

# Canada Foundation for Innovation - Innovation Fund

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Programs

Office of Research Services

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DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

“Since 1997, the CFI has ensured Canadian researchers have the tools they need to push the frontiers of knowledge in all disciplines, and to contribute to the full spectrum of research — from discovery to technology development.”

= Research equipment and renovations of research space

≠ Trainees, materials and supplies

# Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Competitions

- John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF)
- Major Science Initiatives
- Exceptional Opportunities Fund
- **Innovation Fund**

# Innovation Fund (IF) 2020

## Objectives:

1. Enable global leadership by supporting world-class research or technology development.
2. Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s).
3. Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians.



# Objective 1:

- **Research or technology development:** The research or technology development program(s) are innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.
- **Team:** The diverse team comprises the breadth of expertise to conduct the proposed program(s).



# Objective 2:

- **Research capacity:** The institutions and their partners have the necessary research capacity on which this proposal will build.
- **Infrastructure:** The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the proposed program(s).
- **Sustainability:** The infrastructure will be optimally used, operated and sustained over its useful life through tangible commitments.



# Objective 3:

**Benefits:** The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer the results of the research or technology development program(s). The results are likely to lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians.



# Budget

- CFI will provide up to 40% of the total project costs
- Remaining 60%:
  - In-kind contributions from vendors
  - Eligible cash contributions
  - Application to Research Nova Scotia

It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure the budget is balanced prior to submission of the application



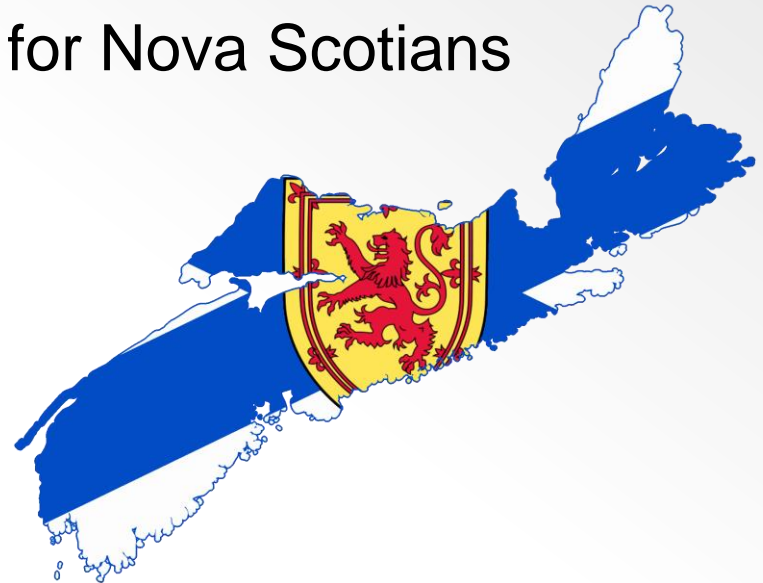


# researchNS

## Research Nova Scotia - Missions

- Sustainable Bioeconomy
- Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience
- Healthy People & Health Care Systems
- Improved Quality of Life for Nova Scotians

[researchns.ca/our-missions](https://researchns.ca/our-missions)



