

CFI Update

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

November 2017

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

The public announcement of the results of the latest Innovation Fund competition resulted in grants to 117 projects at 61 institutions from coast to coast. We congratulated colleagues across the country and received many votes of appreciation for the funding and for the well-designed process of evaluation, support and communication. We all thank the Government of Canada for the funding which is a wise investment, not only in the fine work of our researchers, but in the future success of their students. The CFI staff join me in thanking all the participating institutions for their work in the application process and in promoting the success of their researchers. I personally add my vote of appreciation to the CFI staff for their outstanding work and to the evaluators who contributed their expertise, caring and time to the process.

I also applaud the efficient, imaginative and effective sharing of equipment and facilities which has become an important hallmark of research operations today. Not only are research teams sharing internally, but across faculties and among institutions.

In response to inquiries about the date of the next competition, we are hopeful that the government will follow the recommendation in Canada's Fundamental Science Review report and make a commitment to on-going funding for the CFI that will enable us to announce future competitions.

~ Roseann O'Reilly Runte

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Innovation Fund results and national announcement

We would like to thank institutions for their efforts in supporting the national announcement for the 2017 Innovation Fund, which took place on October 12. The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, made the announcement at the University of Manitoba while other Ministers echoed the announcement at six locations across the country:

- The University of Alberta hosted The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.
- Acadia University and Dalhousie University each hosted The Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board.
- The University of Calgary hosted The Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.
- The University of British Columbia hosted The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.
- Carleton University hosted The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Thanks to the media relations and communications efforts at funded institutions, the announcement garnered significant nationwide media coverage and engagement through social media channels. We appreciate all of your collaboration in spreading the word about the funding and its importance for your researchers and students.

The results of the 2017 Innovation Fund competition are summarized in the attached “2017 Innovation Fund: By the numbers” document. This document highlights various aspects of the merit-review process, as well as the distribution of Innovation Fund support by type of institution, region, requested amount and sector. It also offers a historical perspective on Innovation Fund success and funding rates from 2004 to 2017. This document is also available on the [Innovation Fund](#) web page, under the “Review & decision process” tab. You can also find the membership lists for the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees (MAC) and Special-MAC committee under the same tab. A complete list of Innovation Fund awards by institution (administrative and collaborating) is available [in the press release for the announcement](#).

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The Navigator: New Features. New Look.

On October 17, we launched a refreshed Research Facilities Navigator with a more intuitive web design and better mobile experience to make it easier for researchers, industry leaders and entrepreneurs to collaborate with leading Canadian research facilities. As you know, the Navigator is an online directory of more than 550 research facilities searchable by research expertise, services and infrastructure, as well as other keywords such as sector or area of application. We have also launched a new campaign promoting the Navigator to domestic and international audiences looking for high-calibre research expertise and infrastructure, so now is a great time to list your institution's cutting-edge labs. Explore navigator.innovation.ca and [watch our new video](#) for more about the Navigator and how it works.

#IAMINNOVATION

A reminder to spread the news about our [#IAmInnovation](#) campaign, which kicked off in early October with a Twitter contest for students and post-docs at institutions that have benefited from having access to CFI-funded labs and equipment. The contest, which ends December 1, aims to promote the student campaign by encouraging even more students to share their CFI story on Twitter. We're grateful for your enthusiastic support in promoting the campaign through your institution's Twitter feeds. Please continue to [spread the word!](#)

Good practices

A new section on "Sharing good practices" was added to Innovation.ca in the fall of 2016. During monitoring visits and other interactions with institutions, we observe many good practices which are then shared with the community on our website. Four new practices have since been developed and posted to our website. They are:

- Access to key project information by relevant stakeholders
- Managing the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) allocation
- Risk-based management approach
- Important considerations for items involving in-kind contributions

We hope you find these useful in the management of your CFI awards. We would like to thank the Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA) and the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) for their continued participation in this initiative, as well as the members of the external advisory group that helped us review these new practices and provided valuable feedback.

Please remember that you can always share good practices with us that you have at your institutions, or propose topics that would be of interest to you.