

2015 ONTARIO RESEARCH FUND – LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND: ADJUDICATION PROCESS

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Ontario Research Fund – Large Infrastructure adjudication process consists of a four-step independent peer-review process:

NOI REVIEW

- An Ontario Strategic Value Review panel will review Notices of Intent and will make recommendations on the alignment of the research to strategic value to Ontario.
- This feedback will be sent institutions prior to the submission deadline for full Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and Ontario Research Fund (ORF) applications

APPLICATION REVIEW

- CFI expert committees complete a scientific review of full applications;
- Ontario Strategic Value Review panels will provide an in-depth review of the proposals' strategic value to Ontario and make recommendations on the priority grouping of proposals (high priority, priority or non-priority)
- The Strategic Value Review panel recommendations will be provided to the CFI Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee; and
- Following receipt of the results of the CFI adjudication process, the ORF Advisory Board will incorporate strategic value considerations into its recommendations on priorities to the Minister of Research and Innovation.

Please note: the Submission Package will be posted in February 2014.

APPLICATION ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

ORF – Large Infrastructure proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

(co-ordinated by CFI, as posted in draft 2015 guidelines)

- Institutional track record and commitment: The proposal builds on existing capacity and key investments in people and infrastructure. Through tangible commitments, the institution supports the area of the proposal in order to maintain or gain a competitive advantage internationally.
- Research or technology development: The proposed research or technology development activities enabled by the research infrastructure are timely, innovative and at the leading edge internationally. The activities have the potential to lead to breakthroughs and will enhance the international competitiveness of the institution and its researchers.

- Team: The principal users of the infrastructure are established or emerging leaders in the relevant research or technology development domains. The team has the necessary expertise, ability and relevant collaborations and partnerships in place to successfully conduct the research or technology development activities.
- Infrastructure: The infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the research or technology development activities. The use of the infrastructure will be maximized within and among institutions and sectors (private, public and non-profit).
- Sustainability of the research infrastructure: The proposal presents a compelling plan for sustainability with tangible and appropriate commitments. The proposed infrastructure will be effectively managed, operated and maintained over its useful life.
- Benefits to Canadians: The research or technology development activities are likely to lead to significant tangible benefits for society, health, the economy and/or the environment. Where appropriate, effective pathways will be developed to transfer the results and outputs of the research or technology development to potential end-users in a timely manner.

ONTARIO STRATEGIC VALUE REVIEW (COORDINATED BY MRI)

Anticipated value to Ontarians in the following three categories:

- Economic Benefits: Improvements to Ontario's productivity and competitiveness, including recruitment, retention and training of highly qualified personnel (HQP), production of spin-off products, firms, jobs, patents and licensing opportunities;
- Societal Benefits: Improvements to health and wellbeing of Ontarians, human capital development of graduate and post graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, furthered understanding of fundamental challenges of science, environmental benefits, improvements to Ontario's scientific profile on an international scale
- Research Translation: Strategy for achieving Research Impact, including market or societal analysis and engagement with research users or next-stage researchers where applicable.

The Ontario Strategic Review Panels will be asked to assess the proposals against each of the three strategic value criteria. Panels will be asked to evaluate the strategic impact based on size, complexity and nature of the project.

- Panels will also be asked to group proposals into the following priority categories:
- High Priority Proposals – Proposals that are highly aligned with Ontario's priorities and innovation goals.
- Priority Proposals – Proposals that are aligned with Ontario's priorities and innovation goals.
- Non-Priority Proposals – Proposals that are not aligned with Ontario's priorities and innovation goals.