
- Targeted financial support for underrepresented groups (e.g., reduced cost to access infrastructure)
- Team culture statements.

Sustainability

Responsible and ethical data management

Responsible and ethical data management means that you have a clear plan to collect, store, use and share research data in ways that protect privacy, confidentiality and data integrity. This may include mechanisms such as, but not limited to:

- Using secure, institution-approved storage systems
- Encrypting files and devices
- Protecting data with strong passwords and multi-factor authentication
- Limiting access to authorized team members only
- Regularly backing up data
- Curating data for long-term use, including data disposal policies.

Sensitive or personal information, particularly health data, should be de-identified or anonymized where possible, and data should be retained only for as long as required.

Ethical data management also means respecting the rights and expectations of research participants and communities. Data must be collected and used only for approved purposes, in line with informed consent and ethical approvals. We expect that you will minimize the collection of personal or sensitive data, avoid sharing data through unsecured methods (such as personal email or unencrypted USB drives), and ensure that any data sharing or disposal is done responsibly and transparently, in accordance with ethical guidelines, institutional policies, and applicable laws. Research involving First Nations, Métis and Inuit data must follow the OCAP® principles of ownership, control, access and possession and the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics).

Benefits

Consider the full diversity of benefits

The benefits of research are wide-ranging:

- Health benefits could be new diagnostic tools, treatments or therapeutics.
- Environmental benefits could be monitoring climate change impacts, land and water conservation, pollution reduction, carbon emission reduction, or informing policies for environmental protection.
- Sociocultural benefits could be improved wellbeing through strengthening communities, increased safety, increased public engagement, new policies or practices or improved decision making.
- Economic benefits could be new jobs, products, services or sustainable industries.

Turning research outputs into outcomes and impacts

As a signatory to DORA, the CFI is committed to recognizing and assessing diverse forms of impactful research. Research outputs can be mobilized and translated into many outcomes and impacts including, but not limited to:

- Conducting community engagement or outreach activities
- Contributing to policy or business decisions
- Creating intellectual property or patents
- Curating public exhibitions or events
- Developing commercial products or new technologies
- Discussing an article, book or presentation on social media, podcasts or blogs
- Disseminating results on open access platforms
- Media coverage or op-eds
- Plays, dance performances or films
- Presenting at conferences or other venues
- Producing community products such as Indigenous scholarly works or cultural sensitivity training
- Producing software or digital resources
- Publishing research articles, technical reports or books
- Training industry-ready, highly qualified personnel.

For more information, see the DORA document Rethinking Research Assessment: Building Blocks for Impact.

Information to provide about highly qualified personnel

When describing the training of highly qualified personnel:

- Indicate how many technicians, research associates, undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are expected to be trained.
- Describe which skills they will acquire.
- Specify how the new infrastructure will enrich the training environment.
- Describe their potential career paths or further related contributions.
- Report on career paths of past highly qualified personnel, as available.

Useful resources

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

- Equity, diversity and inclusion resources

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

- Dimensions Canada grants
- NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research
- Complementary video: Strengthening research by integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in the research process

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

- Guide to addressing equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in Partnership Grant applications

Stream 1:
Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation (open)

STREAM 1

Objective 1:
Strengthen researchers' ability to excel and compete internationally

Assessment criterion: Research

Criterion standard: The research program is innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Details of the research program, its innovative aspects and breakthrough potential. Position the program within the national and international context. Include benchmarks and references.
- The approach, methodology and key challenges as well as how the team will overcome them.
- How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered and applied to the design of the research program. Where EDI considerations are not applicable, explain why. See "Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design."

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team members and their partners have all the experience and expertise to conduct the proposed activities and will do so in an inclusive work environment.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the team members' experience, expertise and roles meet the needs of the research program. Include a competency matrix.
- How collaborators, partners and communities are meaningfully engaged to support the research program.
- Evidence-based, specific and concrete actions to nurture a work environment that enables full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers. See "Inclusive work environment."

STREAM 1

Objective 2:
Build sustainable research capacity

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research program.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need. Include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies.
- How the requested infrastructure complements the existing infrastructure at the institution and at partner institutions.

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, appropriately used and financially sustainable to ensure reliable long-term operation.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the infrastructure will be managed, operated and maintained.
- How the infrastructure will be appropriately used. Include information about user access policies and the current and expected levels of use.
- Plans for responsible and ethical data management.
- Plans for financial sustainability with details about operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources.

STREAM 1

Objective 3:

Generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The project will generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians. The team members and their partners have defined pathways for real-world uptake through knowledge mobilization, technology transfer and end user engagement.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Relevant benefits and their real-world impact for Canadians.
- Plans for knowledge mobilization, technology transfer and engagement with partners and end users (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector).
- Training of highly qualified personnel.

Stream 2:
Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in the social sciences, humanities and arts

STREAM 2

Objective 1:
Strengthen researchers' ability to excel and compete internationally

Assessment criterion: Research

Criterion standard: The research program is innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Details of the research program, its innovative aspects and its significant contribution to knowledge. Position the program within relevant national and international scholarly or creative discourse. Include references.
- The approach, methodology and key challenges as well as how the team will overcome them.
- How principles of equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered and applied to the design of the research program. Where EDI considerations are not applicable, explain why. See "Equity, diversity and inclusion in research design."

