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The REAL Issue

At the NSHRF, when we make a decision we start the process with research. We build our knowledge on the issue and then make the best one for the Foundation, our stakeholders and the Nova Scotia health research enterprise. Making a decision informed by research is a process that we encourage everyone in the health research enterprise to consider.

The environment for decision makers is one of urgent demands, budget constraints, changing priorities and compressed timelines. In the health system today, decision makers need [REAL Knowledge](#) to support tough choices. However, research evidence is not always seen as necessary or timely.

We are working to change that thought and leading by example in always applying REAL Knowledge to our decisions at the Foundation. We also support organizations in including REAL Knowledge in their decisions. Our most recent work in this area is the Pan-Canadian Health Human Resources (HHR) Planning Toolkit. HHR planning is the process of estimating the number of persons and mix of knowledge, skills, and decision making ability needed to achieve the goals of the health care system. The Toolkit allows users to learn more about HHR planning, search best practice models and connect with HHR professionals across the country through the online forum.

The Toolkit, funded through a Health Canada grant, was developed through an inclusive approach. Under the management of the project team, a committee of HHR professionals was established to provide feedback and direction during the project. Interviews were held with key informants representing each province across Canada to determine the existence and details of HHR models used within their jurisdictions. The project team also worked with HHR experts from the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Health Workforce Planning and Research. Once the Toolkit was created, the project team met with focus groups across Canada to seek feedback before it was launched.

I am proud to say the Toolkit was launched on time and under budget. I would like to acknowledge the project team that worked hard to ensure this:

Eric Rushton – Chief Financial Officer

Leslie Power – Manager, Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI)

Jessica Gilbert – Project Assistant

Vanessa Fitzgerald – Data Analyst

Alana Andrews – Communications Officer

Over the next few months we will be actively promoting the Toolkit across the country. Visit the site at www.hrtoolkit.ca, to learn more and take part in the open forum. If you have any questions, please contact [Leslie Power](#).

The Toolkit is another way of showing how the Foundation meets not only provincial, but also national health research enterprise needs in a timely and relevant manner.



Krista Connell, CEO

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Research Enterprise Development Initiatives (REDI)

Research Enterprise Development Initiative (REDI) Awards Now Open

Our REDI Awards funding opportunities are currently open. REDI Awards support research related activities across the province. Activities that require review by an institutional research ethics board may not be conducted as part of a REDI Award. There are three funding opportunities through our REDI Awards:

Research Skills Award

The Research Skills Award encourages and supports innovative approaches to the development of health research skills in the research community. This award is intended to foster research skill development through the provision of workshops, seminars, and sponsoring individuals in the attainment of specific skills related to their program of health research. Other activities that would develop research skills will be considered.

Team Development Award

The Team Development Award encourages and supports the development of new research teams or the strengthening of existing research teams lead by Nova Scotian investigators. This award is intended to support research team development within the province, which can include national and international collaboration.

Catalyst Award

The Catalyst Award provides support for initiatives that will significantly contribute to the development of the health research enterprise in Nova Scotia. This award supports the catalytic aims of REDI. Initiatives funded under this category will coordinate, stimulate or initiate projects or activities that contribute to the development of the health research enterprise in Nova Scotia.

Further information and eligibility criteria visit our [website](#).

Competitive Collaborative Grants

We are pleased to partner with Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) for the Innovation Team Grants: Community-Based Primary Healthcare (CBPHC) funding opportunity. The CBPHC funding opportunity will provide support for teams undertaking programmatic, cross-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary research to develop, implement, evaluate and compare innovative models for chronic disease prevention and management in CBPHC and improving access to appropriate CBPHC for vulnerable populations.

To learn more about the full funding opportunity, how to apply, important dates and updates from CIHR in relation to Collaboration with Australia and New Zealand on CBPHC Team Grants visit our [website](#).

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Peer Review Observer Program Application Call

Interested in observing our Peer Review Committees? Want to learn more about the Peer Review process? Let us know your interest [here](#).

The program provides an opportunity for those with an interest in health research to learn about the peer review process through first-hand observation of our Peer Review Committee during their deliberations. The process subjects a researcher's scholarly ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the field. We, like the national funding agencies and others, use the peer review process to assure that the research funded meets the highest standards of excellence.

