

## VP UPDATE

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

December 2015

### In this issue:

- Update on our pan-Canadian consultation
- Going forward: our vision for Canada's Digital Research Infrastructure
- 2015 *Report on results*
- The CFI is turning 20!
- John R. Evans Leaders Fund: update on the 2014-17 allocation
- The CFI at the 2015 Canadian Science Policy Conference
- The CFI at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- New Infrastructure Operating Fund rates now available
- Institutional agreement

### UPDATE ON OUR PAN-CANADIAN CONSULTATION

*Over the past eight weeks, the CFI met with highly engaged participants from coast to coast*

The 2015 pan-Canadian consultation highlighted your on-going deep commitment and continued interest in ensuring our funding architecture remains relevant and responsive to Canada's research community. After holding:

- 18 town hall meetings involving nearly 500 participants from 85 different institutions,
- meetings with representatives from nine provinces,
- 12 meetings with associations and organizations (such as U15, ACCRU and CARA),

and receiving nearly 50 written formal submissions, we have a wealth of invaluable advice, insights and suggestions for improvements to our funds, policies and future directions. We will be analyzing your feedback very carefully over the coming weeks and will be providing a summary of findings and proposed CFI actions in the January 2016 *VP update*. In the meantime, we wanted to share with you four overarching key messages that were heard over the past eight weeks:

- Overall, the CFI funding architecture continues to be well-aligned with needs of institutions and their researchers. We received a number of valuable suggestions for improvements to our funds, policies and application forms which we will carefully review and act on accordingly.
- We should continue to explore ways to minimize application, review and administrative burden, including streamlining and simplifying proposal requirements and relying on institutions to confirm that the proposals they submit fit with their Strategic Research Plan.
- We should consider ways to maximize the impact of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund as a key strategic tool to build and enhance research capacity for the full spectrum of institutions across the country.
- Through continued interaction and consultation, we must collectively continue to be alert to emerging trends and changes in our environment that present opportunities (and threats) to further strengthen and secure Canada’s research and innovation leadership.

### **GOING FORWARD: OUR VISION FOR CANADA’S DIGITAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE**

As part of the consultation on developing a digital research infrastructure strategy, launched earlier in 2015 by Industry Canada (now the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development), the CFI held a number of discussions with key stakeholders over the summer and participated in a number of meetings organized by stakeholder organizations. In response, we recently published [our vision](#) for a national digital research infrastructure strategy in which we recommend concrete, strategic objectives and short- and medium-term actions to better align and coordinate the actions of all actors within the ecosystem, and to ultimately enhance our country’s collective capability to conduct computationally-challenging and data-intensive research.

### **2015 REPORT ON RESULTS**

Our [2015 Report on results](#) is now available online and provides a visual summary of data from 1,800 operational projects for the 2014-15 fiscal year. We thank institutions for the exceptionally high rate of reports submitted by the CFI deadline. In an effort to ensure maximum value of the information collected, we will continue to offer some customized analyses or data downloads for institutions and other funders.

### **THE CFI IS TURNING 20**

Next September, the CFI will begin celebrating its 20th anniversary with the launch of a refreshed website and a campaign that highlights the outcomes of cutting-edge research enabled by CFI funding. Using the tagline “Research builds *my* community,” we will showcase stories about the end users of that research — individuals, groups, businesses, etc. While we have begun to work with some institutions on particular stories, we are looking to all of our

funded institutions for more stories about how your research is touching people and helping build communities. Please send ideas or direct any questions to CFI Director of Communications, Elizabeth Shilts ([Elizabeth.shilts@innovation.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.shilts@innovation.ca)).

