

# CFI Update

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

**March 2018**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

*Dear colleagues,*

*I am deeply grateful for your individual and collective support for the inclusion of research in the federal budget. Your points were most eloquently stated and your sustained, collaborative efforts were truly impressive. The results stand as a tribute to the contributions you have made to your research, your students and your communities.*

*Please join me in thanking Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, and the federal government for their commitment to your work and their belief in the value of research to society. There are always many directions a budget can take and competing needs that must be addressed. The fact that the federal government dedicated the largest amount of funding ever to research in a federal budget is significant and merits our applause.*

*I would also like to thank Dr. David Naylor and the Fundamental Science Review Panel for their report on basic science, commissioned by Minister Duncan. This report made a compelling case for the investment in science that we saw in the 2018 budget.*

*As we now turn to a brighter future, we are seeking clarification from the government on the budget and will communicate with you on the results of these discussions. At the Canada Foundation for Innovation we are particularly pleased that we have the prospect of a sustained future. This will mean that we can all plan for new competitions that will enable your fine work.*

*I thank you for your dedication to your work. With the excellent news in the budget, I wish you renewed energy and commitment to your research. Your results will demonstrate the wisdom of our Minister and her colleagues.*

*~ Roseann O'Reilly Runte*

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## **2018 federal budget: Good news all around!**

The 2018 federal budget allocated \$763 million over five years to the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support state-of-the-art research infrastructure at Canadian universities, colleges and research hospitals. This includes \$160 million earmarked for the Major Science Initiatives Fund. The government also proposed to establish permanent funding of \$462 million per year by 2023–24 for research tools and infrastructure supported through the CFI.

With this funding, we will continue to support researchers as they push the boundaries of knowledge and undertake globally competitive research that is essential to the health, prosperity and quality of life of Canadians.

“This significant investment signals the Government of Canada’s commitment to supporting the research community and recognizes the importance of science to this country in contributing to a smart, innovative and inclusive economy, and ultimately a better quality of life for all Canadians,” says Roseann O’Reilly Runte, President and CEO, Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Over the coming weeks, we will be working closely with senior officials at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Department of Finance Canada regarding the broad parameters for this new funding, and we hope to finalize details leading to a signed agreement in the coming months. Once the process is completed, we will provide more details to all our stakeholders about the plans for how the new funds allocated to the CFI will be used, including anticipated competition timelines and proposed CFI consultations.

## **CFI @ the 2018 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Austin, Texas**

Canada’s signature event at the AAAS meeting was the roundtable discussion on the state of quantum research in Europe, the United States and Canada, organized by the CFI in



Drs. Nemer, Runte and Cordova at CFI Quantum Roundtable

partnership with the U.S. National Science Foundation and Global Affairs Canada. Chaired by Canada’s Chief Science Advisor, Dr. Mona Nemer, our President, Roseann O’Reilly Runte, welcomed a packed room of 35 Canadian, U.S. and European science agency decision-makers and researchers, including National Science Foundation Director, Dr. France Cordova; Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation; and Drs. David Cory (University of Waterloo), Andrea Damascelli (University of British Columbia) and Michel Pioro-Ladrière (Université de Sherbrooke), representing the three

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quantum-related Canada First Research Excellence Fund awards. For two hours, these leaders engaged in a productive discussion on how best to expand the frontiers of quantum research and how support for researchers, the development of new facilities and the sharing of existing resources can advance quantum discoveries.

Although the discussions were wide-ranging, the roundtable focused on four overarching themes: (1) interdisciplinarity; (2) international collaboration; (3) training, capacity-building and inclusion; and (4) communications and outreach. The participants exchanged on key questions such as: Can we better share our individual assets to advance more rapidly and globally? What sort of agreements, mechanisms or supports would be required to share resources? How can we ensure researchers build on each other's discoveries without compromising healthy competition or the commercialization of new technologies? Is the training pipeline for new researchers sufficiently robust and diverse? Should we consider the international exchange of talent? Would international collaboration between research funding agencies be beneficial?

The participants highlighted the need to break down research silos at universities, and to create spaces for collaboration within an institution, within the country and internationally. Given that most quantum research is still very much at the discovery phase, broader and deeper collaboration will help ensure a more robust training environment and speed the process of discovery to application.

## **2014–2017 John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) allocation analysis**

We recently shared with each large and mid-size institution an analysis of their usage patterns for their JELF allocation over the 2014–2017 period. We expect that this analysis will allow institutions to reinforce planning around the utilization of their current 2017–2020 allocation. Institutions contacted by us in the last week of February received a detailed statistical overview of the JELF proposals they submitted in the 2014–2017 period, which included information on JELF/JELF-partnerships, size of projects submitted, success and funding rate, JELF usage and draw-down profiles. We trust that the 2014–2017 summary information provided will enable institutions to maximize their planning and strategic use of their 2017–2020 JELF allocation.

## **Webinars for the 2018 College-Industry Innovation Fund (CIIF) – Stream 1**

In order to help colleges improve the quality of their CIIF proposals, we are organizing a series of webinars in April 2018 for applicants to the 2018 Stream 1 competition. The sessions are also open to potential applicants to future competitions. The webinars will offer a historical perspective on CIIF submissions and provide the findings of a recent qualitative analysis on the expert and multidisciplinary assessment committee reports of CIIF proposals submitted in the last three competitions. The webinar will focus on the most common pitfalls applicants should avoid based on this analysis. Recordings of the webinars will be posted on our website shortly thereafter.

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To register for one of the sessions, please use the links below by April 5:

- English session: April 10, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. EDT  
[http://cfi.adobeconnect.com/ciif2018/event/event\\_info.html](http://cfi.adobeconnect.com/ciif2018/event/event_info.html)
- French session: April 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. EDT  
[http://cfi.adobeconnect.com/fcii2018/event/event\\_info.html](http://cfi.adobeconnect.com/fcii2018/event/event_info.html)

Please note that the CIIF Stream 1 proposals are due by May 15, 2018. If you have any questions about this competition, contact your CFI Senior Programs Officer.

## **National announcements – November 2017 Board of Directors' decisions**

We are currently in discussions with the Government of Canada to determine dates for the national announcements for the November 2017 funding results of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund and College-Industry Innovation Fund competitions. We will keep you informed of details as we have them. In the meantime, as usual, please keep your funding results under embargo until they are announced.