



# **SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

## TO THE MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

April 1 - September 30, 2024



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	Executive Summary Pg. 2	<b>2</b>	Board of Directors Pg. 3
<b>3</b>	Our Impact Pg. 4	<b>4</b>	Projects Approved by the Corporation Pg. 14
<b>5</b>	Financial Forecast Pg. 18	<b>6</b>	Appendix A Pg. 20

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This semi-annual report covers the activities of the Research Nova Scotia Corporation (RNS) for the period of 1 April to 30 September 2024.

The Research Nova Scotia Corporation Funding Regulations outline the components required in the semi-annual report submitted to the Minister of Advanced Education:

- List of Board of Directors;
- Description of the impacts of RNS's investments in research;
- Details on each funding applications approved; and
- Financial forecast.

During the reporting period, the Corporation continued to implement its operating plan. The Chief Executive Officer met regularly with the Office of Priorities and Planning, as well as other provincial officials, to give shape to key government priorities.

RNS rolled out Focused Research Investments (FRI), a new initiative to harness the province's research capacity for the benefit of Nova Scotia. FRI supports researchers working with the end users of their research results to achieve specific outcomes and develop pathways to impact. FRI is a new concept in research funding for Canada and what we learn in its implementation may well change how this province benefits from its rich research resources.

In the period covered by this report, RNS supported 51 research projects including capacity building grants for students and new researchers, intentional initiatives and convened projects, and infrastructure support to match federally funded grants awarded to Nova Scotian institutions.

## 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Research Nova Scotia Board of Directors as of 30 September 2024 are:

Kim Brooks – President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University

Don Bureaux (Chair) – President, Nova Scotia Community College

Jennifer Church – Deputy Minister, Priorities & Planning and Communications Nova Scotia

Joël Dickinson – President and Vice-Chancellor, Mount Saint Vincent University

Ryan Grant – Deputy Minister, Department of Advanced Education

Andrew Hakin – President and Vice-Chancellor, St. Francis Xavier University

Nicholas Nickerson – Chief Scientist and Co-Founder, Eosense

Marc Sauer, Chief Science Officer, BioVectra

Robert Summerby-Murray – President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary's University

Kathleen Trott –Deputy Minister, Office of Addictions and Mental Health

The director positions for member-at-large and federal government representative are currently vacant.

## 3. OUR IMPACT

### IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF FORESTS

The Eastern Hemlock represents some of the last remaining old-growth forest in Nova Scotia and is revered by Indigenous communities as a cornerstone to ensure balance in the forest ecosystem. The hemlock, however, is under attack from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive species first identified in Nova Scotia in 2017 and has now spread to at least seven counties.

The HWA is an aphid-like insect that lays its eggs in cotton ball-like sacs among the hemlocks' needles, giving a snowy or woolly appearance to the trees. Its real threat to the hemlock comes from a toxin it injects into the tree as it feeds from it, thus leading to its death. A U.S. Forestry Service report from 10 years ago estimated that the economic impact of the HWA infestation in the eastern U.S., just in terms of drops in property values, was already in excess of \$25 M.



Research Nova Scotia has partnered with the Nova Scotia Forestry Innovation Transition Trust (FITT) to employ research to attempt to control the HWA infestation, which threatens the very survival of the hemlock in the province. Dr. Kirk Hillier received a \$502,000 award to develop an integrated pest management approach to halt the spread of HWA infestation to other parts of the province. Dr. Hillier is a member of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid working group, comprised of several provincial departments, the forestry industry, municipalities, federal government research scientists, a number of conservation groups, and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.



Dr. Kirk Hillier (left) & team

Dr. Hillier's research, which is based in his lab at Acadia University, is focusing on biocontrol. He is studying the feasibility of using local insect species to attack the HWA to suppress the infestation in an environmentally responsible manner, and ultimately preserve the hemlocks. He will also look at the environmental impacts of synthetic chemical treatments to learn about potential benefits to the hemlocks and potential threats to other plant and animal species that live in the province's forests. He has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and other members of the HWA working group to ensure the results of his research will be shared with everyone with an interest in the fate of the province's forests. He expects the project to wrap up in three years.

# IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF SKILLED LABOUR

Nova Scotia needs skilled tradespeople to support growth and development. Increased building in the public and private sectors combined with an aging population has created the need for an increase in the number of skilled tradespeople working in the province. To underline its importance, in 2023, the provincial government announced a \$100 M program to train and recruit skilled tradespeople.

Keeping people working in the trades is an ongoing challenge. Some skilled labour takes its toll on the body, an issue that a researcher at Mount Saint Vincent University is examining closely. While recruiting people to the trades has been challenging, keeping people working in the trades is an ongoing issue. The work required of some skilled labour takes its toll on the human body, causing challenges in the present and damage that becomes serious years later.

With a \$150,000 Intentional Research Award from Research Nova Scotia, Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal is learning about the impact of exposure to equipment or vehicle vibrations on the human body. Statistics indicate that significant lost times claims (68% annually in Nova Scotia) result from injuries to bones, joints, and the musculoskeletal system. Understanding how vibrations impact the skeleton may lead to mitigations to keep workers healthy, reducing lost time and improving productivity.



Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal



Many experiments involving humans begin in smaller animals such as mice; however, Dr. Franz-Odendaal's experiments are being conducted with zebrafish. Zebrafish are small freshwater fish with a skeleton composed of bones that comprise the same cell types as those found in humans. Therefore, the zebrafish is a valuable model for studying human skeletal reactions. The results from zebrafish experiments can later be translated into understanding the impacts on humans.

Although this research is at an early stage, an advisory committee consisting of skilled tradespeople, companies that employ tradespeople, organizations that provide training, and government regulators and policy makers has been established to both inform the project and apply the end results.

Dr. Franz-Odendaal says her vision for this research is that she will be able to recommend workplace safety guidelines that will reduce skeletal disorders and/or reduce negative impacts to the health and well-being of Nova Scotians who work in the trades.

# IMPACTING FUTURE APPLICANTS

Research Nova Scotia's (RNS) Peer Review Observer Program (PROP) gives students and early career researchers the opportunity to attend a peer review committee meeting to gain greater understanding of the process and learn what makes a strong research application. This program was developed to promote transparency in the grant review process by allowing participants to gain insight into the rigor with which applications are evaluated and to increase understanding of the value of peer review in strengthening evidence for decision-making.

The PROP has been running for over 15 years with a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the program returned in 2022, it successfully transitioned to a fully virtual mode of delivery – mirroring the way that many peer reviews now occur.

The program ensures confidentiality and conflict-of-interest considerations are embedded in the process. Observers must register in advance, declare any potential conflict of interest, and attend a mandatory orientation session about the policies and expectations of the program. During the meetings, care is taken to prevent disruptions of the peer review process. For example, observers keep their cameras and microphones off, are not permitted to take notes, and are moved to a virtual waiting room for discussions of applications for which they have conflict-of-interest.



In the past three years, PROP has had 147 observers participate in the full breadth of the program. Observers include post-secondary students of all levels (59.9%), research staff from universities/colleges or other research organizations (17%), and researchers (15.6%) with first-time or early-career academic appointments. While most observers are based in Nova Scotia, participants have also registered from other Canadian provinces, the U.S., Ireland, and Nigeria. International attendees learn of the event through RNS's social media posts and sign up to learn.

At the conclusion of each year's program, RNS surveys participants to collect feedback. The following is a sample of comments received:

**Allyson Gallant, a Research Fellow at the VISTA Research Programme at Trinity College Dublin:**

"I first participated in the Peer Review Observer Program during the final year of my PhD at Dalhousie University, and returned the following year during the first year of my research fellowship at Trinity College Dublin. I have found the PROP to provide invaluable insights into the discussions and scoring involved in the grant review process. Seeing reviewers offer such thoughtful critiques of each grant has helped shape my understanding of how grant applications are evaluated, and the rigour involved in both the grant writing and review processes."

**Siyuan Zheng, a Research Assistant at Cape Breton University:**

“I listened to the discussions on every proposal. After over a dozen project proposals, I feel that I can master the points of how to make a good proposal and successfully apply for a grant.”

**Julia Kontak, a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Health at Dalhousie:**

“The PROP was a great learning experience, and I am so glad RNS continues to offer this year after year. I found the reviews extremely thorough, and the organization of the panel was excellent.”

The 2024-25 version of PROP is taking place in November.

# IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Over the past six months, RNS has been fully engaged in rolling out its Focused Research Investments (FRI) initiative. FRI matches financial support to research intended to achieve significant results on issues of priority for Nova Scotia. A funded FRI was envisioned as large, complex, multidiscipline research projects growing from a collaboration between researchers and the end users needing the knowledge that would be produced.

FRI are not simply large research projects, they are not training programs to develop research capacity, and they are not centres of excellence. Instead, FRIs are researchers engaging the potential beneficiaries of their work to focus on outcomes with a defined pathway to implementation.

Forty-six expressions of interest were received by RNS in late April from researchers in academia, healthcare delivery, industry, and community organizations. An external advisory panel helped chose nine to submit full proposals. A skilled facilitator with more than a decade of experience working with interdisciplinary research teams was engaged by RNS as the FRI Lead, to work loosely with the application teams over the course of the 10-week full proposal development period. The FRI Lead operated on four central principles:

- impartiality
- equal distribution of time/access to consultation across all teams,
- strict confidentiality, and
- strategic advising but not primary development of concepts or writing.



During the proposal development phase, the Lead advised on concept development to support alignment with the spirit/intent of the FRI program, helped with interpretation and strategic development of FRI full proposal elements, answered general questions about the application process, and reviewed draft content.

Once final proposals were submitted, RNS contracted a consultant to interview the applicants about their experiences with the process. This novel partnered approach was found to be extremely well received by all teams, who noted that it enhanced the quality of their proposals.

Review of the nine full proposals continues into the fall months and a public announcement on which ones will form the first cohort of funded FRIs is expected by year's end.

# COMMUNICATING IMPACT

The following section provides a snapshot of Research Nova Scotia's communication activities for the period of 1 April to 30 September 2024. The focus of RNS's communications is to spotlight the projects we support which directly impact Nova Scotians, to raise awareness of opportunities within the research ecosystem, and to foster connections and partnerships with and among researchers, academic institutions, and organizations.

