

Update

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Introducing our new Vice President of Programs and Planning

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mohamad Nasser-Eddine as Vice-President of Programs and Planning.

Mohamad Nasser-Eddine will join the CFI on September 5, 2023 from the University of Ottawa, where he has been Associate Vice-President, Research Support and Infrastructure since April 2022. In this position, he has been responsible for promoting and supporting opportunities for the development and maintenance of world-class research installations and he played a key strategic role in maximizing the research impact of large infrastructure projects on the uOttawa campus.

Mohamad Nasser-Eddine has previously served the CFI as Director of Programs and as Acting Vice-President of Programs and Planning. Prior to this, he was Director, Office of Strategic Development Initiatives at the University of Ottawa, a position he held for four years. He also spent three years as a research scientist, developing controlled drug delivery systems at Labopharm in Montreal. His involvement in the academic administration of research, in industry and in labs as a researcher, as well as his knowledge of CFI programs and personnel, make him the ideal fit as Vice President. We are pleased to welcome him back in September!

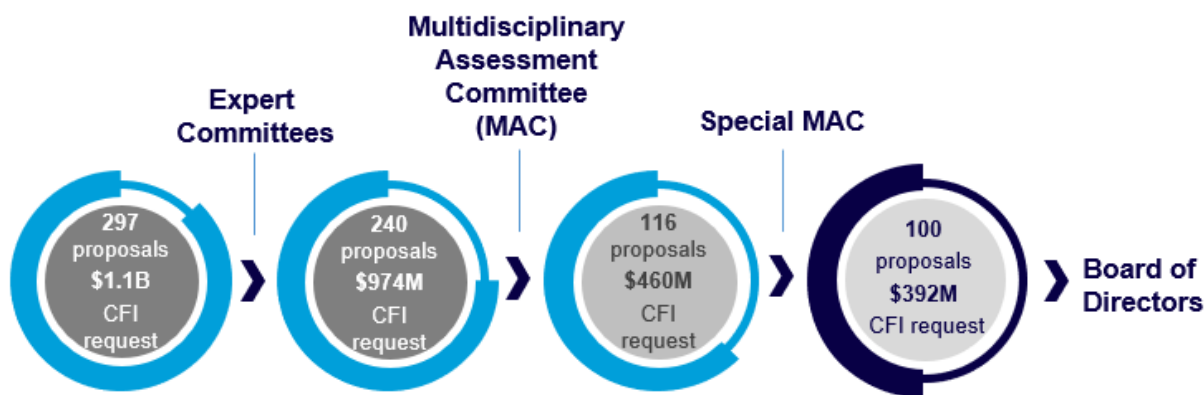
Decisions made for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition

The Innovation Fund competition is the CFI's largest research infrastructure competition and is open to all CFI-eligible institutions. The 2023 competition was CFI's twelfth Innovation Fund competition. We launched the competition in November 2021 with a total budget of \$520 million, including \$400 million for capital funding through the Innovation Fund and \$120 million for associated operating costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF).

On June 12, the Board met in St. John's, N.L., and approved 100 projects under this competition for a maximum CFI contribution of \$392,169,928. Also approved was an additional contribution of \$5,482,447 for 20 multi-institutional proposals involving three or more CFI-eligible collaborating institutions. This contribution will help cover administrative costs associated with the management and governance of those projects. In addition to the infrastructure awards, the Board approved a maximum CFI contribution of \$117,650,980 under the IOF to support operating costs of the approved projects.

We will provide a detailed analysis of the competition this fall.

Review results by stage for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition



Tentative timelines for upcoming Innovation Fund competitions

This table provides tentative timelines for the next two Innovation Fund competitions. We will provide more details on these competitions in the future.

