

# Update

April 2024



- 
- **Science bundle funding announcement**
  - **2025 Innovation Fund**
  - **2023 Innovation Fund: By the Numbers now available**
  - **Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund**
  - **Update on the College Fund**
  - **CFI's guidelines on research security**
  - **Project progress reports**
  - **Project financial reports**
  - **Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report**
  - **Spring 2024 payments from the IOF**
  - **Navigator's 10th anniversary: Keep sending your "selfies"!**
  - **Sharing stories about the value of research**
  - **Important upcoming dates**
- 

## **Science bundle funding announcement**

We would like to thank institutions for their efforts in supporting the Government of Canada's **science bundle funding announcement**, which was made on March 13. The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport, made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health. The announcement included the June 2023 Board

decisions for the **2023 Innovation Fund** (more than \$515 million, including Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF)), and the **John R. Evans Leaders Fund—Canada Research Chairs** (\$8.7 million, including-IOF).

Thanks to communications efforts at your institutions, the announcement garnered significant nationwide media coverage and engagement through social media channels. We appreciate your collaboration in spreading the word about the funding and its importance for your researchers and students.

## **2025 Innovation Fund**

The **draft call for the 2025 Innovation Fund** competition is now out and open for feedback. The deadline to submit your comments or suggestions is May 17, 2024.

You can now also access the **2023 Innovation Fund by the Numbers** (see below for more information) and **Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis** (under the heading - Step 3) at Innovation.ca.

### ***Information sessions***

We will present the details of the call for proposals for the 2025 competition and provide an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions at two virtual information sessions. Recordings will be available for those unable to attend.

<b><u>English session</u></b>	June 18, 2024
<b><u>French session</u></b>	June 19, 2024

## **2023 Innovation Fund: By the Numbers now available**

We are pleased to provide you with information about our 2023 Innovation Fund competition, **2023 Innovation Fund: By the Numbers**. This document highlights various aspects of the merit-review process, as well as the distribution of Innovation Fund support by size of institution, region, requested amount, field of research, socioeconomic objective and so on. It also offers an overview of the team composition and shows Innovation Fund success and funding rates since 2015. You can find a complete list of Innovation Fund awards by institution (administrative and collaborating) in the **press release for the announcement**. You can also find out more about how the Innovation Fund provides the foundation for world-class, impactful research that is made in Canada through our story, **The power to transform**.

## **Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund**

On February 29, 2024, the CFI Board of Directors convened to make funding decisions for the CFI's Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF). The CFI awarded \$278.1 million in capital funding and \$83.4 million in associated operating costs to fund research infrastructure for 14 proposals at 21 institutions across Canada (including administrative leads and collaborating institutions, with some institutions involved in multiple proposals). The BRIF has been delivered as a joint program, complementing the Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF), which is administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS). The results of the competition have not yet been publicly announced.

On May 6 at Polytechnique Montréal, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, is scheduled to publicly announce the results of **stage 2 of the integrated CBRF-BRIF competition**. We ask that the results of this competition not be made public until the official announcement has been made.

## **Update on the College Fund**

After an extensive analysis of the College Fund delivery process, we recently announced to colleges that the timeline of the College Fund will shift so that proposals will be submitted in the fall, rather than in June. In addition, we are adjusting the review process to accommodate the higher number of proposals being submitted to this fund. The objectives of the fund, as well as the review criteria, remain unchanged.

Proposals will now be due on September 17 each year. Funding decisions will be made at the CFI Board meeting the following March. We will continue to use a two-stage review process consisting of assessment by experts, followed by a multidisciplinary assessment committee. The expert review stage will now rely on written reviews, rather than expert committees. As part of this change, we will no longer require a notice of intent. By mid-May, we will post a revised call for proposals on our website and make application forms available in the CFI Award Management System (CAMS).

## **CFI's guidelines on research security**

We recently sent out a message to announce the publication of CFI's new **guidance on research security**. Webinars for research and research security staff at eligible institutions will be held to offer an overview and answer questions about how the CFI is implementing Government of Canada policies on research security. Dates and details on how to register are below:

<b><u>First English session</u></b>	May 27, 2024
<b><u>First French session</u></b>	May 29, 2024
<b><u>Second English session</u></b>	May 31, 2024
<b><u>Second French session</u></b>	June 4, 2024

## **Project progress reports**

The 2024 operational status question and project progress reports (PPRs) can now be accessed in CAMS. The deadline for answering the operational status question and submitting a PPR is June 30, 2024. We use PPRs as a key source of information to help us manage projects and to assess and report on the impact of our investments.

