



Annual Report

2023 - 2024

A thriving research & innovation ecosystem.

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Board of Directors



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ResearchNB Chair



Pat Whalen
ResearchNB
Vice-Chair



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ResearchNB
Treasurer



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Board Member



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Board Member



Brennan Sisk
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Board Member



Hemant Kumar
Board Member



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Board Member



Peter Toner
Board Member

The ResearchNB Team



Damon Goodwin
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Patricia Ryan
Chief Operating Officer



Chris Dickie
Director, Strategic Priorities



Candice Pollack
Director, External Affairs
& General Counsel



Heather MacDermid
Controller



Alyssa Margeson
Senior Manager, Programs



Sebastien Soucy
Senior Manager, Marketing
& Communications



Emilio Reyes
Social Media Manager &
Marketing Coordinator



Wendy Yerxa
Executive Assistant

Message from the Chair

This past year has been one of remarkable progress and significant milestones for ResearchNB. Establishing the organization was no small feat; it required immense collaboration and vision. The journey was challenging, but it was also deeply rewarding. Our mission to drive innovation and research in New Brunswick has taken root, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved together!

None of this would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our staff. From navigating the complexities of our initiatives to ensuring the successful launch and funding of key projects, their expertise and unwavering commitment have been instrumental. Their hard work behind the scenes has built a solid foundation for ResearchNB's future growth and success.



I would also like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the ResearchNB Board of Directors. Their guidance, passion, and resilience have been critical in steering the organization through this pivotal time. Every transformational period comes with its challenges, and the Board faced each one with unwavering determination and steadfast commitment. Thank you to each member of the board—your guidance, insights, and support have helped me learn and grow more than I could have imagined.

New Brunswick is home to unparalleled research in our priority sectors, which are driving transformative advancements. These research efforts are poised to propel our economy forward, attract new talent, and foster population growth. The work being done here is creating a future of innovation and opportunity for generations to come.

Tracy Clinch,
Chair
ResearchNB Board of Directors

Message from Incoming Chair

After another transformative year at ResearchNB, it is my pleasure to update you on ResearchNB's go-forward vision.

Following the combination of 3 organizations over the past 2 years and a renewed 10-year mandate from the Government of New Brunswick, we are excited to get down to the business of fueling research across all sectors and regions of New Brunswick. This important work will begin with laying a solid foundation in 2024, which we envision providing through the execution of the following priorities:



Resetting our Research & Innovation Strategy – in collaboration with our colleagues at the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation and the Research and Productivity Council, we will construct a refreshed strategy with the aim to make New Brunswick leaders in our fields of collective expertise both today and into the future.

Empowerment of Researchers – given our expanded mandate, we will be out on the road engaging the New Brunswick research community to dig deeper into where they are focusing their time and effort and how we can best support them and their communities.

Promotion of New Brunswick Research – continuing the momentum from recent years, our team will be attending several international events and deploying thought leadership through both traditional and social media to get the word out about the important and exciting research happening here in New Brunswick.

In addition to these priorities, our team will continue to refine and strengthen our operational efficiency and governance structure following our recent amalgamations. I am grateful for the tireless work of our operational team at ResearchNB, for the continued stewardship of our esteemed Board of Directors, and for the opportunity to lead in the capacity of Chair for the coming year and beyond.

Together, we will shape a better future for our home of New Brunswick.

Pat Whalen
Vice-Chair
ResearchNB

Optimizing Impact

In 2023, ResearchNB launched a comprehensive consultation process to review current research funding programs and hear directly from researchers how we can better meet their needs.

The “Optimization Project” involved 5 steps:

