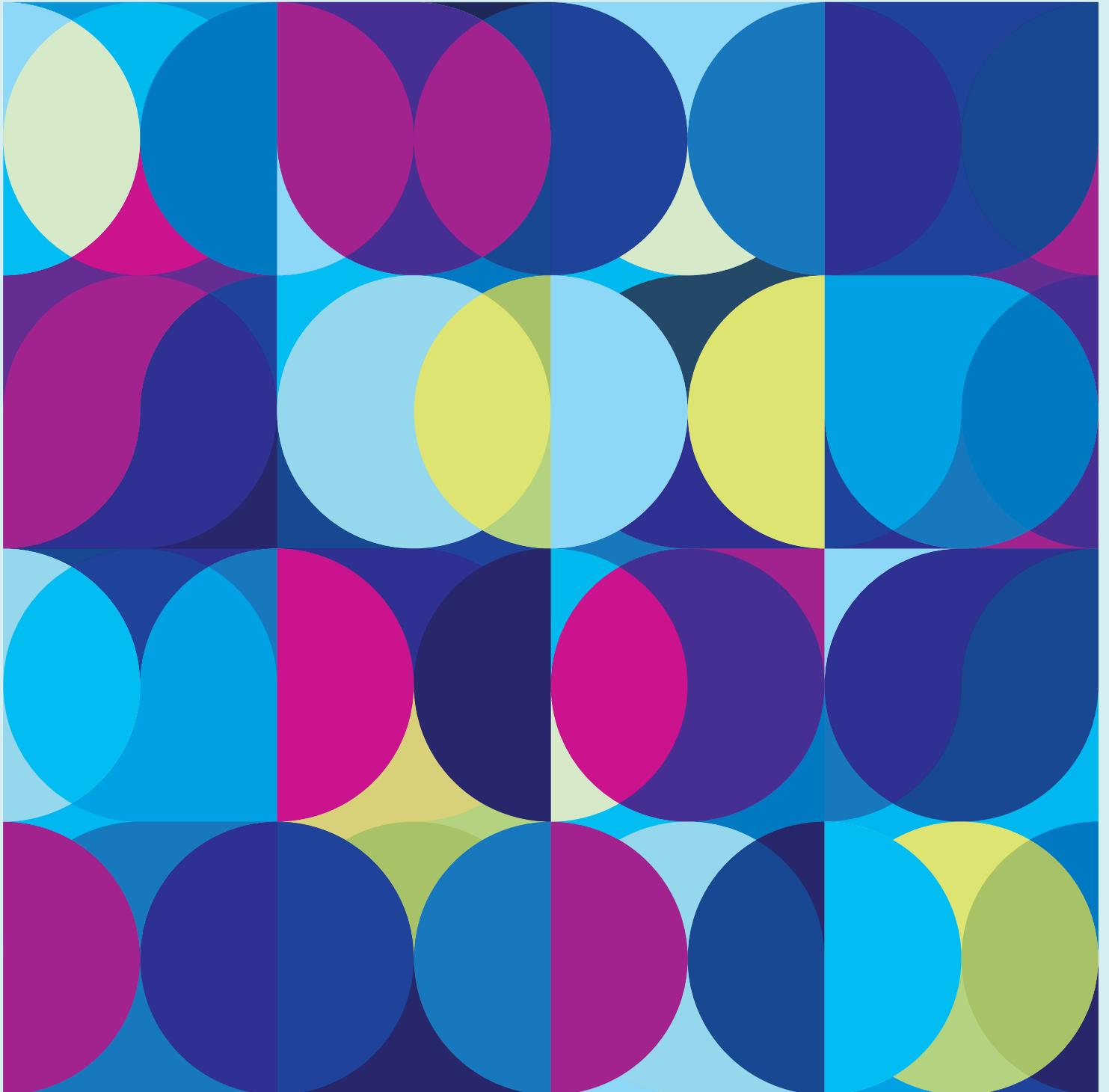




Research  
Manitoba

**2023 / 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Reflections*



AT RESEARCH MANITOBA, WE ENSURE THAT RESEARCHERS AND INNOVATORS CAN EXCEL AND FOLLOW THEIR PASSION WITHIN MANITOBA'S RESEARCH COMMUNITY, ADVANCING AND IMPROVING ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY.

OUR MANDATE IS TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, AND COORDINATE THE FUNDING OF RESEARCH IN THE HEALTH, NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND THE HUMANITIES IN MANITOBA.

For more information contact:

**Research Manitoba**

A201 Chown Building  
753 McDermot Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0T6

Telephone: 204-775-1096  
E-mail: [helpdesk@researchmb.ca](mailto:helpdesk@researchmb.ca)  
Website: [www.researchmanitoba.ca](http://www.researchmanitoba.ca)

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# Land Acknowledgement

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RESEARCH MANITOBA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED ON TREATY 1 TERRITORY AND THAT MANITOBA IS LOCATED ON THE TREATY TERRITORIES AND ANCESTRAL LANDS OF THE ANISHINAABEG, ANISHININEWUK, DAKOTA OYATE, DENESULINE AND NEHETHOWUK NATIONS.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE MANITOBA IS LOCATED ON THE NATIONAL HOMELAND OF THE RED RIVER MÉTIS.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE NORTHERN MANITOBA INCLUDES LANDS THAT WERE AND ARE THE ANCESTRAL LANDS OF THE INUIT.

WE RESPECT THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF TREATIES AND TREATY MAKING AND REMAIN COMMITTED TO WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS PEOPLE IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND COLLABORATION.

# Introductions

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RESEARCH MANITOBA IS A PROVINCIAL AGENCY THAT REPORTS AND RECEIVES CORE OPERATIONAL FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD IS ANDREA LEGARY.

