

**Memorial University
Canada Foundation for Innovation
2027 Innovation Fund competition
Call for Expressions of Interest**

Internal deadline: July 20, 2026

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has released its [draft 2027 Innovation Fund Call for Proposals](#), and is anticipated to officially launch the competition on June 3, 2026. CFI will award up to a total of \$325M over its three competition streams:

Stream 1: *Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation*, which is open to proposals from all disciplines.

Stream 2: *Leading edge of exploration and knowledge generation in social sciences, humanities and arts (SSHA)*. To be eligible, a proposal's primary field of research must be in SSHA.

Stream 3: *Creation, renewal and upgrade of core facilities*. To access this stream, all requested infrastructure must be housed in and managed by a core facility. As defined by CFI, a core facility is a shared facility that provides centralized access to state-of-the-art research services, analyses, instruments, technology, expertise, training and education which are generally too expensive, complex or specialized for individual researchers to cost-effectively provide and sustain themselves.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

All applicants who are seeking CFI funds from Memorial's 2027 Innovation Fund (IF) allocation – including those participating in proposals led by other CFI-eligible institutions - must submit an EOI to this internal Call for Proposals. To be considered, EOIs must provide all requested information by the **July 20, 2026** internal submission deadline.

In addition to aligning with the strategic research priorities outlined in Memorial's [Research Strategy 2023-2028](#), research infrastructure projects should:

- Address Canada's research needs that are relevant in the current global context
- Demonstrate a high level of readiness and the ability to achieve significant impact within a reasonable timeframe
- Build on existing strengths and partnerships where Canada is, or can become, a global leader.

In advance of the EOI Call for Proposals submission deadline, applicants must coordinate with the relevant Academic Unit(s) to ensure that all required signatures of approval are secured. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure their proposals are ready to satisfy the Academic Unit(s) internal review timeline(s) ahead of the IF competition EOI submission deadline of July 20th.

All EOIs must be emailed to Research Initiatives and Services (RIS) (ris@mun.ca) with the email subject "<lead applicant last name> 2027 CFI IF EOI", along with the following information provided as PDF attachments:

1. A completed EOI form (see attached; save and submit as "<lead applicant last name> 2027 CFI IF EOI")
2. A completed EOI Approval Form (see attached; save and submit as "<lead applicant last name> 2027 IF EOI Approval Form")
3. A 5-page *Assessment Criteria* (as "<lead applicant last name> 2027 CFI IF Assessment Criteria")
4. A copy of the quotes used to inform the budget (submitted as one bundled PDF, as "<lead applicant last name> 2027 CFI IF Quotations")
5. Floor plans for planned construction or renovations ("<lead applicant last name> 2027 CFI IF Floor Plans")
6. Applicants' CVs
 - A **two-page** maximum CV is required for each listed "Team Members" only (i.e., not "Other Users"), submitted as "<team member last name> 2027 CFI IF Team Member CV"
 - For multi-institutional projects where the lead institution is not Memorial, the CV of only the Lead Memorial team member must be provided.
 - CV margins should be of no less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) around the page, and 12-point font with single line spacing.
 - While there are no restrictions on the EOI CV format, CVs should include:
 - Full name, current position, department/division at Memorial
 - Funding secured (i.e., active grants / awards) and applied for by the Team Leader / Lead Memorial team member
 - Information regarding past and current HQP
 - Metrics such as notable citations can be included, if applicable, to demonstrate uptake of work
 - Quantifiable examples of quality and impact, including but not limited to:
 - Publishing research articles, technical reports or books
 - Presenting at conferences or other venues
 - Scholarly discussions pertaining to an article, book or presentation on social media, podcasts or blogs
 - Producing software
 - Creating intellectual property
 - 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
 - Conducting community engagement or outreach activities

OPTIONAL: Any EOI for a resubmission of a full project proposal that was submitted by Memorial to CFI for consideration in the 2025 IF competition may also include an additional PDF document of up to two pages in length (following the above outlined formatting specifications) to address the 2025 CFI IF reviewers' comments.

