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Canadian Funding  
Competition for Research  
Infrastructure

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# CANADIAN FUNDING COMPETITION FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Late last year the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) announced the launch of a national competition for funding infrastructure projects in Canadian research institutions.

The CFI emphasises the strategic development of Canadian research institutions and offers four funding mechanisms to help institutions launch new research programmes and strengthen existing ones. To be considered for funding, eligible institutions will have to submit a development plan addressing their priorities for research and the training of researchers. The Foundation will not assess the plans themselves, but will ascertain that reasonable consultation took place with all stakeholders.

**1. The Institutional Innovation Fund** will be the CFI's main support mechanism and will enable eligible institutions, alone or in groups, to strengthen their research infrastructure in priority areas. This mechanism is aimed at enabling Canadian researchers to work on groundbreaking topics, and will promote interdisciplinary approaches and contributions from individuals from a variety of institutions and sectors.

**2. Regional/National Facilities** are designed to encourage institutions to come together in regional or national consortia and to plan cooperatively for the acquisition or development of research infrastructure.

**3. New Opportunities** will provide infrastructure support to new academic staff. This mechanism will help universities attract new faculty members in areas that are essential to the institution's research development

**4. The Research Development Fund** is identical in purpose to the Institutional Innovation Fund and New Opportunities but is specifically designed to help eligible smaller universities strengthen their research infrastructure.

The CFI is an independent, not-for-profit corporation established in May 1997 with a contribution of C\$800 million from the Government of Canada. The Foundation's mandate is to invest in infrastructure for research and development in Canadian universities, colleges, hospitals and other not-for-profit research institutions. The Foundation's investments will be made in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors as well as with all levels of government. Through these partnerships, the CFI has the potential to trigger about C\$2 billion in investment in research infrastructure.

The CFI's policies and funding mechanisms will support the strategic development of research at Canadian institutions. They have been designed to:

- build capacity for innovation;
- strengthen research training of Canadians for research and other careers;
- attract and retain able research workers in Canada;
- promote networks and collaboration among researchers;
- ensure the optimal use of Canadian research infrastructure by promoting sharing within and among institutions.

The CFI will support infrastructure projects that meet its criteria for eligibility and assessment, regardless of the disciplines or areas of interest of the researchers who will use the proposed infrastructure.

The Policy and Program Guide is available at the CFI Internet site at this address:

<http://www.innovation.ca/english/programs/index.html>

For further information, contact the Canada Foundation for Innovation:

CFI  
350 Albert Street, Suite 1510  
P.O. Box 77  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 1A4  
Canada

Tel.: 1 613 947-6496,  
Fax: 1 613 943-0923.

