



NEW BRUNSWICK'S INNOVATION ACTORS

A SYSTEM MAP OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INFLUENCE IN THE PROVINCE

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Overview: New Brunswick Innovation Actors	4
New Brunswick-Based Drivers	
Funding & Resources	
New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF)	6
New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF)	7
Planet Hatch	7
Venn Innovation	8
BioNB	8
Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB)	9
New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training (NB-IRDT)	9
Procurement of Goods and Services	
Service New Brunswick/New Brunswick Opportunities Network	10
Policy & Regulatory Oversight	
Horizon Health Network and Vitalité Health Network	11
New Brunswick Health Council (NBHC)	11
New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes (NBANH)	12
University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John/Dalhousie), Université de Moncton, New Brunswick Community College	12
Atlantic Canada Drivers	
Funding & Resources	
Springboard Atlantic	13
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	13
National Drivers	
The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group	14
Health Standards Association	14
AGE-WELL NCE	14

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the actors that are influential in the health innovation ecosystem that enable the research, development, and adoption of health technologies. The table provides a high-level overview of the institutions, businesses, and/or agencies and their role when it comes to health innovation. The actors identified in this document are influential at one or many phases of technology development, testing, and commercialization. All of the information in this scan has been reviewed and validated for the time of its release. It is understood that this scan may be updated on a recurring basis.

This scan is not inclusive of the many other national influences such as the tri-council agencies, innovation and research centres, or other actors that NB based innovators may leverage or partner within the design, development, testing or deployment of health technologies.

Overview: New Brunswick Innovation Actors

Actor	Description	Jurisdiction
	Who is the actor and what to they do/what are they in relation to health technology development?	What jurisdiction does this actor represent/ support?
UNB	Host Institution for research Research Ethics Board	NB
UdeMoncton	Host Institution for research Research Ethics Board	NB
Dalhousie	Host Institution for research Research Ethics Board	NB
NBCC	Host Institution for research Research Ethics Board	NB
NBHRF	Funding Agency	NB
NB-IRDT	Data Custodian (UNB)	NB
NBIF	Funding Agency	NB
Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB)	Government Branch to support NB-based entrepreneurship	NB
Planet Hatch	Business Management Consultants	NB
Venn Innovation	Business consultants	NB
BioNB	Navigator, business consultants	NB
Service New Brunswick	(Previously Facilicorp NB) Responsible for province's shared services: finance, information technology, and procurement	NB

	Funding	Policy/ Regulation	Procurement	Resources	Adoption
	Funding programs for R&D	What approval or regulatory processes are involved and who is responsible?	Responsible for procurement of health technologies, what qualifies, etc.	Provides resources for researchers beyond financial	Serves as an adopter of health technologies for the population served
ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY		●		●	
		●		●	
		●		●	
		●		●	
	●			●	
				●	
	●			●	
				●	
				●	
	●			●	
			●		

Overview: New Brunswick Innovation Actors (continued)

Actor	Description	Jurisdiction	Funding	Policy/Regulation	Procurement	Resources	Adoption
Horizon Health Network	Health Authority	NB		●	●		●
Vitalité	Health Authority	NB		●	●		●
Springboard Atlantic	Support Network	Atlantic				●	
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Funding Agency & Resources	Atlantic	●			●	
New Brunswick Nursing Home Association	Support Network	NB		●			
New Brunswick Health Council	Support Network	NB				●	
Digital Health Canada — Atlantic Chapter	Regional Chapters stem from Digital Health Canada to support members of the association	Atlantic/National				●	
Canadian Standards Association	Health inspector and regulator	National/Global		●		●	
Health Standards Association	Non-profit	National		●		●	
AGE-WELL NCE	Funding Agency and national network (centres of excellence)	National	●			●	

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Funding & Resources

New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF)

www.nbhrf.com

Created in 2008, NBHRF coordinates, supports and promotes health research in New Brunswick. NBHRF has a wide array of funding opportunities for NB researchers to support the Research and Development of their health technologies. In addition to funding initiatives, NBHRF facilitates and supports the provinces health research network, one specifically focused in aging research. This network has established communication channels with multiple different stakeholders to promote and disseminate research in the province. Additionally, NBHRF provides numerous opportunities for research funding through partnerships with national agencies such as the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), AGE-WELL, and other charities and foundations. These partnerships are ongoing and changing opportunities, with more information found on their website. It also offers multiple platforms for knowledge exchange, training opportunities and networking.

