



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

**TO THE MINISTER OF
ADVANCED EDUCATION**

October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Research Nova Scotia Board of Directors as of 31 March 2025 are: *

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

Kim Brooks – President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University

Jennifer Church – Deputy Minister, Office of Service Efficiency

Kenneth Deveau – President and Vice-Chancellor, Université Sainte-Anne

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

Ryan Grant - Deputy Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration

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

Sabrena MacKenzie – CEO and Founder, SeaChange Biochemistry

Marc Sauer – Chief Science Officer, BioVectra

Kathleen Trott –Deputy Minister, Seniors and Long-Term Care and Office of Addictions and Mental Health

Alain Vézina – Federal representative

*There was a substantial change in Board membership shortly after 31 March 2025; for a current list of directors, please visit: <https://researchns.ca/governance/board-of-directors/>

CONSIDERING OUR IMPACT

IMPACTING NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS

Research Nova Scotia support is helping two Nova Scotia companies as they turn naturally occurring materials into commercially viable products.

RNS funded Dr. Nicoletta Faraone, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Acadia University, to add a Tick Chemosensory System to her lab to investigate which specific chemical compounds in natural products actually repels the dangerous pests.

Her research has already proven valuable to AtlanTick, a company based in Mahone Bay that has developed a line of natural tick repellents which are sold across Canada and around the world. Dr. Faraone used the Tick Chemosensory System to evaluate AtlanTick's products and identify which specific chemical compounds were repelling them. Her research has been used to not only strengthen AtlanTick's existing product line but to support the creation of new ones. For example, Dr. Faraone and AtlanTick are working together on an essential oil fabric spray that will repel ticks, projected to be on the market by late 2025.

Dr. Faraone has also worked with a Cape Breton company rooted in traditional Mi'kmaw medicine. Maskwiomin was co-founded and is co-owned by Drs. Tuma Young and Matthias Bierenstiel, professors at Cape Breton University. Dr. Young is also a member of the Membertou First Nation.

Maskwiomin manufactures a number of products to treat skin conditions such as rashes, psoriasis, and eczema, which are sold across Canada and the United States. The product is made from a rediscovered traditional Mi'kmaw method of extracting oil from birch bark and making healing creams and lotions. Dr. Bierenstiel, a chemistry researcher, has analyzed the product and discovered that it is made up of over 200 individual compounds; to date, 90 have been identified. These include antibacterial, anti-itch and anti-inflammatory compounds as well as some that promote cell growth.





Dr. Nicoletta Faraone

A chance meeting at a research conference introduced Dr. Bierenstiel to Dr. Faraone and her lab's capabilities. Using the Tick Chemosensory System, Dr. Faraone was able to examine the birch bark extract and discovered that it not only repelled ticks, it also deterred mosquitos. Maskwiomin is now considering new products for the insect repellent market.

Dr. Faraone has described herself as a researcher who wants to find solutions. Her work demonstrates that research rooted in providing solutions can make it possible for growing businesses to not only serve their customer base but increase their chances of financial success.

IMPACTING RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

An office powered by a standard-looking window? That's the type of innovative and practical renewable energy research Dr. Wayne Groszko, research scientist at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), is working on to help local industry support Nova Scotia's net-zero carbon emission goals.

Dr. Groszko has been exploring technologies called building-integrated photovoltaics. These are solar electricity generators that present an opportunity for power to be collected from various surfaces of a building, including windows. With solar radiation being one of the more abundant forms of renewable energy in the province, this research is a promising addition to Nova Scotia's green energy portfolio.



Dr. Wayne Groszko

Funding from Research Nova Scotia enabled Dr. Groszko to partner with Kohltech Windows and Entrance Systems in Debert to research, prototype, and test a multi-panel photovoltaic system to generate power from residential-style windows. The prototype included energy storage and the ability to supply power independently of the electric grid.

The NSCC team researched the characteristics of transparent photovoltaic glass, and which components would be most effective at generating power from such glass. Based on the results, they set up a nine-panel photovoltaic window in Kohltech's head office, wired to a small box hidden in the frame. Created by an NSCC engineering student, the box included an inverter to convert the solar energy into electricity, a battery to store the energy, a charge controller to decide how much solar energy to give the battery, and a power-management measurement system to understand how much electricity the window



was producing. The inverter and power-management measuring system were supplied by TJ's Electric Ltd. of Bedford, and the battery storage system was from Surrette Battery Company Ltd. of Springhill.

During the test period, the photovoltaic window successfully powered office equipment including a computer and a monitor, while charging a smartphone.

Dr. Groszko reports that his research could provide window manufacturers, such as Kohltech, with the information needed to produce a custom photovoltaic window for the building market.

