

2024-2025

Research Impact Report

POWERING DISCOVERY TOGETHER





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Message from the Chair

Following a couple of dynamic years of reorganization, the team at **ResearchNB** was truly able to get down to business this past year toward advancing research in New Brunswick. Over the course of 2024-2025, we made several transformational changes, including:

- In collaboration with our colleagues in the Government of New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, and the Research and Productivity Council, we initiated the development of a new provincial Research & Innovation Strategy that will enable us to advance research impact across the province and beyond.
- Following the merger of 3 organizations in 2 years, our team worked to optimize our total number of programs, streamline our application process and improve our engagement practices to better serve and empower New Brunswick’s research community.
- Similarly, our leadership worked with staff to improve our organizational alignment to be more focused on serving our stakeholders in order to connect the dots and better promote the research that is happening here in New Brunswick.

Finally, we introduced our new CEO, Candice Pollack – who has been involved in our evolution since we merged the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation and BioNB. Her leadership has already injected a new vision and enthusiasm for where we are going. Together, our board and team are renewed, refreshed, and ready to guide New Brunswick’s research ecosystem forward for a better future for all New Brunswickers.



Pat Whalen
Chairperson, Board of Directors
ResearchNB | RechercheNB

Board members



Jeff Beairsto
Vice Chair



Greg MacFarlane
Treasurer



Dr. Stephen Lewis
Chair Research
Advisory Committee



**Brigitte Sonier
Ferguson**
Director



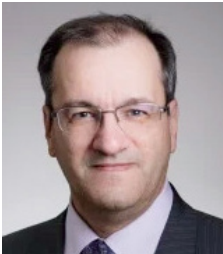
Kurtis Sisk
Director



Dr. David I. MaGee
Director



Jennifer Sheils
Director



Dr. Francis LeBlanc
Director



**Meaghan
Seagrave**
Director



Dr. Paul Atkinson
Director



Dr. Peter Toner
Director



Brennan Sisk
Director



Dr. Saïd Mekari
Director



David Alward
Director

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

For **ResearchNB**, the focus of our 2024-2025 fiscal year was to listen, learn, and build for the future. After a period of significant transformation, our organization took the opportunity to step back and ask, how can we best support a thriving, well-funded, and impactful research ecosystem in New Brunswick.

- **We asked that question to ourselves.** Working jointly with our Board of Directors and our team, we renewed the focus areas of our strategic plan, crystallized our role as a connector within the province, and established an ambitious goal to make research matter to more people.
- **We asked that question to our community.** Our team traveled the province last year, meeting with researchers, administrators, and institutions from north to south to ask how our funding programs and grant administration processes could be improved to best meet their needs and catalyze long-term support for research in New Brunswick.
- **And we asked that question to our partners.** In collaboration with the Government of New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation and the Research & Productivity Council, we have been actively exploring how we can enable growth in research and innovation in our province. While the work on the Research & Innovation Strategy continues, we are confident that, together, we can drive positive impacts that will lead to a better New Brunswick for everyone.

Through these many changes, ResearchNB has built a strong foundation for the future of research in New Brunswick. I want to thank our team, our Board of Directors, and the hundreds of people we connected with throughout our community last year for your energy, insights, passion, and contributions to our refreshed vision for the future. I am confident that the organization we are today has never been better positioned to power discovery together with you for the benefit of New Brunswick.