During the reporting period, RNS's communications campaigns included the Scotia Scholars program call for applications and recipient announcements, the International Nursing Research Program call for applications, the Focused Research Investments call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) and announcement of teams going to full proposal, the New Health Investigator Grant call for EOI, and the call for nominations for the Public Impact Award, sponsored by RNS. The information shared below demonstrates the success of these campaigns in driving engagement on our website, newsletter, and social media.

## WEBSITE

[researchns.ca](https://researchns.ca) hosts all public RNS content.

During the reporting period:

- There were **29,202** separate interactions with the RNS website.
- **16,392** users visited the website, 15,654 of which were new users.
- The engagement rate on the website was **86.57%**, meaning most people who visited didn't just look, they engage with it.
- On average, users stayed on the website for **53 minutes** at a time.
- Files (reports, funding documents, resources, etc..) were downloaded **3,988** times.
- Most users were in **NS**, with over 3,000 in Ontario, and over 1,000 in Quebec and NB.

TOP LANDING PAGES	MOST POPULAR PAGES
<a href="#">RNS landing page</a>	<a href="#">RNS landing page</a>
<a href="#">Scotia Scholars Award</a>	<a href="#">Focused Research Investments (FRI)</a>
<a href="#">Scotia Scholars Master's Award</a>	<a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Focused Research Investments (FRI)</a>	<a href="#">Scotia Scholars Master's Award</a>
<a href="#">New Health Investigator Grant</a>	<a href="#">Scotia Scholars Award</a>
<a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>	<a href="#">New Health Investigator Grant</a>
<a href="#">Public Impact Award</a>	<a href="#">Scotia Scholars Doctoral Award</a>

Most of RNS's communications efforts link to our website; for example links in RNS monthly newsletters, social media posts, news postings and web stories, and emails to research offices, partners, and communications teams at institutions and local organizations.

Below is a breakdown of how users find the RNS website:

<b>Direct link</b>	7,319 users	Direct link could be from efforts like email and newsletter.
<b>Organic search</b>	6,353 users	Organic search is when users come to the website from searching something on Google, Bing, etc.
<b>Referral</b>	1,406 users	Referral is when users followed a link from another website, like an institution's website or news article.
<b>Organic social</b>	1,380 users	Organic social is when users come from a social media post that wasn't a paid ad.

Facebook drove the most traffic from social media, followed by Instagram, LinkedIn, and X.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

RNS distributes an email newsletter to more than 1,300 subscribers on the first Wednesday of every month. It includes announcements, funding opportunities, events and webinars, research news and stories, and more. It includes RNS content as well as external content that supports the professional growth of researchers in Nova Scotia.

According to mailchimp.com, the average open rate for non-profit organizations is 40.0% and the average click rate is 3.3%. RNS's newsletter content typically performs above industry standard.

The top five links clicked across all newsletters distributed during this reporting period were:

1. [FRI announcement of teams going to full proposal](#)
2. [Master's and Doctoral Scotia Scholars Award funding recipient announcement](#)
3. [Research Money article on FRI](#)
4. [CIHR funding opportunities](#)
5. [RNS funding opportunities](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

RNS social media channels are leveraged to share announcements, funding opportunities, and researcher stories, and to build relationships with the research ecosystem. Also to amplify Nova Scotia researchers' work and posts from other organizations offering opportunities that could benefit researchers in Nova Scotia.

Below are a few social highlights from the reporting period.

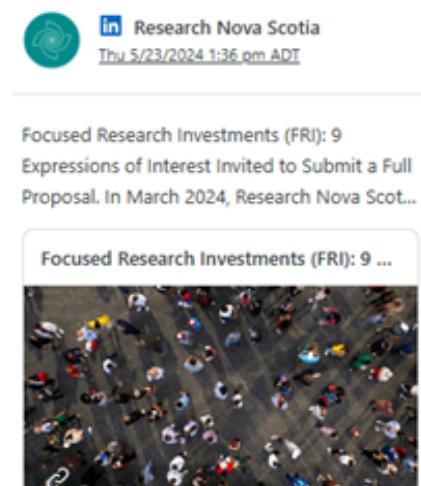
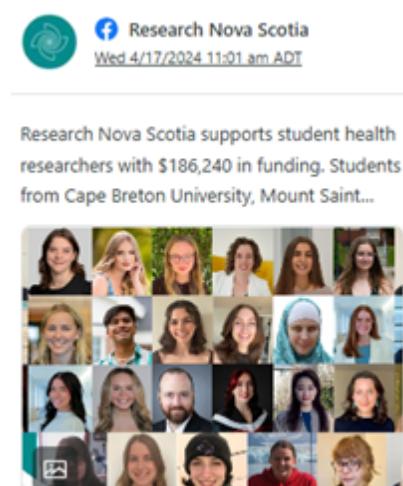
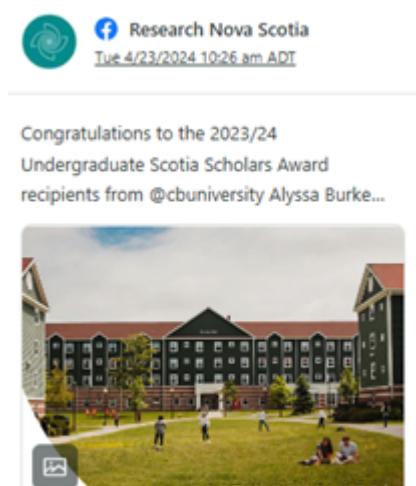
IMPRESSIONS	ENGAGEMENTS	POST LINK CLICK	ENGAGEMENT RATE
297,631	13,251	2,115	4.4%

Engagement rate and post link clicks are key performance indicators. Engagement rate indicates interest because it shows how often posts were engaged with compared to how many times they were on users' screens. Post link click shows how many times a link was clicked, which are usually linked to the RNS website. Both engagement rate and post link clicks have increased since the last reporting period.

