

Developing Northern Research Collaborations Award

1. Description

The BC SUPPORT Unit, Northern Centre has dedicated funding to provide the opportunity for researchers, health care providers, decision makers, and patient partners to develop collaborations for person, family, and community centred research. The Developing Northern Research Collaboration Awards are expected to catalyze patient-oriented research that aligns with CIHR's [SPOR Capacity Development Framework](#) and the [SPOR Patient Engagement Framework](#).

The Northern Centre is one of the [BC SUPPORT Units](#) four regional centres. Its goal is to build capacity and provide support for collaborative research in the area served by Northern Health that focuses on a common goal of increased access to high quality health care and improved patient outcomes. The Northern Centre operates as partnership between Northern Health (NH) and the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and aligns with the existing NH-UNBC partnered goals and objectives.

The NH-UNBC Partnership has identified 6 priority areas to focus research and planning activities for 2018-2021. These are:

- Seniors health and wellbeing inclusive of frailty, home care, housing, dementia care
- Mental health/Mental wellness
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Rural health services
- Healthy child development
- Industry and the resource economy and their impact on population health

Applications that address one of the priority areas are encouraged. Examples of activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Planning or team-building activities that assist teams in working together to:
 - Identify research questions or emerging issues and priorities;
 - Design a project or study which includes meaningful roles for all team members, including patients; and/or
 - Identify and address the learning needs of team members (e.g., patient engagement training at CIHR);
- Enhancing existing research projects to become patient-oriented in nature

2. Funds Available and Duration

The total amount available for this competition is \$50,000, enough to fund 5 awards. The maximum amount per award is \$10,000 per year for up to one year starting September 15, 2018.

3. Key Competition Dates

Action	Date
Competition Launch	April 23, 2018
Mandatory Orientation	May 10, 2018
Deadline for submission	July 4, 2018
Adjudication	July-Aug, 2018
Notification of Funding Results	August 2018
Funding Term	September 15, 2018-September 15, 2019

4. Eligibility to Apply

For an application to be eligible the applying team must be comprised of at least the following collaboration:

1. University of Northern BC (UNBC) and Northern Medical Program (NMP) researchers who hold an academic appointment and are eligible to hold funding at UNBC.
2. A health system knowledge user working in the Northern Health Region:
 - a. a health care professional (e.g., physicians, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists, psychologist, and other health professionals)
 - b. a policy-maker
3. At least one [patient](#) partner. A patient partner is a Northern BC based patient and/or people who brings the collective voice of specific, affected communities with experience of a health issue or concern.

5. How to Apply

Title Page (1 page maximum) – applicants must provide a title page that clearly lists the names of the researcher, health system partner, and patient partner as well as their professional title and department.

Proposal (3 pages maximum) – applicants must provide a description of:

- a. The problem/issue in Northern BC the proposed collaboration wants to address. Preference will be given to applications that address one of the NH-UNBC Research Priority areas listed above.
- b. The goal(s) and corresponding objective(s) of the proposed Collaboration
- c. A timeline of proposed the activities that will be carried out to achieve the proposed objectives.
- d. The role and/or contributions of each team member in the proposed activities.
- e. How the intended Collaboration aligns with the guiding principles of the [SPOR Capacity Development Framework](#) and the [SPOR Patient Engagement Framework](#).

Budget (1 page maximum) – applicants must provide a justified budget up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity and any other persons working on the project must fully comply with the applicable [CIHR Funding Policies](#). Applicants should

review the [Use of Grant Funds](#) section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

Collaboration - applicants must provide the following documentation from each of the team members:

- a. UNBC/NMP Researchers must provide a CV (preferably in the Common CV format). CVs should include name, primary affiliations, previous research experience, education, peer reviewed publications, etc.
- b. Health System knowledge user must submit an abbreviated CV/Resume including their contact information, affiliation, background and training.
- c. Community, patient group and/or patient partners must provide a **signed written statement** describing their contribution in the development of the research team and how they are engaged in the planning of the research.

Orientation – applicants are required to attend a mandatory Developing Northern Research Collaborations Award orientation to qualify for the award. The orientation will review how to align applications with the guiding principles of the [SPOR Capacity Development Framework](#) and the [SPOR Patient Engagement Framework](#), review the evaluation criteria, and share key learnings from the first intake. The orientation webinar has been scheduled for:

Date: May 10, 2018	Time: 12:00 pm
In-Person Location: UNBC Prince George Room 10-4520	Webex: Webex Link

RSVPs for the orientation webinars is not required. If you are unable to attend the scheduled session, please contact northerncentre@northernhealth.ca.

6. Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be used:

1. Collaboration Goals and Objectives
 - a. Project addresses health challenge identified in Northern BC (northern / rural / remote health focus)
 - b. Research question addresses a need identified by knowledge-user(s) on the research team
 - c. Overall goal and objectives of project are well-defined and clear
 - d. Contributions of the project are well-defined, clear, and significant with respect to improving health services and population health in Northern BC
 - e. Rationale of the project idea is sound, logical and valid
2. Team Structure
 - a. Proposal includes outline of team structure, including contributions of each member
 - b. Research team (including knowledge users) possesses necessary expertise, time and track record to deliver on the project's objectives
 - c. Strength of community involvement (preference given to applications that include community, patients and/or clinical collaborators as co-applicants)

3. Approach & Feasibility
 - a. Approaches and methods are appropriate to deliver the proposed outputs and achieve the proposed contributions
 - b. Capacity for respectful collaboration is established amongst patients, researchers, and health care providers
 - c. Degree of meaningful inclusion of patients and other relevant stakeholders and their appropriateness in relation to the goals of the proposal
 - d. Experiential knowledge of patients is valued as evidence as part of the research process
 - e. Extent to which the project is accomplishable in the given timeframe with the resources described
 - f. Proposal identifies potential challenges and suitable mitigation strategies
 - g. Justification of budget is clear and reasonable
4. Outcomes
 - a. Potential for project to have substantive and sustainable impact on health outcomes, practice, programs and/or policy in the study context
 - b. Extent to which the collaboration focuses on building capacity for patient-oriented research
 - c. Extent to which the findings will be transferable to other practice, programs and/or policy contexts

7. Application Format

Except for the appendices, all materials must be presented as follows:

- All materials, except appendices, must be a minimum 11 point size, Arial (regular), single spaced, on one side of a letter-sized (21.25 cm x 27.5 cm / 8.5" x 11") page, with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
- All pages should be consecutively numbered.
- All print must be black, of letter quality and easy to read.
- A title page that clearly lists the names of the researcher, health system partner, and patient partner as well as their professional title, and department
- A header with the project name on the top left-hand corner, and footer with the page number on the lower right-hand corner of each page.
- The proposal must not exceed 5 pages (title page, proposal and budget). This does not include appendices.
- Appendices can include: References and charts, tables, diagrams or surveys/questionnaires to support the application.

8. Contact and Submission Information

Applications should be sent in PDF file no later than 11:59pm on July 4, 2018 via email to:

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