



CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

# 2023 Innovation Fund

Expert Committee meeting

# Mandate

To increase the capability of Canada's universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research organizations to carry out high quality research by investing in research infrastructure.

# Funding model

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**CFI provides 40%** of infrastructure costs  
(remaining 60% provided by provinces,  
institutions and private sector)

# O&M support

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30% of CFI award through the Infrastructure  
Operating Fund (IOF)



# Competition budget & objectives

## OBJECTIVES

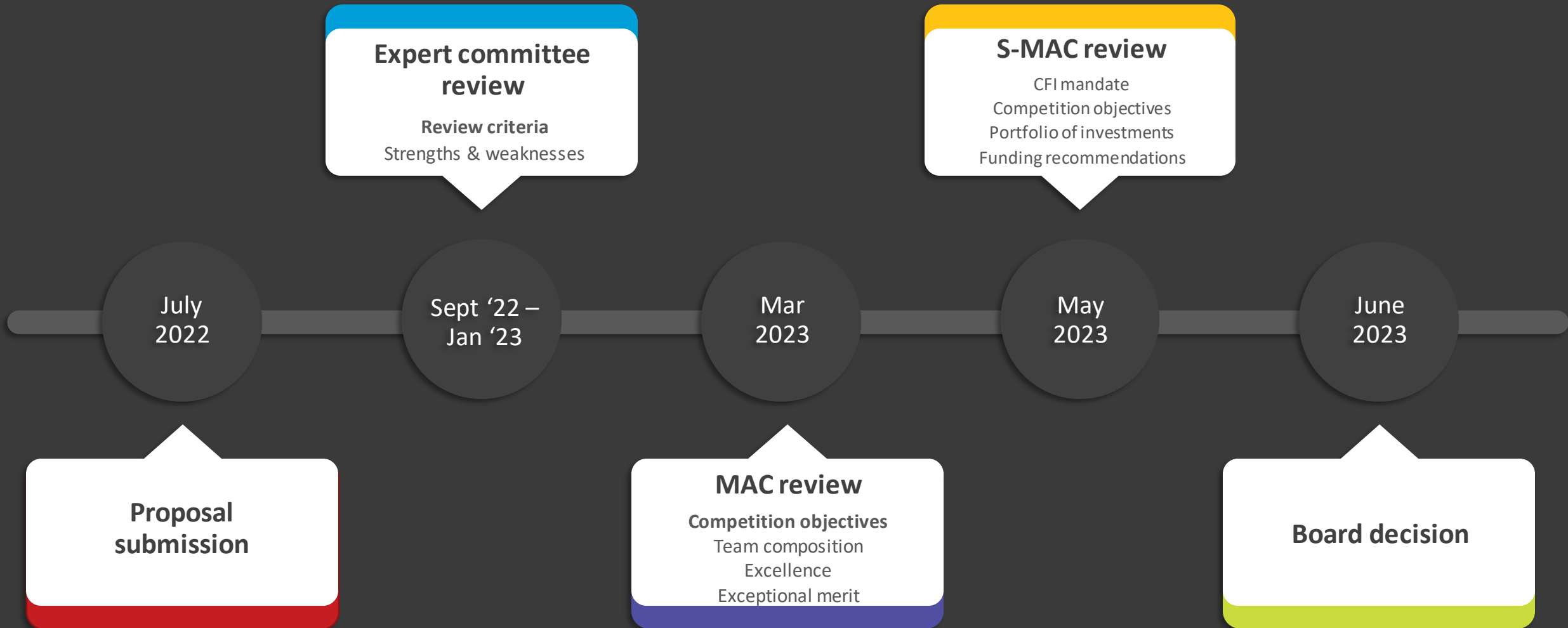
- Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team member
- Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure
- Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians

**\$400 million**  
Capital

+

**\$120 million**  
Infrastructure Operating  
Fund

# Competition timeline & merit review process



# Role of the expert committee



# Competition objectives

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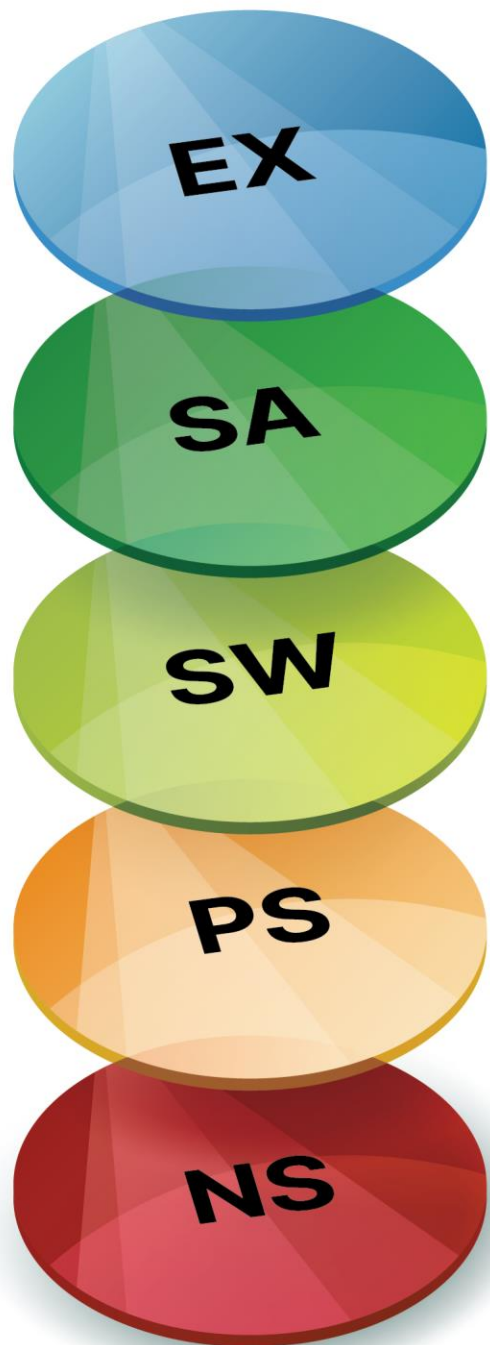
1. Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members.
2. Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure.
3. Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians.



# Assessment criteria

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- Research or technology development
- Team expertise
- Team composition
- Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Benefits



**SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS**

The proposal satisfies and significantly exceeds the criterion standard



**SATISFACTORY**

The proposal satisfies the criterion standard



**SATISFACTORY WITH WEAKNESSES**

The proposal satisfies the criterion standard, but has a few minor weaknesses



**PARTIALLY SATISFACTORY**

The proposal partially satisfies the criterion standard and has some significant weaknesses



**NOT SATISFACTORY**

The proposal does not satisfy the criterion standard due to major weaknesses

# Rating scale



# Commitment to Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles

## Why is EDI integrated into the 2023 IF competition?

- Recognition that diversity (e.g., gender, career stage, culture) is critical to excellence in research
- Belief that an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture is the responsibility of every member of the research ecosystem, including funders, institutions, researchers, experts and reviewers

## How is EDI integrated into the 2023 IF competition?

- Strongly encourage committee members to complete [Bias in Peer Review](#) Training module
- Introduced (new) assessment criterion on 'Team composition'
- Assessment of criterion must be satisfactory for proposal to be considered for funding

A photograph of a modern library interior. The bookshelves are curved and white, with blue lighting integrated into the design. The shelves are filled with books, and the overall atmosphere is clean and contemporary.

## Research or technology development

The research or technology development program(s) are innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

The background image shows two individuals in a dark setting, likely a laboratory or gym. The person at the top is wearing a dark cap and a dark tank top, with their arms raised. The person at the bottom is wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic and a dark vest, also with their arms raised. A central text box is overlaid on the image.