According to hootsuite.com, RNS is performing above non-profit industry standard for average engagement rate on **Facebook (12.2% vs. industry average of 3.8%)**, **LinkedIn (5.9% vs industry average of 2.1%)**, and **X (3.8% vs. industry average of 3.7%)**.

RNS's total net audience growth during this period was **766**, which brings the total audience to **8,308 followers** across channels. The largest audience growth was on LinkedIn, followed by Instagram.

The 25 most engaged posts during the reporting period include Undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral Scotia Scholars Award recipients, FRI announcement of teams going to full proposal, New Health Investigator Grant call for EOI, and Public Impact Award.



## NEWS & STORIES

RNS issued the following media announcements during the reporting period:

April 17, 2024

[Research Nova Scotia Supports Student Health Researchers with \\$186,240 in Funding](#)

May 23, 2024

[Focused Research Investments \(FRI\): 9 Expressions of Interest Invited to Submit a Full Proposal](#)

August 29, 2024

[Research Nova Scotia Invests in the Next Generation of Health Researchers](#)

RNS also reposted this story from St. Francis Xavier University on September 3, 2024:

[Meaningful Impact: 14 StFX Students Pursue Health Research as Scotia Scholars Award Recipients](#)

## BEYOND RESEARCH PODCAST

On the Beyond Research Podcast, RNS speaks with talented researchers, experts, and thought leaders, exploring their imagination and expertise as they devote their work to solving society's biggest challenges. The podcast continues to see daily downloads from a global audience.

During this reporting period, RNS released two new episodes and had 761 total downloads. In addition to a strong listener base in Canada, the podcast has seen increased downloads in Uganda, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Austria.

### Season 3, Episode 8

[Informing Supportive Environments for a Healthier Population](#)

In this episode, we consider how our environments can help or hinder the health of our population. Our guests, Dr. Sara Kirk and Shali Manuel, discuss research aimed to understand the environmental factors influencing population health. We also explore the broader implications of creating supportive environments for chronic disease prevention, contributing to the well-being of communities and society at large.

**Downloads: 185**

**YouTube Views: 48**



### Season 3, Episode 8

#### Informing Supportive Environments for a Healthier Population

In this episode, we discuss a successful, but often overlooked, model for research: The College Model. Listen as we discuss the types of research projects colleges undertake, and how it differs from traditional university-based research. We also explore student involvement and workforce preparation; the principles of partner- and challenge-driven research, serving the problem-solving needs of communities; as well as the stereotypes and barriers facing college research.

**Downloads:** 218

**YouTube Views:** 32



# 4. PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE CORPORATION

Over the last six months, RNS supported 51 research projects through its Research Opportunities Fund and the Scotia Scholars Awards program.

From 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024, the following commitments were made:

## RNS COMMITMENTS

PROGRAM	TYPE	# FUNDED	TOTAL INVESTMENT
Research Opportunities Fund	Matching Funds	3	\$2,884,113
Intentional Initiatives	Convened	5	\$760,079
Forestry	Convened	3	\$1,453,011
International Nursing Research Program	Convened	4	\$118,878
Scotia Scholars (Master's)	Capacity Building	22	\$348,750
Scotia Scholars (Doctoral)	Capacity Building	14	\$640,000
		51	<b>\$6,204,831</b>

Appendix A details each project approved by the Corporation during the reporting period, including the following information on each research project:

1. Name of the lead applicant
2. Name of the lead institution or organization
3. Name of the project
4. Amount of funding approved
5. Research sector
6. Estimated number of jobs in Nova Scotia that will be supported by the funding awarded to the project