### **JOHN R. EVANS LEADERS FUND: UPDATE ON THE 2014-17 ALLOCATION**

As you may recall, the CFI informed you on March 5, 2014 of your 2014-17 institutional John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) allocation. 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 funding agencies in the last three years for which the data was available. At the time, we reminded you that you should plan accordingly to fully commit your JELF allocation (both the new allocation and any remaining funds from previous ones) by March 2017. October 15, 2016 will be the last application deadline to use your institutional allocation before the window on your current JELF allocation comes to an end in March 2017. **At that time, the institution will no longer be able to access the remaining uncommitted funds.**

Institutions that have larger than expected unused allocations will be contacted by the CFI to discuss plans for the use of their remaining allocation over the next three competitions, knowing that the June 2016 and October 2016 rounds will coincide with the proposal development and submission period for the next Innovation Fund.

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

### **THE CFI AT THE 2015 CANADIAN SCIENCE POLICY CONFERENCE**

*CFI-invited "Big Science" panelists shared their perspectives*

The [7th annual Canadian Science Policy Conference](#) was held in Ottawa November 25-27. The CFI organized a plenary session — "International Perspectives on Big Science in Canada: Where Should Canada Go?" — moderated by Gilles Patry. The panel included three highly accomplished experts and leaders of some of the world's largest and most complex research infrastructure:

- Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director General of CERN
- Nigel Lockyer, Director of the FERMI National Accelerator Laboratory in the United States
- Catherine Ewart, Director of International Relations, Science and Technology Facilities Council in the U.K.

The session aimed to tap into the panelists' knowledge and experience in such areas as big science facility road mapping, national priority setting exercises and best practices in the governance and oversight of major research infrastructures. It also began a broad community discussion on how best to design and implement a merit- and evidence-based review process for Canadian participation in domestic and international Big Science projects.

## **THE CFI AT THE 2016 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE ANNUAL MEETING**

*The CFI to host panel and roundtable on international research collaboration*

As part of our ongoing efforts to address the CFI Strategic Roadmap priority area of increasing the global presence of Canadian science and technology development, the CFI has organized two activities in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Washington D.C. in February. The overall theme for the meeting is “global engagement in science.”

On February 11, the CFI, in partnership with Universities Canada (formerly Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada - AUCC) and the Canadian Embassy, will be hosting a roundtable discussion at the Embassy. We are inviting the presidents and CEOs from all of the major research granting agencies in Europe, the United States and Canada to participate in the roundtable discussion on the strategic value of international research collaborations, and to explore practical steps to promote and support global engagement in science and technology development.

The following morning, the CFI has organized a panel session on the responsibilities and opportunities for international collaboration in Arctic research. The session, moderated by CFI CEO and President, Gilles Patry, will include Louis Fortier, the Scientific Director of ArcticNet (which operates the CFI-funded CCGS *Amundsen*), Antonio Di Giulio, the Head of Unit for the European Commission Research and Technology Development Directorate (which is in charge of all infrastructure funding in the Commission’s Horizon 2020 Programme), and Kelly Falkner, the Director of Polar Research at the National Science Foundation in the U.S. Our discussant is Erin Freeland-Ballantyne, the Director of the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning in Yellowknife, whose academic work has focused on the responsibilities of researchers to the communities in which they work.

## **NEW INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATING FUND RATES NOW AVAILABLE**

The 2015-16 [Infrastructure Operating Fund rates](#) are now available online. These rates are specifically for the reporting of facilities charges related to CFI-funded constructed or renovated space, or for the reporting of electricity costs related to CFI-funded equipment.

## **INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT**

As you know, the CFI signed an agreement with the Government of Canada in September defining the broad parameters for the use of the funds allocated to the CFI in the April 2015 Federal Budget. It refers to a few recently revised and updated federal laws that govern CFI funding. While it will not be necessary to modify or update the relevant clauses in the CFI

*Institutional agreement*, we wanted to remind you that a signatory institution must agree to comply with all applicable laws, including:

- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012
- The Conflict of Interest Act
- The Lobbying Act

Where former public servants or public office holders may derive benefits from funding under this agreement, they must be in compliance with:

- The Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service, the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector, the Policy on Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment or the Conflict of Interest Act.