

A list of the CFI's online timeline items

Last updated September 7, 2016

February 18, 1997 - Build it, and they will innovate

What do you get when you combine a \$500-million federal surplus and a research community in need of newer, better labs and equipment? The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), of course. Which is why the Government of Canada proposes to create the CFI to give researchers the tools they need to think big and innovate.

February 19, 1997 - We gain an impressive team player

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announces the government's intention to appoint John R. Evans, cardiologist and founding dean of the McMaster University Medical School, as Chair of the new CFI Board.

April 25, 1997 - Day one of 1,825

We're established with a five-year mandate, \$800 million in the bank and grand plans to reshape Canada's research landscape.

June 3, 1997 - Our brand comes to life

We select our sunburst logo from 17 design submissions. The golden rays represent the reach of research and innovation across Canada and beyond.

October 1997 - A leader is named

Keith Brimacombe, a metallurgical engineer, is named our first President and CEO. Upon his unfortunate passing in December 1997, Denis Gagnon steps in as acting President and CEO the following month.

December 1, 1997 - First meeting of the minds

Our Board of Directors meets for the first time and approves funding mechanisms and eligibility guidelines. The first deadline for submissions for CFI funding is set for May 1998.

June 1, 1998 - New leadership

David W. Strangway, past President and Vice-chancellor of the University of British Columbia, joins the CFI as President and CEO.

June 1999 - And the winners are...

Our first Innovation Fund competition is launched to support research in areas where Canada excels. Forty-nine institutions receive \$198 million for more than 400 projects across the country. This is one of the largest investments in research in Canada at the time and garners considerable media attention.

November 24, 1999 - We're bringing scientists back

Our first Report on Results, which looks at how CFI funding has affected the research community, points out the beginning of a brain drain reversal thanks to the attractive research facilities that are now available in Canada.

February 28, 2000 - More time to make positive change

The 2000 Federal Budget includes an additional \$900 million in funding for the CFI, extending our original five-year mandate to 2005.

December 20, 2000 - We make new friends

We forge a funding partnership with the Canada Research Chairs Program. This program invests around \$265 million a year to attract and retain some of the world's brightest minds.

March 2001 - A funding milestone

By March 2001, we have invested \$873 million in almost 1,200 projects.

2002 - Canada's got game for global researchers

An independent review shows that about 40 percent of the 1,200 new researchers benefiting from our support had been working outside Canada before accepting a position here.

February 18, 2002 - Online storytelling

We launch an online magazine, InnovationCanada.ca in keeping with the times and to keep Canadians up-to-date on the benefits and impacts of the research we fund. The site gets considerable traffic in its first year.

July 1, 2004 - The doctor is in the house

Eliot Phillipson joins us as President and CEO after serving as Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

August 19, 2004 - Tackling big health issues with a big fund

To increase Canada's capacity to conduct world-class research in critical health-related areas, we launch the Research Hospital Fund, a \$554-million fund for large-scale research-hospital-based infrastructure projects.

February 5, 2007 - Our Board gets a new Chair

William C. Leggett is appointed by the Government of Canada to succeed John R. Evans as Chair of the Board of Directors.

April 25, 2007 - Happy 10th birthday to us!

We celebrate ten years of funding research excellence across the country.

February 4, 2009 - New funding, more opportunities

The Federal Government allocates \$600 million in the 2009 Federal Budget to launch new competitions in 2010.

April 15, 2010 - We welcome our new leader

Gilles G. Patry becomes President and CEO.

June 25, 2010- A new Board Chair

Kevin P. D. Smith is appointed new Chair of our Board of Directors.

October 25, 2011 - Research builds communities

We launch a bold new brand identity and communications game plan to bolster our online presence.

January 23, 2012 - Charting a new course for change

Our Board of Directors adopts a five-year road map to meet the changing needs of Canada's research community.

June 2013 - Remembering a Canadian research pioneer

We pay tribute to the outstanding contributions of John R. Evans, our first Chair of the Board, by renaming our Leaders Opportunity Fund in his honour.

October 25, 2013 - Cars of the future

Lighter, faster, safer cars are no longer a dream for the future thanks to a funding boost through Automotive Partnership Canada.

November 14, 2014 - Party on the Hill

Canadian businesses and researchers come together on Parliament Hill to talk with MPs about their thriving partnerships.

December 1, 2014 - Online dating for businesses

The Research Facilities Navigator is launched to help industry access labs and expertise. The online directory lists research facilities across the country that are open to working with business.

April 2015 – “A jewel in the crown of Canadian science”

Canada’s only dedicated research icebreaker, the CCGS *Amundsen*, reinforces our international reputation in Arctic science, says our first report that focuses on evaluating large research platforms.

April 21, 2015 - A vote of confidence for Canada's research community

Federal Budget 2015 calls for an investment of \$1.33 billion in research infrastructure.

June 9, 2015 - Innovative awards for innovative minds

We are a founding partner of the Governor General's Innovation Awards and responsible for the management of the adjudication process.

October 6, 2015 - Neutrinos do have mass

The 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded to Arthur B. McDonald, particle physicist and professor emeritus at Queen’s University. McDonald's research, conducted at SNOLAB facility in Sudbury, Ont., confirmed that neutrinos do in fact have mass.

September 20, 2016 - Our 20th anniversary campaign kicks off

We celebrate 20 years of CFI-funded research with a fresh new site full of stories of how research builds communities across Canada.