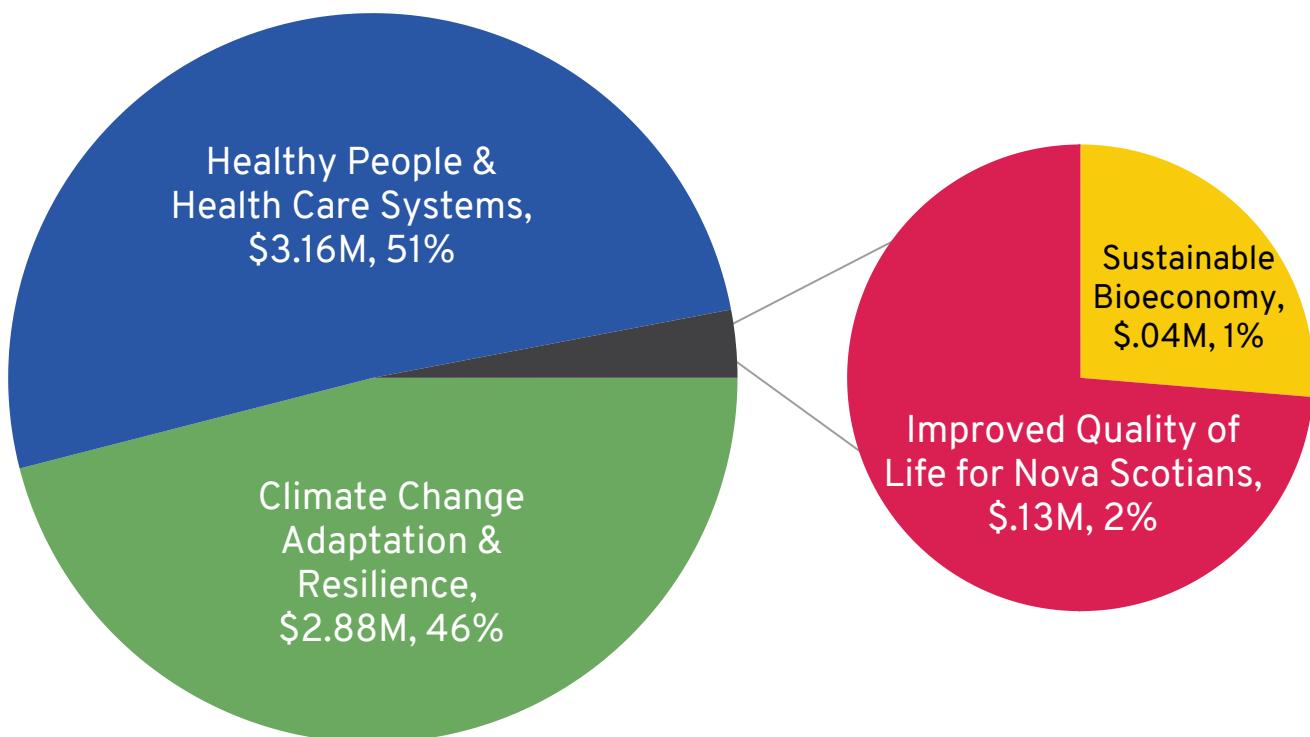
7. Estimated number of training opportunities for students and others in Nova Scotia that will be supported by the funding awarded to the project
8. Information about any funding that the project received from other sources, including the following:
  - a. The name of each source, and
  - b. The amount received from each source and whether it was in the form of cash or an in-kind contribution.

As part of the funds awarded in this time period, RNS invested in building research capacity in 36 students through its Scotia Scholars program. Scotia Scholars support trainees at the undergraduate, Master's and PhD levels to work on a specific research project with faculty mentors. Award stipends are a maximum award of \$25,000 for Master's level students and \$75,000 for Doctoral level students.

The newest Scotia Scholars are enrolled at Acadia University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and Saint Mary's University.

The competition for undergraduate students will be completed by the end of March 2025.

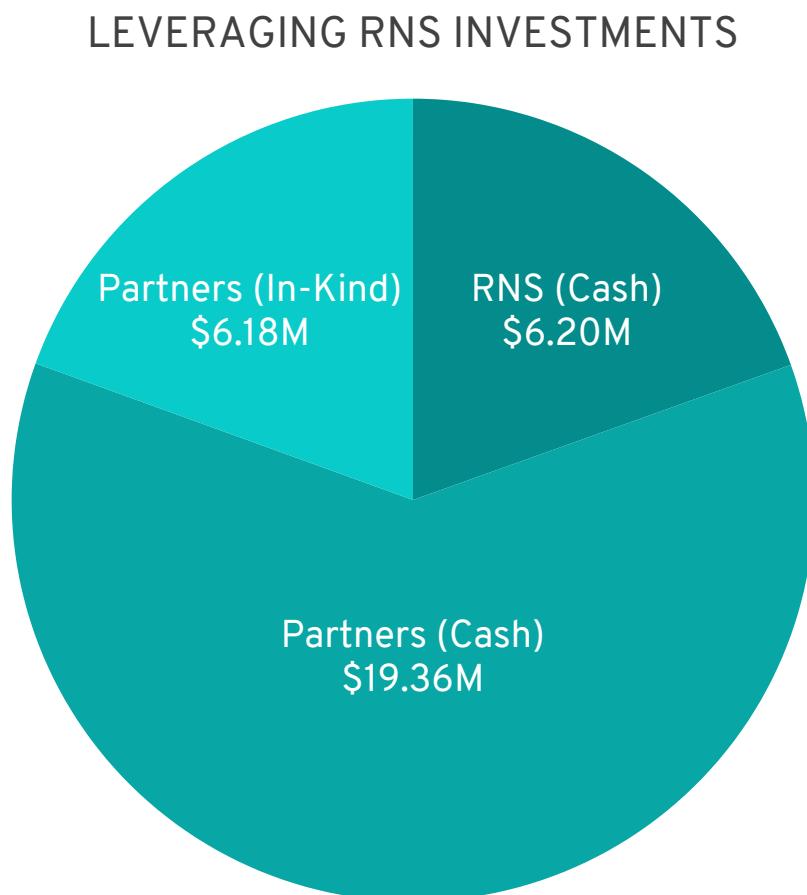
For the six months in this reporting period, RNS was active across all four mission areas:



RNS support was employed for three purposes:



