

CFI Update

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

October 2019

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Innovation Fund 2020: An update

We received 325 notices of intent for the 2020 Innovation Fund competition. These came from 64 eligible institutions, requesting approximately \$1.1 billion in CFI funding. The deadline to submit a notice of intent was September 16, 2019.

By institution type

Institution Type	# NOIs (%)	Total cost \$ (%)	CFI request \$ (%)	Avg. CFI request \$
Large universities	283 (87%)	2.67B (92%)	1.03B (92%)	3.6M
Small universities	36 (11%)	188.0M (7%)	75.2M (7%)	2.1M
Colleges, CEGEPs and non-profit research organizations	6 (2%)	33.5M (1%)	12.2M (1%)	2.0M

By project size

CFI request (\$)	# NOIs (%)	CFI request \$ (%)
More than 10M	8 (2.5%)	107,772,161 (9.6%)
6M - 10M	38 (11.7%)	287,632,962 (25.6%)
4M - 6M	50 (15.4%)	248,659,304 (22.2%)
1M - 4M	188 (57.8%)	448,328,999 (40.0%)
Less than 1M	41 (12.6%)	29,628,675 (2.6%)
Grand total	325 (100%)	1,122,022,101 (100.0%)

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We encourage you to review the [list of notices of intent](#) on our website. By doing so, you may find projects that are complementary to those your institution submitted, or which may present opportunities for potential collaborations or multi-institutional initiatives. The list includes a short description of each proposed project as well as the names of the team leaders, administrative and collaborating institutions, and keywords identified by the applicants. To facilitate these kinds of connections, we may also draw your attention to possible overlaps and synergies between institutions in the next few weeks.

Also, please remember that since we use notices of intent to assemble review committees, you will not be able to change the name of the team leader(s) or administrative institution in CAMS now that the notices of intent have been submitted. This is to avoid introducing potential conflicts of interest with review committee members. If you do need to make such a change, contact your Senior Programs Officer as soon as possible. We will oversee the change in CAMS.

2019 Policy and program guide: Summary of key changes

We have made a few changes to the 2017 [Policy and program guide](#). These primarily reflect the broadening of certain infrastructure eligibilities which were introduced in spring 2019. We also took this opportunity to include a few other changes that took place in 2018–19. In light of the [small number of changes](#), we consider the 2019 version a “patch” rather than a full revision of the PPG.

These changes to the Policy and program guide are effective as of October 8, 2019. The changes are applicable for all ongoing and future projects.

CFI Awards Management System (CAMS): List of recent updates

A CAMS update was applied on October 3. This update includes the following changes to the institutional dashboard.

Improvements to the left navigation menu

You can now hide or show the left navigation menu by clicking on “Show menu” or “Hide menu” in the coloured banner at the top. We have also changed some labels within the menu to improve the organization of the activities and more accurately reflect the content of the sections. For example, “Infrastructure projects” is now “Proposal management.”

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Introduction of Award agreement mailing address management

Institutions can now update the address that award agreements are mailed to. Please visit the “Award agreement address” tab within the “Institutional agreement and access privileges” section of your CAMS portal. Note that only the president, account administrator and liaison can update this information.

More detailed reasons for “No funding” and “Withdrawn” now displayed

Two new sections on the “Project overview” screen provide more detail about the reason for a “No funding” decision and a reason for projects that have been “Withdrawn.” “No funding reason” is found in the “Decision” section and “Withdrawn reason” is found in the “Notice of Intent and Proposal” section. In addition, projects that were withdrawn because they were not funded by a partner have been reclassified as “Not funded”.

It is possible that this release has introduced some minor issues in CAMS despite our best testing efforts. Please inform the CFI at help.aide@innovation.ca should you notice any issues.

Evaluation of the CFI: Upcoming survey of CFI project leaders and principal users

The Audit and Evaluation Branch of Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is conducting an evaluation of the CFI. This is in accordance with our contribution agreement with the Government of Canada. The purpose of this evaluation is to inform ISED of the CFI’s performance and efficiency between 2014 and 2019 as well as to assess the relevance of the CFI in supporting research infrastructure during that period.

As part of this evaluation, ISED will engage an external consultant to conduct a survey with project leaders and principal users who use CFI-funded infrastructure. The survey will address the possible effects of CFI-funded infrastructure on the progress and achievements of the research and the career development of the researchers, and of highly qualified personnel. The survey will also examine efficiency and delivery.

We ask that you alert your researchers to watch for a request from ISED to complete this voluntary survey in the coming weeks. Please encourage them to participate in this important exercise.

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Annual reporting requirements and institutional payments

We would like to thank institutions and project leaders for submitting their financial and project progress reports (PPRs). Once again this year, we have benefited from outstanding support from institutions, with submission rates for these reports of 82 percent and 99 percent respectively. Thank you!

We use the financial reports to assist in the management of projects. We also perform follow-up procedures on issues we identify from the reports. Your response to these issues is important and we encourage you to address them as soon as possible. As happens every year, the majority of outstanding reports are final financial reports (submission deadline of September 30); we expect these to be submitted in early October.

We rely on the data collected through the PPRs to develop our annual Report on results, one of the key accountability tools we use to demonstrate the outcomes of CFI-funded research infrastructure.

For the few institutions with financial or project progress reports still outstanding, please be advised that future instalments for all CFI-funded projects (including new awards to be finalized, if any) will be held back if these reports are not received by November 15, 2019. Instalments will resume once all reports have been submitted. Reminders will be sent to the CFI account administrator and the CFI liaison during the first two weeks of October advising them of any outstanding reports.