

CFI Update

A periodic update from the vice presidents of the **Canada Foundation for Innovation**

May 2018

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2018 Federal Budget

We are working closely with senior officials at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Department of Finance Canada regarding the broad parameters for the new funding for the CFI announced in the February 2018 Federal Budget. We will continue to work hard over the coming weeks and months to finalize the required approvals and agreements. As soon as that process is complete, we will provide details to our stakeholders about plans for how the new funds allocated to the CFI will be used, including anticipated competition timelines and proposed CFI consultations.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas or suggestions for improvements or new directions that fall within our mandate, we encourage you to share them with CFI management and staff. After all, it was Linus Pauling who famously said: “The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas”! We are particularly interested in your thoughts on 1) interdisciplinary and convergence research¹, 2) international cooperation and collaboration, to ensure “Canada’s best are working with the best in the world”, 3) equity, diversity and inclusion from a research infrastructure perspective, 4) core facilities and regional platforms, and 5) the critical role of smaller universities, colleges and cégeps in Canada’s research and development enterprise.

¹ The National Science Foundation defines convergence research as research driven by a specific and compelling problem or opportunity, whether it arises from deep scientific questions or pressing societal needs, that requires deep integration across disciplines, where their knowledge, theories, methods, data, research communities and languages become increasingly intermingled or integrated.

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CFI at CARA 2018 Annual Conference in Ottawa

The CFI will be out in full force for the CARA 2018 Annual Conference being held from May 27 to 30 in Ottawa. This meeting provides the CFI with the unique opportunity to meet and catch up with so many of our institutional contacts, new and old. In line with this year's theme, "Research Administration: Resilience in a Time of Change," our presentation will provide an update on a number of topics, including:

- some interesting post-mortem analyses related to the latest 2017 Innovation Fund competition
- updates on the John R. Evans Leaders Fund
- Budget 2018 and what we know so far and the actions that will lead to defining the parameters of our next contribution agreement.

We will also be participating in a panel on the multi-institutional project initiative that continues the discussion held during last year's national CARA conference. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

John R. Evans Leaders Fund: Equity, diversity and inclusion

The CFI is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), recognizing that a diversity of perspectives, skills and experiences underpins excellence in research. In March 2017, we implemented through our CFI Awards Management System (CAMS) a process for self-reported EDI data for all users of CAMS. These data will allow the CFI to monitor the diversity of the applicant pool, examine success rates and identify areas for improvement. As a reminder, EDI data is collected as part of the user profile for applicants using our CAMS platform, and not part of the JELF application process nor is the data available to reviewers. We now have one full year of EDI data from proposals submitted to the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). JELF proposals over the past year included a total of 556 distinct researchers. Of those who provided responses to the EDI questions (rather than selecting "prefer not to answer"), 32 percent identified as women, 20 percent as a visible minority, one percent as an Indigenous person and one percent as a person with a disability. In the spirit of continuous improvement, we are now examining these data to better understand EDI dimensions for applicants, reviewers, success rates, and to see where we should consider potential improvements to our policies, guidelines and practices.

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CFI part of team helping to organize Impact of Science 2018 conference next month in Ottawa

Consider joining the conversation at the sixth annual Impact of Science conference arranged by the Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS Network). This international conference will focus on finding shared approaches to assess, enable and accelerate the impact of science on the whole of society. It is being held at the Fairmont Château Laurier in the heart of Ottawa from June 14 to 15, 2018. The [program](#) includes thought leaders from all over the world, who will share their insights in order to approach the advancement of the impact of science on society from numerous viewpoints. We will be chairing a panel that will examine how national research infrastructures can be used and further developed to best support societal impact of science.

A new research classification system for the CFI and Tri-Agencies

The Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and Statistics Canada are working together to develop a single, shared research classification standard. Once implemented, it is expected to significantly enhance our ability to collaborate, improve support to the research community and provide coherent data on our combined contribution to Canada's research system. The new standard will be based on two established classification models, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Frascati Manual (2015) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification. The development will include consultations with user groups and subject matter experts. For more information please contact the project lead, Ariadne Legendre, at ariadne.legendre@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.

Annual project progress and financial reports

Project progress report

The 2018 operational status question and project progress reports (PPRs) are now accessible in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2018. This year, based on the reporting requirements (four or five years), we expect to receive approximately 1,700 PPRs. We use PPRs 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 our investments.

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Infrastructure project financial reports

Reports for the period ending March 31, 2018 must be submitted by June 15 for any ongoing infrastructure project that received CFI funds prior to April 1, 2018. If your institution plans to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2018, 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 CAMS. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in this system.

Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report

Your IOF annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2018. In it, you must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2018, and also include your request for the release of infrastructure operating funds for the 2018–19 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.

For purposes of reporting projected expenditures for 2018–19 in your IOF annual report submitted this summer, you can use the 2017–18 rates currently posted on our website. However, once the 2018–19 rates are available, you should use them next year to report actual expenditures for 2018–19.

Let's see if we can achieve 100 percent submission this year for all of the above-mentioned reports! Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

New Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) rates now available

The 2017–18 Infrastructure Operating Fund rates are now available online. These rates are specifically for the reporting of facility charges related to CFI-funded space or space essential to house and use CFI-funded infrastructure, or for the reporting of electricity costs related to CFI-funded equipment.