Review Process

For the EOI review, Memorial's Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) will appoint members to a Selection Committee. Chaired by the VPRI, or their delegate, the Committee will be comprised of Academic Staff Members along with other internal / external voting members as appropriate. Non-voting support will be provided by RIS, and other personnel as required. All applicants will be notified in writing of the EOI results, with only those EOIs selected proceeding to a full application for submission to CFI's 2027 CFI IF deadline in January 2027.

Provincial Matching Funds

At present, matching funds from the provincial Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development (JGRD) are limited. As significant amounts of match funding will need to be identified from sources outside of provincial leverage funding opportunities, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider a variety of matching fund sources in developing their EOIs.

Future CFI IF Opportunities

CFI now issues IF competition Calls every two to three years, with the next CFI IF calls expected in 2028 and 2030 for application submissions in 2029 and 2031, respectively. Because of the intended scope and required impact of successful Innovation Fund projects, prospective applicants are encouraged to begin to develop their project proposals well in advance of circulation of the next call for EOIs, as this will help ensure that future applications are able to propose appropriately mature research infrastructure projects.

If you have any questions about the 2027 CFI IF funding opportunity, please contact RIS (ris@mun.ca).

**Memorial University
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
2027 Innovation Fund (IF)
Expression of Interest Form**

Internal EOI deadline: July 20, 2026

PART 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Project Title | |
| Competition Stream | |
| Applicant Institution | |
| Collaborating Institution(s) | |

| Team Leader(s) | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Title/Position | |
| | |
| Name | |
| Title/Position | |

| Project Funding | |
|--|--|
| Total project cost (TPC) | |
| Total requested from CFI | |
| % of TPC requested from CFI (Maximum = 40%) | |

Research Team Members and Other Users

Other Users

| Name | Title/Position | Institution and Department |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
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Collaborating Institution(s)

If applicable, please identify all confirmed or expected collaborating institution(s)* in this project, and include the quantity of funding that will be provided from each institution's CFI IF 2027 institutional envelope.

**A "collaborating institution" is an CFI-eligible institution that allocates part of its CFI IF funding envelope to a multi-institutional project.*

| Collaborating Institution | Allocated funding |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
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Financial Resources for Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

Identify all annual projected O&M costs, and all sources of committed/expected support to offset these costs and ensure the effective and sustained operation of the infrastructure for the first five years of the project.

| O&M budget summary | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Costs | Year 1 (\$) | Year 2 (\$) | Year 3 (\$) | Year 4 (\$) | Year 5 (\$) | Total (\$) |
| Personnel | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | |
| Maintenance and repairs | | | | | | |
| Services | | | | | | |
| Other (specify) | | | | | | |
| Total (\$) | | | | | | |

| Funding sources | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Costs | Year 1 (\$) | Year 2 (\$) | Year 3 (\$) | Year 4 (\$) | Year 5 (\$) | Total (\$) |
| Institutional contributions | | | | | | |
| Other organizations | | | | | | |
| User fees | | | | | | |
| IOF | | | | | | |
| Other (specify) | | | | | | |
| Total (\$) | | | | | | |

PART 2: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Please submit this section as a separate five-page (maximum) PDF, titled “<lead applicant last name> CFI IF 2027 Assessment Criteria”.

As per Pages 23- 28 of the [2027 IF Draft Call](#), the EOI must address the five assessment criteria in the context of the selected competition stream, in the order listed below.

Applicants have a **maximum of 5 pages**, with margins of no less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) around the pages and 12-point font with single line spacing, to address the assessment criteria listed below.

In the header, please include the names(s) of the Team Leader(s) at the left side of the page, with page numbering on the right side.

Please note that any additional documentation provided beyond what has been requested will not be considered by the Advisory Committee during their review.

