



CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION


The Canada Foundation for Innovation

CCCESD Annual Meeting
October 28th, 2022

INNOVATION
Canada Foundation
for Innovation Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation

Mandate

**TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF
CANADA'S UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES,
RESEARCH HOSPITALS AND NON-
PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT
HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH BY
INVESTING IN RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE**

A pair of hands, one palm up and one palm down, gently cradles a mound of dark, rich soil. A small, delicate green plant with a single stem and two leaves is growing out of the center of the soil mound. The background is dark and out of focus, with some bokeh light effects on the left side.

A unique funding model

Institutional Awards for research infrastructure – equipment, renovations, database development.

CFI provides 40% of infrastructure costs (remaining 60% matching fund to be provided by provinces, institutions and private sector). Tri-council grants are ineligible matching funds.

Competitive funding requiring excellence and institutional commitment to maintaining the infrastructure for its useful life.

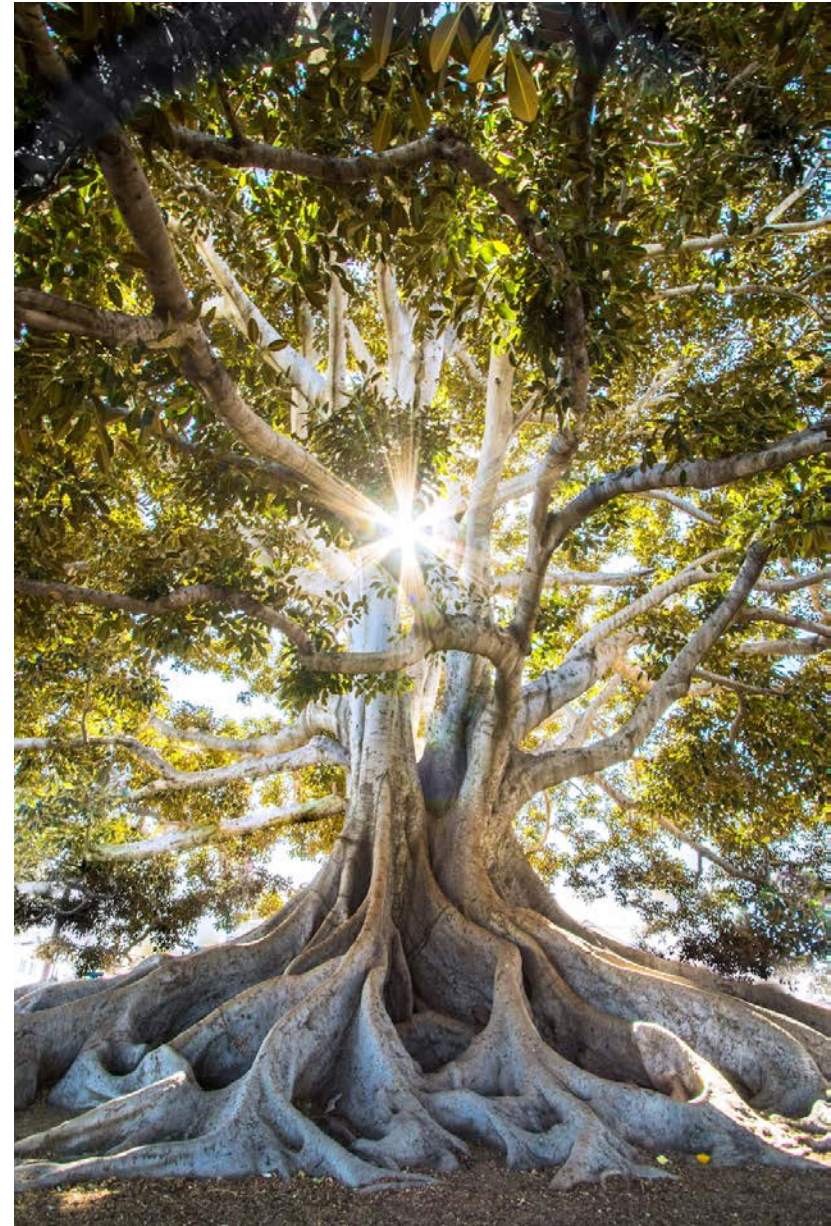
Operational support through the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF). For awarded projects, the CFI provides 30% of the CFI funded amount towards operation and maintenance costs.