Candice Pollack
Chief Executive Officer
ResearchNB | RechercheNB

Staff Members



Patti Ryan
Chief Operating Officer



Chris Dickie
Director of Strategic Priorities



Alyssa Margeson
Senior Manager, Programs



Alec Manley
Senior Manager, Programs & Evaluation



Brandon Schlichter
Manager, ICT & Data



Vy Cung
Program Manager



Wendy Yerxa
Executive Financial Assistant



Sebastien Soucy
Senior Manager, Marketing & Events



Emilio Reyes
Marketing Specialist



Heather MacDermid
Controller

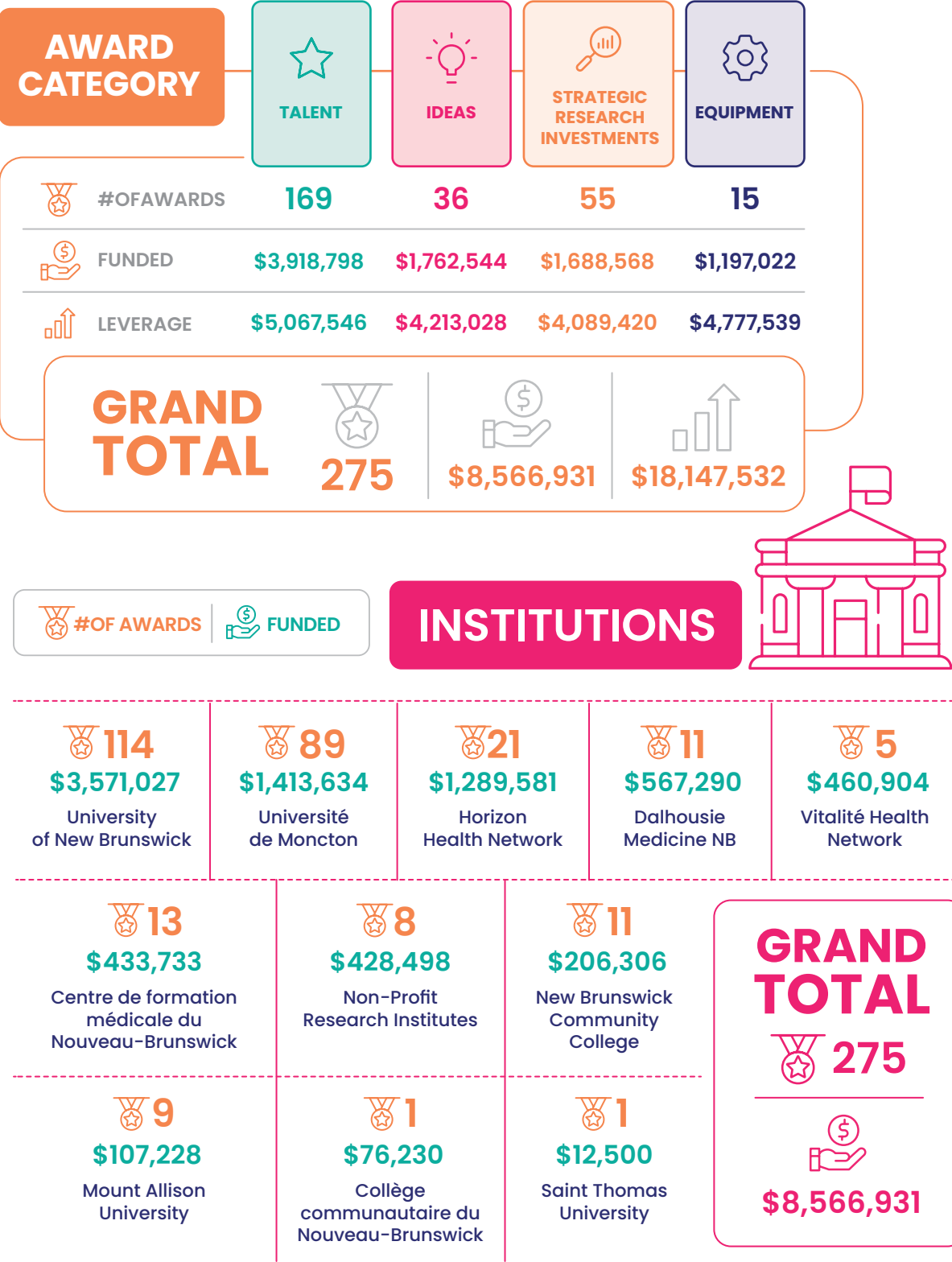


Hannah Boucher
Coordinator, Choosing Wisely

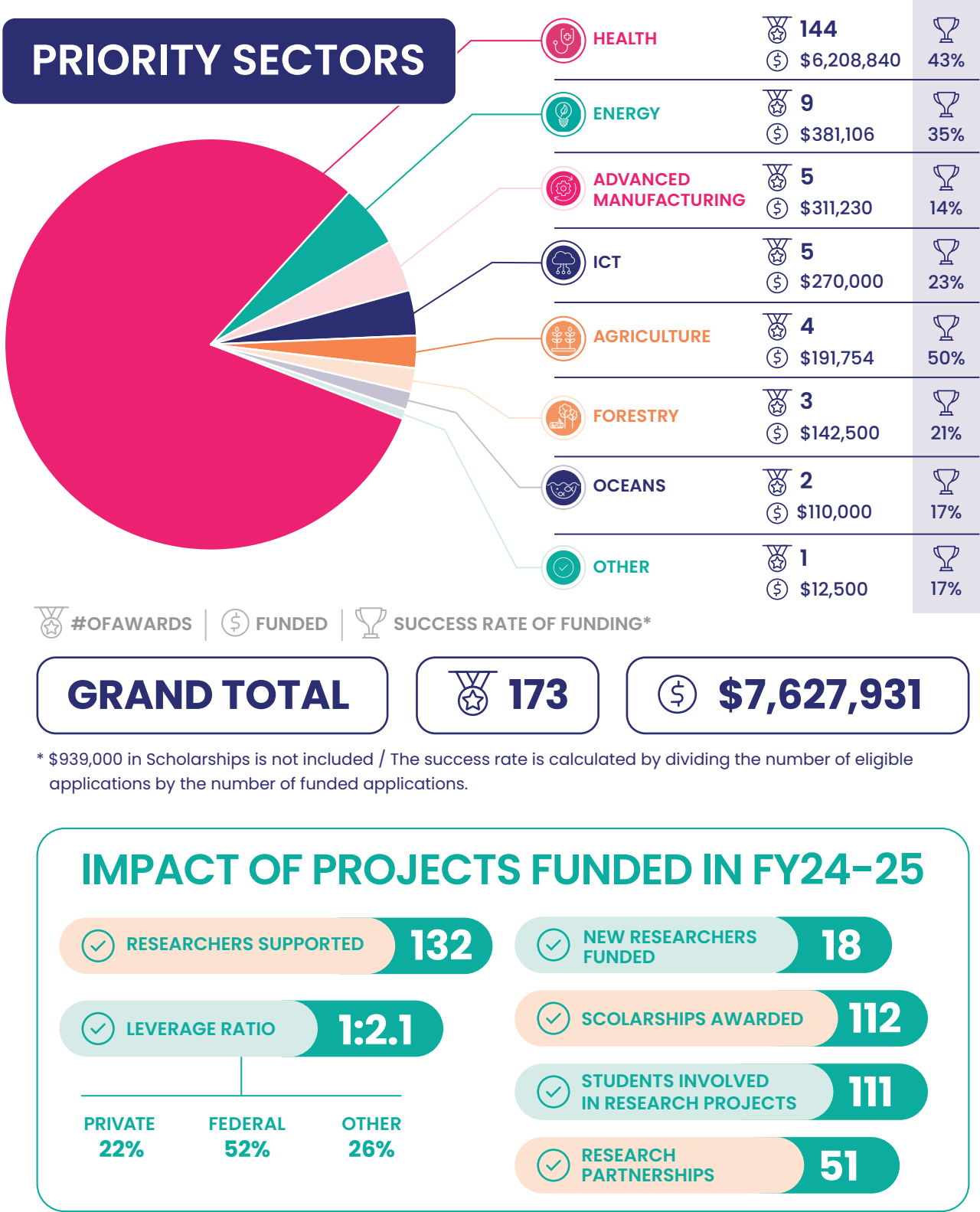


Danielle Connell
Business Development Manager

Pillar 1 Fund Research



Data “by the Numbers”



Pillar 1 Fund Research

ResearchNB offers research funding programs that drive growth in the research and innovation ecosystem in New Brunswick. We manage funding programs to support talent, infrastructure and ideas. In FY24-25, eighteen (18) funding programs were managed while a review of the needs of the research ecosystem was conducted.

In FY25-26, ResearchNB will be launching a new suite of nine (9) funding programs, as well as prototyping a new approach to strategic research investments. Throughout this process we remain committed to a process of continuous improvement and accountability to our funders and the research community.

RESEARCHER STORIES

Anna Ignaszak

UNB ENERGY | HEALTH

Dr. Anna Ignaszak, a distinguished Chemistry professor at the University of New Brunswick, established her research laboratory in New Brunswick in 2015 with foundational support from the NBIF Talent Recruitment Fund. Dr. Ignaszak is a leading researcher in the field of materials and chemical engineering, specializing in electrochemistry. Her lab is focused on developing innovative electrochemical platforms for the early detection of disease biomarkers.

Beyond her significant research contributions, Dr. Ignaszak has an exceptional track record of attracting talented students and securing competitive grants. Initial funding from the NBHRF Research-Related Support Fund enabled her to secure over \$200,000 in additional funding from provincial, federal, and industrial partners, as well as established AinaTest Diagnostics, a startup company that stems from her UNB research lab.