NBHRF makes available the following operating grants for NB researchers:

- Knowledge Translation Grant
- Strategic Initiative Grant
- Research-related Support Fund
- Bridge Grant
- Establishment Grant for New Investigators

CABHI-NBHRF Senior's Care-Strategic Innovation Fund (Partnership Example)

- Jointly funded program to trial and evaluate innovative solutions addressing challenges in aging and brain health. This fund includes partnership with innovators (third-party vendors) to test and validate products and services. The product or service must be 'mature' for trial with the target population. The last iteration of this program was November, 2018.

The Implementation Science Teams – Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness in Long-Term Care with CIHR (Partnership Example)

- This joint fund aims to support the implementation and evaluation of CFHI/CPSI's promising practice and/or policy interventions in Long-Term Care settings.

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Funding & Resources (continued)

New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF)

www.nbif.ca

NBIF is a non-profit organization in New Brunswick with two major streams, (1) venture capital, supporting startups and (2) applied research, supporting research and development. In addition to financial support for NB researchers/innovators, NBIF has several resources for teams to build and market their technologies and business (i.e. investment team support for Venture Capital Fund). As it relates to applied research, NBIF's values are to invest in research with high potential for commercialization and economic impact. Further, supporting technology development by following the Technology Readiness Level framework from the Government of Canada. In addition, NBIF offers NB researchers opportunities to learn the business and commercialization end of their products through educational webinars focused on commercialization, finding your value proposition, intellectual property, etc.

The funding initiatives through NBIF that support R&D of health technologies are:

- Emerging Projects Fund
- Lab-To-Market
- Innovation Voucher Fund
- Startup Investment Fund
- Venture Capital Fund
- Social Innovation Research Fund
- Equipment Fund
- Early Stage Commercialization Fund

Planet Hatch

www.planethatch.com

Planet Hatch is an award-winning entrepreneurship centre located in Fredericton, NB. Planet Hatch's mission is to develop globally competitive start-ups and entrepreneurs. They do this through programming, mentorship and coaching, funding, co-working and membership, and events. They specialize in business models, business strategy, customer acquisition and markets.

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Funding & Resources (continued)

Venn Innovation

www.venninnovation.com

Venn Innovation helps Atlantic Canadian founders and startups to build scalable technology companies by helping them validate their technology, understand their markets through research and insights, connect with mentors and experts, and access talent and capital. We have multiple contact points, programs, and offerings applicable for companies across all stages, from ideation to growth. Professionals and founders can leverage our deep private sector experience, domain-specific expertise, and global connectivity.

Some unique offerings:

- Venn Garage, a self-paced, tailored, and virtual incubator program that helps early-stage NB based startups to validate their technology and strategy (saving them money and time in the long run), investment planning advisory, tailored mentorship, access to early adopter customers, meaningful networking opportunities, and more
- Market Intelligence program: Meaningful and insightful market data, that will help companies make critical decisions or can be used to supplement another research they are working on. Tech and innovation-focused companies that are under \$1M in revenue and less than \$5M in private investment can use this service for free
- Export internship program: Helps NB based SMEs (exporters) an opportunity to hire recent graduates by contributing up to 75% of the intern's salary, while also helping local and international students in NB stay within the province
- Set to Scale: Based on the Scaling Up methodology, this program involves a 6-month coaching with a certified coach to understand and begin to implement the steps they need to take, to grow their business.

BioNB

www.bionb.org

BioNB has a vested interest and passion to stimulate New Brunswick's bioeconomy across sectors. The organization works with entrepreneurs, researchers and other sector stakeholders to translate research into opportunities. They provide assistance through business support, funding navigation and project development.