Investments

Over the past 24 years, CFI has invested over \$9 billion in research infrastructure, generating over \$21 billion in overall investment

Since inception, the CFI has **invested over \$454 million** in research infrastructure directly related to earth and related environmental sciences, generating about \$1.1 billion in overall investment.





Funding programs

- Typically support:
 - a broad range of research programs
 - Natural science & engineering
 - Health
 - Social sciences and humanities
 - Research spanning the full spectrum of research
 - Basic
 - Applied
 - Technology development





Eligible infrastructure

- Acquisition or development of research infrastructure to increase research capacity and enable innovative research activities
- Facilities, laboratories, equipment, computer hardware, software, and databases
- Including workhorses and upgrade or replacement of aging infrastructure

Innovation Fund

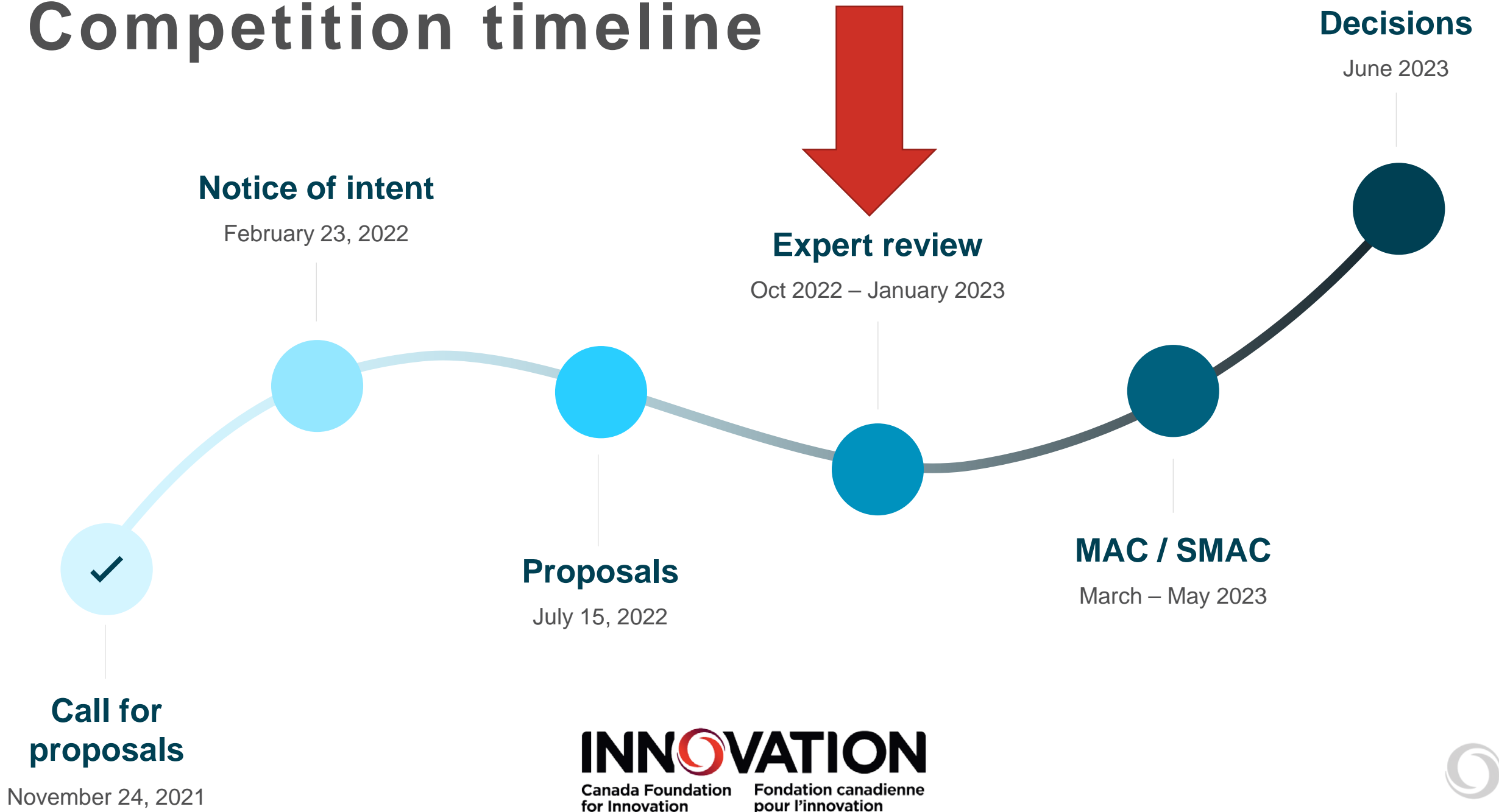
- Funds large research infrastructure projects in support of leading-edge research projects
- Typically over \$1 million
 - Total project costs must be greater than \$1M
- Every 2-3 years
 - Latest deadline was July 2022

