Update

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INNOVATION
Canada Foundation for Innovation
Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation

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2027 Innovation Fund competition — time to review the list of notices of intent

We invite you to consult the list of the notices of intent we received for the 2027 Innovation Fund competition, **now posted on our website** (under the header "What is the process to apply?") if your institution submitted one. Look for projects that complement those you submitted or that present opportunities for potential collaborations or multi-institutional initiatives. The list includes a short description of each project as well as the project leaders, administrative and collaborating institutions, and keywords.

We received 273 notices of intent from 77 eligible institutions, requesting around $995 million in CFI funding. The deadline to submit a notice of intent was September 29, 2026.

We use notices of intent to assemble review committees. If you must make changes to the team leaders and team members, administrative or collaborating institutions, stream or suggested reviewers, contact us at **innovation.fund@innovation.ca** as soon as possible. We will make the change in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) for you.

We identified 61 out of the 273 notices of intent received (22 percent) as potentially related to defence or dual-use applications. These represent a total CFI funding request of $255.7 million. It is not possible at this stage to isolate the exact portion specifically related to potential defence or dual-use applications. We will engage with the Department of National Defence and the National Research Council of Canada to share information about those projects.

Here is a breakdown of the notices of intent we received.

By stream

Stream	**# of notices of intent received** **(%)**	**Total cost ($)** **(%)**	**Total CFI request ($)** **(%)**	**Average CFI request ($)**
Stream 1 (open)	164 (60%)	$1,420 million (56%)	$559 million (56%)	$3.41 million
Stream 2 (SSHA)	32 (12%)	$240 million (9%)	$96 million (10%)	$2.99 million
Stream 3 (core facilities)	77 (28%)	$878 million (35%)	$340 million (34%)	$4.42 million

By institution size

Institution Size	**# of notices of intent received** **(%)**	**Total cost ($)** **(%)**	**Total CFI request ($) (%)**	**Average CFI request ($)**
U15 + affiliates	161 (59%)	$1,768 million (70%)	$693 million (70%)	$4.31 million
Medium	42 (15%)	$308 million (12%)	$120 million (12%)	$2.86 million
Small	70 (26%)	$461 million (18%)	$182 million (18%)	$2.60 million

By size of CFI request

Amount of CFI Request	# of notices of intent received (%)	Total CFI request ($) (%)
≤$2M	85 (31%)	$107 million (11%)
>$2M to ≤$4M	100 (37%)	$301 million (30%)
>$4M to ≤$6M	52 (19%)	$254 million (25%)
>$6M to ≤$8M	17 (6%)	$115 million (12%)
>$8M	19 (7%)	$219 million (22%)

Update on the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund

The CFI has received proposals for the first intake of the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund (CIRIF), an important milestone in supporting Canada's recruitment of leading international researchers. CIRIF will provide newly recruited **Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada** with the research infrastructure and operating support they need to establish their research programs in Canada. To date, the CFI has received 60 proposals, with a few additional submissions expected over the coming weeks. Proposals will proceed through the review process in the coming months, with funding decisions for the first intake anticipated in March 2027.

2026 College Fund competition

In response to feedback from the college community, we increased the maximum contribution that institutions may request for an individual proposal to the College Fund, while maintaining limits on the total funding and number of proposals each college may submit. It is therefore unsurprising that the 2026 College Fund competition attracted record interest, with the highest number of proposals submitted to the fund to date and exceptionally strong demand for funding. Proposals span health, social sciences and humanities, and natural sciences and engineering, with the majority in the last category. Funding decisions are expected in March 2027.

In case you missed it: Council of Canadian Academies releases report on national-scale research infrastructure

On October 20, the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) **released their report** entitled "Enhancing Canada's National-Scale Research Infrastructure."

The assessment highlights many of the challenges the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) proposed Major Research Facilities (MRF) framework is intended to address and reinforces the need for a more strategic, coordinated approach to supporting Canada's national-scale research infrastructure. In particular, the expert panel's findings point to two areas that are central to the proposed MRF framework. The panel found that to optimize its national-scale research infrastructure, Canada would benefit from:

1. Strategic, portfolio-based planning to make deliberate investment decisions
2. Predictable, coordinated lifecycle funding for capital, operations and research.