RESEARCH MANITOBA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS APPOINTED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

THE BOARD HAS FIVE COMMITTEES THAT AID IN ITS WORK:

- > Executive Committee
- > Finance and Audit Committee
- > Nominating and Governance Committee
- > Provincial RITHIM Committee
- > Research Advisory Committee

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CEO



**ANDREA LEGARY**  
BOARD CHAIR  
RESEARCH MANITOBA



**JENNIFER CLEARY**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
RESEARCH MANITOBA

Reflecting on the past year, we proudly present the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Research Manitoba. This year's theme of 'Reflection' has been more than a guiding principle; it has been a transformative process that has strengthened our foundations and prepared us for an exciting future.

Over the past year, we have focused on optimizing our resources and capabilities. By realigning employees to roles that best leverage their skills, bringing new talent on board, and planning ambitious initiatives, we have strengthened our organization for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

A significant milestone in this period has been our strategic planning for a new three-year plan commencing in 2024-2025. This forward-thinking strategy and our decision to collaborate with innovative software developers on the RITHIM project sets a promising path for our 10th anniversary year.

Our achievements this year underscore our commitment to excellence while maintaining the integrity and reputation of Research Manitoba.

Key highlights from the past year include:

- > **Leadership Transition:** Karen Dunlop's retirement and the hiring of new CEO, Jennifer Cleary.
- > **Workforce Expansion:** Hiring of four new employees, including two Programs Officers, a Communications Officer, and a new CEO.
- > **Government Engagement:** Receiving a multi-year funding contribution with increased annual funding and building new relationships with our provincial government.
- > **Digital Presence:** Launch of a new Research Manitoba website.
- > **Strategic Role Changes:** Freyja Arnason's move from Director, RITHIM to Director, Strategy and Programs, and Liz Lylyk's promotion from Manager, RITHIM to Director, RITHIM.
- > **Innovative Collaborations:** Securing a new software developer for the RITHIM system.
- > **New Initiatives:** First year of the Mitacs Indigenous Pathways partnership and the Alzheimer Society Research Program partnership.
- > **Notable Launches:** Launch of the Dr. Dick Smith HIV Epidemiology Fellowship and the Stroke Research Chair.
- > **Collaborative Partnerships:** Engagements with Novartis, Genome Canada, and Volatus Aerospace.
- > **Program Evaluations:** Review of funding programs including Mitacs, CFI, and the Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grant.
- > **Increased Engagement:** Attendance at key events including BIO International 2023, Clinical Trials Ontario conference, and the Canadian Science Policy Conference.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we express our gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders who have been instrumental in our success. The groundwork laid this year positions us to achieve remarkable outcomes in the coming years. We look forward to our continued growth and the impactful contributions we will make in 2024-2025 and beyond.

# RESEARCH MANITOBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MEMBERS

### ANDREA LEGARY

#### CHAIR

Chief Science and Technology Officer,  
The Recoup Group

### JASON LEIBERT

#### VICE-CHAIR

Chief Growth Officer,  
MSP Starch Products

### JIM SANDISON

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER

President, SCS Inc.

Research Manitoba's Board of Directors includes membership from the research community, provincial government, industry, academic institutions, and health agencies. The board's appointments are made by Order-in-Council by the Manitoba government.

### DR. RASHID AHMED

PhD, Associate Professor,  
Department of Community Health  
Sciences, Max Rady College of  
Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health  
Sciences, University of Manitoba

### DR. ATHAR ATA

Professor and Chair, Department of  
Chemistry, Michigan Tech

### DR. HANI EL-GABALAWY

Professor of Medicine and  
Immunology, Endowed  
Rheumatology Research Chair,  
University of Manitoba

### LUIS ESCOBAR

Senior Transportation Consultant,  
Morrison Hershfield now Stantec

### EARL GARDINER

Founder and Executive Chairman  
of Careica Health

### DR. SRI NAVARATNAM

President and CEO,  
CancerCare Manitoba

### DR. PETER NICKERSON

Vice-Provost (Health Sciences)  
& Dean, Rady Faculty of  
Health Sciences

### DR. MARIO PINTO

Vice-President (Research and  
International], University  
of Manitoba

### ERIN ROMEO

Executive Vice-President, Digital  
Innovation, Strategy and  
Partnerships - Glacier FarmMedia

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS [NON-VOTING]

### JAN FORSTER

[ACTIVE AS OF NOVEMBER 2023]

Deputy Minister, Advanced  
Education and Training

### DR. JEAN-ERIC GHIA

[ACTIVE AS OF JULY 2023]

Chair - Research Manitoba Research  
Advisory Committee

# RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Research Advisory Committee [RAC] provides advice and makes recommendations to the board on all research-related matters including administration of existing programs, opportunities for development of new programs, and research initiatives. The membership of RAC reflects the broad experience with research in industry, health, natural and social sciences, engineering, and the humanities in Manitoba, as well as multiple post-secondary institutions. RAC is committed to creating a future with opportunities for trainees and early career researchers, ultimately supporting the growth of the research ecosystem in Manitoba.

## MEMBERS

### RAY HOEMSEN, P. ENG.

[ACTING CHAIR FROM FEB. 27 TO JULY 1, 2023]

President & Managing Director, Nexus Manitoba

### DR. JEAN-ERIC GHIA

[CHAIR AS OF JULY 1, 2023]

Professor, Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

### DR. EFTIHIA MIHELAKIS

[ELLE/SHE/HER]

[RAC VICE-CHAIR AS OF JULY 1, 2023]

Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Department of Francophone Studies and Languages, Brandon University

### DR. PAUL ALEXANDRE

Professional Associate III, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, Brandon University

### DR. JEREMY CHOPEK

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physiology and Pathophysiology, University of Manitoba

### DR. ALLISON DART

Associate Professor and Pediatric Nephrologist, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

### DR. TARA GILLER

Vice President - Growth, Smack Pet Food

### ROBERT HASTINGS

CEO, West Canitest R&D Inc [WestCaRD].

### AZ [ASHLEY] KLYMIUK

Associate Professor, Indigenous Scholar in Science, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba

### AYUSH KUMAR

Associate Dean, [Strategic Initiatives], Faculty of Science, Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, University of Manitoba

### HEATHER SMART

Director, Research and Development, National Research Council, Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility in Winnipeg

### DR. KATRIN STEDRONSKY

Senior Manager, Global Pharmacovigilance Operations at Emergent BioSolutions Inc.