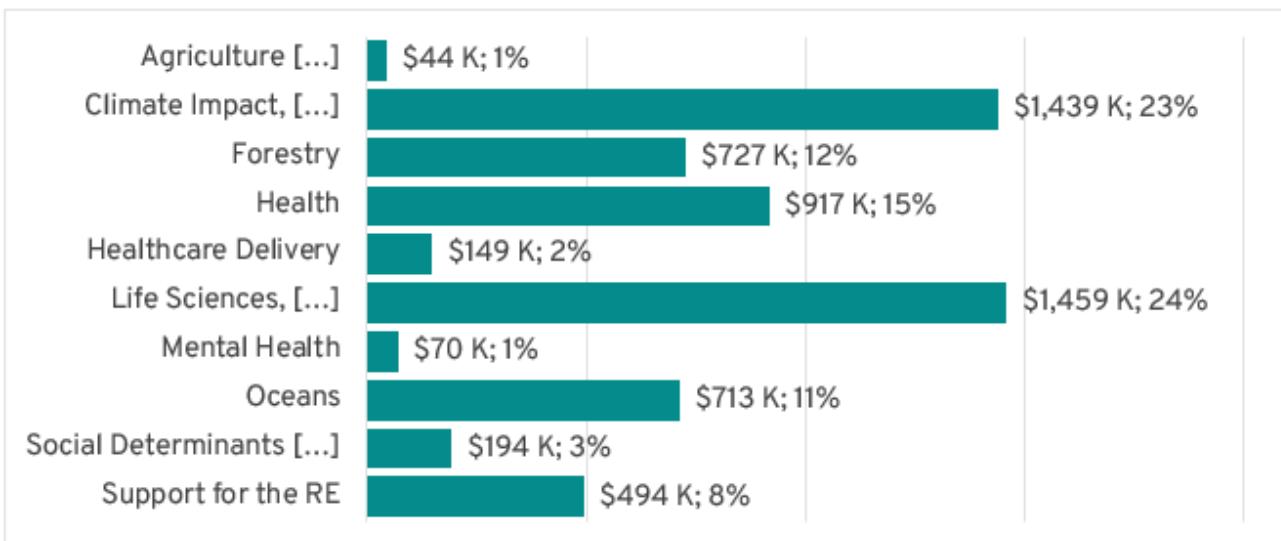
RNS's commitment leveraged investment from others:



Partners who also supported these projects included universities, federal research funding agencies, industry partners, and health charities.

RNS invested in research across sectors important to the province.

## VALUE OF INVESTMENT BY RESEARCH SECTOR



# 5. FINANCIAL FORECAST

The following table includes:

1. The current balance in the Research Opportunities Fund and the amount anticipated to be paid from the Fund over the next 6 months;
2. The amount spent on operations from April to September 2024, and the amount anticipated to be spent on operations over the next 6 months;
3. The proposed Research Opportunities Fund and Operations budgets for the 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

	SPENT (Apr-Sep 24)	BALANCE (30 Sep 24)	FORECAST (Oct 24 - Mar 25)	PROPOSED (25/26)
Research Opportunities Fund (ROF)	\$6.21 M <sup>1</sup>	\$53.20 M <sup>2</sup>	\$35.99 M <sup>3</sup>	\$14.70 M <sup>1,4</sup>
Operations	\$0.91 M <sup>5</sup>	N/A	\$0.93 M <sup>5</sup>	\$1.80 M <sup>5</sup>

The following table includes:

1. This figure includes both paid and committed (through a grant payment agreement) for new projects approved in the reporting period. It excludes funds paid in the reporting period for projects approved and committed in previous years.
2. This is the total ROF amount that remains uncommitted at the end of the period. It includes \$4.6 M received from Advanced Education for health research (\$3 M) and the general ROF contribution for 24/25 (\$1.6 M). It also includes small amounts returned to RNS from researchers when project costs are under budget, and any returns realized on ROF funds invested.
3. Includes expected CFI, partner, and intentional research projects to be approved from October 2024 through March 2025, including approximately \$27 M for Focused Research Investments in four selected projects.
4. Estimate based on anticipated demand for matching funds, intentional research projects, targeted health research (in consultation with Department of Health and Wellness), student awards (Scotia Scholars) and FRI seed projects. The budget includes a small contingency for opportunities expected but as yet unannounced. CFI's Innovation Fund competition launched in April 2024 but is excluded from this total as the review process will continue until November 2025 and any RNS commitment will occur early in the 2026-27 fiscal year. The notices of intent submitted in early October included a request for RNS support totaling \$21.5 M.
5. The proposed budget estimates a 2% increase across all operating costs to allow for inflation and other increases to wage/benefit and administrative costs. The current transfer from DAE

for operations is \$1.796 M, which is less than the estimates. Pending Board approval, the deficit would be sourced from the operating reserve (unrestricted net assets).

