

# CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Innovation Fund (CFI-IF)

Presented by RASI, March 2021



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of the  
Vice-President Research

[USASK.CA/VPRESEARCH](http://USASK.CA/VPRESEARCH)

Slides will be shared following the presentation

# OUTLINE

- CFI – IF at a glance
- Deadlines and decision points
- What makes a good proposal?
- Q&A
- Who available to help?





# CFI-IF AT A GLANCE

Supports innovative research programs by investing in infrastructure

## Objectives:

- Enable global leadership by supporting world-class research or technology development.
- Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s).
- Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians.





## FUNDING: ANTICIPATED

- CFI total ~\$400M in research infrastructure
  - Up to 40% of total eligible costs
- **USask envelope \$15-20M**
- Projects must be greater than \$1 million



# TIMELINES

Dates	Activities	Details
Early May 2021	USask Test Your Concept	Recommended Contact <a href="mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca">rasi.support@usask.ca</a> by Apr 9
May 28, 2021	USask internal EOI due	Submit to <a href="mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca">rasi.support@usask.ca</a>
Jun 2021	USask short list	
Sep 2021	Final selection including projects led external to USask	
Sep 2021	CFI pre-call and allocation of envelope	
Mar-Nov 2022	CFI Submission	
Mar 2023	CFI Decision	

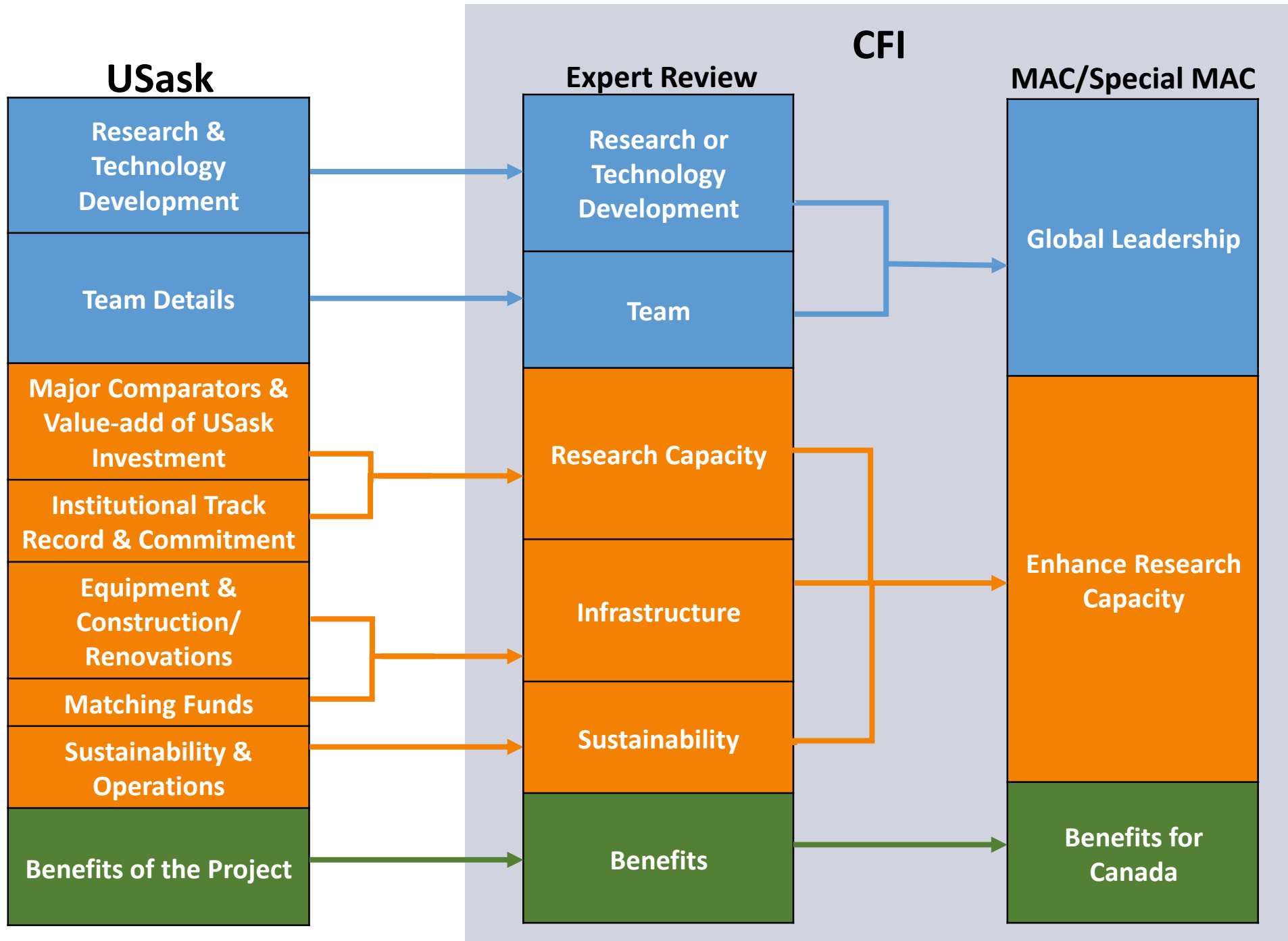
# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Research or technology development
  - Innovative, feasible, and internationally competitive
- Team
  - Up to 10 members, options for co-leads
  - Diverse with breadth of expertise
  - EDI
- Research capacity
  - Past investments from Institutions and partners