### DR. NANCY STEWART

Director, Clinical and Scientific Affairs, GVI Clinical Development Solutions

### KEVIN WALBY

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Winnipeg

### RONALD VANDERWEES

President and CEO, Vehicle Technology Centre [as of February 26, 2024]

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

### LUIS ESCOBAR

Research Manitoba Board Representative

### DR. RASHID AHMED

Research Manitoba Board Representative

# PROVINCIAL HEALTH RESEARCH PRIVACY COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

### SHARON KLOS

*CHIM, CCDIS (Chair)  
Health Information Management Professional*

### DR. INGRID BOTTING

*Corporate Secretary and Director of Policy and  
Governance, WRHA*

### OLIVER BUCHER

*Manager, Epidemiology, CancerCare Manitoba*

### DANIEL GAGNÉ

*Dean, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Université  
de Saint Boniface*

### SHERLENE HEISE

*Privacy Officer/Analyst, Legal/Corporate Services,  
Shared Health*

### DR. CHRISTOPHER LOUIZOS

*Assistant Registrar - Field Operations, College of  
Pharmacists of Manitoba*

### DR. MARCELO L. URQUIA

*Associate Professor and Senior Research Scientist,  
Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Department of  
Community Health Sciences, College of Medicine, Rady  
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba*

### LEE BASSETT

*Privacy & Access Specialist, Southern Health-Santé Sud*

### HARSIMRAN KAUR BRAR

*Supervisor of Health Information Services, Grace Hospital*

### PAUL PENNER

*Chief Operating Officer, College of Physicians and  
Surgeons of Manitoba*

### JUDY DANDURAND

*Access and Privacy Officer, University of Manitoba*

PHRPC is the statutory committee responsible for conducting privacy reviews of applications by researchers for the use of personal health information for research purposes.

The responsibilities of PHRPC are to determine:

- > whether the importance of a research project outweighs any intrusion into privacy;
- > that the research cannot be done without using identifiable personal health information;
- > that it is impossible or impractical to obtain consent from the people the personal health information is about;
- > that adequate safeguards are in place to protect the confidentiality of the information; and
- > that the information is the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose of the research project.

# PROVINCIAL RITHIM COMMITTEE

The Provincial RITHIM Committee (PRC) is a subcommittee of the Research Manitoba Board. The primary responsibility of PRC is to support the creation and provide oversight over RITHIM.

PRC:

- > Advises and oversees the Committee for the Harmonization of Health Impact, Privacy, and Ethics Review (CHIPER) to enable and support its role as a provincial research ethics board.
- > Oversees the administrative support provided by RITHIM to support the Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee (PHRPC) in performing its role efficiently and effectively under the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA), although PRC does not oversee PHRPC.
- > Draws upon the experience and knowledge of the stakeholders with expertise in privacy and health research of Manitoba.
- > Reports to the Research Manitoba Board of Directors.

## MEMBERS

### DR. HANI EL-GABALAWY

#### CHAIR

Professor of Medicine and Immunology, Endowed Rheumatology Research Chair, University of Manitoba

### DR. PAUL BEAUDIN

Director, Research and Innovation, Shared Health

### JASON BERRY

Director, Cancer Clinical Information Management & Privacy Officer, CancerCare Manitoba

### MICHELLE DI NELLA

Executive Director, Seven Oaks Hospital Chronic Disease Innovation Centre

### FARID FOROUD

Associate Vice President, Health and Life Sciences, Western Canada at Global Public Affairs

### DR. JOEL GINGERICH

Medical Oncologist, Interim Co-Head, Department of Medical Oncology and Hematology, CancerCare Manitoba

### ALES MORGA

Regional Lead – Quality, Planning, & Performance, Southern Health-Santé Sud

### DR. NATHAN NICKEL

Associate Professor, Community Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba

### JEANNINE SCHELLENBERG

Research Support Unit Trial Manager, Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba

### DR. RYAN ZARYCHANSKI

Professor of Medicine (hematology and critical care) and Community Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

### ANDREA LEGARY

RM Board Chair, Chief Science and Technology Officer, The Recoup Group

### DR. JOHN ARNETT

CHIPER Chair, Professor, Clinical Health Psychology and Ethics, University of Manitoba

### DR. LINDSAY NICOLLE

CHIPER Chair, Professor, Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

### SHARON KLOS

PHRPC Chair, Health Information Specialist, Interlake Regional Health Authority

# RESEARCH MANITOBA STAFF



**JENNIFER CLEARY**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
 [FROM FEBRUARY 2024]



**PAM HARRISON**  
*Director, Finance and Administration*  
 [INTERIM CEO - DECEMBER 2023-FEBRUARY 2024]



**KAREN DUNLOP**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
 [TO DECEMBER 2023]



**TAMMY HILDEBRAND**  
*Manager, Communications*



**FREYJA ARNASON**  
*Director, Strategy and Programs*



**HOPE HOLMES**  
*Communications Officer*  
 [FROM JANUARY 2024]



**ELAINE BURLAND**  
*RITHIM Program Officer, PHRPC Lead*



**YASMIN IMAN**  
*Programs Officer*  
 [FROM OCTOBER 2023]



**RYAN CATTE**  
*Manager, Evaluation & Impact*



**ASHLEY KING**  
*Programs Officer*  
 [FROM JUNE 2023]



**CHERYL FRANCISCO**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**LIZ LYLYK**  
*Director, RITHIM*



**ANNA GLYBINA**  
*RITHIM Program Officer, CHIPER Lead*



**MARK PINDER**  
*RITHIM Software Support & Training Officer*

Research Manitoba's team is dedicated to working closely with our stakeholders to positively contribute to Manitoba's vibrant and diverse research and innovation ecosystem. Each member brings unique experiences and skills to collectively contribute to advancing excellence in the research community.