\$400 million
Capital

+

\$120 million
Infrastructure
Operating Fund

Competition timeline

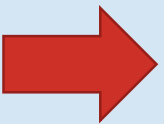


Objectives & assessment criteria

1

Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members

Research or technology development

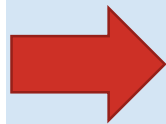


Team expertise
Team composition

2

Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure

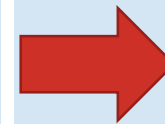
Infrastructure
Sustainability



3

Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians

Benefits





John R. Evans Leaders Fund

- Aimed at the attraction and retention of one to three faculty members in universities & research hospitals
- Funds smaller, more focused research infrastructure projects
- Typically below \$2 million
 - Minimum \$75,000, Maximum \$800,000 CFI request (\$2M total)
 - Exceptions for SSH and smaller institutions
- University allocation based on share of tri-agency funding
- Three deadlines per year



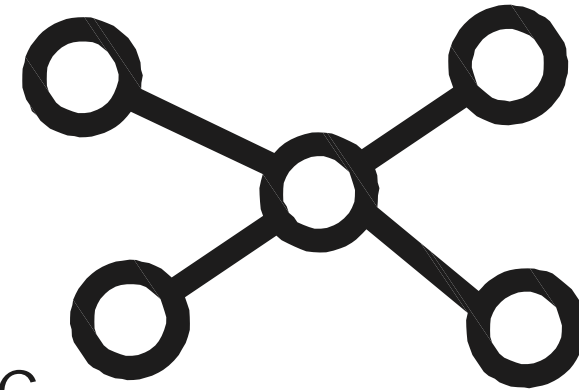


Partnerships

Joint proposals and review

CRC
program

CERC
program



SSHRC
Insight and
Partnership
Grants

NSERC
Alliance
Grants

For institutions with a special chair, CFI may fund up to 100% of the total eligible costs (≤\$75,000)

Review criteria



Research or
technology
development

Researchers

Infrastructure

Sustainability

Benefits to
Canadians



Review process

≤\$400k

Written
review by
2+ experts

**\$400k –
\$800k**

Expert
Committee

QC Projects

Expert
Committee
lead by the QC
government





JELF by the numbers



≈ 60%

Applicants/awards are PLs
with ≤ 10 years since PhD

3

submission cycles
per year (Feb,
June, Oct)

100 to 250

proposals submitted
per cycle

\$150k

Average size of
submission

≈ 80%

success rate

≈ \$80 M

awarded per year

Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis (Expert Committee)

Major weaknesses – 2020 IF

1. Lack of details on methodology
2. Feasibility of the approach
3. Not innovative
4. Research plan lacks focus
5. Missing expertise
6. Missing evidence for track record of investment
7. Infrastructure not well justified
8. Issues regarding governance or management plan
9. Weak plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization

Major Strengths – 2020 IF

1. Outstanding research track record
2. Innovative research program
3. Impressive breadth and depth of expertise
4. Team leads the field internationally
5. Investments in people
6. Rare, world-class infrastructure
7. Strong governance/oversight plans
8. Strong O&M plan



Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis (MAC)

Major weaknesses – 2020 IF

1. Lack of detail for RTD
2. Feasibility of the approach
3. Missing expertise
4. Not innovative
5. Weak justification for infrastructure
6. Weak plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization
7. Sustainability planning
8. Management/governance/access plan
9. Overstated/weak benefits