Photovoltaic windows specifically developed and evaluated in this climate could enable local industry to develop new products and give Nova Scotians the option to integrate this renewable energy source into their homes or offices.

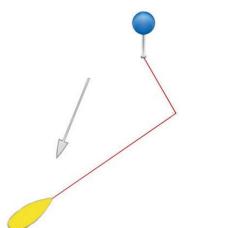
IMPACTING MARINE WEATHER ACCURACY

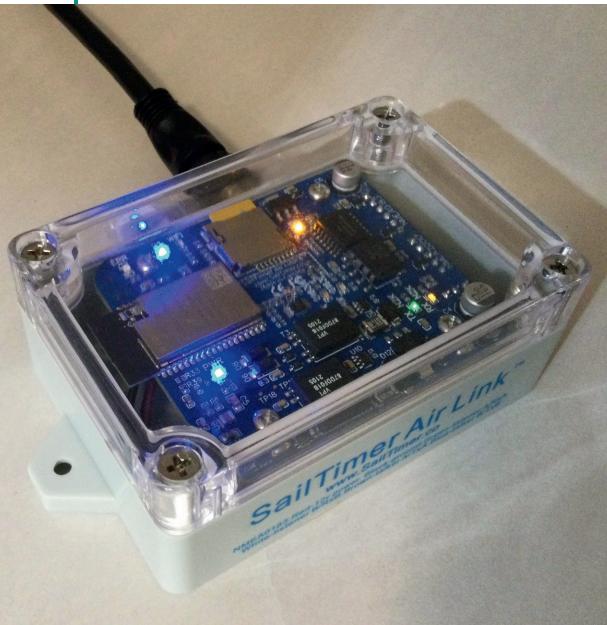
Most RNS research grants go to the post-secondary sector or the health authorities. In the case of SailTimer, Inc., however, funding was provided to a company for research that will both support its product development and produce valuable, publicly-available research for broader use.

SailTimer Inc. is a Nova Scotia-based company with world-leading expertise on crowdsourced wind data. For the past two years, its Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Craig Summers, has been involved in research to improve his system to provide more accurate weather information to those who take to the water.

In a nutshell, sailors use SailTimer's technology to accurately measure wind direction and speed in real time, and they share that data with the company. With the proliferation of smartphones among sailors, the company developed an app for both Android and Apple products that captures additional readings, thus giving it access to significant crowdsourced information.

With support from Research Nova Scotia, Dr. Summers and his team will explore whether smartphones can be used to accurately measure not only wind but swells and waves.





Already a new version of SailTimer's measuring technology and app have been released to give users a role in the research. The hypothesis is that it will be possible for smartphones to detect motion sufficiently to measure ocean conditions. This data, combined with that gathered from wind measurements, will make more accurate forecasts available to vessels from kayaks to the largest container ships.

The results to date are interesting. SailTimer's research, which has been comparing satellite forecasts to the company's wind measuring technology, indicates that wind direction predictions currently available to sailors can be off by as much as 38 degrees. The captains of ocean-going vessels have long mistrusted the accuracy

of satellite forecasts and therefore ignore them when routing a voyage. Either ignoring accurate forecasts or trusting inaccurate forecasts can lead to longer voyage times, additional fuel costs, and more harmful emissions.

To help shipping companies access more reliable weather information, SailTimer has partnered with Weathernews Inc. (WNI), a Japanese firm known as the largest private weather service in the world. WNI provides weather forecasting to over 10,000 vessels, mostly in the shipping and offshore energy sectors. In addition, SailTimer is in discussions with several large shipping companies about using its technology.

As for whether the ubiquitous smartphone could be the key to the best data for the most accurate weather forecasts, the work continues. SailTimer is partnering with the National Research Council to evaluate its motion sensor technology in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with the aim of improving the accuracy of its fixed motion detection technology. Then, the smartphone research will roll out in earnest.

Dr. Summers points out that technology improvements have been already achieved, resulting in new versions of the company's products which are manufactured in Nova Scotia. He notes, however, that the data generated from crowdsourcing is now more valuable to the company than the revenue from sales of the instruments.

SailTimer is setting a course for research to prove this data can form the foundation for products to help reduce costs for marine transportation and to mitigate risk for Nova Scotia's commercial fishing fleets and recreational sailors.

COMMUNICATING OUR IMPACT

The following provides a snapshot of Research Nova Scotia's communication activities for the period of 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025. The focus of RNS's communications is to spotlight projects it supports, to raise awareness of opportunities within the research ecosystem, and to foster connections and partnerships with and among researchers, academic institutions, and the public.