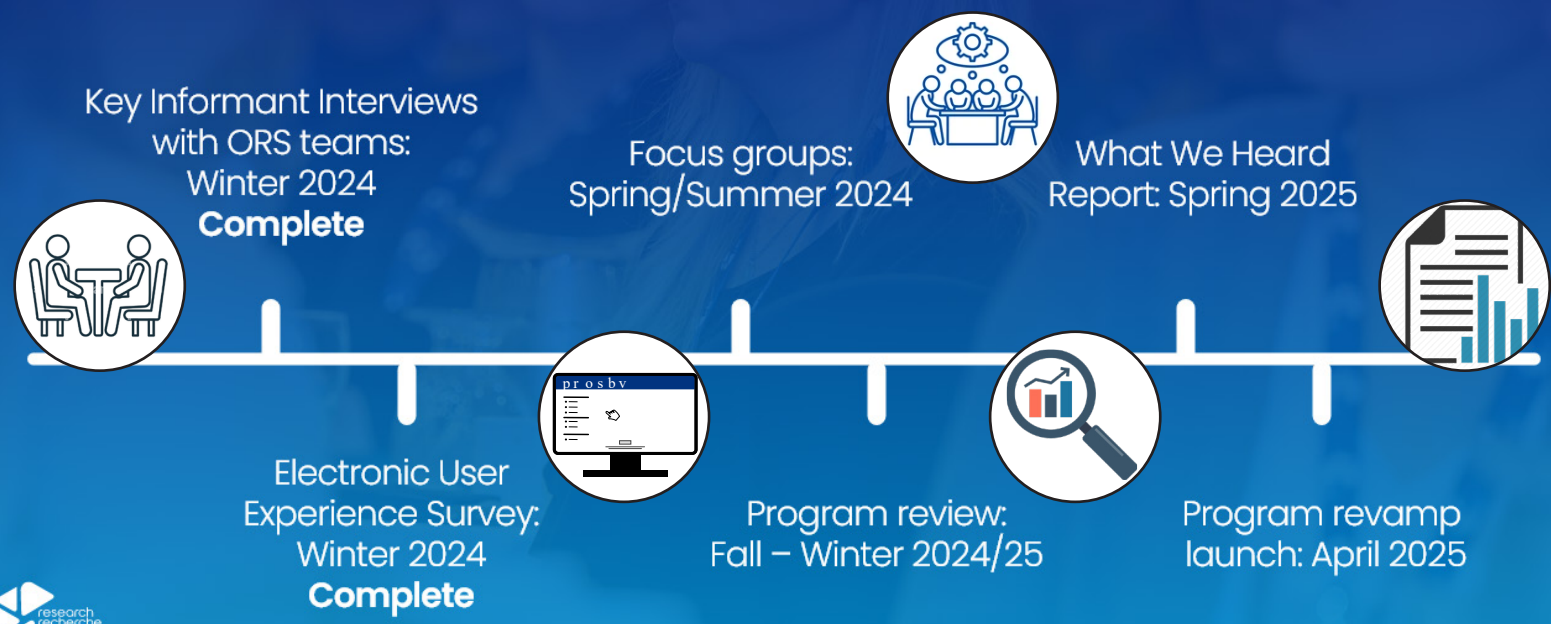
1. Key Informant Interviews with the Offices of Research Services
2. Online Survey with researchers who use ResearchNB services
3. Focus Groups held at research institutes across the province
4. Analysis of feedback and review of current programs
5. “What We Heard” report and recommendations



The goal of the Optimization Project is to align ResearchNB funding programs to better meet the needs of researchers and to launch updated programs by April 2025. In 2023/24 we completed the first two steps in the process.

Key Informant Interviews: A total of 11 interviews were conducted between Jan - Feb 2024 with a total of 14 individuals. Participants included staff members from the research offices, from directors, managers and grant officers.

Timeline



Below are a few of the comments we heard in the first two steps of the Optimization Project. The first two steps were focused on how we can improve our process.



“It looks like the same report is needed regardless of the program. I think some ask too much and others could be longer.”

“Clearly indicate the start and end dates of the grant in the decision letter, as well as the dates of future payments in the case of multi-year grants.”

“The amount (word count, lines, pages, etc.) requested information and content on the application should correspond and reflect the relative importance (or value) in the evaluation criteria. Don’t ask a full page when reviewers attribute only 5% of their total evaluation score for that page of info.”



“Not enough provincial funding available to meet matching requirements for federal grants”

“Lack of funding for social innovation/social sciences research in NB”

“ResearchNB’s networking role is seen as important for the research community.”

“Provide evaluation criteria and rubric in program descriptions.”



“Sometimes it is not clear when we can expect a decision to be made.”



“Have clear instructions integrated into the portal. French content should be equivalent to English content.”



Health Research Week 2023



Study findings demonstrate the pervasive generational cycle of trauma and adversity of BPWUS in PCAP.

- Disrupting this cycle will require a comprehensive approach that includes policy, programs, and a change in...
- Combined with a multi-stakeholder policy... study will provide guidance on policy and program... disrupt generational cycles of inequity and... change in NB.