# \$24.3 M

## LEVERAGED FUNDS

In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba had total expenditures of \$14,375,395, of which \$12,439,445 was spent on research funding programs. Successful research projects leveraged an additional \$24,376,515 from other funding sources to complement funding from Research Manitoba.

## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND LEVERAGED FUNDS

# \$36.7

— Million

Many of our programs involve partnerships that leverage funds from industry, federal and other external sources. This is a powerful mechanism to drive investment into research within our province. By working with external partners, we significantly amplify the impact of our initiatives, ensuring that Manitoba remains at the forefront of innovation and scientific advancement. This approach not only enhances our financial resources but also fosters collaboration, accelerates discoveries, and strengthens the overall research ecosystem in Manitoba.

# \$12.4 M

## RESEARCH MANITOBA FUNDS

● EXPENDITURES  
● LEVERAGED FUNDS

CIHR STRATEGY FOR PATIENT-ORIENTED RESEARCH (SPOR)

● \$575,000  
\$12,061,519

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION (CFI)

\$4,291,119  
\$8,393,999

CLINICAL TRIALS INITIATIVE

\$498,000  
\$1,170,000

NEW INVESTIGATOR OPERATING GRANTS

\$872,313

GENOME CANADA

\$250,000  
\$1,500,120

MITACS

\$1,600,000  
\$3,729,514

TRAINEE AWARDS

\$546,300  
\$244,900

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

\$210,373  
\$351,877

INNOVATION PROOF-OF-CONCEPT GRANT

\$2,056,069  
\$1,179,178

PARTNERED RESEARCH CHAIRS

\$1,540,271  
\$2,010,300

**154** TOTAL NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

**195** TOTAL NUMBER OF RESEARCHERS SUPPORTED

14

**267** TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUPPORTED

**284** TOTAL NUMBER OF RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

## PROGRAM FUNDING STATISTICS

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Research Manitoba supports research across all disciplines through core programming designed to support the direct costs of research, and investing in cutting-edge research infrastructure in Manitoba to develop, attract and retain highly qualified personnel.

In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba supported research across all disciplines, expanding access to PhD studentships and postdoctoral fellowships in non-health-related research fields. Our programming continues to evolve, ensuring that researchers from all disciplines have access to the funding and resources necessary to drive innovation and excellence.

**OPERATIONS AND PROGRAM FUNDING**

PROGRAMS  
**\$12.4**  
 — MILLION

OPERATIONS  
**\$1.07**  
 — MILLION

RITHIM  
**\$867**  
 — THOUSAND

**PROGRAM FUNDING BY RESEARCH AREA**



# Funding Programs

FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

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RESEARCH MANITOBA FUNDING PROGRAMS HELP SUPPORT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY IN MANITOBA. WE INVEST IN CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND MANAGE COMPETITIVE AWARD PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF MANITOBA RESEARCHERS.

OUR ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN THESE FUNDING PROGRAMS LEVERAGES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO MANITOBA THROUGH MATCHING FUNDS AND INDUSTRY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS. WE SUPPORT RESEARCH IN AREAS OF PRIORITY FOR OUR PROVINCE AND ELEVATE THE PROFILE OF THE WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN MANITOBA.

# FUNDING PROGRAMS

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## CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION (CFI) MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM

**\$4,291,119**

CFI is the federal government agency for funding research infrastructure within universities and colleges. Research infrastructure includes state-of-the-art equipment, laboratories, databases, specimens, scientific collections, computer hardware and software, communications linkages and buildings necessary to conduct leading-edge research. Research Manitoba's CFI Matching Funds program provides matching funds (up to 40% of the project total) for proposals that have been awarded grants through one of CFI's competitions. The federal CFI program only supports 40% of total project costs. The additional 60% must be acquired from sources such as our provincial matching funds program.

- > In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba supported 17 CFI projects through the John R. Evans Fund, the Innovation Fund and the College Fund. This investment supports the development of Manitoba-based projects in the fields of agriculture science, climate change, Indigenous community health, neurogenetics, child development, space exploration, and population health.

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## CANADIAN INSTITUTES FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR) STRATEGY FOR PATIENT ORIENTATED RESEARCH 2.0 (SPOR 2.0)

**\$575,000**

17

Patient-orientated research is focused on engaging patients, their caregivers, and families as partners in all aspects of the research process. This engagement helps to ensure that research studies focus on patient-identified priorities, which ultimately leads to better patient outcomes. Funding in support of CIHR SPOR 2.0 is used to strengthen support for clinical trials and intervention studies, as well as research that compares the effectiveness, benefits, and harms of existing treatment options. Five networks manage projects through SPOR 2.0, focusing on bringing the findings of SPOR 1.0 research into practice. The networks include:

- > Can-SOLVE CKD Network: Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease: Listening, Learning, Leading
- > CHILD - BRIGHT Network: Child Health Initiatives Limiting Disability - Brain Research Improving Growth and Health Trajectories
- > Diabetes Action Canada: Indigenous Peoples Health Program
- > IMAGINE: Inflammation, Microbiome, and Alimentation - Gastro-Intestinal and Neuropsychiatric Effects
- > The Manitoba Primary and Integrated Healthcare Innovation Network

## FUNDING PROGRAMS

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### **\$498,000** CLINICAL TRIALS INITIATIVE

Research Manitoba works with partners in our connector role to support the clinical trial environment in the province. In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba provided letters of support to clinical trial researchers applying to Canadian Institutes of Health Research competitions, to strengthen their applications and attract more research funds to the province. In 2023-2024, two Manitoba-led clinical trials received provincial matching funds support. This provincial support leverages funds from federal sources and is key to building capacity for high-quality personnel in clinical trial positions in Manitoba.

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### **\$2,056,069** INNOVATION PROOF OF CONCEPT

The Innovation Proof-of-Concept (IPoC) Grant aims to strengthen Manitoba-based research innovation and development projects by filling a funding gap in the Manitoba innovation ecosystem. Through two independent streams, this program provides funding for innovation and commercialization research that is not otherwise accessible. Funds from this program help support activities directly related to process validation and proof-of-concept research. Funding is targeted towards Bioscience, ICT (Information Communication Technology), Advanced Manufacturing, and Infrastructure and Transportation Industries and Technologies.

