

VP UPDATE

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

January 2016

In this issue:

- Pan-Canadian consultation: Summary report and action plan
- 2017 Innovation Fund: Draft Call for Proposals published
- Cyberinfrastructure Initiative: Timeline for the next Challenge 1 competition to be revised
- 2016 College-Industry Innovation Fund: Stream 1 competition launched
- CFI's Research Facilities Navigator: Join nearly 500 labs open to working with business
- International collaboration for Arctic research: A CFI panel session at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Pan-Canadian consultation: Summary report and action plan

In the fall of 2015, following the April Federal Budget announcement of \$1.33 billion allocated to the CFI — the largest one-time investment in our history — and after an agreement with the Government of Canada was signed in September, the CFI undertook one of its most comprehensive pan-Canadian consultations ever. This consultation highlighted your ongoing, commitment and continued interest in ensuring our funding architecture remains relevant and responsive to Canada's research community, meets the needs of the full spectrum of institutions across the country, and is well-positioned to respond to and address evolving and emerging needs of the Canadian research community. It also provided us with an opportunity to seek input on a few key strategic issues of importance to the research community and other CFI stakeholders.

Over the past several weeks, the CFI undertook a careful synthesis and analysis of the suggestions, ideas and thoughts you shared with us. The enclosed report, titled *Canada Foundation for Innovation 2015 Pan-Canadian Consultation: Summary Report and Action Plan*, will be published on our website next week. It provides a summary of the common themes and issues you raised, key messages, and an action plan based on the suggestions and ideas proposed as part of the consultation. We have already acted on several suggestions and plan to implement a number of others in the coming months. Other suggestions will require more time and analysis, and may find their way in our new strategic roadmap and advocacy strategy.

2017 Innovation Fund: Draft Call for Proposals published

On January 15, we published a [draft Call for proposals](#) for the **2017 Innovation Fund**. For our tenth nation-wide research infrastructure competition, we will invest up to \$425 million in infrastructure costs for transformative infrastructure projects that will underpin cutting-edge, globally competitive research. Enabling our country's best institutions and researchers to work together and collaborate with the world's best researchers in areas of established and emerging Canadian research strengths is key to Canada's continued research and innovation success.

Feedback for the 2017 Innovation Fund draft Call for Proposals is welcome until February 12, 2016. Please forward all comments to 2017IF@innovation.ca and do not hesitate to contact your Senior Programs Officer if you have any questions.

Cyberinfrastructure Initiative: Timeline for the next Challenge 1 competition to be revised

As indicated in the consultation summary report, we have decided to take stock of lessons learned during the first Challenge 1 competition for research data infrastructures. Based on feedback from institutions and the advice of the expert review committees we are currently reconsidering the timeline for the second Challenge 1 competition to provide all project proponents and research consortia more time to properly plan and fully develop these initiatives. We will issue a revised Call for Proposals once we have determined the appropriate timeline for the second competition.

2016 College-Industry Innovation Fund: Stream 1 competition launched

We have allocated up to \$40 million (for capital costs and infrastructure operating funds) for the College-Industry Innovation Fund – Streams 1 and 2 over the next four years (2016–19) for innovative projects that enhance the capacity of colleges to support business innovation in Canada. The funds will be used to support state-of-the-art, industry-relevant research infrastructure that should create and enhance partnerships with the private sector in a specific area of institutional strategic priority.

Stream 1: Research infrastructure

A [Call for Proposals](#) for the College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 1 was launched in December 2015. While maintaining key objectives of this fund, the proposal requirements were streamlined to reduce the burden on applicants and reviewers. For the 2016 competition, colleges may submit one proposal, requesting up to \$1 million from the CFI, including construction or renovation costs that are essential to housing the eligible infrastructure requested in the proposal.

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 College and Community Innovation Program – Innovation Enhancement (CCI-IE) program (competition 14) 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).

CFI's Research Facilities Navigator: Join nearly 500 labs open to working with business

Two years after its launch, the [CFI Research Facilities Navigator](#) now features 447 labs and facilities at 75 universities, colleges and research hospitals across Canada. Any CFI-funded facility wanting to promote its expertise and services to potential clients and research partners in the private, public or non-profit sectors can submit a profile at any time by completing the required form, and those already featured in the Navigator can update their profile at any time. Send your new or amended profiles to the CFI at industry-industrie@innovation.ca. Send any questions or requests to the same email, or call Rodrigue Hurtubise at (613) 947-4663. Help us hit 500 labs listed!

International Collaboration for Arctic Research: A CFI panel session at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

The CFI is hosting a panel session on the responsibilities and opportunities for international collaboration in Arctic research on February 12 (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Washington D.C. A few CFI staff and senior management will be at the meeting to help with the panel and to promote the Canadian researchers who are taking part in other panels. Let us know if you plan to attend so we can connect. Email Director of Communications, [Elizabeth Shilts](#) with your contact information, or look for details through our Twitter feed, @InnovationCA. Look forward to seeing you!