## Team expertise

The team comprises the breadth of experience and expertise needed to conduct the proposed research program(s).



## Team composition

Principles of equity and diversity were considered in the team composition including in its leadership. There is a commitment to create an inclusive environment where all team members are fully integrated and supported in the research team.

# Team composition criterion<sup>1</sup>

**Criterion standard:** Principles of equity and diversity were considered in the team composition including in its leadership. There is a commitment to create an inclusive environment where all team members are fully integrated and supported in the research team.

To satisfy this criterion applicants should:

1. Identify specific challenges/barriers to underrepresented groups in their research program;
2. Describe concrete practice(s) put in place to overcome challenges/barriers and to demonstrate equity and diversity were intentionally considered in the research team's composition; and
3. Describe concrete practice(s) to be adopted to increase inclusion of underrepresented groups in their research program.

<sup>1</sup> See pg. 13-14 of *Guidelines for Expert Committees* for further details

# Assessment of Team composition criterion (part 1)

To fully satisfy the criterion standard: demonstrate EDI awareness and **intentionality and** substantiate responses using **concrete examples** of **direct relevance** to the research team and proposal.

Criterion aspects	Satisfies the criterion (EX/SA/SW)	Examples
<b>Analysis of specific challenges or systemic barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific challenges/barriers clearly identified</li> <li>• Examples or data provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women/visible minorities underrepresented in team's department or field</li> <li>• % of faculty or HQP from underrepresented groups</li> <li>• Barriers include bias in hiring practices, limited distribution of job opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Concrete practice to overcome systemic barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concrete practice(s) to address challenges/barriers taken by team</li> <li>• Practice(s) pertain to challenges/barriers identified above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team members actively sought to increase representation of women/visible minorities</li> <li>• Hiring panels took EDI training</li> <li>• Outreach to potential team members or HQP included inclusive language and broad promotion of opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Concrete practices to ensure inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific practice(s) to enable inclusion identified</li> <li>• Implementation of practice(s) clearly outlined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team leaders will foster a safe and respectful work environment</li> <li>• A confidential process for placing, and addressing, complaints will be developed</li> <li>• An annual culture survey will be sent to all team members</li> </ul>

# Assessment of Team composition criterion (part 2)

Proposals do not meet the criterion standard if: provide primarily generic statements/information, fail to include specific examples and concrete practices, and lack evidence/substantiation.

Criterion aspects	Fails to meet the criterion (PS/NS)	Examples
<b>Analysis of specific challenges or systemic barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only generic/high level challenges identified</li> <li>• No examples or data provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are fewer women in science</li> <li>• Little/no data provided on proportion of women in research field</li> <li>• No recognition of gender and/or intersectionality</li> <li>• Counts (# or %) of women/visible minorities in the team instead of discussion of challenges and barriers</li> </ul>
<b>Concrete practice to overcome systemic barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only generic or institutional practice(s) to address challenges/barrier identified</li> <li>• No evidence of practices implemented by team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer only to institutional/faculty level actions such as EDI/anti-racism policies or signing Dimensions Charter</li> <li>• Little/no evidence that any team members are engaged in EDI activities</li> </ul>
<b>Concrete practice to ensure inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only generic or institutional practice(s) to enable inclusion</li> <li>• Lacks implementation plan for enabling inclusion within research team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer only to institutional/faculty level actions, policies or practices</li> <li>• Lacks understanding what inclusion is meant to achieve</li> <li>• Plan to assess team culture or diversity not addressed</li> </ul>



## Infrastructure

The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the proposed research program(s) and optimally enhances existing capacity.





## Sustainability

The infrastructure will be optimally used, operated and sustained over its useful life through tangible commitments.



## Benefits

The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer the results of the research or technology development program(s). The results are likely to lead to social, economic, health or environmental benefits for Canadians.

