CFI UPDATE

A periodic update from the vice presidents of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

March 2017

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Cyberinfrastructure Initiative – Draft call for proposals

We are pleased to issue the draft Call for Proposals for the second competition of Challenge 1 of the Cyberinfrastructure Initiative. In this competition, we challenge institutions to propose projects that bring together a **community of researchers from across the country** who share similar challenges linked to the availability of research data. Projects should **address existing or emerging challenges for a community** of researchers through the **development of new tools and applications or novel ways of organizing and using research data** that would enhance the community's capacity to conduct leading-edge research. The research data infrastructure initiative is about data-sharing and providing access to any researcher who can exploit and mine the resource to advance knowledge and promote innovation.

The consortia are also encouraged to embrace an "adopt, adapt and develop" approach as well as to link to Canadian and international initiatives whenever appropriate. This will promote efficiency, interoperability and rapid implementation. Projects that propose to expand existing Canadian data initiatives are also encouraged. We also expect institutions with significant computing and storage needs to continue consulting with Compute Canada to determine how the advanced national platform can accommodate their needs.

The CFI expects to fund between five and 10 proposals in this second competition. As such, and given the substantial amount of work that goes into preparing and reviewing such proposals, institutions should be very selective about which Notices of Intent they participate in.

The CFI welcomes your comments on this draft Call for Proposals until March 20, 2017. Please send your comments and feedback to cyber@innovation.ca.

2017 College-Industry Innovation Fund
Stream 2: Research infrastructure associated with a five-year College and Community Innovation Program – Innovation Enhancement Grant

CFI will continue its collaboration with the Tri-Council Innovation Enhancement (IE) Grants component of the College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program (competition 15). The CFI will accept research infrastructure requests associated with a five-year CCI-IE grant application submitted to NSERC. This joint initiative allows colleges to apply for a comprehensive funding package supporting both research costs (through a CCI-IE grant) and research infrastructure (through CFI's College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 2).

Focus groups on trainees and new investigators

In an effort to be accountable for the use of public funds and to report on progress related to the expectations set out by the Government of Canada, we have implemented focus groups to learn more about the impact of CFI-funded infrastructure on the research and careers of trainees and new investigators at Canadian universities. We are particularly interested in the influence that CFI funding may have had in attracting this group to their institution and in positioning them for success. The information gathered goes beyond what we can learn through the annual project progress reports and will be used to better understand how we are doing related to our expected results. We will also use it to focus some of our communications messaging around how CFI funding supports trainees and early career researchers. Institutions may be asked to assist us in arranging focus groups involving between eight and 12 trainees or new investigators. To minimize the burden and the resources we use, we will start by conducting the focus groups in conjunction with our monitoring visits.

Second biennial client, project leader, and stakeholder satisfaction survey

In early March 2017, we will survey a sample of clients in administrative roles in institutions, project leaders for both funded and not-funded projects, and stakeholders who have a vested interest in the CFI mandate but who do not receive CFI funding. The goal is to assess how satisfied these groups are with the CFI as well as their perceptions of how well we are attaining our objectives. We rely on input from the research community and ask that you take a few minutes to share your views by responding to the survey.

Final stretch of CFI's 20th anniversary celebrations

On February 14, Lloyd Longfield, Member of Parliament for Guelph, hosted the CFI at a parliamentary outreach event that featured research stories from our anniversary campaign, *Research Builds Our Communities*. The event helped mark 20 years since the idea of an organization devoted to funding research infrastructure was first proposed in the Federal Budget on February 18, 1997. Visit our Flickr site to view photos from the event. We would like to thank all of the institutions who participated and to those who continue to share their stories of research building communities through Twitter at #CFI20yrs. We greatly appreciate your partnership in all of our communications activities.

CFI Research Facilities Navigator update

As part of our annual updating process, we contacted 367 labs to verify that we have the most complete and up-to-date information about labs/facilities, expertise, services and equipment in their Navigator profiles. We have requested that labs send their updated profiles to industry-industrie@innovation.ca by Friday, March 31, but please note that you can request changes at any time through the same email address.