- > In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba funded a total of [23] new IPoC projects.
- > Unanticipated returned grant funds in other programs allowed Research Manitoba to increase the IPoC budget to pay out some future commitments on approved IPoC projects.
- > IPoC grants by Priority Sector:
  - Bioscience = 12
  - Information & Communications Technologies = 6
  - Advanced Manufacturing = 4
  - Infrastructure and Transportation = 1

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### **\$1,600,000** MITACS

Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that works with post-secondary institutions, companies and not-for-profit organizations to build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada. Through this program, Research Manitoba supports local talent development and the training of Manitoba's highly qualified personnel toward careers in academia or local industry.

# FUNDING PROGRAMS

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## NEW INVESTIGATOR OPERATING GRANTS

**\$872,313**

The New Investigator Operating Grant program supports independent research programs for new faculty in Manitoba. These two-year grants support the direct costs of research, helping early career researchers achieve the research productivity and track record necessary for obtaining long-term, more substantial funding. This investment in early career researchers is integral to supporting local talent development and a strong Manitoba research ecosystem.

- > In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba funded 12 new investigators in the areas of health, social sciences & humanities, and natural sciences & engineering.

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## OTHER PROVINCIAL MATCHING INVESTMENTS

**\$460,373**

As part of our goal to build research capacity in Manitoba and attract research investments to the province, Research Manitoba provides provincial matching contributions to Manitoba-based projects that have been successful in securing external funds through partnerships with industry or through national granting competitions.

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## PARTNERED RESEARCH CHAIRS

**\$1,540,271**

Research Chairs are a mechanism to create a hub of research and innovation around areas of particular importance to the province. Research Manitoba invested in three research chairs in 2023-2024:

- > The Canadian Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Arctic Research: **Dr. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen**. The CERC program attracts top international scientists and scholars to Canada. In partnership with the federal CERC program, Research Manitoba is providing \$10 million over seven years (2018-2025) to support a world-renowned researcher, Dr. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen, and the team at the University of Manitoba in Arctic Ice, Freshwater Marine Coupling, and Climate Change.
- > Heart & Stroke and Research Manitoba Chair in Clinical Stroke Research: **Dr. Nishita Singh**. In partnership with the University of Manitoba and the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Research Manitoba is funding a Research Chair in Neurological Stroke. Dr. Nishita Singh provides leadership in innovative clinical research to develop and support advances and innovation to increase and improve the treatment of neurological stroke care in Manitoba.
- > Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Indigenous Research Chair in Nursing: **Dr. Wanda Phillips-Beck**. In partnership with CIHR and the Canadian Nurses Foundation, Research Manitoba is co-funding an Indigenous Nursing Research Chair. Dr. Wanda Phillips-Beck is based out of the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba which works to influence patient care, patient continuity, and health outcomes among Indigenous peoples.

# FUNDING PROGRAMS

**\$546,300**

## **TRAINEE PROGRAMS: MASTER’S STUDENTSHIP AWARDS, PHD RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS, AND RESEARCH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Research Manitoba supports workforce and talent development by providing funding support to research trainees, including Master’s and PhD students, and Postdoctoral fellows. This support is essential to attracting and retaining highly qualified personnel in Manitoba. In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba and our funding partners supported 46 trainees including 29 Master’s Studentship Awards, 15 PhD Studentship Awards and two Research Postdoctoral Fellowships.

### **Master’s Studentship Awards**

In 2023-2024, the Master’s Studentship Awards consisted of an annual stipend of \$12,000 with partnered studentships receiving up to \$17,850. Stipends support Master’s students preparing for careers as independent researchers and help attract and retain the best students within Manitoba. The following funding partners enable more studentship awards to be issued as well as increasing the total annual stipend for some students in particular fields. In 2023-2024, our partners fully funded four Master’s students, co-funded three with Research Manitoba, and Research Manitoba exclusively funded 22 students.

Partner organizations include:

- > CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- > Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba [CHRIM]
- > George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation [CHI]
- > Health Sciences Centre Foundation
- > Lung Association of Manitoba

### **PhD Research Studentships**

PhD Research Studentships support exceptional students and significantly increase the productivity of the research programs with which they are affiliated. In 2023-2024, four PhD Research Studentships were fully funded by our funding partners. The remaining 11 PhD Research Studentships were fully funded by Research Manitoba.

Partner organizations include:

- > CancerCare Manitoba Foundation
- > Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba [CHRIM]
- > George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation [CHI]
- > Health Sciences Centre Foundation

### **Research Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Research Postdoctoral Fellowships support postdoctoral trainees to prepare for careers as independent researchers. These exceptional trainees significantly increase the productivity of the research programs with which they are affiliated. In 2023-2024, one Research Postdoctoral fellowship was fully funded by CHRIM and one was fully funded by Research Manitoba. The fellowship consists of an annual stipend of \$36,750 for one year.

# Review Process

Each year, our organization uses a competitive peer/merit review process to evaluate and select research funding proposals for the Board's approval. This process is undertaken by a committee of active experts with the appropriate background and knowledge of the application topics under review. Committee members review applications in advance of the committee meeting and then discuss, assess, and score the applications during a live meeting. Each committee is chaired by a respected researcher from a relevant field and is sometimes accompanied by a skilled Scientific Officer.

The Innovation Proof-of-Concept (IPoC) College of Reviewers consists of six research innovation and commercialization experts from across Western Canada. Each IPoC Full Proposal is reviewed by two members of the College of Reviewers who are matched with applications based on their experience and expertise. In addition to these two reviews, each Full Proposal is reviewed by two scientific experts in the field. Scientific reviewers are from across North America.