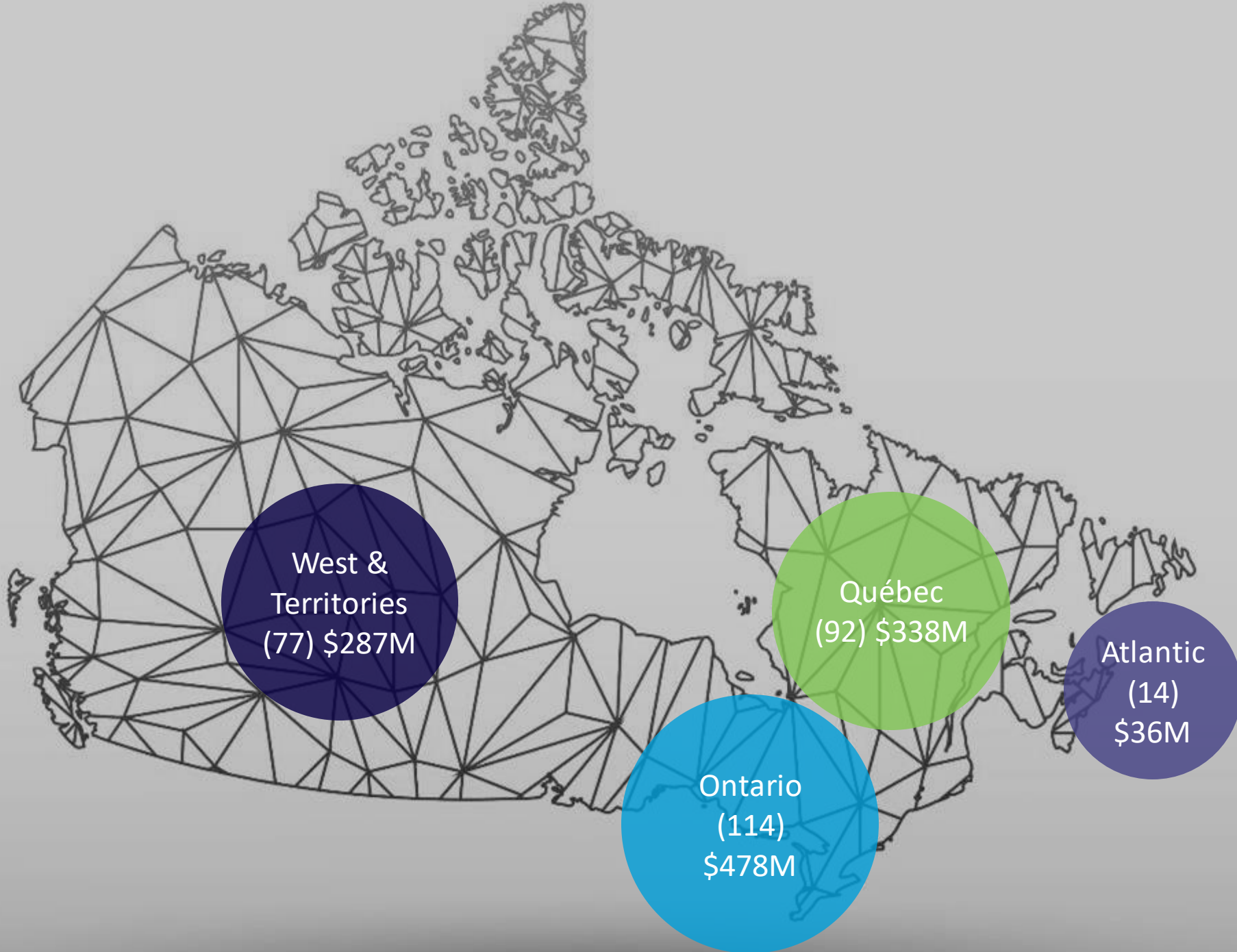
# Conflicts of interest

- Relative, close friend, or have a personal relationship
- In a position to gain or lose financially or materially from the funding of the proposal
- Long-standing scientific or personal differences
- Currently affiliated with the candidates' institutions, organizations or companies
- Close professional affiliation - in the last six years:
  - frequent and regular interactions
  - supervisor or a trainee
  - collaborated, published or shared funding
  - been employed by the applicant institution
- feel for any reason unable to provide an impartial review of the proposal.

