

**Memorial University
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
John R. Evans Leaders fund (JELF)
Call for Expressions of Interest - October 2026 Competition**

Internal EOI deadline: June 8, 2026

All application submissions to Research Initiatives & Services (RIS) are **due by 4:00 pm NDT** on the deadline dates outlined below. Applicants must coordinate with their Academic Units for any related unit deadlines to ensure all signatures of approval are secured before submission to RIS.

Phase 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Monday, June 8, 2026: Deadline for the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI). EOIs must be emailed to RIS (ris@mun.ca), with the email subject: *CFI JELF EOI October 2026 Call*. The maximum CFI amount that can be requested is \$465,000. All received EOIs will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, and only those EOIs selected will be invited to proceed to Phase 2.

Phase 2 – Full Application Selection and Submission to CFI

Monday, August 10, 2026: Deadline for the submission of a completed* Phase 2 CFI JELF application. Phase 2 applications must be submitted to RIS via the [Researcher Portal](#). All received Phase 2 applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, and only the selected applications will proceed to submission to CFI.

Friday, October 5, 2026: Deadline for final submission of CFI JELF applications for projects selected from Phase 2. Applications will be submitted via the Researcher Portal to be reviewed by RIS and host units.

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026: Submission of finalized CFI JELF application(s) by OVPRI to CFI.

**Note: “Completed” means ALL sections of the CFI JELF online application have been completed and validated by the applicant(s) in the CFI CAMS system, and all required files are uploaded and compliant with the CFI formatting guidelines outlined below.*

Eligibility

Up to three eligible researchers may be listed on a CFI JELF proposal. For applications with more than one applicant, the researchers can either work collaboratively using the same requested infrastructure, or work independently while sharing the requested infrastructure. Justification for the requested infrastructure must be articulated for each applicant.

To be eligible, researchers listed in the proposal must be:

- current faculty members with full-time academic appointments or candidates in the process of being recruited to full-time academic positions in an important strategic sector;
- recognized innovative leaders or have demonstrated the potential for excellence in the proposed research fields; and,
- engaged in or embarking upon research or technology development that is innovative, high quality, and meets international standards.

Researchers who have previously been supported by CFI are eligible to apply.

Competition Funding

The CFI JELF is an allocation-based funding program that predetermines the maximum amount of funding available to each CFI-eligible institution over a three-year period, based on a rolling average of cumulative funding received in eligible programs from the three federal research funding agencies (i.e., CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC).

For this Call, each CFI JELF EOI and Phase 2 application will be limited to a minimum CFI request of \$75,001*, and a maximum CFI request of \$465,000 or up to 40% of the total project cost (whichever amount is lower), regardless of the number of applicants per EOI. It is expected that the CFI-requested amount in Phase 1 will remain the same in Phase 2.

**Note: proposals centred in the social sciences, humanities, and arts are also permitted to request less than or equal to \$75,000 of CFI funding.*

Application Selection

An internal Selection Committee will assess all EOIs / Phase 2 applications received by each deadline. Chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) or their delegate, the Committee will be comprised of Academic Staff Members from the Schools / Faculties of the lead applicants for each EOI submission, along with non-voting support from RIS and other administrative personnel as required.

Only those EOIs selected by the Committee will be invited to proceed to Phase 2 for full application development and evaluation. The Committee may invite more proposals to proceed to Phase 2, to better assess which proposals are sufficiently mature to be fully developed and submitted for consideration by CFI. Therefore, it is possible that a subset of the applications selected for further development by the Committee will be eligible to proceed for final submission to CFI. All applicants will be notified via email of the EOI / Phase 2 results.

Phase 1 - Expressions of Interest (EOI)

1. EOIs are a maximum of 4 pages in length (excluding CVs), with margins of 1 inch around each page, and 12-point font with single line spacing. In the following order, the EOI must address each of the following points:
 - a. Description of the proposed research or technology development activities that will be conducted in an area of [Memorial's institutional priority](#).
 - b. Description of the track record of each applicant, including expertise relevant to conduct the proposed research activities, and a description of the planned collaborators and partners, internal and external to Memorial.
 - c. Description of each requested budget line item, justifying its need to conduct the proposed innovative research activities, and identification of a planned location(s) (e.g., applicant's lab space, CREAT, Medical Laboratories, Animal Research Centre, etc.). While the requested research infrastructure should be located at Memorial, if it is planned to be located outside Memorial, pre-approval from CFI will be needed. If applicable, include a brief explanation as to why existing Memorial infrastructure cannot be used to undertake the proposed research.

