

Update

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Web version of the CFI's Policy and program guide now available

To help you more easily access the information you need to apply for funding and manage your infrastructure projects, we have launched a [new web version](#) of our Policy and program guide.

As well as providing an easy-to-use format, the new 2023 edition of the guide includes updates to some of our policies and procedures including new information on eligible projects, costs and contributions; additions to our application and review process; and clarifications on institutional eligibility. (Please note that a summary of all revisions is included at the beginning of the new guide.)

For your convenience, the new version is available in HTML with the option of printing or downloading a PDF version.

We welcome any feedback you may have on the new web format.

A message from the Government of Canada on research security

The following is a message from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED):

The Government of Canada takes its responsibility to protect Canadian research very seriously. Canada's advanced research ecosystem is at the forefront of global discovery, but it can also be an attractive target for foreign state actors that pose a risk to our national security.

Recognizing the constantly evolving threat environment, in February 2023, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety issued the [statement on protecting Canada's research](#). Canada's federal research granting councils and the CFI welcome the statement.

The Government of Canada, the federal research funding organizations, and the research community have a shared responsibility to protect the integrity of our research ecosystem and to safeguard it from activities that undermine its foundational principles of openness, transparency, merit, academic freedom, and reciprocity. We are committed to ensuring that the open and collaborative research that we fund does not contribute to advancements in military, security, and intelligence capabilities of foreign state actors that pose a threat to Canada. Canadian researchers are encouraged to exercise due diligence when managing their research and establishing and/or continuing international partnerships and collaborations.

Further guidance on research security will be provided by the Government of Canada, in the coming months, regarding sensitive research areas and affiliations with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence, and state security entities for foreign state actors that pose a risk to Canada's national security. This enhanced policy will apply to future grant applications and builds on the efforts already underway to strengthen Canada's research security, while continuing to support an open and collaborative research environment.

While exercising vigilance in protecting Canadian research, we must guard against any conscious and unconscious biases that could result in discriminatory behaviors. It is paramount that the research security measures implemented by the Government of Canada must not lead to discrimination against or profiling of any member of the research community. Freedom from discrimination is a fundamental and internationally recognized human right, and an equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment is essential for the production of ground-breaking, high-quality research that generates impact.

The Government of Canada, the federal research granting councils, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation will continue to support and to work with the research community, to safeguard Canada's research alongside our continued commitments to open science, to international collaboration, and to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Together, we can cultivate a strong, globally competitive research and innovation system in Canada, such that the fruits of Canadian research and development are realized by those that conduct it and for the benefit of Canadians.

Webinars on the submission of Notices of Intent to the CBRF-BRIF – Stage 2 competition

We will host webinars, along with the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), with information on the integrated **Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF) and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF) – Stage 2** competition. These webinars are intended for researchers, research administrators and other interested parties and will touch on the overarching objectives of the funding opportunity and provide additional information about submitting notices of intent to this competition, which are due on June 8, 2023. Subsequent webinars will be scheduled to provide details on submitting a full application.

We will host two webinars: one on April 12, 2023, in English, and one on April 13, 2023, in French. All sessions will occur from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and will be recorded. Use the links below to register:

Register for the English session, April 12 at 1 p.m. EDT

Register for the French session, April 13 at 1 p.m. EDT

We encourage you to register early and look forward to seeing you at the information session! Please do not hesitate to contact us at **BRIF-FIRSB@innovation.ca** with any questions.

Spring payments and charge rate tables for the Infrastructure Operating Fund

Spring 2023 payments

In spring 2023, we will make a payment to institutions for any unused portion of their Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF) allocation that was made available before April 1, 2020 (in accordance with the **schedule on our website**).

You will receive a letter in April 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, 2023) if the spring payment is insufficient to cover immediate needs.

Visit the **IOF webpage** at Innovation.ca for more information.

2022–23 electricity and facilities charges rate tables

You can now find updated electricity costs and facilities charges rate tables for 2022–23 under **“Infrastructure Operating Fund”** 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.

Financial trend analysis

In fall 2022, we introduced a new analysis to the framework we use for overseeing our investments, including decisions regarding payments to institutions. The new process is based on risk.

In this new analysis, we look for trends in the actual costs reported in the latest financial reports submitted by each institution for ongoing funded projects. As part of this analysis, we consider how often an institution has had significant project spending delays. At the same time, we consider additional risk factors that may impact our decisions regarding payments, including difficulty in obtaining timely financial reports and other requested information.

This new analysis, which is done each fall, will allow us to better align payments we make to institutions with the spending trends we observe and our experience with each institution.

Institutions whose payment schedules or reporting requirements are impacted as a result of our 2022 analysis have been notified.

We will present this topic at the 2023 Canadian Conference on Research Administration (formerly called the CARA National Conference). We hope to see you there and answer any questions you may have.

New funded projects dashboard goes live

Our **funded projects dashboard** is a new online tool that offers an in-depth look at research infrastructure investments across Canada, showcasing the 12,500-plus research infrastructure projects we have funded over more than 25 years.

Among other things, users of the new dashboard can:

- See a summary of CFI investments, including project name, total contribution, institution, funding competition and year of award
- Scroll over our map view that breaks down funding by province and territory
- Search through the infrastructure projects we’ve supported and filter the results by field of research, institution or funding competition
- Download search results into an Excel spreadsheet.

Please take a moment to visit our dashboard and try it out. We are always looking for ways to improve what we do, so if you have any feedback, please **email us**.

Our new strategic plan is a bold vision for building a stronger future for Canada

In February, we launched our new strategic plan for 2023 to 2028, ***Aiming high***. The plan lays out our strategic vision: to meet the challenges of today and the future while growing prosperity and building vital, healthy communities in a sustainable environment for Canada through research. It provides the context, tools and the means to enable researchers to respond to critical and complex challenges and to make the discoveries that will improve our lives.

Our plan is built on five pillars:

Fostering the science of tomorrow: Our contribution to building today the research capacity that supports the science of tomorrow

Building prosperous and healthy communities: Our contribution to enhancing the connection between research and communities

Contributing to a sustainable world: Our contribution to environmental, social and economic sustainability

Inspiring the next generation: Our contribution to promoting equity, diversity, inclusion and community

Delivering for the research community: Our contribution to leveraging institutional partnerships and collaboration

We are grateful to all who participated in our strategic plan consultations, including a multitude of researchers from across the country and their institutions. Your contributions ensure that our strategic plan reflects issues of common interest and addresses the challenges and opportunities on the horizon for the Canadian research community.

Update

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:

April 11, 2023	Deadline to submit notices of intent for the College Fund (original deadline of April 7, 2023 pushed to the next business day as CFI offices are closed on April 7 and April 10 for the Easter weekend holiday)
April 12, 2023	Information session for CBRF-BRIF – Stage 2 competition – English
April 13, 2023	Information session for CBRF-BRIF – Stage 2 competition – French
June 7, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals for the College Fund
June 8, 2023	Deadline to submit Notices of Intent to the CBRF-BRIF– Stage 2 competition
June 12, 2023	CFI Board of Director's meeting
June 15, 2023	Deadline to submit proposals for the John R. Evans Leaders Fund – unaffiliated proposals

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