To learn more about Dr. Ignaszak’s work scan this QR Code with your mobile device:

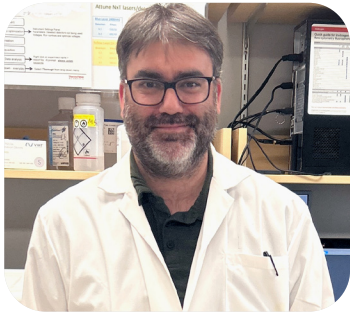


Luc Boudreau

UMONCTON HEALTH

Dr. Luc Boudreau is an Associate Professor at the Université de Moncton, with specialization in the field of chronic inflammation. His research on rheumatoid arthritis is highly impactful, demonstrated by his consistent success in securing numerous competitive grants. Dr. Boudreau effectively utilizes funding from the ResearchNB Partner’s Matching program to secure a significant CIHR Project grant, train HQPs and publish quality findings.

Beyond his academic achievements, Dr. Boudreau and his fellow colleagues at the Université de Moncton are also co-founders of Agrogene Solutions, a start-up company dedicated to helping beekeepers monitor and maintain bee health. Dr. Boudreau and his team are an example of how strategic investment in research can directly lead to innovative solutions and development.



To learn more about Dr. Boudreau’s work scan this QR Code with your mobile device:



William McIver Jr

NBCC ICT

Dr. William McIver Jr. (Bill) is a Principal Research Scientist at the New Brunswick Community College. His extensive work in information and communication technologies focuses on designing solutions for life-critical challenges and analyzing the societal impacts of these technologies. With an Equipment Fund award from ResearchNB, Dr. McIver expanded the capacity of his NextGen UX Lab. A Strategic Opportunity Fund award from ResearchNB augmented a Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant, which is enabling the creation of a 5G Wireless Private Network for experimentation by companies in New Brunswick. ResearchNB has helped Bill’s Information and Communications Technology Research Group establish a unique collaborative ecosystem. This environment brings together numerous partners from industry, academia, and government, working to catalyze the development and implementation of innovative solutions for New Brunswick.



To learn more about Dr. McIver’s work scan this QR Code with your mobile device:



Pillar 2 **Connect the Dots**

ResearchNB plays a supportive role to help align government, academia, and industry toward common goals for sector-based funding growth in New Brunswick. In FY24-25 we were instrumental in managing two capacity building programs that advance New Brunswick’s involvement in renewable energy (Biogas) and health system efficiency (Choosing Wisely).

SUPPORTING BIOGAS DEVELOPMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

With funding from the Department of Environment and Local Government, **ResearchNB’s Anaerobic Digester Concierge Service launched in 2024.** The service provided support for education, awareness, and hosting network events. By reaching hundreds of NB farmers, seafood processors, wood biomass producers, landfills, food processors and food establishments, many viable feedstocks were identified as being key ingredients needed for anaerobic digestion.

Cycling agricultural (food) carbon and methane emissions through anaerobic digestion systems and the application of digestate to fields will reduce greenhouse gases from cattle, swine, poultry, fruit and veg farms, plus fish plants and aquaculture, restaurants, bakeries, dairies and more. Canada’s farms may contribute less than 10% of total emissions but they are leading the way to Net Zero.



CHOOSING WISELY NEW BRUNSWICK **HIGHLIGHTS 2024–2025**

In April 2024, **Choosing Wisely New Brunswick (CWNB)** transitioned from the New Brunswick Medical Society to ResearchNB. Following Choosing Wisely Canada’s (CWC) national recommendations, CWNB promotes evidence-informed care that leads to improved patient outcomes, resource stewardship, and greater environmental sustainability.

This year, CWNB focused on Using Blood Wisely, a national campaign to reduce inappropriate red blood cell transfusion practices, improving the quality of patient care. Six New Brunswick hospitals have been designated a Using Blood Wisley hospital by CWC for meeting the benchmark criteria, with more actively working toward this goal.

CWNB also shared recommendations to reduce unnecessary tissue examinations following uncomplicated hip and knee replacement surgeries, another important step in reducing low-value care and improving outcomes.



In April 2024, CWNB attended the CWC National Meeting in Montreal with healthcare leaders from across the country. In November 2024, CWNB participated in the New Brunswick Health Research Symposium in Moncton.