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Funding & Resources (continued)

Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB)

www.onbcanada.ca

ONB is a government branch that aims to connect local businesses with other provincial, federal, or international businesses and partners to advance NB based entrepreneurs. Specifically, ONB established a digital health sector to support the development and implementation of health technologies in the province. Paired with CyberNB, a partner organization focused on cyber security, a common point of concern for digital health adoption, ONB is a highly influential driver of health technology success in New Brunswick. Furthermore, ONB supports businesses and startups with resources to launch and grow.

Specifically:

Procurement – helping NB suppliers maximize success in obtaining GNB

Consulting – supports and coaching

Connections – support to identify programs and resources

Navigation – support with licenses, registrations, regulations etc.

New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data, and Training (NB-IRDT)

www.unb.ca/nbirdt

NB-IRDT is a trusted research institute and the steward of New Brunswick's administrative data that actively supports research in our province through:

- Providing approved researchers with access to person-level, pseudonymized data in a secure facility
- Protecting personal information and privacy
- Conducting research to support evidence-informed decision-making
- Expanding and supporting data stewardship and preservation
- Developing research capacity through workshops, training, and experiential learning programs
- Conducting program evaluations for community and government projects
- Promote research and support researchers with knowledge transfer strategies

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Procurement of Goods and Services

Service New Brunswick/New Brunswick Opportunities Network

NB First Procurement Strategy¹ and the *Procurement Act*²

Under the New Brunswick First Procurement Policy, SNB is responsible for the procurement of goods and services for the Government of New Brunswick's departments, agencies, schools and school districts, and regional Health Authorities. Exclusive of procurement pertaining to the Department of Transportation (i.e. construction, repair, land procurements).

This policy outlines that goods and services to be procured for GNB, are procured by New Brunswicker supplies where possible. This is governed by the Procurement Act. The procurement of goods and services in relation to RHAs (i.e. Health technologies) fall under two policy items (1) Mandatory Buy-NB where Goods and services up to \$105,700 must be purchases from NB suppliers, and item (4) where NB suppliers must be invited to bid. Suppliers must be registered in the New Brunswick Opportunities Network to bid.

For the purpose of this policy, a New Brunswick supplier refers to:

- New Brunswick Manufacturer – a manufacturer of goods that has a place of business in New Brunswick
- New Brunswick Vendor – a vendor of goods or services that has a place of business in New Brunswick

¹NB First Procurement Strategy

²The Procurement Act

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Policy & Regulatory Oversight

Horizon Health Network and Vitalité Health Network Regional Health Authorities Act³

The Minister of Health is responsible for the provision of health care delivery in the province. As it pertains to the delivery of health care services in the province, the Minister of Health may amend the provincial health plan which includes health services to be provided, health services to be acquired (out of province), and provincial programs for the provision of health services. This includes programs for training individuals in the medical and other health professions (inclusive of practice settings), ensuring a policy framework, parameters, and standards for clinical and non-clinical services provided by Regional Health Authorities (RHA). Any amendments to the provincial health plan must follow requirements under the *Hospital Services Act*⁴. RHAs provide the Minister with advice regarding amendments to the provincial health plan.

The Minister of Health established provincial standards for health services in the province. Those who provide health services through an agreement with a RHA shall ensure they comply with the provincial standards laid out by the Minister. RHAs submit regional health and business plans to the Minister for approval.

- Part 3 - Division C outlines the powers, duties, and responsibilities of health authorities. Provision of health needs, regional health and business plan, delivery of services.
- Part 5 – General Provisions outlines compliance with provincial standards and regulations.

New Brunswick Health Council (NBHC) www.nbhc.ca

The New Brunswick Health Council (NBHC) has a dual mandate of reporting publicly on the performance of the health system and to have mechanisms that engage citizens in the improvement of health service quality. Operating under the *New Brunswick Health Council Act*⁵ NBHC represents New Brunswick with members of the council comprising community members, policy makers, health care professionals, health care managers and academic representatives. The council's work aims to inform policy decisions regarding health care delivery in the province and is well placed to support the initiatives that result from this lab.