## REVIEW COMMITTEES

1. Basic Biomedical Health Research - Master's Studentship Review Committee
2. Basic Biomedical Health Research - PhD Studentship Review Committee
3. Natural Sciences - Master's/PhD Studentship Review Committee
4. Technology and Engineering - Master's/PhD Studentship Review Committee
5. Social Population Health Research - Master's/PhD Studentship Review Committee
6. Social Sciences and Humanities - Master's/PhD Studentship Review Committee
7. Research Postdoctoral Fellowship Review Committee
8. Basic Biomedical Research - New Investigator Operating Grant Review Committee
9. Natural Sciences - New Investigator Operating Grant Review Committee
10. Social and Population Health Research - New Investigator Operating Grant Review Committee
11. Social Sciences and Humanities - New Investigator Operating Grant Review Committee
12. Technology and Engineering Review Committee - New Investigator Operating Grant
13. Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grant - College of Reviewers

Number of committees

# 13

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## INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Over 90 experts were involved in our review committees in 2023-24, from 20 institutions, including: Brandon University, Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba, St. Boniface Research Centre, Public Health Agency of Canada, University of Manitoba, The University of Winnipeg, Canadian Mennonite University, University College of the North, National Research Council of Canada, North Forge Technology Exchange, Manitoba Institute of Trades & Technology, Medtronic, and Global Public Affairs.

Review Committee Members

# 90+

# Strategic Partnerships

Research Manitoba's Strategic Partnerships program enables partnerships with a variety of stakeholders including industry, the public sector, and philanthropic organizations. These strategic partnerships focus on areas of critical importance to the province and promise to advance research and translate Manitoba's innovations into solutions that impact the health and well-being of Manitobans and enhance the economy of Manitoba. These collaborations usually involve several partners and include leveraged funding, resources, and expertise. New and ongoing Strategic Partnerships are listed below.

- > **Alzheimer's Society Research Program.** Research Manitoba has partnered with the Alzheimer's Society of Canada to support two Manitoba-based early career researchers in the advancement of dementia research.
- > **Science Experiential Aerial Research Program** [with Volatus Aerospace Group]. This partnership supports research projects for industry and skills training for high school students and aims to invest in workforce development at an earlier stage.
- > **Measuring the Impact of Nurse Navigation on Inequities in Care and Outcomes for Women Diagnosed with Breast Cancer in Manitoba** [with Novartis]. This project has partner funding from Novartis and builds on the work of the CAncer PaTient Assist In Navigation [CAPTAIN] project which is a system-wide intervention aimed at improving the information available to nurse navigators.
- > **Pre-Clinical Testing of Novel Combinations of Natural Anti-cancer and Anti-metastatic Proteins** [with University of Manitoba and Immunofyx]. The primary goal of the project is to test the best candidate molecules and confirm their mechanism of action in a mouse model of cancer. This project involves a Manitoba company undertaking research at a preclinical level. The results of this research advance knowledge and treatment for a variety of cancers.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- > Research Manitoba works in partnership with a wide variety of local, national and international stakeholders to maximize Manitoba's research potential. Partnerships range from co-funding to collaboration and consultation. The Research Manitoba team is active in outreach activities within the community, connecting researchers and industry with the right programming opportunities both internal and external to Research Manitoba.
- > In 2023-2024, outreach activities included stakeholder meetings, participation in conferences like BIO [Biotechnology Innovation Organization] 2023 and Clinical Trials Ontario Clinical Trials Conference, participation in national groups like The Canadian Collaboration for Child Health: Efficiency and Excellence in the Ethics Review of Research [CHEER] and the National Association of Provincial Health Research Organizations [NAPHRO], attending local chamber and industry association events and working with counterparts in various provinces and federal research funding organizations like Genome Prairie, Mitacs, and CFI. Our team meets regularly with academic institutions, health system stakeholders, Indigenous partners, researchers and industry interested in our programming.

# Mitacs Program

Through Research Manitoba's renewed partnership with the Mitacs program (2023-2025), Manitoba trainees at all levels continue their academic training while also working with local companies on industry research and development. The new partnership includes \$500,000 per year in dedicated funding for the Indigenous Pathways Program.

Research Manitoba's funding of Mitacs in Manitoba allows provincial trainees to gain valuable work experience and engage with local companies, while also supporting businesses to hire new talent that advances the company's research and development, and growth. Research Manitoba's Mitacs funding is vital to supporting the recruitment and retention of highly qualified personnel to Manitoba. In 2023-2024, Research Manitoba's funding helped support 350 internships.

## TOTAL INTERNSHIP UNITS FUNDED IN 2023-2024

# 350

Bioscience

# 159

Information Communication Technologies

# 104

Infrastructure and Transportation

# 78

Advanced Manufacturing

# 9

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# Mainstream Genomics in Manitoba Spotlight

MAINSTREAM GENOMICS IN MANITOBA (MGM) IS A PROJECT CO-LED BY DR. CHERYL ROCKMAN-GREENBERG, CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, AND DR. BETH SPRIGGS, GENOMICS MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT SHARED HEALTH.

MGM is a project supported by Genome Canada, Research Manitoba and Shared Health that expands on and validates the outcomes of the Canadian Prairie Metabolic Network (CPMN). CPMN examined Whole Exome Sequencing, a type of Next Generation Sequencing that occurs much earlier in the diagnostic workup of a patient suspected to have an Inherited Metabolic Disorder (IMD). It also explored the implementation of ‘-Omics First’ testing using the ‘mainstreaming’ model of care in Manitoba. This new project builds on both lessons learned and the success of CPMN.

IMDs are rare diseases with complex symptoms and long-term consequences to patient health. Their diagnostic workup is often drawn out over several years due to the complexity and the non-specific nature of their symptoms, leading to frustration for patients, caregivers and healthcare providers, and creating significant expenses for healthcare systems as multiple specialists may be involved with the diagnostic process. This project studies the use of this advanced technology in Manitoba, supporting reduced time to diagnosis from years to weeks and building health research and diagnostic capacity in the province.