At the event, CWNB hosted an information booth and presented a panel discussion featuring Dr. Gwyneth de Vries, Dr. Eric Levasseur, and Dr. Ihssan Bouhtiauy. The panelists spoke about their involvement in Choosing Wisely projects, shared their experiences, and highlighted the relevance of Choosing Wisely recommendations in improving healthcare delivery in New Brunswick.

Choosing Wisely NB:
[Choosing Wisely New Brunswick](#)
Choosing Wisely Canada: [Home](#)



Pillar 3 **Advance Impact**

ResearchNB is a champion of the amazing research occurring in our province. Beyond funding research we actively promote the work of researchers. In 2024-25 we hosted a number of events to showcase research. The Health Research Symposium and the Research & Innovation Showcase (RISE) are two examples of how we amplify the work of New Brunswick researchers.

HEALTH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2024

The 2024 Health Research Symposium was held in Moncton and brought together over 300 researchers, healthcare professionals, and innovators for two days of inspiring dialogue and collaboration. This event puts the spotlight on health research happening right here in New Brunswick. It featured keynote presentations from Dave deBronkart (“ePatient Dave”), who spoke on AI and patient partnerships; Hon. Maryam Monsef, who addressed leadership and community empowerment in health; and Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, who shared insights on aging, frailty, and eldercare innovation.

Attendees took part in engaging panels and presentations on key topics including precision medicine, health systems, population health, and clinical practice. A “Choosing Wisely” panel emphasized appropriate and accessible care, while other sessions explored the future of personalized treatment in Atlantic Canada.

The Thursday night Gala was a highlight, featuring remarks from Health Minister Hon. John Dornan and awards recognizing outstanding contributors to health research: Dr. Sarah Pakzad, the Centre for Precision



Medicine New Brunswick, Dr. Alli Murugesan, and Dr. Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard. The celebration continued with music by DJ Emilio Reyes.

Friday included a NextGen Mentor Breakfast, a research funding announcement from BeiGene Canada, and concluded with poster awards honouring emerging researchers.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION SHOWCASE (RISE)

ResearchNB was proud to bring a delegation of New Brunswick researchers and innovators to Parliament Hill for the second annual New Brunswick Research & Innovation Showcase (NBRISE). Hosted in Ottawa, this special event highlighted the province’s exceptional leadership and growing impact across key sectors such as health, agriculture, forestry, energy, and oceans. Our delegation was honored to tour the Canadian Senate Building as guests of Senator Krista Ross, who also delivered a statement recognizing the cutting-edge research and innovation taking place in New Brunswick.

With support from co-sponsors Senator Krista Ross and Member of Parliament Jenica Atwin, NBRISE was an incredible opportunity to spotlight the talent and collaboration driving our province’s innovation ecosystem. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and support from attendees and partners who share our vision for a thriving research culture in New Brunswick.



Pillar 4

Foundation for Success

ResearchNB is accountable to the research community and our funders and we are committed to a process of continuous improvement.

We would love to hear from you. Please reach out with any comments, questions or concerns to info@researchnb.ca

Financial Summary

REVENUES	2025	2024
Province of New Brunswick	\$10,228,260	\$4,300,000
NBIF	\$1,340,645	–
Special Projects	\$998,080	\$1,216,428
Other	\$624,503	\$423,676
TOTAL	\$13,191,488	\$5,940,104

INVESTMENTS BY IMPACT AREA

► GROW & EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH	2025	2024
Research Grants	\$8,222,583	\$3,314,771
NBIF Awards	\$1,340,645	–
Other Direct Expenses	\$402,986	\$632,846
TOTAL	\$9,966,214	\$3,947,617

► PROMOTE & COMMUNICATE THE VALUE OF RESEARCH	2025	2024
Promotion & Marketing	\$100,355	\$51,765
Events	\$260,312	\$92,214
Other Direct Expenses	\$267,093	–
TOTAL	\$627,760	\$143,979

► RESEARCH & INNOVATION STRATEGY	2025	2024
Direct Expenses	\$188,188	–

► SPECIAL PROJECTS	2025	2024
BioGas Concierge Project	\$156,329	\$54,960
Choosing Wisely	\$85,000	–
Other Projects	\$935,208	\$688,338
TOTAL	\$1,176,537	\$743,298

► ADMINISTRATION	2025	2024
Administration Expenses	\$976,109	\$941,273
Other Expenditures	\$134,847	\$5,339
Impairment Loss	–	\$550,000
TOTAL	\$1,110,956	\$1,496,612



The future of research in New Brunswick.

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