

Update

September 2021



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Launch of the first competition of the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund

On September 21, we launched the [call for proposals](#) for the first competition of our new Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund. This \$150 million investment will respond to critical infrastructure needs by supporting containment levels 3 and 4 (CL3 and CL4) facilities capable of working with human pathogens. The funding will help institutions keep their facilities at the cutting-edge, strengthening their capacity to work with industry and government to advance promising discoveries, and to promote training and talent development in the biosciences.

We launched this fund in response to Canada's [*Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy*](#), which will invest more than \$2.2 billion over seven years to continue growing a strong and competitive biomanufacturing and life sciences sector and to ensure our country is prepared for future pandemics.

The strategy includes foundational investments to help build Canada's talent pipeline and research systems, as well as to foster the growth of Canadian life sciences firms. These investments include:

- \$250 million for the creation of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF). The CBRF is a tri-agency program administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) on behalf of the three federal research funding agencies;
- \$500 million for the CFI to support the bioscience capital and infrastructure needs of postsecondary institutions and research hospitals. We will achieve this through the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF).

SSHRC is releasing more details about the CBRF shortly.

Following the first BRIF competition, we will launch a second one that is integrated with the CBRF. This collaboration will allow us to maximize the impact of the funding and ensure that investments under the two programs complement and reinforce each other. This holistic approach is consistent with that taken to investments under the *Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy*.

The integrated competition will focus on bio-innovation ecosystem priorities and themes, and will invite proposals for research, training and infrastructure. The call for proposals for this second competition of the BRIF is expected to be released later this fall.

Send us your questions and comments about this new fund at BRIF-FIRSB@innovation.ca.

Institutional eligibility requests

In February 2021, we placed a moratorium on institutional eligibility requests from non-profit organizations to review the eligibility criteria to ensure that they continue to reflect the scope and nature of Canada's institutional research landscape. The review is now complete and the moratorium is lifted. To find out more about our institutional eligibility requirements and processes while we update our Policy and programs guide, please email us at eligibility@innovation.ca.

Note: To participate in our funding programs, your institution must first be eligible to apply for, receive and administer CFI funding. Be sure to submit an eligibility application a minimum of ten weeks before the program's deadline to submit letters or notices of intent or proposals. Consult the information for each fund on Innovation.ca for those deadlines.

Report: Equity, diversity and inclusion in research infrastructure funding

We would like to share with you [Equity, diversity and inclusion in research infrastructure funding](#). This document highlights how we have prioritized equity, diversity and inclusion and the steps taken to adopt those principles in all our activities. The report summarizes the impact of some of those actions on the recent funding results of the Innovation Fund and John R. Evans Leaders Fund.

For specific inquiries about equity, diversity and inclusion, contact edi@innovation.ca.

Frequently asked questions about the revised self-identification questionnaire in the CAMS user profile

Since March 30, 2021, all CAMS users are prompted to update their user profile by answering revised self-identification questions. New details about the revised set of self-identification questions have been added to the [CAMS page](#) on Innovation.ca, including a link to [Frequently Asked Questions about the Self-identification Questionnaire](#) which was developed together with CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC. The FAQ includes more details about the development, use and content of the revised self-identification questionnaire as well as definitions for the terms used in the questions and answer options. For questions about equity, diversity and inclusion, including the self-identification questionnaire, contact us at EDI@innovation.ca.

Annual reporting requirements and institutional payments

We would like to thank institutions for submitting their financial and project progress reports (PPRs). Once again this year, we have benefited from outstanding support from institutions, with submission rates of 75 percent for financial reports and 98 percent for PPRs. 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.

We also use the financial reports to assist in the management of projects. We 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. The submission deadline for final financial reports is September 30, 2021 if you did not submit an interim financial report this year.

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, 2021. 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.

Refreshed websites and brands

This week, you may notice that we have made some changes to our website and brand, including a new, user-focused version of [Innovation.ca](#) and a streamlined version of our wordmark. Watch for more news on these updates later this fall.

We will also be injecting a new vibrancy into the [Research Facilities Navigator](#) website in the coming weeks by updating the brand and the look and feel.

Important upcoming dates

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

October 15, 2021	Deadline to submit proposals to the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
October 18, 2021	Deadline to submit notices of intent to the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund competition
October 19, 2021	Deadline to submit proposals to the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – Canada Research Chairs
November 4, 2021	Deadline to submit proposals to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition (facilities funded in the 2017 competition)
	CFI issues invitation to submit proposals to the 2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition (all other facilities)
November 23, 2021	CFI Board of Directors meeting
December 7, 2021	Deadline to submit proposals to the Bioscience Infrastructure Research Fund competition

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