In Profile: Nova Scotia Research

We wanted to congratulate Dr. Mary McNally and the Oral Care in Continuing Care Settings research team who recently received a funding award from CIHR. Read the article below provided by the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre to learn more!

Brushing Up on Mouth Care: Facilitating uptake of a daily oral care program in Continuing Care

Dr. Mary McNally and the Oral Care in Continuing Care Settings research team recently secured a \$99,814 funding award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in the Knowledge Translation Supplement competition.

This funding will be used to disseminate information and resources from the recent Oral Care in Continuing Care Settings project (funded by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation). A wide variety of resource materials including fact sheets, care cards, toolkits, and education videos were developed to train and support personal care providers who provide daily oral care for dependent older adults. These materials were compiled into a resource manual entitled 'Brushing Up on Mouth Care'.

With this new funding, a facilitator's guide will be developed to accompany the 'Brushing Up' resource manual. Hard copies of the manual will be provided to ALL Long-Term Care facilities, Home Care agencies, and Continuing Care Assistant programs in Nova Scotia. The materials are also being disseminated nationally and internationally through the project [website](#). Webinars will be used to train potential facilitators on use of these materials (e.g. nurse educators, care coordinators, etc) both locally and nationally.

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Other News

Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) Halifax 2012: Valuing Difference Conference

The conference will take place at the Westin Hotel, May 13-16, 2012. The conference will engage in the collective exploration of what it means to value differences of all kinds in the profession and practice of evaluation. We are sponsoring the conference and Nancy Carter, PhD our Director, Evaluation Services will be taking part in a panel discussion.

To learn more and to register please read the [poster](#).

RFP for 2012 Nova Scotia Adult Gambling Information Collection Project

The Department of Health and Wellness is currently seeking consultant services to conduct the 2012 Nova Scotia Adult Gambling Information Collection Project. Interested researchers can review the RFP [here](#). The closing date is May 15, 2012 at 2:00pm (AST).

Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP) Program

Application Deadline: May 15, 2012 (Letter of Intent) and October 1, 2012 (Full application)

The [Collaborative Health Research Projects](#) (CHRP) program is a joint initiative between the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The CHRP program supports innovative interdisciplinary collaborative research projects requiring participation from the natural sciences or engineering community together with the health sciences community.

Proposed research projects must have a strong focus on knowledge translation (KT), and lead to health and economic benefits for Canadians, more effective health services and products, and/or a strengthened health care system. All applicant teams are required to engage and collaborate with a knowledge/technology user organization that could benefit from the research results. Funding for CHRP projects can be for up to three years for defined projects with clear milestones and decision points.

As described under the CIHR Personalized Medicine Signature Initiative, the [Institute of Cancer Research](#) will support the development and validation of diagnostics based on biomarkers, targets and genomic signatures, as well as of innovative devices for the application to patient practice. ICR will provide funding for applications that are determined to be relevant to the following research priority areas that are applicable to personalized cancer medicine:

- development of tools and diagnostics for personalized cancer medicine
- development of point of care devices for cancer screening, diagnosis, and/or treatment
- development of new research tools or techniques for cancer research

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Funds Available: Projects are for up to three years funding, with no maximum amount. The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$22.1 million over three years. Of this \$22.1 million:

- \$20.4 million is available to fund applications within the general pool.
- \$500,000 is available to fund applications relevant to personalized cancer medicine through the CIHR Institute of Cancer Research.
- \$900,000 is available to fund applications relevant to the CIHR Institute of Genetics in the area of Invention - Tools, Techniques and Devices.
- \$300,000 is available to fund applications relevant to the area of Musculoskeletal Health, Arthritis, Skin and Oral Health through the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis.

Complete descriptions of the specific requirements for these priority announcements as well as information on deadlines and how to apply can be found in the full funding opportunity posted on the [CIHR website](#).

Did You Know?

Looking for a colleague, possible collaborator, or expert source of information? Take a look through the [Nova Scotia Directory of Health Researchers](#), available online at the NSHRF website.

If you are a Nova Scotian researcher working in a discipline either directly or indirectly related to health, please take a minute to add your name to the directory through your [Canadian Common CV](#).

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