

## **VP UPDATE**

A periodic update from the Vice Presidents of the Canada Foundation for Innovation  
(CFI)

April 2016

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### **The 2016 Federal Budget: A few highlights**

The CFI applauds the investments made in the granting councils and in Genome Canada announced in the March 22, 2016 Federal Budget. We are pleased to see that the Government of Canada regards these investments as an *interim* measure pending the release of the Innovation Agenda some time in 2017.

Here are some research highlights from the budget:

- The announcement of a new Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, providing \$2 billion over three years, in a time-limited initiative that will support 50 percent of the eligible costs of infrastructure projects at institutions and affiliated research and commercialization organizations on Canadian campuses that are either industry-relevant or environmentally beneficial.

This fund will go a long way to address the needs of Canada's post-secondary institutions with respect to the aging of their facilities. While this Fund makes reference to enhancing and modernizing research and commercialization facilities on Canadian campuses, we understand that the program will be delivered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and should not overlap with any CFI funds. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

- Strengthening world-class research capacity and excellence through investments of \$95 million in the annual base budgets of the federal granting agencies, starting in 2016-17:
  - CIHR: \$30 million
  - NSERC: \$30 million
  - SSHRC: \$16 million
  - Research Support Fund: \$19 million

This investment is in addition to the \$46 million announced in Budget 2015, bringing the total new investments to the three federal granting agencies to \$141 million in 2016-17.

- The following initiatives will also receive additional investments:
  - Mitacs: \$14 million over two years
  - Genome Canada: \$237.2 million over four years
  - Centre for Drug Research and Development: \$32 million over two years starting in 2017-18
  - Stem Cell Network: \$12 million over two years
  - Perimeter Institute: \$50 million over five years
  - Brain Canada Foundation: \$20 million over three years
- The Minister of Science will undertake a comprehensive review of all elements of federal support for fundamental science over the coming year. The review will:
  - Assess opportunities to increase the impact of federal support on Canada's research excellence and the benefits that flow from it;
  - Examine the rationale for current targeting of granting council's funding and bring greater coherence to the diverse range of federal research and development priorities and funding instruments;
  - Assess the support for promising emerging research leaders;
  - Ensure there is sufficient flexibility to respond to emerging research opportunities for Canada, including big science projects and other international collaborations.

We look forward to participating in this review over the coming year. This will be an opportunity for the CFI to emphasize the need for some form of more predictable, annual funding as well as the development of a roadmap for Big Science for Canada.

## **2017 Innovation Fund competition: An Update**

On February 26, we published a **Call for Proposals** for the **2017 Innovation Fund** competition. The CFI will invest up to \$552 million for this competition: \$425 million in capital funding for research infrastructure and \$127 million to contribute toward operating costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund. For this competition, the CFI challenges institutions to propose transformative infrastructure projects that will underpin cutting-edge, globally competitive research.

[The Guidelines for complete a Notice of Intent and a proposal](#) and the envelope calculation tool for the [2017 Innovation Fund](#) competition were published in March and the form for the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) is available in [CAMS](#). **The deadline for the submission of an NOI is June 23, 2016 and proposals are due by October 11, 2016.**

The CFI will hold three webinar sessions in May to provide an overview of the 2017 Innovation Fund competition and to answer questions. The 90 minute sessions will include a 30 minute presentation followed by a question and answer period. Please refer to the table below for the dates and times.

Webinar	Date	Time	Registration Links
Webinar 1 (English)	May 10, 2016	1:30-3:00 p.m. (EDT)	<a href="#">Webinar 1 - English</a>
Webinaire (français)	11 mai 2016	13h30-15h00 (HAE)	<a href="#">Webinaire - français</a>
Webinar 2 (English)	May 12, 2016	1:30-3:00 p.m. (EDT)	<a href="#">Webinar 2 - English</a>

To ensure that adequate space is available to accommodate all those interested in attending, kindly register at your earliest convenience by following the link provided in the table above. Each webinar can accommodate a maximum of 100 participants. Therefore we ask that whenever possible, multiple participants attend a session together with only one registration per group.

The webinars will focus on the objectives of the 2017 Innovation Fund competition, changes since the previous competition and the application and review processes.

Participants will be able to ask questions during the webinar using a chat box. However, we encourage you to forward your questions in advance to [2017IF@innovation.ca](mailto:2017IF@innovation.ca) to help us ensure your questions are addressed during the webinars. The webinars will also be recorded and the presentations will be posted on [Innovation.ca](http://Innovation.ca). For additional questions regarding the 2017 Innovation Fund competition, please contact your Senior Programs Officer.

### **John R. Evans Leaders Fund: 2017-20 institutional allocations**

In the December 2015 *VP Update*, we indicated that we would follow up with individual institutions who had larger-than-expected unused allocations to discuss their plans to use of their remaining allocation, given that the June and October 2016 rounds will coincide with the proposal development and submission period for the 2017 Innovation Fund competition. This follow-up was done.

As you know, any unused funds or uncommitted funds from your allocation will lapse at the end of March 2017, including those associated to unsuccessful CFI projects. The usage period for the 2014-17 JELF allocation ends with the decisions at the CFI Board meeting in March 2017. That means that the last possible intake is the October 2016 round, including the October 24 deadline for CRC nominations. We will continue to monitor the rates of use of institutional envelopes as we finalize the 2017-20 allocations.

On the other hand, we will allow institutions that have already exhausted their 2014-17 allocation to start drawing from their 2017-20 allocation to enable them to address their needs in attracting and retaining the very best of today's and tomorrow's researchers.