Jose Peralta-Huertas,  
Angela Krutish, Cheryl  
Rockman-Greenberg and  
Erika Bloomfield  
(missing from photo,  
Dr. Beth Spriggs)



*“This funding allows us to take our Genomics research to yet another level that we hope will demonstrate the importance of incorporating new scientific modalities to further investigate the genetic basis for inherited metabolic and other rare genetic disorders.” - Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, co-PI with Dr. Beth Spriggs*

2023-2024

INVESTMENT LEVERAGE  
FROM OTHER PARTNERS

**\$1.5**  
— MILLION

RESEARCH MANITOBA  
FUNDING AMOUNT

GENOME CANADA  
**\$499**  
— THOUSAND

SHARED HEALTH  
**\$507**  
— THOUSAND

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
**\$493**  
— THOUSAND

**\$250**  
— THOUSAND

# Impact and Evaluations

## PROGRAM EVALUATION\* WORK

Research Manitoba utilizes evaluations to help determine the relevance, effectiveness and impact, as well as cost-benefit of our programs. To guide all program evaluations completed by Research Manitoba, the following evaluation questions are consistently applied:

- > How relevant is the program to the strategic direction of Research Manitoba? And how relevant is the program to the needs of Manitoba-based researchers and research organizations?
- > To what degree are the funding opportunities of the program accessible to Manitoba researchers? And how are applicants from Manitoba made aware of the funding opportunities of the program?
- > To what degree has the program achieved the intended outcomes? And what, if any, direct or unintended positive or negative outcomes occurred as a result of this program?
- > Does the program provide a return on investment for Research Manitoba?
- > What, if any, lessons have been learned about the program that may improve or sustain positive outcomes?

The results of completed evaluations help to inform Research Manitoba about the strengths and opportunities for improvement of existing programs, as well as opportunities for program development. These results ensure Research Manitoba is able to continually improve and adapt to the fast-paced research ecosystem locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

In 2023-2024, three program evaluations were completed by Research Manitoba for the Mitacs, Innovation Proof-of-Concept, and Research Manitoba/CFI Matching Fund programs. Key results from the three respective program evaluations include:

**Mitacs:** Between 2015-16 and 2022-23, Research Manitoba supported 615 students in partnership with Mitacs. Interns were supervised by 248 academic researchers at 211 organizations operating within Manitoba. An important takeaway from the results of this evaluation is that the program supports small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to invest in research and development enabling organizational growth within the province. Further, highly qualified personnel [e.g., post-secondary students and/or work professionals] are able to be hired and learn new skills, in some cases becoming permanent employees of SMEs or finding employment using the acquired skills in organizations based in Manitoba.

**Innovation Proof-of-Concept:** A primary result of this evaluation was the establishment that this program is perceived by researchers and research organizations to fill a gap in funding within the Manitoba research ecosystem, specifically for technology in the pre-commercialization stage of development that requires funding to advance the technology to a commercialization level of development. Between 2020-2024, 59 projects were supported through the IPoC program.

**Research Manitoba CFI Matching Fund:** Results from this evaluation established a shared perspective among stakeholders that the program enables innovative research that in turn supports the recruitment and retention of highly qualified personnel in the province, establishment of leading researchers within various fields, collaboration opportunities, securing of additional funding, and in some instances economic development opportunities such as spin-off companies and development of intellectual property. Between 2015-16 and 2023-24, Research Manitoba has co-funded 128 projects and leveraged \$113,265,010 in matching funds through this program.

Overall, the three programs were determined to be effective and valuable, with opportunities for further investment and expansion if additional funding is secured by Research Manitoba in the future.

\*Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation or results of an initiative for the purposes of learning or decision-making. [Evaluation Canada]

# Innovation Proof of Concept Evaluation

Launched in 2020, the Innovation Proof-of-Concept (IPoC) program is designed to support the pre-commercialization phases of innovative research projects.

In 2023-2024, we embarked on an evaluation of the program to ensure the intended impact of the program was occurring. We were pleased that the results of the evaluation showed that after receiving support through this program, researchers transition from a research and development phase to a pilot and demonstration phase as described by Innovation Canada's Technology Readiness Level.

This means that IPoC grant recipients can develop a functioning prototype of their respective products or technologies to test in a simulated or operational environment.

At the pilot and demonstration phase, grant recipients are in an improved position to commercialize the respective products or technologies and work with other entities such as the Manitoba government's Innovation Growth Program, Manitoba Technology Accelerator, or North Forge to help bring the products to market.

Key highlights of the outputs and outcomes of the program between the operating years of 2020-2021 and 2023-2024 are:

- > A total of 59 projects funded:
  - 24 - Stream 1: Manitoba-Based Consortiums
  - 35 - Stream 2: Manitoba Post-Secondary Researchers
- > Of these projects, Research Manitoba has invested \$6,624, 191 and leveraged funds of \$6,038,481.
- > As of 2023-2024, the following pre-commercialization outcomes have been reported:
  - Four patents
  - Three start-up companies
  - One licensing agreement
- > As of 2023-2024, the following number of personnel supported has been reported:
  - 27 employees
  - 89 students
  - 36 researchers

# Community Engagement

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AT RESEARCH MANITOBA, WE BELIEVE THAT CONNECTIONS ARE OUR CORE.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO FOSTER COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND DRIVE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANITOBANS.

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Throughout this past year, Research Manitoba and RITHIM staff have continually engaged stakeholders through one-on-one conversations, attending community events, promoting research excellence on social media, and renewing and growing partnerships across the research ecosystem. These efforts have been integral in fostering a collaborative environment and ensuring that our research community stays informed and connected.