## **Project financial reports**

Interim reports for the period ending March 31, 2024 must be submitted by June 15, 2024 for ongoing infrastructure projects that received CFI funds prior to April 1, 2024. If your institution is planning to submit a final financial report by September 30, 2024, you do not need to submit an interim report by June 15, 2024. The list of reports that your institution needs to submit is available in CAMS. All financial reports must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

## **Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) annual report**

Your Infrastructure Operating Fund annual report must be submitted by June 15, 2024. This report must include your actual expenditures up to March 31, 2024 and your projected expenditures for 2024–25. This report is due regardless of whether your institution had any actual or forecasted expenditures to report. It must be submitted electronically in CAMS.

You can now find updated **electricity costs and facilities charges rate tables for 2023-24** on our website. You can use these tables to calculate electricity costs and facilities charges if you choose to report these costs in your IOF annual report using the simple method. We update these tables annually, usually in April.

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

## **Spring 2024 payments from the IOF**

We now make payments from the IOF each spring, two years after the associated infrastructure award is finalized. As such, in spring 2024 we will make payments to institutions for any unused portion of their Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) allocation that was made available before April 1, 2022.

# Update

We use a risk-based approach for making payments to institutions. For example, an institution will receive this advance spring payment only if our analyses of its recent IOF annual reports suggest the institution would take no more than five years to use the funds.

You will receive a letter if such a payment will be made to your institution. The letter will include the payment amount and calculation details. Your institution can request additional payments from its allocation in its IOF annual report (due June 15, 2024) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover your needs for the year.

We will also notify institutions that will not receive the advance spring payment and explain the reason.

Visit the [IOF webpage](#) for more information.

## **Navigator’s 10th anniversary: Keep sending your “selfies”!**

Thank you for [sharing video stories](#) about the impact the Research Facilities Navigator has had on your work and the value it has to Canada’s innovation community. We are proud to promote your videos on all our communications channels as part of our 10th anniversary campaign. We were also thrilled to see them inspire a [video by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry](#), the Hon. François-Philippe Champagne. Our campaign is running all year long, so please keep your submissions coming! Contact [Danielle Fremes](#), Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer, for information on how to participate or find out more [here](#).

## **Sharing stories about the value of research**

We are committed to telling stories about the outcomes of the research supported by CFI funding and how they benefit Canadians. We encourage you to [visit our website](#) to see how we have featured your institution. Here is a sample of a few of our recent stories:

### **Brandon University: [Ushering in a new era of breast cancer screening](#)**

The discovery of tumour biomarkers paves the way for earlier disease detection through a simple blood test.

### **McGill University: [Unsettling the Canadian hockey story](#)**

Collecting the stories of hockey players, builders and fans from Lac Seul First Nation to reveal a different narrative about Indigenous hockey.

### **St. Francis Xavier University: [Meet Canada’s greenhouse gas detectives](#)**

With a few creative hacks, the Flux Lab has transformed a lab bench gas analyzer into a mobile tool being used to measure emissions from pipeline leaks, landfills and melting permafrost in the field.

## 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:

May 17, 2024	Deadline to submit feedback to the 2025 Innovation Fund draft call for proposals
May 27, 2024	Webinar on research security – first English session
May 29, 2024	Webinar on research security – first French session
May 31, 2024	Webinar on research security – second English session
June 4, 2024	Webinar on research security – second French session
June 4, 2024	CFI issuance of the 2025 Innovation Fund call for proposals
June 15, 2024	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals*
June 15, 2024	Deadline to submit interim reports for the period ending March 31, 2024 for ongoing infrastructure projects that received CFI funds prior to April 1, 2024*
June 15, 2024	Deadline to submit Infrastructure Operating Fund report
June 15, 2024	Deadline to submit annual budget update and annual financial report for facilities currently funded by the Major Science Initiatives Fund*
June 17, 2024	CFI Board of Directors meeting
June 18, 2024	2025 Innovation Fund information session – English
June 19, 2024	2025 Innovation Fund information session – French
June 30, 2024	Deadline to answer operational status question and submit a project progress report**
July 15, 2024	Deadline to submit 2024 annual performance report for facilities currently funded by the Major Science Initiatives Fund
September 17, 2024	Deadline to submit proposals to the College Fund
October 1, 2024	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the 2025 Innovation Fund

\* As June 15 falls on a Saturday, the deadline will be pushed to the next business day, June 17

\*\* As June 30 falls on a Sunday and July 1 is a statutory holiday, the deadline will be pushed to the next business day, July 2

**Stay connected and up to date on CFI activities and announcements: [Subscribe to our communications today.](#)**