³Regional Health Authorities Act

⁴Hospital Services Act

⁵New Brunswick Health Council Act

New Brunswick-Based Drivers

Policy & Regulatory Oversight (continued)

New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes (NBANH)

www.nbanh.com

The New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes represents 68 licensed care facilities in the province and is governed by a board of directors that is representative of the seven provincial regions. In addition to working with the Department of Social Development on regulatory matters and labour groups on all matter relating to employees of nursing homes, NBANH sets out a strategic plan that highlights and supports the value of research and innovation in the nursing home setting. Specifically, the strategic plan⁶ developed for 2017 through to 2021 promotes that NBANH is a strategic partner in facilitating research initiatives.

Host Institutions

University of New Brunswick (Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John/Dalhousie), Université de Moncton, New Brunswick Community College

Post-secondary institutions produce and employ NB researchers/innovators and serve as critical actors in the development of health technologies in New Brunswick. These institutions provide many opportunities to build capacity in research trainees and professional trainees through scholarships, mentorship programs, co-operative education, etc. Most importantly, they regulate and ensure the ethical conduction of research through Research Ethics Boards (REB). Research involving human participants cannot be funded or conducted prior to ethics approval. This is a critical step in the R&D cycle for health technology development.

University of New Brunswick ([read here](#))

Université de Moncton ([read here](#))

New Brunswick Community College ([read here](#))

The University of New Brunswick also recently developed an Innovation Map that highlights the investments in innovation, key players in NB, and NB's overall performance in innovation delivery compared to the rest of the country. This work produced a set of observations and recommendations to improve the innovation ecosystem in New Brunswick. [Read here](#)

⁶NBANH Strategic Plan

Atlantic Canada Drivers

Funding & Resources

Springboard Atlantic

www.springboardatlantic.ca

Based at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Springboard Atlantic is a member-based organization through ACOA. This network aims to grow Atlantic Canada's innovation economy through collaboration among post-secondary institutions and industry. This network provides opportunity to collaborations as well as several resources for researchers to support the commercialization of research in Atlantic Canada.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities.html

A branch of the federal government geared toward creating opportunities for economic growth in the Atlantic region. ACOA is regulated by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Act and serves to assist the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages. More specifically, programs and services from ACOA that are relevant to New Brunswick Innovators include:

- The Atlantic Innovation Fund ([here](#))
- Money for start-up and expansion
- Venture capital for high-risk, growth oriented New Brunswick Companies
- Accelerated Growth Service ([here](#))

National Drivers

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group

www.csagroup.org

The CSA Group is a global organization that provides testing, inspection, and certification of services and products that are looking to go to market. Additionally, they develop standards that regulate how services and products are provided. The CSA group covers a wide catalogue of areas for their services, specifically relevant is their subject area for Health and Well-being that provides a list of standards that address multiple areas in the healthcare sector.

Health Standards Organization

www.healthstandards.org

The Health Standards Organization (HSO) is a non-profit organization founded in 2017 and works with leading experts and those with lived experience to develop standards, assessment programs and quality improvement solutions. Their focus is on developing standards, assessment programs and other tools to help care providers do what they do best: save and improve lives. Recognized by the standards Council of Canada, they are the only Standards Development Organization solely dedicated to health and social services.

AGE-WELL NCE

www.agewell-nce.ca

AGE-WELL is Canada's Aging and Technology network that has brought together over 250 researchers, over 400 partners, engaged over 5000 older adults and caregivers, supported 56 startups, and much more. AGE-WELL brings together older adults, caregivers, researchers, partner organizations, startups, and future leaders across the country to accelerate the delivery of technology-based solutions that make a meaningful difference in the lives of Canadians. AGE-WELL members are producing technologies, services, policies and practices that improve quality of life for older adults and caregivers and generate social and economic benefits for Canada.

Additionally, with a recognition of policy influences for bringing technologies into the health care and social systems, AGE-WELL has supported initiatives that help researchers navigate the regulatory landscape. In 2016, network investigators and trainees developed a comprehensive manual for the regulatory system in Canada for health technologies ([Report Here](#)).