



MSSU Nova Scotia Priority Project Application Guidelines

In Nova Scotia, the MSSU provides **in-kind support** to priority projects, which are typically identified at our [bi-annual Nova Scotia Bridge Events](#) which bring together decision-makers, researchers, and patients for facilitated group discussions about priority health topics. Applications for priority project support arising from Nova Scotia Bridge Events are typically submitted within four months of the relevant Bridge Event, but may be submitted for support with any reasonable amount of time following the Bridge dependent upon confirmation that the research project identified is still a priority to the identified Decision-Maker Lead.

Eligibility

Projects must:

- Have a Scientific Lead and at least one Decision-Maker Lead:
 - Scientific Leads must hold an academic appointment at a Nova Scotia university/affiliated research institution, or an appointment with research responsibilities at an affiliated hospital/research centre/institute.
 - Decision-Maker Leads must be designated by the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness (DHW), the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and/or the IWK Health Centre (IWK).
- Be aligned with provincial health priority topics as determined by DHW, NSHA and/or IWK, and typically brought forward as priorities at the most recent Nova Scotia Bridge Event; and,
- Be patient-oriented and committed to patient engagement.

Study design

Any study design (qualitative or quantitative), at any stage of development, is acceptable as long as it is robust and appropriate for the purposes of the project. Methods may include, but are not limited to qualitative interviews, surveys, observational studies, and evidence syntheses.

Alignment with MSSU objectives

Preference will be given to applications that align with key MSSU objectives. Ways to demonstrate alignment include:

- Having a robust plan for patient engagement

- Demonstrating that the proposed research can contribute to the implementation or evaluation of priority health system change in Nova Scotia
- A study design that involves new health data linkages

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria (or are uncertain if they do) are encouraged to contact us for help identifying and filling potential gaps in your proposal.

How to Apply

If your team is interested in applying, first download the [MSSU Nova Scotia Priority Project Application form](#). The application form includes more details about the types of in-kind support under 'MSSU Project Support Requested.'

We are happy to help research teams prepare their applications. Please email Elizabeth Jeffers, Research Project Manager, at Elizabeth.Jeffers@nshealth.ca for more information.

Send your completed application form and a CV (5 pages max.) for Scientific and Decision-Maker Leads in a single PDF file to info@mssu.ca. We confirm receipt of your application by email to the Scientific and Decision-Maker Leads.

Please note: If your research project requires access to health administrative data from Health Data Nova Scotia (HDNS), you will need to complete a [Data Access Feasibility and Cost Estimate Request Form](#).

Review Process

Applications will be assessed based on eligibility, alignment with MSSU priorities, overall scientific merit and our available resources. Applications that meet these criteria will be recommended to the MSSU Nova Scotia Provincial Steering Committee (PSC), which includes representatives from the Nova Scotia DHW, Research NS, local health authorities and universities.

Information for Successful Applicants

A. Embargo period

All publications and/or presentations produced by MSSU Nova Scotia priority research projects are subject to an embargo period. As per the General Memorandum of Understanding between MSSU and Nova Scotia DHW: "The Institution will submit to the [NS] DHW any proposed presentation or publication materials with respect to this Agreement and the Unit for review and comment thirty (30) days in advance of such disclosure."

B. Authorship and Acknowledgement Guidelines

All end products should adhere to the MSSU's authorship and acknowledgement policy, which provides guidelines for authorship credit and responsibility. Any end products/research outputs/publications and/or presentations bearing the MSSU logo should adhere to the MSSU brand guidelines.

C. Acknowledgement of MSSU/HDNS Support

All publications and/or presentations/research outputs/end products should appropriately acknowledge the support of the MSSU and should state the following:

This study was supported by the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU), which receives financial support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the New Brunswick Department of Health, the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, the Prince Edward Island Department of Health and Wellness, the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF), and Research NS. The opinions, results and conclusions reported in this paper are those of the authors and are independent from the funding sources. No endorsement by the MSSU or the named funding partners is intended or should be inferred.

All publications where data was accessed from Health Data Nova Scotia should state the following:

The data (or portions of the data) used in this report were made available by Health Data Nova Scotia of Dalhousie University. Although this research is based on data obtained from the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, the observations and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent those of either Health Data Nova Scotia or the Department of Health and Wellness.

The MSSU will work with the research team to ensure that project specific end products appropriately acknowledge the support of the MSSU.

D. Conflicts of Interest

It is suggested that teams disclose and discuss possible conflicts of interest early in team formation and project development. Scientific leads who would like guidance on how to approach this topic with team members may ask for support from the MSSU Research Project Manager.

Final Report Requirements

The Scientific Lead will be required to submit a final priority project closeout report to the MSSU within three months of the support period end-date. The priority project closeout report will include a reflection on the Bridge Event and priority project process, a focus on the outcomes and impacts of the project, and other project benefits and challenges.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about Nova Scotia Priority Projects and Bridge Events, please contact:

Elizabeth Jeffers

Research Project Manager

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