To assist in budget development, applicants should also complete and submit Facilities Management's [Capital Equipment Form and the Capital Equipment Checklist](#) to ensure there are adequate existing building services in place to support the location of the requested infrastructure. There is no cost to have these forms reviewed by Facilities Management and/or Technical Services, and potential costs associated with preparing the space for the requested infrastructure can only be captured in the project budget if they are identified in advance.
 - d. A detailed management plan outlining the planned use and long-term sustainability of the requested infrastructure.
 - e. A Finance table providing an overview of the proposed project budget in Canadian dollars, which includes taxes (15%), and, where applicable, exchange rates, shipping, duties*, etc. Please confirm the CFI requested amount, as well as the anticipated leverage / match funding sources (e.g., vendor in-kind contributions, institutional funds, NL Provincial Government, etc.).

**Note: applicants planning to purchase infrastructure from outside of Canada must consult with your unit's finance officer regarding applicable customs duty amounts that may need to be captured in the project budget.*

2. Each listed applicant is required to submit a maximum 2-page CV which must include:
 - a. the applicant's most significant contributions (e.g., citation counts, research article publications, technical reports, books; presenting at conferences or other venues; discussing an article, book or presentation on social media, podcasts or blogs; producing software; creating IP; developing new technologies; producing community products such as Indigenous scholarly works or cultural sensitivity training; curating public exhibitions or events; contributing to policy or business decisions; community engagement or outreach activities; training highly qualified personnel), and;
 - b. funding support held over the past five years (i.e., since 2021) as an applicant or co-applicant for grants and contracts from all sources, including industry and academic/research institutions.
3. The completed EOI Approval Form included at the end of this document, is also required as part of the EOI submission.
4. If applicable, any EOI that is a resubmission of a full project proposal that was either (a) invited to Phase 2 in a competition prior to this one (but not invited to proceed to application to CFI), or (b) an unsuccessful proposal submitted to the CFI, may also include a maximum 2-page Appendix addressing the previous Selection Committee's comments.

Please note that the Selection Committee will not consider any additional information provided beyond that requested in the Call for its assessment process. All applicants will be notified via email of the EOI results.

Phase 2 – Full Application Selection and Submission to CFI

Only those EOIs selected by the Committee will be invited to proceed to Phase 2. Please note that progression to Phase 2 does not guarantee that an application will be selected for submission to CFI. All applicants will be notified via email of the Phase 2 results.

If selected to proceed to Phase 2, applicants will be required to complete the CFI JELF online application using the CFI Award Management System (CAMS). If an applicant does not already have a CAMS account, they will need to create one. The submission of the Phase 2 application to RIS will be done using the RIS General Use Application on [Memorial's Researcher Portal](#), and must include the following attachments:

- a successfully validated CFI JELF online application;
- a copy of all quotations used to support the project budget, and;
- a completed Phase 2 sign off form*.

*Note: The Phase 2 sign off form will be included in the EOI results email and will be used for the Phase 2 internal submission, as well as the submission of the JELF application to CFI and, if applicable, an application to the Provincial government requesting match funds.

NEW - CFI JELF Project Completion

CFI has established new guidelines for the timely completion of each awarded CFI JELF project. Specifically, for each awarded project, all institutions are now required to submit the final financial report within four years of the project’s CFI board decision date. This is a change from previous competitions, where the timeline was less firmly defined. The required submission of a final financial report means that all awarded infrastructure has been received and is operational, and project spending is complete.

Future CFI JELF Opportunities

Based on Memorial’s current three-year CFI JELF allocation, the current and anticipated internal CFI JELF competitions, including the funding envelope expected for each competition, are outlined below:

Portion of Allocation to be Released	Competition timeline
\$465,000.00	May 2026 for CFI’s October 15, 2026 deadline
\$465,000.00	Anticipated - January 2027 for CFI’s June 15, 2027 deadline
\$465,000.00	Anticipated - January 2028 for CFI’s June 15, 2028 deadline
Any remaining CFI JELF envelope, if applicable.	If applicable, anticipated launch - early Summer 2028 for CFI’s October 15, 2028 deadline

If you have any questions regarding the current CFI JELF opportunity, please email ris@mun.ca.

**CFI JELF Expression of Interest (EOI)
Approval Form**

Program: Canada Foundation for Innovation – John R. Evans
Leaders Fund (CFI JELF) – October 2026

Project Leader(s) and
Department/Faculty/School:

Project Title:

I / We have prepared the attached EOI, and understand that if selected by Memorial’s CFI JELF Selection Committee, I / we will be expected to prepare a full application for Phase 2 of the internal review process. I / We confirm that appropriate space and utilities are available for the requested infrastructure.

Signature of the applicant

Date

Signature of the applicant

Date

Signature of the applicant

Date

I / We have read the CFI JELF EOI as submitted, and confirm our support.

Signature of Department Head

Date

Signature of Dean or designate

Date

Signature of Department Head

Date

Signature of Dean or designate

Date

Signature of Department Head

Date

Signature of Dean or designate

Date