The study also suggests that the rapid digitalization of research, the accelerating impact of artificial intelligence and the resulting need for data to underpin it, as well as a new emphasis on scientific sovereignty and research security in the face of geopolitical instability all place some urgency on the requirement to enact measures that will optimize Canada's national-scale research infrastructure.

The study was sponsored by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, as well as the CFI, the National Research Council of Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada and Shared Services Canada.

Research security requirements for JELF partnership proposals

Beginning October 13, 2026, JELF partnership proposals are now subject to research security requirements.

Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC policy)

Project leaders and team members must complete an attestation form if the infrastructure request in their proposal supports research activities that aim to advance a **sensitive technology research area** per the **STRAC policy**. Applicants must therefore answer a research security question in the **project information section** when creating a proposal in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). This change is necessary mainly because the duration of the CFI award may be longer than the corresponding partner's grant.

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP)

Additionally, JELF partnership proposals submitted jointly with NSERC Alliance Grants or SSHRC Partnership Grants must also comply with the **NSGRP**. For these proposals, since research security requirements already apply to the associated tri-council program, the role of the private-sector partner will determine whether you need to submit a **Risk Assessment Form** (RAF) to the CFI:

1) The partner has an active role in the research project supported by the infrastructure: In this situation, you may have to submit an RAF to the partner agency complying with the agency's research security requirements but you do not have to submit an RAF to the CFI for the risk associated with this partner.
2) The partner has an infrastructure-specific role (defined as housing part or all of the infrastructure or contributing more than $500,000 to the infrastructure through a cash or in-kind contribution to any single item): In this situation, you will need to submit an RAF to the CFI for the risk associated with this partner.

This streamlined approach aims to reduce duplication and administrative burden on institutions by allowing them to leverage forms you may already have submitted to the partner agency. In these cases, we will work closely with the partner agency to assess the national security risks associated with the joint submission.

Before submitting a JELF partnership proposal, consult the **stream-specific documentation** and our research **security webpage for more information**. If you have questions, please contact your Senior Programs Officer and Programs Officer.

Annual reporting requirements and institutional payments

We thank you for submitting your project progress reports (PPRs) and financial reports. The submission rate is over 98 percent for PPRs and 90 percent for financial reports.

Data collected through the more than 2,000 PPRs due this year will be used to develop our annual report on results. This report is a key accountability tool that we use to demonstrate the outcomes of CFI funding. We expect to publish the 2026 Report on results on our website in the spring of 2027.

This new PPR data will also inform our online PPR interactive dashboard that provides up-to-date trend information on key outputs and outcomes achieved over the past several years.

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

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

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

If your institution has not yet submitted a PPR or financial report, please submit these as soon as possible. If we do not receive these by November 16, we will hold back future installments for all CFI-funded projects (including new awards to be finalized, if any). We will resume installments once your institution has submitted all overdue reports and any other outstanding items have been resolved.

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

We are transitioning to **financialreports@innovation.ca** for all financial reporting correspondence. Please share this new address with team members involved in financial reporting and ensure it is used for all future communications.

Boost your institution's visibility in Canada's R&D ecosystem

List your institution's labs on the CFI's **Research Facilities Navigator**, a national directory that helps organizations find and connect with labs offering specialized expertise, services and equipment. Ensuring your CFI-funded facilities are listed creates new opportunities for collaboration and engagement with industry, government and international partners that help Canada prosper.

List your labs: **listyourlab.innovation.ca**

New outcome stories about research at your institution

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

- **Advancing next-gen nuclear power** (University of Regina)
- **Quantifying carbon capture in Canadian wetlands** (McGill University)
- **High-tech health checks for Canadian forests** (University of British Columbia)
- **Bio-innovation in an industrial heartland** (Lambton College)
- **Turning waste into opportunity** (University of Prince Edward Island)

Important upcoming dates

November 16–17, 2026	CFI Board of Directors meeting
February 2, 2027	Deadline to submit proposals to the 2027 Innovation Fund competition
February 15, 2027	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund competition
February 9, 2027	Deadline to submit proposals for the Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund – Intake 2
March 22-23, 2027	CFI Board of Directors meeting

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