

Thursday, July 16, 2020

27 COVID-19 Research Projects in New Brunswick Receive Funding Worth \$1.2M

--New Research Program Was Established and Launched Within Two Weeks--

FREDERICTON—The New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF) in partnership with the [New Brunswick Health Research Foundation](#) (NBHRF) and the [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#) (ACOA) today announced that 27 research projects across New Brunswick have been awarded a total of \$846,707 to explore new ways to detect and treat COVID-19 and to assess its effects on people, communities and the economy.

The funding is provided by NBIF, NBHRF and ACOA. These projects are also leveraging an additional \$361,860 in support from other sources, including not-for-profit stakeholders and private sector partners. In total, the 27 successful projects will receive over \$1.2 million dollars. AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub APPTA (APPTA), a partnership between AGE-WELL NCE, Canada's aging and technology network, and the NBHRF, is sharing its expertise on knowledge mobilisation and will work with the funders and the successful researchers to engage key audiences and potential users of this research.

Funding was awarded to researchers at:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of projects</u>	<u>Financial Contribution</u>
Université de Moncton	4	\$115,910
University of New Brunswick	13	409,854
Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick	4	\$110,118
New Brunswick Community College	1	\$37,593
Mount Allison University	2	\$65,210
St. Thomas University	1	\$20,422
Horizon Health Network	2	\$87,600

Total \$846,707

These research projects cover a wide range of areas, including testing technologies and methodologies, mitigating the spread of the virus, public health communication practices, educational reforms, community resiliency, heart health outcomes, alcohol consumption and the psychosocial impacts of COVID-19 on New Brunswickers. For a full list of projects, see the attached PDF.

Quotes

“The health, social and economic implications of this virus are staggering, and I firmly believe that research and innovation is the best way to reduce these negative impacts and prepare for the next pandemic. That’s why NBIF took the initiative, engaged partners and within two weeks established and launched the COVID-19 research fund program. We are astonished by both the quality and quantity of applications for funding: New Brunswick researchers are clearly prepared to lead on the global response to the COVID-19 crisis.”

-- Dr. Laura Richard, Director of Research at NBIF

“NBHRF is thrilled to have partnered with NBIF on this important initiative. The depth and variety of research proposals we received from New Brunswick’s research community was impressive. Clearly, our researchers are passionate and engaged with addressing the many issues emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the support of this funding, New Brunswick researchers are well positioned to apply their knowledge and skills to this challenge and contribute to the national and global effort. NBHRF looks forward to seeing the results of these innovative and varied projects.”

--Leah Carr, CEO, NBHRF

“In this era of upheaval, government, academia and industry must work together, and it’s inspiring to see so many Canadians mobilizing to meet the moment. Thanks to their partnership with ACOA, the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation will be supporting 27 cutting-edge projects to help us better understand the detection, treatment and impact of COVID-19. As we fight this pandemic, we’ll continue uniting the efforts of the public and private sectors on behalf of all Canadians.”

--The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for ACOA

“Ensuring that the innovative COVID-19 related research that is being done in New Brunswick is shared widely among policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, economists and members of the general public is vital to strengthening our public health system. At APPTA, we are looking forward to supporting NBIF, NBHRF, and New Brunswick researchers to share the ground-breaking results of these initiatives with people across the country and around the world.”

--Candice Ashley Pollack, Executive Director at APPTA

Quick Facts

ACOA	\$405,852
NBIF	\$350,000
Other funding agencies	\$361,860
NBHRF	\$99,820
APPTA	In-kind

Total funding \$1,217,532

- 27 Funded projects
- Total funding: \$1.2M
- Funding was capped at \$50,000 per project and did not require matching funds.
- Approved research projects cover a wide range of areas, including testing technologies and methodologies, mitigating the spread of the virus, public health communication practices, educational reforms, community resiliency, heart health outcomes, alcohol consumption and the psychosocial impacts of COVID-19 on New Brunswickers.
- Proposals were evaluated by an expert review committee, using the below criteria. The review panel included both medical experts and experienced industrial researchers.
 - Research demonstrated to be specific to combatting, detecting, and/or assessing the effects of COVID-19
 - Potential socioeconomic impact (direct or indirect)
 - Expertise and track record of the principal investigator and main collaborating investigators
 - Capacity to execute the project, including funding, infrastructure and appropriate personnel available to support the project
 - Justification for the proposed budget
 - Plan for knowledge transfer and dissemination.

Additional Information

Additional information on the NBIF COVID-19 Research Fund can be found at: <https://nbif.ca/covid-19-funding-program/> and/or <https://www.nbhrf.com/en/covid-19-research-funding>.

For Information

Angela Pyne
Marketing Manager, NBIF
angela.pyne@nbif.ca
506-452-7208

Linda McLaughlin
Communication & Administration Coordinator, NBHRF
Linda.mclaughlin@nbhrf.com
506-455-3534