# Confidentiality

Review committee members, external reviewers and observers must ensure that:

- Maintain all documentation and information in strict confidence at all times
- Only use the documentation and information for the purpose for review of proposals
- Destroy the review documentation in a secure manner when it is no longer required
- Do not contact the candidates for additional information or disclose matters arising from the review process to the candidates
- Review deliberations are confidential



**297**  
Proposals

**\$1.1B**  
CFI request

**\$3.1B**  
Total project costs

**63**  
Institutions

**57**  
3+ collaborators

# Expert committee report

## CONSENSUS REPORTS

- Includes:
  - consensus assessment of each criterion
  - comments on the strengths and weaknesses
  - assessment of the budget
- Drafted by CFI staff, finalized in consultation with the Chair
- Provided to the MACs to guide their discussions
- Provided to applicant institution at the end of the review process

# How to enter ratings and comments in CAMS

[\\_Reviewer dashboard](#) > Review and documentation

## Review form



Please select the ratings that best reflect your evaluation of each criterion.

Project number: [REDACTED]

Project/Team leader(s) [REDACTED]

Applicant institution: [REDACTED]

Submission status: Not started

[Return to 'Review and documentation'](#)

Save

Submit

Criteria	Rating	Comments
Team - expertise	Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>
Team - composition	Please select... Significantly exceeds the criterion standard (EX) Satisfies the criterion standard (SA) Satisfies the criterion standard with only a few minor weaknesses (SW) Partially satisfies the criterion standard with some significant weaknesses (PS) Does not satisfy the criterion standard due to major weaknesses (NS) Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>
Infrastructure	Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>
Sustainability	Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>
Benefits	Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>
Research or technology development	Please select... ▾	<a href="#">View/edit</a>

# Member's to-do list

1. Activate your CAMS account
2. Complete the unconscious bias training module
3. Read the proposals
4. Read proposal package:
  - Guidelines for expert committee members
  - Preliminary review template (word) if online entry is not feasible
  - Meeting agenda
  - Quick reference guide
5. Conduct preliminary assessment of proposals
  - Enter ratings and comments in CAMS one week before the meeting



# Québec Research Funding Agencies

*Nature and Technologies* • *Health* • *Society and Culture*

## Secure document sharing directory

1. Link
2. Consent
3. Download
4. Upload



# Québec Research Funding Agencies

*Nature and Technologies* • *Health* • *Society and Culture*

## Consent

- Conflict of interest
- Disclosure and compliance measures
- Confidentiality

I agree to take personal responsibility for complying with these requirements.

\* Response     Yes     No

\* First name   

\* Last name   

\* Email   

I declare that I have read and understood the confidentiality and conflicts of interest commitment and I agree to be bound by it.

# Québec Research Funding Agencies

*Nature and Technologies • Health • Society and Culture*

## Download and upload

**Shared documents**

List of documents

Share name	FRQ Document	Recipient's document	Comment
Imaging_FI2023_FRQS	1 ( <a href="#">Proposals and report template.zip</a> 27549 Ko) 2 ( <a href="#">Reference documents.zip</a> 3246 Ko)	<b>Add a new document</b>	<input type="text"/>

Download

Report writing

Upload

*One folder zipped with all documents*

A hand is shown in the lower-left quadrant, pointing its index finger towards a large, semi-transparent question mark icon in the center of the slide. The background is a dark blue gradient with a network of glowing nodes and lines, and several other question mark icons are scattered throughout.

**INNOVATION**

Fondation canadienne  
pour l'innovation

Canada Foundation  
for Innovation

Questions?

**THANK YOU!**