These communications efforts have been successful in maintaining relationships with existing partners and funding recipients, as well as gaining the attention of new research talent and generating public interest. RNS also works with communications teams at Nova Scotia universities, colleges, health authorities, and local research organizations to help reach the right audiences.

WEBSITE

researchns.ca hosts all public RNS content. The information below demonstrates success in driving traffic to and engagement with the website.

During the reporting period:

- **10,189** Canadian users, the majority of which were based in Nova Scotia, visited the website. They interacted with the website 14,967 times, suggesting that they come back often.
- **86.3%** of Canadian users who visited the website engaged with it (didn't simply look and leave).
- On average, users stayed on the website for **38 minutes** at a time.
- The five most popular pages were the [RNS landing page](#), [funding opportunities](#), [Scotia Scholars Award main page](#), [Focused Research Investments main page](#), and [Scotia Scholars Undergraduate Award](#) funding application page.

HOW DO CANADIAN USERS GET TO THE RNS WEBSITE?

- **8,526** website interactions began by users organically searching for content on a search engine such as Google or Bing.
- **4,903** website interactions began from a direct link found in emails and the newsletter, for example.
- **2,701** website interactions began from a referral link, which is a link on another website. Some of the top referrals were from dal.ca, Microsoft Teams, nscc.ca, cbu.ca, and acadiau.ca.
- **857** website interactions began from social media posts.

NEWS & WEB STORIES

INITIATED BY RNS

RNS shares important announcements and stories to the news section of its website, which are then amplified through social media and the newsletter and shared directly with key audiences. Larger funding announcements are shared with and picked up by local media.

During the reporting period, RNS issued the following media announcements and web stories:

November 5, 2024

[Focused Research Investments: what, why, how, the response, and next steps](#)

January 15, 2025

[Research Nova Scotia provides \\$1.48 million to researchers to support the efficient and effective delivery of healthcare to Nova Scotians](#)

January 28, 2025

[Research Nova Scotia investing \\$27 million in community-focused research](#)

January 28, 2025

[Etuaptmu'k W'Loti: Using Mi'kmaw knowledge to create health & wellness solutions](#)

January 28, 2025

[Homeward Bound: Enhancing healthcare, housing, and social support for aging rural Nova Scotians](#)

January 28, 2025

[Unifying networks to innovate \(UNITE\): A whole of system approach for youth mental health](#)

January 28, 2025

[Creating integrated restorative communities for locally engaged solutions \(CIRCLES-NS\)](#)

EARNED MEDIA – RNS IN THE NEWS & OTHERS’ STORIES

During the reporting period, RNS was mentioned in web and news stories multiple times, earning the attention of the research community and the general public.

Most notably, between January 28 and February 7, 2025, the Focused Research Investment recipient announcement was featured in 14 news stories.

Interviews with or quotes from Stefan Leslie, CEO, were featured in 11 of the stories including on CBC Information Morning, CTV Atlantic, [Global News](#), and in Halifax Examiner, Cape Breton Post, Academica Group Top Ten in Higher Education, and World News, to name a few.

Between February 20 and March 27, 2025, RNS was mentioned in 13 news stories about the proposed amendments to Bill 12, including in Halifax Examiner, CBC News, PNI Atlantic News, and 989XFM, to name a few.



Additionally, RNS was mentioned in the following news and web stories:

CBU purchasing research van to better study rural health care

Luke Dyment, PNI Atlantic

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October 15, 2024 - Education News Canada
[New Mental Health, Addictions Grant for Early-Career Researchers](#)

October 28, 2024 - PNI Atlantic News
[CBU purchasing research van to better study rural health care](#)

November 14, 2024 - Dal News
[For the public good: Discovery Award finalists on research that makes a difference](#)

March 4, 2025 - Nova Scotia Health
[Dr. Amy Trottier: Understanding and answering why some people get blood cancers](#)

March 31, 2025 - Education News Canada
[Acadia to lead groundbreaking research to save Nova Scotia's hemlocks, mitigate impacts of climate change](#)

March 31, 2025 - Education News Canada

[Three NSCAD community members receive King Charles III Coronation Medals](#)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

RNS distributes a regular email newsletter to more than **1,400 subscribers**, including researchers, students, research office/research support staff, government employees, people from other research-related organizations, and people from local organizations. It includes RNS content and external content that supports the professional growth and capacity of researchers in Nova Scotia, such as provincial and federal funding opportunities, events and webinars. It also includes research news and stories.

According to the international newsletter distribution platform RNS uses, the average open rate for non-profit organizations is 40.0% and the average percentage of those who click on embedded links is 3.2%. During this reporting period, RNS's newsletter content performed above the industry standard with an average open rate of **48.2%** and average click rate of **12.8%**.