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Infrastructure
  - Necessity and appropriateness
- Sustainability
  - Optimally used, operated, and sustained
  - Tangible commitments
- Benefits
  - How will you transfer research results to end users?
  - What are the social, health, environmental, and/or economic benefits for Canadians?







## OTHER KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Core facilities
- Matching funds
  - Think creatively and broadly partners
  - Benefits to Canada
  - Benefits to SK



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Cambridge, showing a mix of green spaces, trees, and urban buildings. A large graphic overlay is present on the left side, consisting of a thick green L-shaped bar and a thinner black L-shaped bar. A white plus sign is centered in the green bar at the top.

+

# WHO IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST?

- RASI
- ICT
- IPLD

# TEST YOUR CONCEPT

- Present project outline to faculty experts
  - 10 minutes presentation
- What do I include in my presentation?
  - Who is the team?
  - What is the research?
  - What is the infrastructure?
  - How is it unique?
  - What are the benefits?
- Feedback from faculty experts
- E-mail [rasi.support@usask.ca](mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca) by **April 9<sup>th</sup>** to sign up.

# ICT AND RESEARCH COMPUTING

- Contact research computing for:
  - Significant IT components (networking, servers, storage)
  - High Performance Computing (Compute Canada)
  - Data management (sensitive data, data transfer to partner institutions)
  - Instruments and data collection computers
  - Ongoing IT operations
- ... and even if nothing here immediately resonates, contact research computing early anyway!
- [Research\\_computing@usask.ca](mailto:Research_computing@usask.ca)



# WORKING WITH IPLD

- **Projects (>\$500,000)** that include implications for space, renovations, new construction or infrastructure requirements.
  - Costs include total project costs (including equipment, etc.)
  - Even projects that are primarily equipment should be reviewed to ensure infrastructure requirements are met
- **Contact:** Colleen Macdonald, Infrastructure, Planning and Land Development  
(colleen.macdonald@usask.ca)

## Resources

Download the [USask EOI Form](#)

Download the [Project Led by Another Institution Form](#)

[CFI-IF](#) webpage

Detailed instructions at [2020 call for proposals](#) 2021 call likely released Sep

Review [2017 Innovation Fund: Review statistics - strengths & weaknesses](#) 2020 coming soon

## USASK EOI

- USask led projects: Complete [EOI Form](#).
- Projects led outside of USask: Complete [Project Led by Another Institution Form](#) and EOI form or EOI from other institutions.
- Submit to [rasi.support@usask.ca](mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca) by May 28, 2021.





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## THANK YOU

Contact RASI for more information, questions, and  
to sign up for a Test Your Concept

[rasi.support@usask.ca](mailto:rasi.support@usask.ca)