# 6. APPENDIX A

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FUND - CFI JOHN R. EVANS LEADERS FUND (JELF)									
Synthetic Methods for Stabilization of Peptide Nanotube Architecture	Carlie Charron	Dalhousie University	\$170,000	Life Sciences, Biomedical, Medicine, Biotech	0.00	60.00	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Dalhousie University, Industry Partners	CFI DAL	\$170,000 \$9,792
ROF CFI JELF SUBTOTAL			\$170,000		0.00	60.00			\$179,792
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FUND - CFI INNOVATION FUND (IF)									
Ocean Tracking Network	Robert Lennox	Dalhousie University	\$1,425,088	Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience, Oceans	2.00	180.00	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Dalhousie University, Industry Partners	CFI DAL Industry	\$2,000,000 \$50,000 \$600,000
ROF CFI IF SUBTOTAL			\$1,425,088		2.00	180.00			\$2,650,000

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FUND - CANADA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FUND AND BIOSCIENCES RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FUND									
AVENGER: Advanced LNP RNA Vaccines Engineered with Next- Generation designs to Enhance pandemic Readiness	Shashi Gujar	Dalhousie University	\$1,289,025	Life Sciences, Biomedical, Medicine, Biotech	32.00	28.00	Government of Canada Biomedical Research Fund and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund, University of British Columbia, Other Partners	GOC UBC	\$12,761,992 \$3,447,569
ROF CBRF/BRIF SUBTOTAL			\$1,289,025		32.00	28.00			\$16,209,561
INTENTIONAL INITIATIVES									
Role of VIP and GLP-1 in Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes	Valerie Chappe	Dalhousie University	\$100,000	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Health, Healthcare Delivery	3.00	7.50	Cystic Fibrosis Canada	CFC	\$199,940
								N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Exploring the Use of Mismatch Negativity on EEG and Anterior Cingulate Cortex Glutamate as Prospective Markers of Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia	Kara Dempster	Nova Scotia Health	\$202,466	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Health, Healthcare Delivery	2.50	2.00	N/A	N/A	\$-
Understanding the Impacts of Whole Body Vibration Exposure on Bone Health	Tamara Franz-Odendaal	Mount Saint Vincent University	\$150,000	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Health	2.00	5.00	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	NSERC	\$10,000
Evaluation of NON-GM camelina germplasm and seeding rates for improved plant growth, seed yield and quality of camelina in Eastern Canada	Yunfei Jiang	Eastern Canada Oilseed Development Alliance	\$44,325	Agriculture and Farming	3.00	5.00	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership	SCAP	\$50,936
fNIRS-based cerebrovascular reactivity measurements:	Erin Mazerolle	St. Francis Xavier University	\$263,288	Health	2.00	5.33	Canada Summer Jobs, St. Francis Xavier University Summer Student Awards, Natural	GOC St. FX	\$4,000 \$17,000

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Improved tracking of brain health							Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	NSERC	\$30,000
<b>INTENTIONAL SUBTOTAL</b>			\$760,079		12.50	24.83			\$311,876
<b>FORESTRY AWARD</b>									
Development of a biocontrol and integrated pest management strategy for invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	Neil Kirk Hillier	Acadia University	\$502,000	Forestry, Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience	0.00	6.60	N/A	N/A	\$-
Thermochemical and Hydrothermal Upgrading of Low-Grade Forestry Residues to High-Value Biofuels and Biochar	Sonil Nanda	Dalhousie University	\$361,000	Forestry, Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience	15.00	15.00	Greenspring Bioinnovation Hub, Forestry Economic Task Force, Industry Partners	GBH	\$30,000
The Nova Scotia Forest Soil Health Project: New Practices and Tools to Improve the Health of Nova Scotia Forest Soils to Support High Production Forestry	Shannon Sterling	Dalhousie University	\$590,011	Forestry, Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience	5.00	5.00	Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council	DAL	\$645,447
								NSDNRR	\$240,000
								NSERC	\$21,365
								NSDNRR	\$20,000

