

CFI Update

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

February 2021

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Future funding competitions

2023 Innovation Fund

The CFI's 2019 Contribution Agreement allows us to award funds through Innovation Fund competitions held every 24 to 30 months. Funding decisions for the next Innovation Fund competition will be made before the end of fiscal year 2022–23 (March 2023 at the latest). We expect to issue a draft call for proposals in early fall 2021, provided our Board of Directors approves this plan at its March 2021 meeting.

Major Science Initiatives (MSI) Fund

The CFI Board of Directors will make funding decisions for the next MSI Fund competition six to nine months before March 2023, which is the end of the current funding cycle. This will allow MSI-funded facilities to know well in advance if their operational funding will be renewed beyond March 2023.

We plan to launch the draft call for proposals in June 2021, provided our Board of Directors approves this plan at its March 2021 meeting.

Moratorium on eligibility requests

We are reviewing our eligibility criteria as they apply to non-profit research organizations to ensure that they continue to reflect the scope and nature of Canada's institutional research landscape. We will not consider any new eligibility applications for non-profit research organizations and will

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postpone decisions on current applications until this review is complete in June 2021. If you have any questions about this review or our institutional eligibility requirements and processes, please email us at eligibility@innovation.ca.

Infrastructure Operating Fund payments

As we mentioned in the June 2020 issue of this newsletter, we have changed how we make payments to institutions from the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF). In spring 2021, we will make a payment to institutions for any unused portion of their IOF allocation that was made available before April 1, 2016. You will receive a letter in March 2021 if such a payment will be made to your institution, including the payment amount and supporting calculations. Your institution can request additional payments from the IOF in your IOF annual report (due June 15, 2021) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover your institution's needs for the 2021–22 fiscal year. We will update our IOF page on [Innovation.ca](http://innovation.ca) soon with further information.

Important dates coming up

You can always find [key dates for all our funding opportunities](#) on our website. Here are a few important dates coming up:

February 10, 2021	Deadline for John R. Evans Leaders Fund (SSHRC Partnership Grants, Stage 1) proposals
February 16, 2021	Deadline for John R. Evans Leaders Fund (unaffiliated) proposals
March 15, 2021	Deadline for College-Industry Innovation Fund – Stream 1 notices of intent
March 23, 2021	CFI Board of Directors meeting
June 15, 2021	CFI Board of Directors meeting

Research Facilities Navigator

Government of Canada adds facilities

As part of its national strategy to strengthen federal science, the Government of Canada is partnering with the CFI to list federal research facilities on the Research Facilities Navigator. Launched by the CFI in 2013, the Navigator also features facilities in universities, colleges and research hospitals from coast-to-coast-to-coast that are opening their doors to collaboration with industry, academia and government.

To date, 79 federal facilities from eight departments and agencies have submitted profiles detailing the unique expertise and specialized equipment featured in their lab.

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Celebrating 750th profile!

In January, the [Queen's CardioPulmonary Unit](#) became the 750th facility to be listed on the Navigator. Last year, the Navigator helped make hundreds of connections between research facilities and leaders from private, public and non-profit sectors. Learn more about how the Navigator helps researchers and other innovators connect, as well as how to list your facilities at listyourlab.innovation.ca.

The CFI at the 2021 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

For the second year in a row, the CFI is partnering with members of Canada's research community to set up a Canadian exhibit at this year's annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This year's virtual exhibit, called "Canada – your next career move," allows visitors to take a virtual tour of Canadian research. They can meet a Canadian visa officer, listen in on live chats with researchers from around the world who have made Canada their home, browse the websites of Canadian research organizations, watch videos of researchers working at the cutting edge of their fields, explore international collaborations, read research success stories and more.

The exhibit is a webpage that will show visitors why Canada is a great place to study and do research and is created by:

- The CFI
- The Office of the Chief Science Advisor
- The National Research Council
- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- The Canadian Light Source
- Ocean Networks Canada
- Ocean Tracking Network, and
- TRIUMF

In addition to the exhibit, the CFI is partnering with SSHRC to host an online Q&A during the annual meeting. To celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2021, Claire Samson, the CFI's Vice-President of Programs and Planning and Dominique Bérubé, Vice-President of Research at SSHRC, will interview two distinguished female researchers in STEM:

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- Irina Rish, Canada Excellence Research Chair in autonomous artificial intelligence at Université de Montréal, in Quebec and,
- Baiyu (Helen) Zhang, Canada Research Chair in Coastal Environmental Engineering at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's.

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