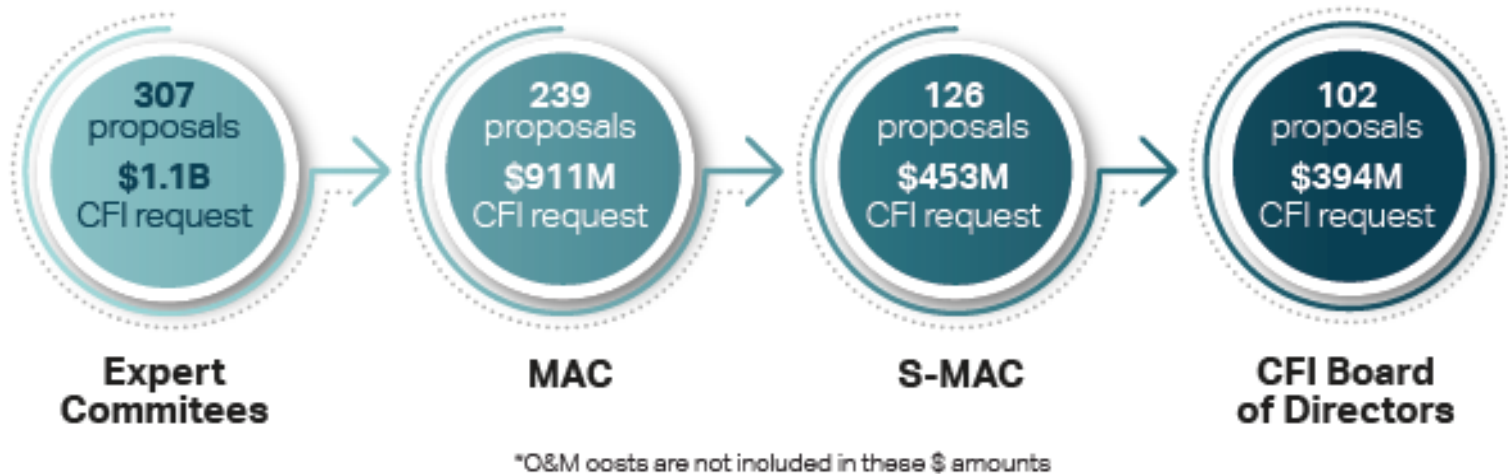
# 2020 IF Results

- 307 proposals received, requesting a total of \$1.1B from CFI
- 102 proposals approved for \$400M funding from CFI
- Dalhousie Results:
  - Administrative Lead – 5 proposals, >\$12M (Dal Total)
  - Partnered – 3 proposals, \$1.24M
  - Total Dal CFI funding: >\$13M



# IF Review Process

## Summary of the Merit review results for the 2020 Innovation Fund



2020 Innovation Fund: By the Numbers, CFI

# Scoring System

- Exceeds
- Fully Satisfies
- Satisfies
- Partially Satisfies
- Does not Satisfy



In general, to be successful, you must score Exceeds or Fully Satisfies across all criteria and objectives.

# What's Required for a Successful Application?

- World-class team
- Cutting-edge and globally-competitive research program
- Defined pathway to realize benefits for Canadians



# Common weaknesses:



- **Research or Technology Development**

- Lack of details on activities
- Feasibility of the approach or methodology
- Lack of focus, too broad or ambitious, not integrated, not innovative

- **Team**

- Missing expertise, lacking critical mass of experts
- Track record as a team

- **Research Capacity**

- Lack of cohesion with the proposed research area

# Common weaknesses (con't):

## • Infrastructure

- Not well justified, wrong equipment, not linked to the research program
- Lack of details on existing or similar infrastructure available elsewhere

## • Sustainability

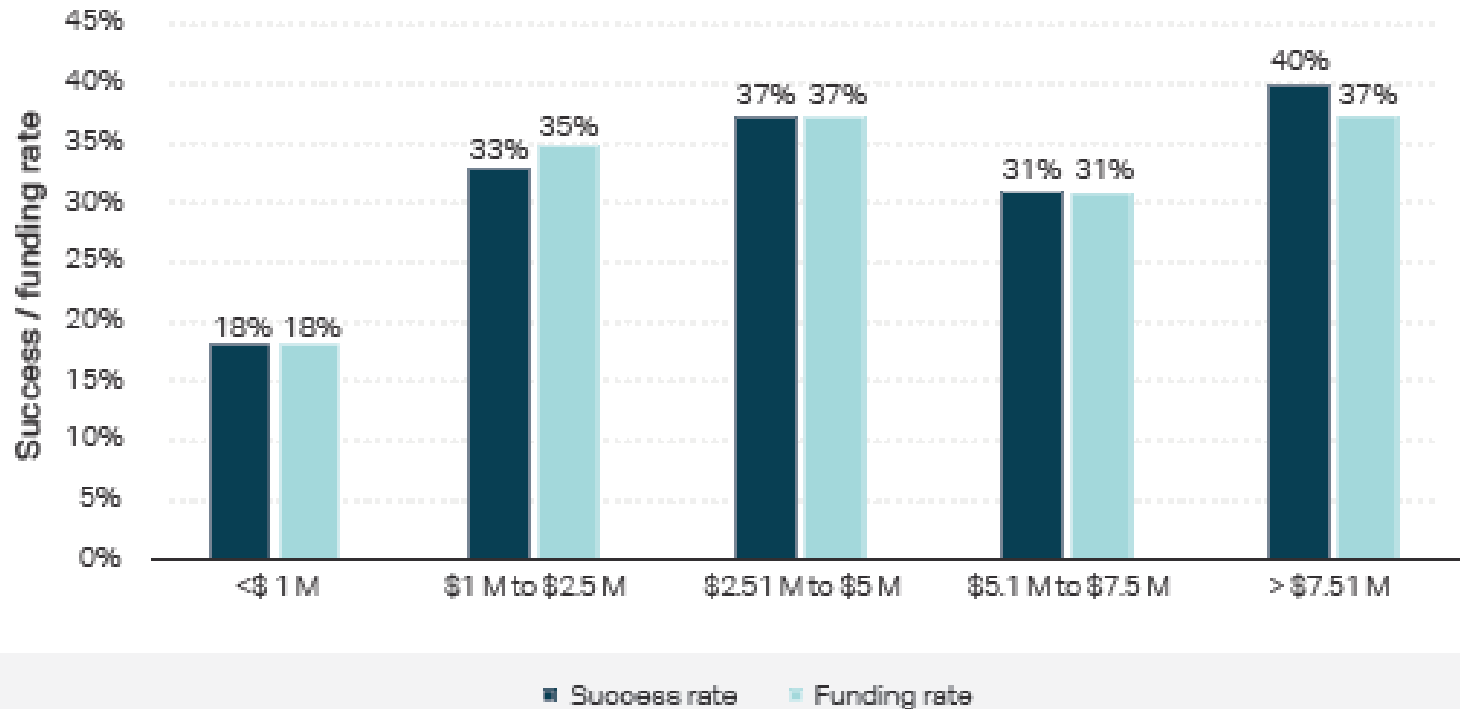
- Insufficient infrastructure, access or data management plan
- Lack of details for costs/revenues, underestimated costs, insufficient revenues