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team members and their partners have all the experience and expertise to conduct the proposed activities and will do so in an inclusive work environment.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the team members' experience, expertise and roles meet the needs of the research program. Include a competency matrix.
- How collaborators, partners and communities are meaningfully engaged to support the research program.
- Evidence-based, specific and concrete actions to nurture a work environment that enables full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers. See "Inclusive work environment."

STREAM 2

Objective 2:
Build sustainable research capacity

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research program.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need. Include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies.
- How the requested infrastructure complements the existing infrastructure at the institution and at partner institutions.

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, appropriately used and financially sustainable to ensure reliable long-term operation.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the infrastructure will be managed, operated and maintained.
- How the infrastructure will be appropriately used. Include information about user access policies and the current and expected levels of use.
- Plans for responsible and ethical data management.
- Plans for financial sustainability with details about operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources.

STREAM 2

Objective 3:

Generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The project will generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians. The team members and their partners have defined pathways for real-world uptake through knowledge mobilization and end user engagement.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Relevant benefits and their real-world impact for Canadians.
- Plans for knowledge mobilization, cultural dissemination and engagement with end users (e.g., collaboration with communities, policymakers or other relevant audiences).
- Training of highly qualified personnel.

Stream 3:
Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities

STREAM 3

Objective 1:
Strengthen researchers' ability to excel and compete internationally

Assessment criterion: Research

Criterion standard: The facility enables innovative, feasible and internationally competitive research.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- At a high level, the core facility and the types of projects and services the infrastructure will enable.
- Innovative aspects and breakthrough potential of a representative sample of projects. Position the core facility and the projects within the national and international context. Include benchmarks and references.
- The breadth and diversity of the core facility's users. Describe the current or planned user base including the number of internal and external users, their geographic distribution (by region/province and country) and sector (academia, communities, public or private sector).

Assessment criterion: Team

Criterion standard: The team has all the experience and expertise needed to enable multiple research activities and will do so in an inclusive work environment.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the team members' experience, expertise and roles enable multiple research activities. Include a competency matrix.
- Evidence-based, specific and concrete actions to nurture a work environment that enables full participation of individuals from underrepresented groups and early-career researchers. See "Inclusive work environment."

STREAM 3

Objective 2:
Build sustainable research capacity

Assessment criterion: Infrastructure

Criterion standard: The requested infrastructure is necessary, appropriate and will enhance the facility's services.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Each requested item and a justification of its need. Include a table matching infrastructure to proposed activities and methodologies.
- How the requested infrastructure integrates with the existing infrastructure and fits within the mission of the facility.
- The role in operating, maintaining or managing the facility of any personnel for whom funding is being requested. Provide a table that includes the job title, role, estimated annual salary and duration of employment using this funding.

Assessment criterion: Sustainability

Criterion standard: The infrastructure will be well managed, optimally used and financially sustainable to ensure reliable long-term operation.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- How the facility will be managed, operated and maintained.
- How the infrastructure will be optimally used. Include information about user access policies and the current and expected levels of use.
- Plans for responsible and ethical data management.
- Plans for financial sustainability with details about operating and maintenance costs and revenue sources. Distinguish between personnel costs described in the "infrastructure" section and personnel costs supported by other sources (e.g., institutional support, user fees).

STREAM 3

Objective 3:

Generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians

Assessment criterion: Benefits

Criterion standard: The facility and the projects it enables will generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians. The team members and their partners have defined pathways for real-world uptake through knowledge mobilization, technology transfer and end user engagement.

Include descriptions of the following in your proposal:

- Relevant benefits and their real-world impact for Canadians.
- Plans for knowledge mobilization, technology transfer and engagement with partners and end users (e.g., collaboration with communities, clinicians and the public or private sector).
- Training of highly qualified personnel.

Appendix 1 – Institutional envelopes

Institution	Envelope
University of Toronto	$126,100,000
The University of British Columbia	$75,000,000
McGill University	$62,800,000
University of Alberta	$45,000,000
Université de Montréal	$42,100,000
University of Calgary	$39,500,000
University of Ottawa	$37,100,000
McMaster University	$33,000,000
Université Laval	$30,900,000
Western University	$24,700,000
University of Waterloo	$23,400,000
University of Manitoba	$22,100,000
Dalhousie University	$19,800,000
Queen's University	$18,500,000
Université de Sherbrooke	$16,800,000
Simon Fraser University	$16,400,000
University of Saskatchewan	$15,700,000
University of Victoria	$12,900,000
York University	$12,700,000
University of Guelph	$12,600,000
Carleton University	$10,600,000
Polytechnique Montréal	$10,400,000
Concordia University	$10,000,000
Université du Québec à Montréal	$8,000,000
Toronto Metropolitan University*	$7,900,000
Memorial University of Newfoundland*	$7,900,000
Institut national de la recherche scientifique*	$5,800,000
University of Windsor*	$5,700,000
École de technologie supérieure*	$5,100,000
All other CFI-eligible institutions*	$4,000,000

* Small institution, defined as those whose share of research funding received from the three federal research funding agencies is less than one percent.