

News release

For immediate release

Government of Canada announces a \$50 million federal investment in CFIN to strengthen Canada's food sector

October 15, 2026 – Peterborough, Ontario – [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#)

Canadians continue to face cost-of-living increases as global trade shifts, conflicts, and climate change affect supply chains and drive-up costs for families. Strengthening domestic food-processing capacity, accelerating the adoption of advanced technologies and supporting innovation in the sector are central to Canada's National Food Security Strategy.

Today, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, announced a \$50 million investment in the [Canadian Food Innovation Network](#) (CFIN) through the Strategic Response Fund.

CFIN is an industry-led not-for-profit that helps food and beverage companies access the expertise, partners, and technologies they need to innovate and grow. The new SRF funding will enable CFIN to expand these services, helping more food and beverage processors, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), adopt and implement automation, artificial intelligence, digital manufacturing and other advanced technologies. Through this support, companies will be able to improve productivity, strengthen domestic processing capacity and accelerate the commercialization of Canadian-developed innovations

The project is expected to support more than 200 SMEs and expand the national network to 20,000 members through its established collaborative online platform and targeted programming. Through its network, CFIN is expected to facilitate up to \$200 million in follow-on private investment, create approximately 300 new jobs and support over 450 total full-time equivalent positions.

Canada has the resources and talent needed to feed itself, fuel itself and defend itself. This investment supports the National Food Security Strategy by strengthening domestic food production, improving access to affordable, nutritious food, and advancing Canadian-developed technologies that make the food system more resilient and competitive.

Quotes

“Through the Strategic Response Fund (SRF), the Government of Canada is supporting Canadian food companies in adopting innovative technologies that enhance productivity and competitiveness. By supporting CFIN, we are helping businesses across the country develop new solutions, strengthen production and make our food system stronger and more affordable for Canadians.”

– The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

“quote”

Dana McCauley, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Food Innovation Network



**Government
of Canada**

**Gouvernement
du Canada**

Canada

Quick facts

- The Canadian Food Innovation Network (CFIN) was established in 2021 as a national organization dedicated to stimulating transformative and transferrable innovation within the Canadian food sector.
- Since 2021, CFIN has built a national network of more than 9,000 members, supported more than 104 projects approximately valued at \$43.4 million, facilitated over \$140 million in follow-on private investment, supported more than 1,000 jobs, and contributed to more than 200 intellectual property applications.
- With more than 9,000 members from across the food value chain, including manufacturers, processors, distributors, operators, technology companies, funders and innovators, CFIN connects companies to new ideas, partners and technologies that help them grow and innovate.
- The Strategic Response Fund supports large business led projects and innovation networks in areas where Canada has a demonstrated advantage. The National Food Security Strategy strengthens domestic food production, improves access to affordable, nutritious food and supports a more resilient, competitive and reliable food system.

Associated links

- [National Food Security Strategy](#)
- [Canadian Food Innovation Network](#)
- [Strategic Response Fund](#)

Contacts

Gabrielle Landry
Deputy Director, Media Relations
Office of the Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
gabrielle.landry@ised-isde.gc.ca

Media Relations
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
media@ised-isde.gc.ca

Stay connected

Find more services and information on the [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#) website.

Follow Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada on social media.
[X \(Twitter\): @ISED_CA](#) | [Facebook: Canadian Innovation](#) | [Instagram: @cdninnovation](#) |
[LinkedIn: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#)



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada