Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
Innovation Fund (IF)
Inovation Fund (IF)

CFI supports promising and innovative research:

- in areas where Canada currently is, or has the potential to be, **competitive globally**.

- Supports initiatives that allow institutions to build on established capabilities to accelerate current research or to enhance emerging strategic priority areas.
Innovation Fund (IF)

Objectives (based on IF 2017):

• Strive for global leadership by conducting world-class research;
• Enhance research capacity by forging productive partnerships;
• Generate social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits.
Innovation Fund (IF)

UM Call Jan 25, 2018

- CFI- IF call proposal is expected in the fall
- Successful applications require a significant amount of time to develop a competitive proposal
- Notices of Intent (NOI)- 2 pages; due to ORS by **May 15, 2018** - full proposal in the fall (TBD)
- List of proposed projects to be shared
CFI-IF has two stages: NOI and Proposal

Notice of Intent (NOI)

- Sections:
  - Project information
  - Collaborating institutions
  - Principal users (up to 10 including PL)
  - Project description (max 4 pages)
  - Suggested reviewers (min 4)
IF stages

NOI...

• Purpose: to assist the CFI in planning the review process,
  - recruiting committee members,
  - detect eligibility issues with the items requested
  ❖ Should contain accurate information
IF stages

Proposal

• Three modules:
  - Project
  - Finance
  - Suggested reviewers
Proposal: Project module

• **Form**
  Project info, Plain language summary, Principal & other users, Collaborating institutions, Financial resources for O & M

• **Attachments**
  Project summary, Assessment criteria, floor plan (if applicable)
Proposal: Assessment criteria

The CFI evaluates proposals on the basis of the assessment criteria that reflect the competition objectives.

Proposals should clearly present the merits and excellence of the proposed project and provide sufficient information to enable reviewers to evaluate.
Proposal: Assessment criteria

Objective 1

Strive for **global leadership** by conducting **world-class** research or technology development activities in the areas of **institutional priority**.

- Institutional Commitment and Track record
- Research/Technology Development
- Team
Proposal: Assessment criteria

Institutional capacity and track record

**Criterion standard:** The proposal builds on existing capacity and track record of key investments in people and infrastructure in the area of institutional priority.
Proposal: Assessment criteria...

Research/technology development

**Criterion standard:** The research/technology development activities are innovative, feasible, have the potential to lead to breakthroughs, and will enhance international competitiveness.
Proposal: Assessment criteria...

Team

**Criterion standard:** The team is comprised of established or emerging leaders and has the expertise and breadth, including relevant collaborations, to conduct the research or technology development activities.
Proposal: Assessment criteria

Objective 2

Enhance research capacity by forging productive partnerships within and among institutions, sectors & disciplines for the effective & sustainable use of the infrastructure and facilities.

- Infrastructure
- Sustainability
Proposal: Assessment criteria...

Infrastructure

**Criterion standard:** The infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development activities.
Proposal: Assessment criteria...

Sustainability

**Criterion standard:** The infrastructure is optimally used within and among institutions, sectors and disciplines and is sustainable through tangible and appropriate commitments over its useful life.
Proposal: Assessment criteria

Objective 3

Generate social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians, including better training, improved skills for highly qualified personnel, through appropriate pathways.

- Benefits to Canadians
Proposal: Assessment criteria...

Benefits to Canadians

**Criterion standard:** The research/technology development results will be transferred through appropriate pathways to potential end users and are likely to generate social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians.
Identified weaknesses- 2015 IFs

Institutional capacity and track record (9%):
- Track record not up to the IF standard (6%)
- Lacking details on previous investments and impact (4%)
Identified weaknesses- 2015 IFs

Research or technology development (51%):

- Details on activities (26%)
- Comparable programs (details:16%, weaker in comparison:6%)
- Feasibility/approach/methodology (18%)
- Innovativeness (13.5%)
- Integration/focus (12%)
Identified weaknesses- 2015 IFs

Team (43%):

- Expertise (28%)
- Collaborations (Canada:12%, details:11%, working as a team:10%, international:5%)
- Track record (11%)
Identified weaknesses- 2015 IFs

Infrastructure (34%):
- Not well justified/wrong equipment (27%)
- Maximal use, limited user base (6%)
- Infrastructure development/implementaton (5%)
- Similar infrastructure (5%)
Identified weaknesses- 2015 IFs

Sustainability (24%):

- Revenues (user fees: 9%, limited: 5%, Contingency: 3%)
- Costs (details: 3.5%, unrealistic: 3%, personnel: 3%)
- Management/access plan (8.5%)
Benefits to Canada (39%):

- Pathways (details: 17%, weak: 4%, timeframe: 2.5%)
- Research (15%)
- Partnerships with end users (details: 8%, limited: 7%)
- Benefits (indirect/overstated: 7%, details: 4%, HQP: 2%)
Contact information

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