Promoting & Communicating the Value of Research

Bio 2023



Jon Sensinger, PhD

Director, Institute of Biomedical Engineering,
University of New Brunswick



Remi Richard

Director of Operations, Atlantic Cancer Research Institute



New Brunswick Research & Innovation Showcase.



Ottawa
October 4th, 2023

#RISE2023



Quick Stats



Social Media

Audience Growth: 45.31%

Interactions: 55.49% ▲



Website

New Users: 62.93% ▲

Total views: 33.33% ▲



Grants by the Numbers

| Total Grants | # Projects Funded | FY24 Disbursed | # New Projects | Leverage Ratio Actual |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Talent Grants | | | | |
| Clinical Scholarships | 2 | \$150,000 | 0 | 1:0 |
| Establishment Grant | 5 | \$266,825 | 1 | 1:1.5 |
| Summer Studentships | 7 | \$59,832 | 7 | 1:0.1 |
| Master's PhD Post Doc Scholarships | 11 | \$224,000 | 6 | 1:0.4 |
| Equipment & Support Grants | | | | |
| Research Related Support | 10 | \$376,920 | 6 | 1:2 |
| Knowledge Translation Grants | 24 | \$32,990 | 24 | 1:1.9 |
| Bridge Grant | 2 | \$70,000 | 2 | 1:0.1 |
| Strategic Partnership Grants | | | | |
| Partners Match | 30 | \$1,072,243 | 25 | 1:0.9 |
| Strategic Initiatives | 13 | \$710,261 | 11 | 1:4.3 |
| Research Chairs | 6 | \$351,700 | 2 | 1:1.2 |
| Total | 110 | \$3,314,771 | 84 | 1:1.8 |

ResearchNB funds research projects using two methods. For small, low risk projects that will be completed in a short period of time, a one-time lump sum payment is provided. For larger projects that extend over many years, funding is broken down into multiple payments over the course of the project.

of Projects Funded in FY – the number of research projects ResearchNB is funding in FY24

FY24 Disbursements – the amount of research funding provided to research projects in FY24.

New Projects – Research projects receiving initial funding in FY24

Leverage ratio – the amount of contributions (federal government, private sector and non-profit) contributed to projects funded in FY24. Leverage funding is pro-rated based on schedule of disbursements for the project.

Institutional Recipients

| Institution | # Projects Funded | FY24 Disbursed |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Université de Moncton | 26 | \$531,657.00 |
| University of New Brunswick | 36 | \$1,275,769.61 |
| St. Thomas University | 2 | \$160,000.00 |
| Mount Allison University | 4 | \$52,403.00 |
| Centre de formation médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick | 10 | \$168,498.00 |
| Dalhousie Medicine NB | 7 | \$350,572.00 |
| New Brunswick Community College | 0 | \$0 |
| Atlantic Cancer Research Centre | 4 | \$78,033.00 |
| Horizon Health Network | 14 | \$615,384.37 |
| Vitalite Health Network | 4 | \$78,360.00 |
| Other | 3 | \$4,093.86 |
| Total | 110 | \$3,314,770.84 |

2023–2024 Financial Highlights

| Financing Profile | 2023-2024 | 2022-2023 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues | \$5,940,105 | \$6,337,087 |
| Province of New Brunswick (Core Funding) | \$5,446,000 | \$5,482,547 |
| Other | 494,105 | \$854,540 |
| ResearchNB Investments by Impact Area | | |
| Grow and Expand Opportunities for Research | \$4,161,273 | \$5,391,340 |
| - Research Grants (Core Funding) | \$3,910,771 | \$4,742,661 |
| - Salaries & contracts | \$182,470 | \$171,588 |
| - Direct Expenses | 68,032 | \$108 |
| Promote and Communicate the Value of Research | \$609,647 | \$712,738 |
| - Salary & contracts | \$417,729 | - |
| - Promotion & marketing expenses | \$144,053 | \$194,824 |
| - Health Research Conference (profit) | (\$14,128) | \$49,931 |
| - Mission-Oriented Research | \$61,813 | \$476,983 |
| Operations/Administration (12%) | \$727,647 | \$530,424 |
| Other Expenditures | \$6,195 | \$250 |
| Impairment Loss | \$550,000 | \$0 |

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