

Evaluation of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada funding to CIFAR

Audit and Evaluation Branch
Senior Management Committee – May 2022

Management Response and Action Plan

The findings and recommendations of the Evaluation of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada funding to CIFAR were provided to the Science Programs and Partnership Branch of the Science and Research Sector (SRS) at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). Management has been consulted and agrees with the findings included in this report and will take action to address all applicable recommendations by March 31, 2023.

 Recommendation	 Planned Action on the Recommendation	 Responsible Official	 Target Completion
<p>Recommendation 1: <i>Performance</i></p> <p>ISED's SRS and CIFAR should explore opportunities to improve the rigour of performance measurement data for publications. This could include adding quality assurance reviews to address any abnormal values, and also exploring the use of external data to avoid double-counting joint publications.</p>	<p>ISED Position</p> <p>ISED-SRS agrees with the recommendation. The department and CIFAR will work collaboratively to identify strategies to enhance the measurement and reporting of publication data.</p> <p>ISED Management Response</p> <p>ISED-SRS will work with CIFAR to identify how to improve the measurement and reporting of publication data, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing a new Performance Measurement Strategy (PMS) for the program, including confirmation of performance indicators, targets, and data sources. 2. As part of developing a new PMS, review data collection and reporting methods in advance of the next annual report. 3. As part of developing a new PMS, identify methods to assess the quality of data reported in annual reports, including through the use of databases. 	Director General, Science Programs and Partnerships	December 31, 2022

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<p>Recommendation 2: <i>Efficiency</i></p> <p>ISED's SRS should work with CIFAR to continue its efforts to integrate EDI within the organization and the delivery of its programs. Particular emphasis should be placed on providing more opportunities for underrepresented groups within the research programs and ensuring consistent collection of EDI data for researchers and HQP.</p>	<p>ISED Position</p> <p>ISED-SRS agrees with the recommendation. CIFAR should continue efforts to advance equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and related objectives. CIFAR has taken steps in recent years to address action on EDI in its organization and activities, including implementation of a EDI Action Plan. Representation in advanced research is challenging given chronic and structural barriers in some fields, in particular physics and computer sciences. ISED-SRS recognises the work that CIFAR has undertaken and the limitations and challenges faced in seeking to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in its programs.</p> <p>ISED Management Response</p> <p>The renewal of contributions to CIFAR announced in Budget 2021 has provided an opportunity for ISED-SRS to integrate EDI considerations and actions into the program's objectives and in new funding agreements with CIFAR. Going forward, ISED-SRS will support CIFAR's efforts to increase representation and advance EDI objectives in its activities, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrating targets into the new PMS on the participation of underrepresented groups in its programs, including greater representation in the Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence Chairs and Azrieli Global Scholars programs. 2. Carrying out the terms of new contribution agreements, which require that CIFAR provide an EDI Strategy to the department by March 2023 and report on its implementation through operating plans and annual reports. 	Director General, Science Programs and Partnerships	March 31, 2023
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