CANADA'S FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE REVIEW

A Call for Evidence and Input

Researchers

1. Is the federal funding ecosystem meeting the needs of the Canadian research community? As the needs change, is the ecosystem able to adapt and accommodate?

2. Are you currently receiving (or have you received) funding for your research from federal sources? Tell us about your experience including information about the program and size of the award; the award and stage(s) in your career when you received funding; relative changes over time in the amount of any federal funding you obtained; flexibility of the program; and whether you had to seek funds from elsewhere to fully fund your project. How could your experience be improved?

3. Are you currently receiving funding for your research from sources other than the federal government? If so, what are other sources of funding available to you? Please comment on the process for obtaining the funding and competitiveness of this funding source.

4. Could the application processes for funding be improved? If so, what would you suggest? Are there issues with the matching programs associated with various funding programs? If so, how could this be improved?

5. Does the federal science funding community (e.g. the granting councils, the CFI agencies or organizations that distribute funds supporting investigator-led research) consult the research community to ensure that their programs are aligned to the changing needs of researchers? If so, how? If not, should it and how should it?

6. Comment on the coordination between the programs being provided by the granting councils and other funding organizations, provinces, and/or amongst themselves. Are there areas for improvement?

7. Is there a need for the federal government to improve the balance across funding elements (e.g.investments in principal researchers, funding of research staff and other direct costs of research, funding of infrastructure and equipment operations and maintenance, and reimbursement of indirect costs)? If so, how can this balance be achieved? What is the appropriate federal role in supporting infrastructure operating costs? Do CFI and granting councils programs work in a complementary fashion?

8. Comment on career supporting funding versus project-based funding. What are the pros and cons of each structure? Should support structures be higher at the front end of careers and less so as they are established?

9. What should the balance be between funding risky, novel, or emerging research versus research with established lines of inquiry? Do current programs and review processes achieve the right balance?

10. What should the balance be between funding research to meet government priorities and having research priorities determined by the research community? Do current programs and review processes achieve the right balance?

11. Can you identify the peer-review processes (federal or otherwise) that you have participated in, either as an applicant or a reviewer? Do you have suggestions to improve the process in terms of rigour, fairness, and effectiveness?

12. Do current federal programs encourage and support domestic collaboration?

13. To what extent do you collaborate internationally and how important is this to your work? Is there sufficient flexibility in granting council or other funding programs for participation in international collaborations? Are there particular research areas where more emphasis on international collaboration is needed?

14. Are current federal programs supporting the needs of multidisciplinary researchers? If not, how can the situation be improved? Does the funding ecosystem work collaboratively and effectively across disciplines?

15. Is current support for major science initiatives or "Big Science" including large international collaborations and facilities effectively meeting the needs of researchers? If not, how can this be improved?

16. What is the best way to fund areas of strategic interest such as emerging, transformative or potentially disruptive technologies, and/or areas of broader societal interest? Are granting councils well placed to fund/support these areas or are separate mechanisms required?

17. Identify the unique barriers that the following groups face in obtaining support for investigator-led research. Do current programs address these barriers? What else could be done to address these barriers?
- a) students, trainees, and early career researchers
- b) women
- c) aboriginals and other underrepresented groups

18. Are there international programs, structures, models, or best practices that Canada should consider adopting? If so, please explain why these should be considered.

19. What should the vision be for Canadian science? If we imagine an even more successful future for Canadian science, what does success look like and how should it be measured?

20. Are there any other issues or questions that you would like to raise and address?