

Strategic Investment Fund

Background

During the 2015 federal election campaign, the Liberal Party made infrastructure investment a prominent part of its platform. If elected, Party Leader Justin Trudeau pledged that his government would invest heavily in infrastructure spending as a means to provide stimulus to the Canadian economy. At that time, it was unclear whether such investment could include postsecondary education. All indications were that infrastructure investments would be focused primarily on municipal spending items.

On April 6, 2016, the Honourable Kirsty Duncan announced the *Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund* (SIF). This \$2-billion fund is modelled on the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) which was a very successful initiative introduced in 2009 during the financial and housing crisis that impacted the United States and many other parts of the world.

Analysis

The Government of Canada's background information indicates that SIF "will support projects that fall into at least one of the three following categories:

- Improve the scale or quality of facilities for research and innovation, including commercialization spaces;
- Improve the scale or quality of facilities for specialized training at colleges focused on industry needs;
- Improve the environmental sustainability of research and innovation-related infrastructure at post-secondary institutions and college training infrastructure."

The first of these categories is oriented primarily to universities while the second category is focused on colleges. The environmental sustainability provision applies to both colleges and universities.

Minister Duncan's announcement confirmed that the federal government will support projects with funding up to 50% of the project's eligible costs. The government signaled its intent to seek matching funds from provinces and territories and/or other sources. At the time of preparing this briefing report, confirmation of such matching funds has not yet been received.

Fleming Context

For purposes of long-term planning, during the past two years Fleming College has undertaken and commissioned two major planning processes. The first resulted in the *Frost Campus Master Plan* (2015). The second culminates with the submission to the College and the Board of Governors of the *Sutherland Campus Interior Development Plan*.

Working with these documents, a SIF Project Team has been assembled to evaluate opportunities for Fleming. College leaders conclude that there are opportunities to submit **two projects**:

Environmental Sciences Facilities Renewal Project and ***Healthcare Skills Training Facilities Renewal Project***.

The College is seeking further direction and advice on planned components that will best match the intention of these funds and provide the greatest benefit for Fleming College, our students and communities. Preparation is being undertaken in a very fluid situation, taking into account, for example, various scenarios concerning matching funds.

In the interim, and to increase the likelihood of success with our submissions, Fleming College has engaged Brook McIlroy and Perkins+Will to provide drawings relevant to our Frost and Sutherland projects respectively.

Specific Aboriginal Considerations (taken directly from funding application)

- Is the project (in full or in part) occurring on undisturbed or undeveloped land?
- Are there Aboriginal groups or communities in the project area? If yes, could the project have impact on these groups?
- Has another federal, provincial or territorial government entity indicated that Aboriginal consultation is required for this project?
- Have Aboriginal groups been consulted about this project, either directly by the applicant or by federal or provincial governments?

Deadline

Project proposals are to be submitted to Innovation, Science and Economic development Canada by May 9, 2016.