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
							of Canada, Industry Partners		
								Industry	\$336,320
<b>FORESTRY SUBTOTAL</b>			\$1,453,011		20.00	26.60		\$-	\$1,407,131
<b>INTERNATIONAL NURSING RESEARCH PROGRAM</b>									
Readiness Among Public Health Nurses and Educational Institutions To Meet Emerging Public Health Challenges: A Case Study Of Nova Scotia And The National Capital Region	Megan Aston	Dalhousie University	\$30,000	Healthcare Delivery	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	\$-
A mixed-methods exploration of the efficacy of simulation-based education to teach undergraduate nursing students how to deliver psychologically safe equitable healthcare to marginalized populations.	Kelly Lackie	Dalhousie University	\$29,911	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Exploring how nursing programs prepare entry-level nurses to provide mental healthcare: A comparative case study in India and Canada	Elaine Moody	Dalhousie University	\$28,966	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A	\$-
Examining the acceptance of the peripheral/ground level Community Health Workers' (CHW) roles in rural and urban India and gaining insights into the challenges and/or solutions they faced, and their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Audrey Steenbeek	Dalhousie University	\$30,000	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	0.10	0.10	Dalhousie University	DAL	\$10,000
Exploring the potential application of CHWs in Nova Scotia					0.10	0.10		N/A	\$-
<i>INRP SUBTOTAL</i>			\$118,878					\$10,000	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
SCOTIA SCHOLARS AWARD - DOCTORAL									
Exploring Nova Scotia Early Childhood Educators' perspectives of child-nature relationships across outdoor play settings	Robyn Ashley	Mount Saint Vincent University	\$48,750	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
INVESTIGATING SLEEP AND CIRCADIAN PREDICTORS OF RELAPSE IN DEPRESSION	Jasmyn Cunningham	Dalhousie University	\$75,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Optimizing Cardiac Rehabilitation and Transitional Care: What Does the Journey for Post-Cardiac Surgery Patients Look Like? A Patient-Oriented Approach in Saint John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia.	Dana El-Mughayyar	Dalhousie University	\$36,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Investigating the nano-scale origins of tendinopathies using second harmonic generation microscopy	MacAulay Harvey	Saint Mary's University	\$11,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Wellbeing of Black Women in the Nonprofit Sector in Nova Scotia	Timi Idris	Dalhousie University	\$56,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Exploring the wellbeing impact of disclosing invisible disabilities in the workplace in Canada	Daniel Keays	Saint Mary's University	\$18,750	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
A mixed methods project on anxiety sensitivity, hangover-related negative emotions, and alcohol-related problems in hazardous drinkers	Dong Wook (Andy) Kim	Dalhousie University	\$56,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Role of hypoxia in neurobehavioral outcomes of TBI	Jamil Muradov	Dalhousie University	\$18,750	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Exploring the Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms for Treatment of Diastolic Dysfunction Experimentally and Observationally in a Clinical Population	Victoria (Tori) Nelson	Dalhousie University	\$56,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Examining the effect of dexmedetomidine for pain management in infants with hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy undergoing therapeutic hypothermia.	NaDeana Norris	Dalhousie University	\$75,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Evolving Threat Detector: Automatic Detection of Novel and Emerging Antimicrobial Resistance Using Multi-Modal Data	Precious Osadebamwen	Dalhousie University	\$56,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Treating Cardiac Arrhythmias with Optogenetics	Ahmed Ramadan	Dalhousie University	\$37,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Enhancing Workplace Safety in Healthcare: Investigating the Role of S.A.F.E.R Leadership in Mitigating Stress-Related Challenges	Diana Serban	Saint Mary's University	\$18,750	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
<b>SCOTIA SCHOLARS AWARD - MASTERS</b>									
Point-of-care diagnostics: A lateral-flow Immunoassay for Muscle-Health Monitoring	Sumayyah Chotoye	Saint Mary's University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Daily sexual script flexibility, sexual self-disclosure, and sexual wellbeing in sexual and gender/sex diverse couples: who does flexibility and communication help?	Marcus Cormier	Acadia University	\$3,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Trends and determinants of socioeconomic inequalities in the prevalence of chronic diseases within Indigenous peoples living off reserve in Canada: 2001-2022	Kylie Curnew	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Women's Birthing Experiences and Maternal Care Practices in Atlantic Canada	Olivia Denman	Saint Mary's University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Evaluation and Classification of rs-fMRI Biomarkers in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Using Sparse Gaussian Markov Network	Simal Dolek	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Compassionate care for the mind and body: An empirical evaluation of a brief self-compassion intervention for improving sexual functioning after treatments for breast cancer	Kaylee Dyall	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Provincial Education Data for an Integrated Health System in Nova Scotia: A Focus on Psychological Predictors of Chronic Absenteeism	Katelyn Ford	Mount Saint Vincent University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
The Validation of an Implicit Measure of the Sense of Agency	Hannah Frail	Acadia University	\$8,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Development of a novel, targeted, cell-based immunotherapeutic drug for B-cell mediated disorders.	Jenysbel de la Caridad Hernández Reyes	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Do inequities in household labour predict low sexual desire and greater sexual distress in couples coping with low desire?	Greta Jang	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Determining the effects of <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> on the overwintering physiology of the black-legged tick, <i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	Mia Lauzon	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Threads of Wellness: Exploring the Mental Health Benefits of Clothing	Janelle Leda	Nova Scotia College of Art and Design	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Pulse of my Heart: Exploring a Writing Exercise for Parents with Early-onset Cancer Aimed at Reducing Death-related Distress	Muskan Manhas	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Pharmacodynamic Evaluation of Lead Diarylquinolines Against Mycobacterium avium ATP Synthase	Islam Matar	Saint Mary's University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Exploring needs and experiences of caregivers of individuals with disabilities in Nova Scotia	Dominique (Nikki) Matthews	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Development of Immunoregulating Implant Materials to Control Inflammation and Reduce Post-Operative Complications	Sara Murrin	Dalhousie University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Does Intolerance of Uncertainty Shape the Relationship Between Daily Levels of Uncertainty and Subsequent Relational Conflict?	Amber Myatt	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Utilitarian Processing: A Strengths-Based Approach to Examining Ways that Autistic Persons Understand the World Around Them	Emily Pico	Acadia University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Functional Trajectories of Muscle and their Association with Frailty in Symptomatic and/or Structural Knee Osteoarthritis Progression	Sophie Rayner	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports: A Systematic Review of Evidence-Based Intervention for ADHD in Schools	Dan Shanahan	Mount Saint Vincent University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
Socioeconomic inequalities associated with breast and cervical cancer screening uptakes in Canada: 2000-2022	Kaveh Wornell	Dalhousie University	\$25,000	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
A Qualitative Examination of School Psychologists' Knowledge of and Experiences with Supporting Newcomer Students in Nova Scotia Schools.	Yara Yazbek	Mount Saint Vincent University	\$12,500	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	-	-	N/A	N/A	\$-
SSA SUBTOTAL			\$988,750	0.00		0.00	\$-		
TOTAL		\$6,204,831		66.60	319.53	\$19,361,229			\$6,180,088