SOCIAL MEDIA

RNS social media channels share announcements, funding opportunities, and researcher stories, to build connections with the research ecosystem.

According to hootsuite.com, a social media management tool, RNS is performing above non-profit industry average for engagement rate on **LinkedIn (10.8%)** vs industry average of 3.0% and **Facebook (5.5%)** vs industry average of 1.8%. Engagement rate shows how often readers interact with posts compared to how many times they appear on a user's screen.

RNS often shares its posts directly with Nova Scotia research institutions and organizations that frequently reshare the posts on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, which helps RNS reach new, relevant audiences. RNS's posts are also often shared on LinkedIn by researchers and research office/research support staff.

RNS's total net audience growth during this reporting period was **947**. The largest audience growth was on LinkedIn with 707 new followers.



PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE CORPORATION

Over the past six months, RNS supported **67** research projects through its Research Opportunities Fund.

From 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025, the following commitments were made:

RNS COMMITMENTS

PROGRAM	TYPE	# FUNDED	TOTAL INVESTMENT
Focused Research Investments	Convened	4	\$26,926,088
Research Opportunities Fund	Matching Funds	9	\$1,818,368
Intentional Initiatives	Convened	3	\$746,476
Partnerships	Convened	2	\$33,750
New Health Investigator Grant	Capacity Building	15	\$1,484,941
New Investigator in Addictions and Mental Health Grant	Capacity Building	3	\$290,461
Health Equity Collaborative Award	Convened	3	\$149,813
International Nursing Research Program	Convened	1	\$29,912
Scotia Scholars (Undergraduate & NSCC)	Capacity Building	27	\$167,490
		67	\$31,647,299

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.

During the reporting period, RNS invested in building research capacity in 18 early career researchers through its New Health Investigator Grant (NHIG) and New Investigator in Addictions and Mental Health Grant (NIAMHG) programs, and 27 students through the Scotia Scholars Awards program.

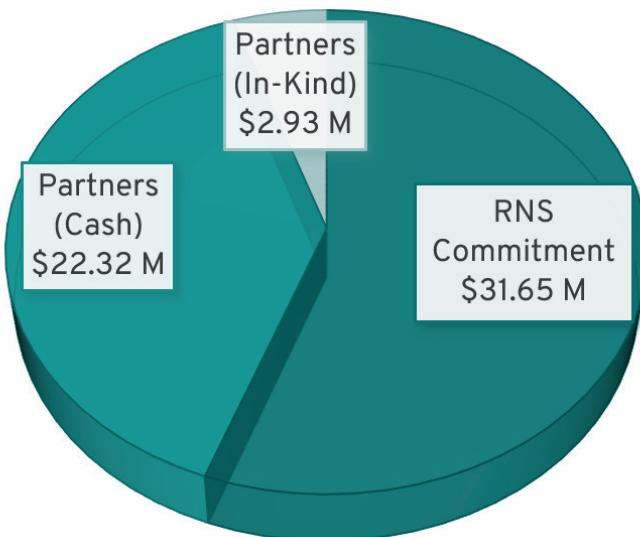
Funding for the NHIG program supports new researchers to establish independent programs of research and improve competitiveness for awards from national and other external funders. The grant provides up to \$100,000 over two years to researchers who are within the first five years of their first academic appointment.

In 2024, RNS partnered with the Office of Addictions and Mental Health to introduce a new investigators grant in topics of interest to OAMH. The goal of this program is to increase the province's capacity for mental health and addictions research.

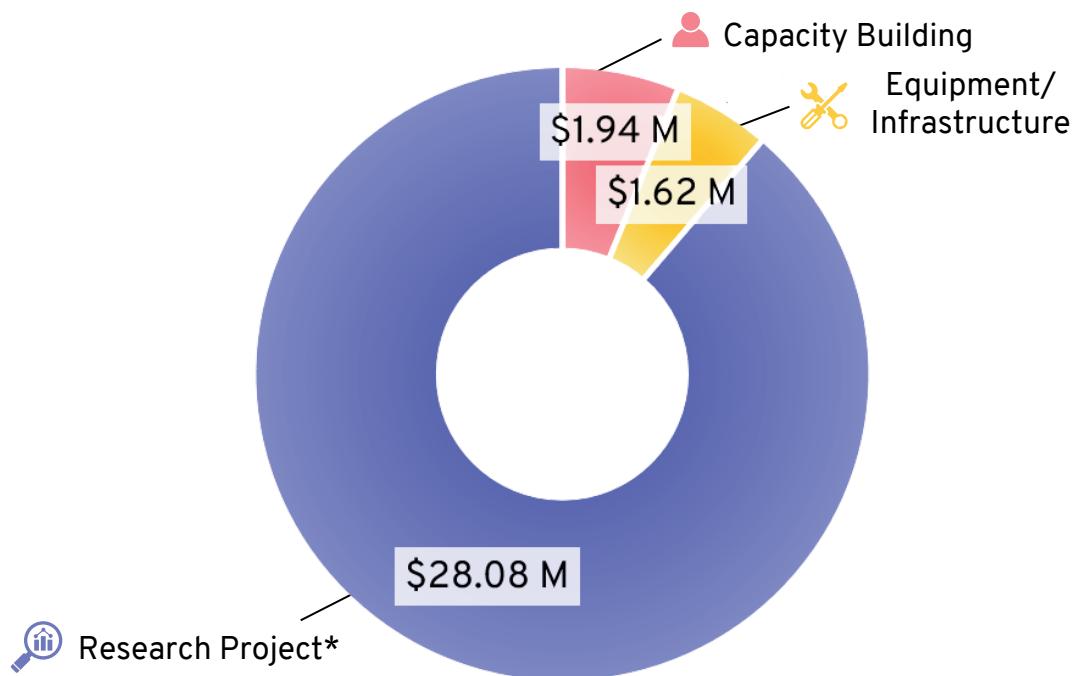
The winter version of the Scotia Scholars Awards program supports trainees at the community college and undergraduate levels to work on a specific health research project with faculty mentors. Award stipends are a maximum of \$6,250.

Through these three programs, RNS provided support to early career and student researchers at Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Community College, Nova Scotia Health, Saint Mary's University, St. Francis Xavier University, Université Sainte-Anne, and University of King's College.

LEVERAGING RNS INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH



RNS COMMITMENTS BY PURPOSE



* Because commitments to the four FRI projects were made late in the fiscal year, they have yet to be broken down into RNS's three funding categories – research projects, capacity building, and infrastructure/equipment. Once this happens, it will redistribute a portion of the amount currently assigned to research projects to the other categories.

FINANCIAL FORECAST

This section includes the following:

1. The current balance in the Research Opportunities Fund (ROF) and the amount anticipated to be paid from the Fund over the next six months.
2. The amount spent on operations from October 2024 to March 2025 and the amount anticipated to be spent on operations over the next six months.

COMMITTED OCT 2024 - MAR 2025	PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS EXPENSED OCT 2024 - MAR 2025	CURRENT BALANCE 31 MARCH 2025	ANTICIPATED SPENDING APR - SEPT 2025
ROF	\$31.65 million	\$4.03 million	\$22.15 million
Operations	\$0.93 million	N/A	\$0.94 million

* Due to anticipated changes to RNS's mandate, the Board of Directors has not approved a Research Opportunities Fund budget for 2025/26 as of 31 March 2025.

RESEARCH NOVA SCOTIA SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT: APPENDIX A

October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

							# RECORDS	RNS \$	PARTNER \$ (CASH)	PARTNER \$ (IN-KIND)	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	
							TOTAL	67	\$31,647,299	\$22,326,664	\$2,930,043	190	734
PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND				
FOCUSED RESEARCH INVESTMENTS													
Homeward Bound: Enhancing Healthcare, Housing, and Social Support for Aging Rural Nova Scotians	Alison Grittner	Cape Breton University	\$12,438,938	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Community, Healthcare Delivery	26	21	N/A	N/A	\$0	N/A	\$0		
Creating Integrated Restorative Communities for Locally Engaged Solutions (CIRCLES-NS)	Jennifer Llewellyn	Restorative Change Lab, C.I.C.	\$1,000,000	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Community	7	5	Mitacs	Mitacs	\$45,000	N/A	\$0		
Unifying Networks to Innovate (UNITE): A Whole of System Approach for Youth Mental Health	Jill Chorney	Dalhousie University	\$6,499,750	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	13	7	Dalhousie University, IWK Health Centre, Mitacs	IWK	\$780,000				
							DAL	\$270,000		N/A	\$0		
							Mitacs	\$210,000					

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Advancing Plant Functional Ecology Research through Stable Isotope Infrastructure	Ellie Goud	Saint Mary's University	\$179,546	Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience	30	30	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Saint Mary's University, Industry Partners	CFI SMU	\$449,927 \$5,000
Infrastructure for Sustainable Nanoengineering Lab to Develop Clean Energy Technologies	Gurpreet Singh Selopal	Dalhousie University	\$82,000	Energy, Clean/Green Tech	1	23	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Dalhousie University, Industry Partners	CFI DAL	\$82,000 \$40,330
Terrestrial Biogeochemical Modelling in Canada (TBM-CaN) Laboratory	Sian Kou-Giesbrecht	Dalhousie University	\$121,995	Climate Impact, Adaptation, Mitigation, Resilience	4	14	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Industry Partners	CFI	\$121,995
Fuel for Survival	Tobias Kollmann	Dalhousie University	\$275,000	Healthcare Delivery	2	25	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Dalhousie University, Industry Partners	CFI DAL	\$275,000 \$53,553
SUBTOTAL			\$1,120,548		40	107			\$1,558,982
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FUND - MAJOR SCIENCE INITIATIVE FUND (MSI)									
The Andre E. Lalonde Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility for Environmental Radionuclides	John Gosse*	Dalhousie University	\$297,820	Climate Impact, Adaptation, Other Natural Resources & Biodiversity	39	126	Canada Foundation for Innovation, Dalhousie University	N/A	\$0
SUBTOTAL			\$297,820		39	126			\$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
GENOME CANADA									
Genomic Evidence for Precision Medicine for Selected Chronic Diseases among Black Peoples In Canada	OmiSoore Dryden	Dalhousie University	\$400,000	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Health	12	6	Genome Canada, Genome Quebec, Dalhousie University, McGill University, McMaster University, Montreal Children's Hospital, Ontario Ministry, Province of New Brunswick, SickKids Research Institute, York University, Industry Partners	Genome Canada Genome Quebec DAL McGill U MCH Ontario NB SickKids RI York U	\$8,348,875 \$2,211,285 \$20,000 \$399,997 \$399,998 \$2,927,480 \$122,500 \$1,142,514 \$60,000
			SUBTOTAL	\$400,000				\$15,632,649	\$2,221,216
INTENTIONAL INITIATIVES									
Application for Research Funding: Creation of Community Interest Company for the CIRCLES NS Project	Bernard Miller	Restorative Change Lab, C.I.C.	\$2,000	Support for the Research Enterprise	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Accelerating Innovation: ACENET Funding Proposal: 2023-24 to 2024-25	Jennifer Bain**	Dalhousie University	\$500,000	Support for the Research Enterprise	22	400	Digital Research Alliance of Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Innovation PEI, New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, Government of Newfoundland, Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of New Brunswick	DRAC ACOA Innovation PEI NBIF NFLD	\$1,917,857 \$221,229 \$46,000 \$58,120 \$288,110
Improving Childhood Immunization Coverage among Priority Populations in Nova Scotia	Stephana Julia Moss	Dalhousie University	\$244,476	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	2	11	N/A	N/A \$0	N/A \$0
		SUBTOTAL	\$746,476		24	401		\$2,531,316	\$165,114

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
PARTNERSHIP									
Community-Embedded Implementation in the Context of HRM	Annika Voltan	Halifax Regional Municipality	\$30,000	Community	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Mobilizing the health benefits of being in nature through community-based participatory research and youth engagement	Sarah Prosper	Mental Health Research Canada	\$3,750	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health	0	0	Mental Health Research Canada, Mitacs	MHRC Mitacs	\$7,500 \$3,750
					0	0			
			SUBTOTAL	\$33,750				\$11,250	\$0
NEW HEALTH INVESTIGATOR GRANT									
Improving access to germline genetic testing for Nova Scotians with blood cancers using DNA extracted from nail clippings	Amy Trottier	Nova Scotia Health	\$89,235	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Health	0	0	IWK Health Centre	N/A	\$0
The delivery of oncologic surgery in Nova Scotia: a real world population-based analysis of treatment patterns and outcomes	Ashley Drohan	Nova Scotia Health	\$98,087	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Promoting Health Equity Among Underserved Populations Through Culturally Responsive Care	Austin Oswald	Dalhousie University	\$99,978	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	1	8	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Nirsevimab for prevention from Respiratory syncytial virus in high-risk infants in Nova Scotia: effect on health and immunological outcomes	Bahaa Abu-Raya	Dalhousie University	\$99,980	Health	1	1	Dalhousie University	N/A	\$0 DAL \$4,000
Efficacy of low-cost at-home virtual reality rehabilitation for motor recovery following stroke: a pilot study	Daniel Blustein	Nova Scotia Health	\$100,000	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	2	2	Mitacs	Mitacs	\$30,000 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Exploring Multifactorial Barriers and Resources for Accessing Care and Equity in Mental Health for Black Communities in Nova Scotia (EMBRACE- MHB)	Ejemai Eboreime	Nova Scotia Health	\$99,938	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health	1	1	Mitacs	Mitacs	\$63,388 N/A \$0
Co-designing a community-informed social prescribing approach in Nova Scotia to improve health and well-being	Ellen McGarity-Shipley	Dalhousie University	\$99,933	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	1	1	Maritime SPOR Support Unit, Mitacs, Nova Scotia Health, Industry Partners	\$22,000	NSH \$2,400 MSSU \$1,500 Industry \$9,600
Nerve Transfer Surgery in Cervical Spinal Cord Injury: Improving Independence for Nova Scotians living with Spinal Cord Injury	Emily Krauss	Nova Scotia Health	\$99,371	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Health	1	3	Dalhousie University	DAL	\$7,000 N/A \$0
Identifying and Studying Best-Practice Communities of Comprehensive Youth Health Resilience in Nova Scotia	Jan Höltge	Dalhousie University	\$99,970	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health	1	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Listening to the Voices of Young Refugees Survivors of Gender-Based Violence to Learn About the Special Strengths and Social Connections that Promote Their Mental Health	Margherita Cameranesi	Saint Mary's University	\$100,000	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	0	1	Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia	N/A	\$0 ISANS \$5,000
The Implementation of Virtual Prehabilitation in Patients undergoing Elective Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair	Samuel Jessula	Nova Scotia Health	\$98,573	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	1	2	Dalhousie University	DAL \$100,846	N/A \$0
Optimizing Healthcare Delivery: Advanced Computational Methods for Safe Medication Practices in Nova Scotia's Aging Population	Somayeh Kafaei	Saint Mary's University	\$100,000	Healthcare Delivery	2	2	Mitacs, Saint Mary's University	Mitacs \$60,000 N/A \$0	SMU \$23,000

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Mapping and Enhancing HIV Prevention Utilization: Participatory Action Research with and for African Caribbean and Black Communities in Nova Scotia	Thabani Nyoni	Dalhousie University	\$99,907	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Healthcare Delivery	2	2	Mitacs	Mitacs	\$7,500 N/A \$0
Adapting supervised consumption services for patients who inject drugs in acute care hospital settings in Nova Scotia: the Safe Harbours study	Thomas Brothers	Nova Scotia Health	\$99,969	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	1	0	Dalhousie University, Industry Partners	N/A	Industry \$5,000
Early-stage osteoarthritis diagnosis in Nova Scotia from patients personalized biomechanical data	Vahid Adibnia	Dalhousie University	\$100,000	Life Sciences, Biomedical, Medicine, Biotech, Health	0	4	Mitacs	Mitacs	\$89,333 N/A \$0
SUBTOTAL			\$1,484,941		14	27		\$403,067	\$36,500

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
NEW INVESTIGATOR IN ADDICTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH GRANT									
Collaborative Priority-Setting to Strengthen Community-Based Mental Health Care in Rural Nova Scotia	Jill Murphy	St. Francis Xavier University	\$99,962	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Healthcare Delivery	0	0	Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit, Nova Scotia Health	N/A	\$0
								N/A	MSSU
								\$0	\$3,000
Understanding the mental health experiences of Black women in Nova Scotia: A qualitative study guided by Black feminist theory	Keisha Jefferies	Dalhousie University	\$90,562	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health	1	1	N/A	N/A	\$0
									N/A
									\$0
Understanding the mental health impacts of witnessing identity-based bullying	Laura Lambe	St. Francis Xavier University	\$99,937	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health	1	3	St. Francis Xavier University	St. FX	\$1,500
									N/A
									\$0
SUBTOTAL			\$290,461		2	4		\$1,500	\$5,880

DHW HEALTH EQUITY COLLABORATIVE AWARD

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Integrating health equity at the policy level: Assessing the alignment of health system policies with EDIRA and ARAO principles in Nova Scotia	Barbara Hamilton-Hinch	Dalhousie University	\$49,175	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	0	1	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Interprofessional, intersectional and person-centred approaches to reduce weight and other forms of stigma and promote equity in health services provision within Nova Scotia	Sara Kirk	Dalhousie University	\$50,000	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	0	1	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Collaborating with health workers from underrepresented and underserved communities to identify racism and	Virginia Gunn	Cape Breton University	\$50,638	Inclusion, EDIA, System Barriers, Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing,	1	2	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
discrimination-related barriers and facilitators affecting their participation in the health system and potential solutions to inform health equity policies				Healthcare Delivery					
					1	4		\$0	\$0
INTERNATIONAL NURSING RESEARCH AWARD									
Exploring artificial intelligence as a preparatory tool for simulation-based learning in nursing education: A comparative mixed-methods study in Nova Scotia, Canada & Manilla, Philippines	Sheri Roach	Dalhousie University	\$29,912	Social Determinants of Health and Wellbeing, Healthcare Delivery	0	2	Dalhousie University	DAL	\$4,400 N/A \$0
					0	2		\$4,400	\$0
SCOTIA SCHOLARS - UNDERGRADUATE									
Left Behind by Medicare: The Impact of Rare Disease Exclusion on Access, Experiences, and	Abby Hopkins	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Outcomes in Nova Scotia									
Gold Nano-particles as an Immunotherapeutic Treatment for Food Allergies	Adalia Wambolt	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
A Virtual Intervention to Promote Health Data Tracking Using Smartwatches	Alexa Robinson	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Understanding the Impact of Sex and Income on Colorectal Cancer Screening Outcomes	Bridget Clarke	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Exploring the Fertility Experiences of Females Diagnosed with Childhood Cancer: A Mixed-methods Study	Bridget Down	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Describing the Nurse's Role in Promoting Health Equity in Controlled Human Infection Model Trials	Esme Giovannoni	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Role of Lignin Nanoparticles in Sustainable Targeted Chemotherapy Drug Delivery Treatment.	Fatima Halilu	Cape Breton University	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Athlete's personality and coaching approach: A way to promote mental health and sports performance	Jacqueline Bright	Université Sainte-Anne	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Screen time among adults with disabilities: finding a balance between usefulness and excess.	Kaoutar Retbi	Université Sainte-Anne	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Evaluating the Repeatability of fNIRS for Assessing Cerebrovascular Function	Kate LeBlanc	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Navigating Social Supports: Caregivers' Perspectives on Raising Children with Special Needs in Rural Environments	Katherine MacNeil	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Advocacy and Endometriosis: the role of gender bias in the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis in Nova Scotia	Lauren Konok	University of King's College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Executive Functioning Deficits in Individuals with Learning Disabilities: Attributable to Comorbid Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?	Lauren Roper	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Exploring Autism in Women: The Impact of a Late Diagnosis and Self-Awareness	Leah Hicknell	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
"Maintain your Brain": Multigenerational Dementia Knowledge Mobilization Game	Lydia Shaw-Peters	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
The Long-Term Impact of Athletic Injuries on Knee Health in Former AUS Athletes: A Life History Approach	Meghan MacKinnon	Cape Breton University	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Sexual Interest Declines with Age... for Everyone? A Person-Centered Analysis of Sexual Interest over the Lifespan	Michaela Ryan	Cape Breton University	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Stories, Families and Futures: Investigating Narrative in Family Health Communication about Genetic Aortopathies	Morag Brown	University of King's College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Unheard: Indigenous Perceptions of Healthcare in Nova Scotia	Natalie Baker	University of King's College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0
Evaluation of Digital Tools in	Nawel Salem	Université Sainte-Anne	\$6,250	Support for the Research	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0 N/A \$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
Supporting Vulnerable Populations				Enterprise, Health					
Co-Designing Arts-Based Anti-Stigma Interventions for Cape Breton Healthcare	Railyn Cann	Cape Breton University	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Can Anxiety Sensitivity Predict Adaptive versus Maladaptive Responding to Climate Anxiety?	Robson Underwood	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Health Equity: Addressing Barriers to Wearable Health Monitoring Technology	Simone Coco Beck	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Diagnostic Experiences of Women Living with Endometriosis in Rural Nova Scotia	Stella Gilbert	St. Francis Xavier University	\$6,160	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
SUBTOTAL			\$148,740		0	0		\$0	\$0
SCOTIA SCHOLARS - NSCC									
Vulnerable Voices: The Health Impact of Employment Barriers in Rural Areas	Kaylynn Isles	Nova Scotia Community College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0

PROJECT TITLE	PI	ORGANIZATION	RNS FUNDING	SECTOR	# JOBS CREATED (FTE)	# OF TRAINING OPPS	PARTNERS	CASH	IN-KIND
NeuroScope	Sarthak Soni	Nova Scotia Community College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
Allergen detection app	Steven Chase	Nova Scotia Community College	\$6,250	Support for the Research Enterprise, Health	0	0	N/A	N/A	\$0
		SUBTOTAL	\$18,750		0	0		\$0	\$0
		TOTAL	\$31,647,299		190	734		\$22,326,664	\$2,930,043

*GOSSE: Awarded an additional \$297,820 in 2024/25; original approved amount was \$123,673 in 2022/23; Total award of \$421,493

**BAIN: Awarded an additional \$500,000 in 2024/25; original approved amount was \$877,973; Total award of \$1,377,973