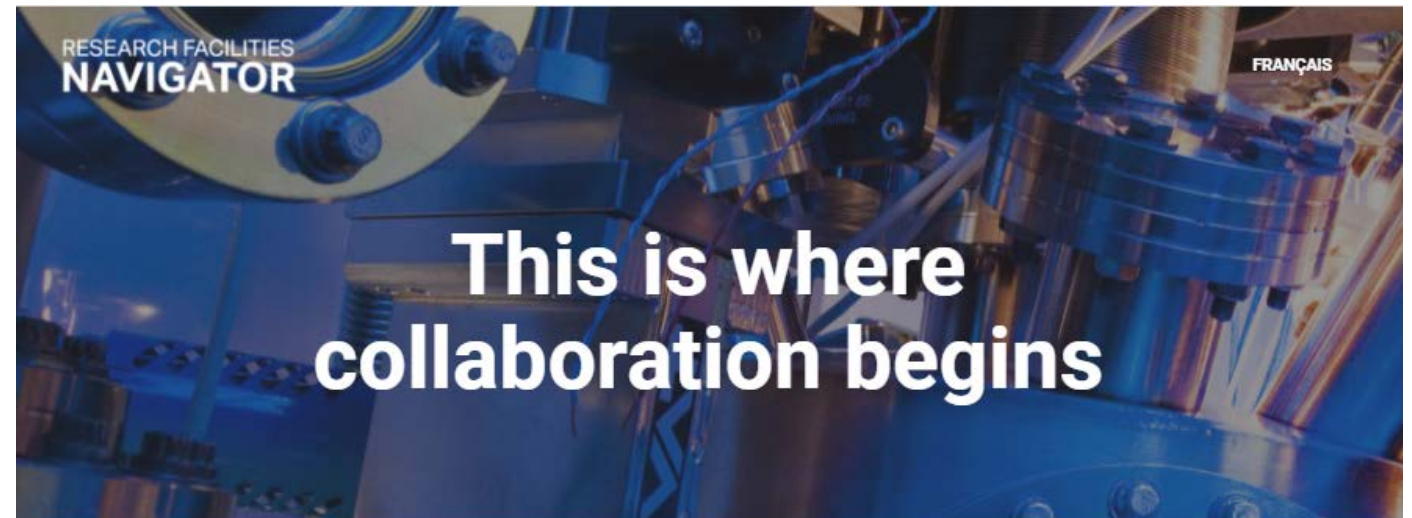
Major Strengths – 2020 IF

1. Leading-edge and innovative research in area of global leadership
2. Leading researchers
3. Unique infrastructure
4. Integrated into sustainable existing facility
5. Strong plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization
6. Unique HQP opportunities



List your labs on the Navigator

- Help your facilities connect with other innovators, expand their networks and build new research partnerships
- For eligibility, benefits of listing and how to join, visit **listyourlab.innovation.ca**



Where researchers
and other innovators
connect.

List your lab on the Research Facilities Navigator,
and create new opportunities for discovery.

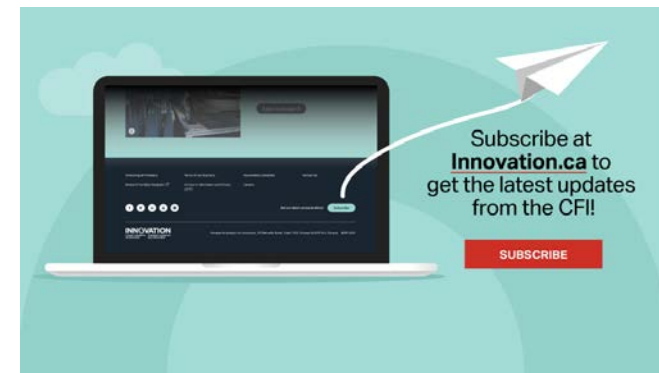
Launched in 2013 by the Canada Foundation for
Innovation, the Navigator helps innovators locate and
connect with publicly funded research facilities that
are open to collaboration.



CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Thank you!

Questions:
info@innovation.ca
Alexandria.Beland@innovation.ca



25
YEARS
OF INVESTING IN

people

labs

partnerships

ideas

***THAT CHANGE
OUR WORLD***

INNOVATION
Canada Foundation
for Innovation Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation

Follow **#PromisingFutureNow**
to find out more