1. **Research** – the proposed project will be innovative/enable innovation, feasible and internationally competitive.
2. **Team** – team members and (if applicable) partners have sufficient, demonstrable experience and expertise to carry out the proposed innovative/leading edge research activities, and will do so in an inclusive work environment. The main focus of this response should be on the research team members.
3. **Infrastructure** – necessary and appropriate to conduct the research program or enhance the facility’s services. The information listed here should expand upon the Project Budget information provided on page 7 of this form.
4. **Sustainability** – the infrastructure will be well-managed, appropriately / optimally used, and financially sustainable to ensure reliable long-term operation. This section must elaborate upon the O&M information provided on page 5 of this form.

Additionally, this section should provide complimentary information about the projected O&M needs over the useful life* of the infrastructure, particularly for equipment where this useful life is expected to be appreciably shorter or longer than five years. (*Useful life is defined as the period over which the infrastructure is reasonably expected to provide benefits and be usable for its intended purpose as per the proposal, factoring in normal repairs and maintenance.)

5. **Benefits** – The project / facility will generate relevant and impactful benefits for Canadians. The team members and their partners have defined pathways for real-world uptake through knowledge mobilization, technology transfer, and end user engagement.

PART 3: PROJECT BUDGET

A. Cost of Individual items

When building your project budget, please note the following:

- Items can be bundled into functional groupings.
- If the infrastructure will be used for purposes other than research or technology development, only list pro-rated research or technology development costs.
- The estimated Total Project Cost should include:
 - renovation cost estimates, if applicable,
 - institutional tax rate (i.e., 15%), and,
 - any applicable exchange rates, shipping, duties, etc. Applicants planning to purchase infrastructure from outside of Canada should consult with their unit's finance personnel regarding applicable customs duty amounts.
- Taxes are not calculated on in-kind contributions.
- Research infrastructure expenditures and in-kind contributions must have taken place on / after November 1, 2025 to be eligible for inclusion in the project budget.
- When preparing budget estimates, the applicant must follow Memorial's institutional policies and procedures. Costs included must be estimates of fair market value.
- To assist in budget development, applicants should also complete and submit Facilities Management's [Capital Equipment Form](#) and the [Capital Equipment Checklist Form](#) 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.
- The CFI funding request cannot increase after the EOI stage.

B. Contributions from eligible partners

Please provide the eligible partner's name and type, as well as a breakdown of contributions (cash and in-kind) for each partner, and the status of the contribution (secured vs. expected).

C. Construction or renovation plans, if applicable

All proposals that include construction or renovation must provide the following information:

- A detailed breakdown of the overall cost of the construction or renovation project, categorized by cost component (i.e. direct, soft and contingency costs);
- A timeline identifying key milestones of the proposed construction or renovation;
- Floor plans of the proposed area(s), showing the location of the infrastructure and the scale of the plans for projects involving multiple rooms. The floor plans must be legible when printed in black and white on standard letter size paper (8.5" x 11").

The following tables summarize the total contributions to and eligible costs for the project:

Infrastructure Project Funding Overview

| Overview | Total |
|---|--------------|
| Total project cost (TPC) | |
| Contributions from eligible partners | |
| Amount requested from the CFI | |
| % of TPC requested from CFI (Max = 40%) | |

Summary of Eligible Costs

| Expenditure type | Total |
|---|--------------|
| Purchase of equipment (incl. shipping, taxes, duties, installation) | |
| Lease of equipment | |
| Personnel for infrastructure acquisition and development | |
| Components | |
| Travel, infrastructure-related | |
| Software | |
| Extended warranties, service contracts | |
| Construction, renovation costs | |
| Initial training of infrastructure personnel | |
| Other | |
| Total eligible costs | |

Construction and Renovation Plans

**CFI 2027 IF Expression of Interest
Approval Form**

Program: Canada Foundation for Innovation 2027
Innovation Fund (2027 CFI IF) – July 20, 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 IF Selection Committee, I / we will be expected to prepare a full application for the CFI 2027 IF deadline in January 2027 (i.e., deadline date to be confirmed by CFI in June 2026). I / We confirm that appropriate space and utilities are available for the requested infrastructure.

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