## • Benefits

- Pathways not well defined
- Overstated or weak benefits



## Success and funding rates by funding request



2020 Innovation Fund: By the Numbers, CFI



# IF Internal Application Process



- CFI allocates an Institutional Envelope
  - Dal envelope for 2020 IF: \$27.1M
- Internal call to Faculties for Expressions of Interest
  - Faculties rank order proposals
  - Committee, led by VPRI, reviews proposals
  - Additional details may be requested, in particular for larger proposals



# Application Development

## 1. Notice of Intent:

- 5 pages, no CVs, budget total

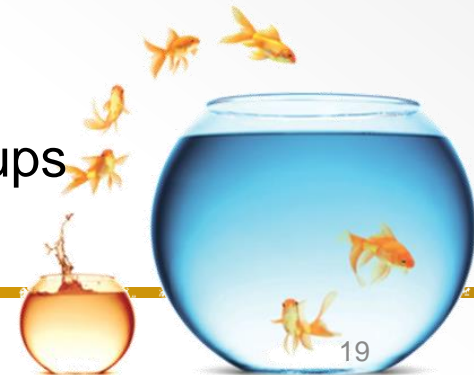
## 2. Full application:

- Assessment Criteria (30-35 pages)
- Project Summary (3 pages)
- CVs for 10 Team Members
- Detailed budget and renovation plans (if applicable)
- Guidance, oversight and review provided by ORS, Institutional and International Programs
- Additional support available upon request
- Internal deadline for complete draft (including final budget) 6-8 weeks prior to CFI deadline



# What can you do now to prepare?

- Anticipate your needs and talk to your Dean/ADR
  - space and/or renovations, matching funds, teaching release or support during application development
- Build your team of researchers
  - Consider the principles of EDI in building your team
  - Include a mix of early, mid-career and senior researchers
  - Think beyond your Department/Faculty/Institution
- Meet monthly to discuss research proposal ideas
- Think forward to potential benefits for Canadians, alignment with RNS Missions and end-users
  - Reach out to OCIE about industry partnerships
  - Connect with government and/or community groups



# Words of Advice:

"Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do."

- Steve Jobs

What not to do...	Instead...
Do not create an "equipment wish list"	Develop a cohesive research program that requires the requested equipment
Do not build a team based on shared use of the infrastructure	Bring together researchers with the necessary expertise to accomplish the research goals
Do not wait to contact potential research end-users	Develop a realistic plan to transfer knowledge to end-users
Do not underestimate the time required to prepare a competitive IF application	Start discussions early and develop draft documents and budgets

# Additional Resources:

CFI Website: [www.innovation.ca](http://www.innovation.ca)

Apply and Manage Awards → Innovation Fund:

- 2020 IF Call for proposals
- 2020 IF Information Session
- 2020 IF By the Numbers
- 2017 IF Review statistics – strengths & weaknesses (2020 version forthcoming)
- <https://www.innovation.ca/awards/innovation-fund>

# Contact Us



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