The new JELF allocation will enable the CFI to make investments at a rate of approximately \$86 million per year over a three-year period (2017–18 to 2019–20). This represents a \$20 million increase from the overall annual allocation during the 2014-15 to 2016-17 periods. The JELF allocation is based on a measure of each institution's research intensity calculated using the average share of research funding received from the three federal granting agencies in the last three years for which the data was available (2011-14). **You can expect to receive confirmation of your institution's 2017-20 allocation in early June 2016** in order to allow you to properly plan your infrastructure needs.

In the coming months, we will continue to examine ways to further enhance the JELF usage as a strategic capacity-building tool for all institutions. Additionally, we will streamline application and CV requirements, and examine ways to maximize the dynamic management of institutional envelopes.

Please do not hesitate to contact your Senior Programs Officer if you have any questions.

### **CAMS: Upcoming deployment of new functionalities**

Please consult the accompanying document that provides detailed information on the upcoming enhancements and new functionalities to the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS).

## **The CFI at the February 2016 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C.: A success!**

We were pleased to be part of the Governor General's official visit to Washington, D.C. on February 10 and 11, 2016.

The purpose of the visit was to:

- Raise Canada's profile as a partner of choice for research, innovation and education;
- Identify areas of common interest and greatest opportunity for future science and innovation collaboration; and,
- Explore how we can leverage science diplomacy to advance foreign policy objectives.

As part of that visit, we organized a roundtable discussion between the executive heads of funding agencies from Canada, Europe and the United States. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency the Right Honorable David Johnston in the presence of the Honorable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science.



Funding agency heads at a roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. in February 2016.

This was the perfect opportunity to discuss many aspects of the international research collaboration landscape. We appreciated the many examples of current multilateral initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, World Health Organization coordination on antimicrobial resistance, and the Trans-Atlantic Platform. These and other examples highlighted areas for improvement and better coordination, such as responding quickly to short-term global challenges, long-term planning, consideration of public support and the impact of international policymaking.

The roundtable was followed by a standing-room-only reception at the Canadian Embassy, organized in close collaboration with Universities Canada, with approximately 120 senior research and innovation leaders from around the globe engaging in lively discussions on international scientific cooperation and collaboration.

The next day, as part of the AAAS Annual Meeting, the Minister of Science chaired a technical session entitled "Arctic Research: building a model for responsible international collaboration."

Speakers included:

- Dr. Louis Fortier, Canada Research Chair in Marine Ecosystems and Scientific Director of ArcticNet. Title: From Knowledge to Action in the Changing North: ArcticNet's Mission
- Dr. Antonio Di Giulio, Head of Unit, Research Infrastructure, European Commission, Research and Innovation Directorate-General. Title: Opportunities for global engagement resulting from the Galway Statement and Horizon 2020
- Dr. Kelly Falkner, Director of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation. Title: NSF Thoughts on Challenges and Opportunities in International Collaboration on Arctic Research
- Dr. Erin Freeland Ballantyne, Dean of Land-Based Academics, Innovation and Research, Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, Northwest Territories

The impact of the Canadian presence at the 2016 AAAS meeting was eloquently captured in a recent [opinion piece](#) published in University Affairs.

## **Annual project progress and financial reports: updates and reminders**

### Project progress reports

The 2016 operational status question and *Project progress reports* (PPRs) are now accessible in CAMS. The CFI deadline for answering the operational status question and/or submitting a PPR is June 30, 2016. This year, based on the reporting requirements (4 or 5 years), the CFI expects to receive approximately 1,400 *Project progress reports*. The CFI uses project progress reports as a key source of information to assist in the proper managing of projects, to inform annual reporting, as well as to assess and report on the impact of its investments.

### Infrastructure project financial reports

Reports for the period ending March 31, 2016 must be submitted by June 15 for any ongoing infrastructure project that received CFI funds prior to April 1. Projects that have a CFI contribution under \$1 million must submit a financial report only every two years, unless instructed otherwise by the CFI. If your institution plans to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2016, you do not need to submit an interim report by June 15. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). All financial reports must be submitted electronically in this system. Note that there is no longer a requirement to send a signed copy of the final financial report to the CFI.

### Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report

Your IOF annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2016. In it, you must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2016, and also include your request for the release of infrastructure operating funds for the 2016-17 fiscal year based on your expenditure projections

for that year. The CFI will make the required payment following the receipt of your report. This report must be submitted electronically in CAMS. A signed copy no longer needs to be sent to the CFI.

Note that the 2016-17 rate tables for electrical costs and facilities charges will only be available on the CFI website in fall 2016. For purposes of reporting projected expenditures for 2016-17 in your IOF annual report submitted this summer, you can use the 2015-16 rates currently posted on our website. However, once the 2016-17 rates are available, you should use them next year to report actual expenditures for 2016-17.

Please note that the CFI may hold back future installments for all of your CFI-funded projects, including new awards yet to be finalized, if any of the above-mentioned reports are not received by the appropriate deadlines. Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

### **The CFI Research Facilities Navigator: Be part of the first 500**

In mid-May look for another invitation from us for submissions to the Navigator – the rich database of CFI-funded labs and facilities across the country that are open to working with private sector partners. We now have 450 participating labs online, covering many disciplines and offering a wide range of expertise that can help businesses address their research challenges. By registering your labs, you can help make this an even better tool for the private sector. Simply visit [Innovation.ca/Navigator](http://Innovation.ca/Navigator) and [download the submission form](#) – and help us reach 500 listings!