	2025 competition	2028 competition
CFI issues call for proposals	Spring 2024	Winter 2026–27
Deadline to submit notices of intent	October 2024	Spring 2027
Deadline to submit proposals	February 2025	Fall 2027
Decision by CFI Board of Directors	November 2025	June 2028

Launch of the draft call for proposals for the new Northern Fund

The Northern Fund will provide Northern researchers and communities in Canada with access to research equipment for projects that address the priorities of Northern communities. These research projects will be conceived, developed, led and managed by Northern institutions, researchers and communities. For the purposes of this funding program, the North comprises Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut. The Northern Fund is open for proposals from all research disciplines that can clearly demonstrate how the research directly engages and services the needs of Northern communities, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in the North.

We launched the [draft call for proposals](#) on June 28, 2023. Feedback on the draft call for proposals can be emailed to northern.fund@innovation.ca between July 1 and October 31, 2023.

Deadline passed for interim financial reports

Interim financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2023 were due by June 15, 2023 for ongoing infrastructure projects that received CFI funds before April 1, 2023. If your institution is planning to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2023, you do not need to submit an interim report this year. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available on the institutional overview page in the CFI Awards Management System (CAMS). If you have not yet submitted your interim financial report, please do so as soon as possible. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

Deadline passed for Infrastructure Operating Fund annual reports

Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual reports were due by June 15, 2023. This report must be submitted electronically in CAMS and includes actual expenditures up to March 31, 2023 and projected expenditures for 2023–24. If you have not yet submitted your IOF annual report, please do so as soon as possible.

Use the Electricity costs (2022–23 rate table) and Facilities charges (2022–23 rate table) found on the [IOF page of our website](#) to calculate electricity costs and facilities charges if you choose to report these using the simple method. These rates are updated annually, usually in April. Consult section [6.10 Infrastructure Operating Fund allocation and release of funds](#) of our Policy and program guide to learn more about the different methods of reporting electricity costs and facility charges.

Thank you for the time and effort your institution dedicates to reporting to the CFI.

Deadline imminent for project progress reports

Project progress reports (PPRs) and your answer to the “Operational status” question must be submitted in CAMS by June 30, 2023.

We use PPRs as a key source of information to assist in our management of projects, to assess the impact of our investments and to inform our annual reporting. We rely on receiving your completed PPRs by the deadline so that we can include the results of your CFI-funded projects in our internal and external reporting. We will withhold all institutional payments until the institution has submitted all of the performance reporting requirements for each of its awards.

To date, approximately 96 percent of the 795 expected responses have been submitted. As well, nearly 77 percent of the more than 1,600 PPRs expected this year have been completed. To see which projects have outstanding reporting requirements check the “Project progress reports (PPR)” section in your CAMS dashboard.

Upcoming public funding announcements

We are currently negotiating dates with our Government of Canada colleagues for all outstanding national funding announcements. This means that all CFI funding decisions for the 2023 Innovation Fund, John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) and JELF partnerships remain under embargo. We will inform you of the details as we have them. In the meantime, please contact our Events Coordinator, [Cynthia Beaudin](#), if you have any questions.

Soliciting great visuals of your CFI-funded infrastructure

Our Communications team recently reached out to research communicators at your institution to solicit stunning photos and videos of CFI-funded infrastructure and the people working with it. We have many opportunities to showcase these images on our website and in our many communications products. If you would like further information, please email our Director of Communications, [Elizabeth Shilts](#). Thank you, in advance, for your submissions.

Season one of the *10,000 ways* podcast is a wrap!

We have now wrapped up the first season of our new podcast series, *10,000 ways*, which looks at the motivations, discoveries and journeys Canadian researchers have taken in their work, and how they have overcome challenges along the way. We look forward to sharing the next season with the entire research community! If you know a researcher who would make a compelling subject for an upcoming episode, please [email us](#)!

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:

September 7, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals to the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund – Partnership with Stage 2 of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF – BRIF Stage 2)
October 15, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals
October 31, 2023	Deadline for feedback on the Northern Fund draft call for proposals
November 21, 2023	CFI Board of Directors meeting

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