## NOTABLE EVENTS ATTENDED THIS YEAR

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2024

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**March 27, 2024** – University of Winnipeg Laboratories Tour

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**March 20, 2024** – Bioscience Association of Manitoba Funding Day

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**March 7, 2024** – Bioscience Association of Manitoba’s Awards Dinner

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**March 6, 2024** – Research Manitoba Board Strategic Planning Session

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**February 28, 2024** – SIMTReC Innovation Day

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**February 28, 2024** – Accelerating Clinical Trials Canada REB Planning Meeting

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**February 21, 2024** – N2 Network of Networks 2024 Conference

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**December 8, 2023** – CancerCare Manitoba Research Forum

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**December 1, 2023** – Minister of Health announces Research Manitoba HIV  
Epidemiology Grant

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**November 28, 2023** – 11th Annual Indigenous Health Research Symposium

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**November 24, 2023** – Canadian Health Information Management Association  
Educational Conference

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**November 13, 2023** – Canadian Science Policy Conference 2023

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**November 8, 2023** – Clinical Trials Ontario Conference

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**November 2, 2023** – ProteinMB Launch

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**October 27, 2023** – Red River College Polytechnic Tour

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**October 24, 2023** – Bioscience Association of Manitoba Annual General Meeting

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**October 12, 2023** – Grand opening of Brandon University’s Breast Cancer Cell and  
Molecular Research Laboratory

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**September 13, 2023** – 2023 Leaders Series: Manitoba Chamber of Commerce

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**June 6, 2023** – Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards virtual conference

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**June 5, 2023** – BIO International Convention 2023

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**April 6, 2023** – Announcement of Dr. Nishita Singh as the new Research Manitoba Chair in  
Clinical Stroke Research at the University of Manitoba.

# STAFF IN ACTION



Research Manitoba



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Research Manitoba recently toured labs at @uwinnipeg funded by our support, meeting experienced & emerging researchers. From analyzing milk proteins for infant health to advancing cancer treatments, these labs are driving innovation in Manitoba's research landscape.

[March 27, 2024]



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Jino Distasio @JinoDistasio · Mar 7

@UofWResearch @uwinnipeg @Research\_MB So wonderful to see New Research Manitoba CEO Jennifer Cleary, introduce the UW Jasmyne Storm as BAM most promising student of the year! @BioscienceMB



Research Manitoba



Our CEO Jennifer Cleary, and Evaluations Manager Ryan Catte attended today's @BioscienceMB 2024 Funding Day! Having these in-depth conversations with industry experts is crucial for understanding the unique needs of the bioscience community in Manitoba.

[March 20, 2024]

Research Manitoba was grateful to attend @GenomePrairie 'Genomics in Manitoba' networking event held at the Legislative Building on April 18, 2023. We celebrate together their great success and work in genomic science & research in the Prairie Region.

[April 18, 2023]



(PHOTO: L-R) Dr. Rene Zahedi, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, U of M; Lester Young, PhD, Director of Scientific Affairs, Genome Prairie; Karen Dunlop, CEO, Research Manitoba; Mike Cey, President and CEO, Genome Prairie; Paul Beaudin Director of Research and Innovation, Shared Health, and Laura Curtis, Manager, Institutional Approvals, Performance and Health System Alignment, Shared Health.



Staff attended the 2023 BIO Conference in Boston.

[June 7, 2023]



Research Manitoba staff were welcomed by @RRC for a tour of their applied research facilities. These state-of-the-art facilities align industry needs with the college's resources, resulting in innovative research projects within Manitoba.

[October 30, 2023]

# Research Profiles

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AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SHARE THE UNIQUE RESEARCH WORK HAPPENING IN MANITOBA, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO SPOTLIGHT THE INNOVATIVE AND IMPACTFUL WORK OF SOME RESEARCHERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED FUNDING FROM RESEARCH MANITOBA OR HAVE RECENTLY SUBMITTED THEIR FINAL REPORTS FOR PROJECTS FUNDED IN RECENT YEARS. THIS SECTION CELEBRATES THE DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR FUNDED RESEARCHERS, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE AND SOLVING CRITICAL CHALLENGES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

THROUGH THEIR GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE DRIVING PROGRESS AND MAKING SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN A DIVERSE RANGE OF AREAS.

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THESE RESEARCHERS AND ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES AND SUCCESSES. JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING THEIR EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT THEY ARE MAKING IN OUR WORLD.

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## DR. ELSIE DUFF

**Program and Year:** 2023 New Investigator Operating Grant

**Project Title:** Impact of Post-COVID-19 Condition on Frontline Healthcare Workers in Manitoba

**University of Manitoba, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, College of Nursing**

This research examines the post-COVID-19 condition among healthcare workers (HCWs) in Manitoba. It aims to understand the physical, mental, behavioural, economic, and professional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on a diverse range of healthcare professions. By conducting a cross-sectional survey of various professional groups, the study seeks to fill the knowledge gap on how the pandemic has affected the health and well-being of HCWs and to inform policies that support their recovery and resilience.

*“I am grateful for the Research Manitoba award that will help our team understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of Manitoban healthcare workers. The COVID-19 pandemic deeply (and possibly irrevocably) changed our experience of what it is to be a healthcare worker. Through our research, we will explore the health, behavioural, economic, and professional impacts of post-COVID conditions in Manitoban healthcare workers.”*

*Dr. Elsie Duff*



## DR. ANURAAG SHRIVASTAV

**Program and Year:** 2021 Innovation Proof-of-Concept

**Project Title:** Performance Evaluation of Novel NMT-IHC Tests as Predictive and Prognostic Tests for Breast Cancer

This project aims to validate and evaluate the performance of a newly developed test that predicts prognosis and treatment response in breast cancer patients at the time of diagnosis. Initially tested in a cohort of 550 patients, the test predicts the likelihood of breast cancer recurrence. The study's primary goal is to validate this test in a larger and more diverse cohort, with a particular focus on Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patients. The research findings have also contributed to additional claims in the patent applications filed in Canada, Europe, and the US.

*“Our research will change the way we treat cancer. We are moving from diagnosis to prediction. The technology we are developing would help patients know the likelihood of cancer recurrence beforehand. So, ‘Your cancer has recurred’ to ‘Your cancer may recur’ will provide time to clinicians in deciding how to stop it from recurring.”*

*Dr. Anuraag Shrivastav*

## DR. MATT KHOSHDARREGI

**Program and Year:** 2020 CFI-JELF [project ended in 2024]

**Project Title:** Next-Generation Intelligent Robotic Machining and Inspection Technology

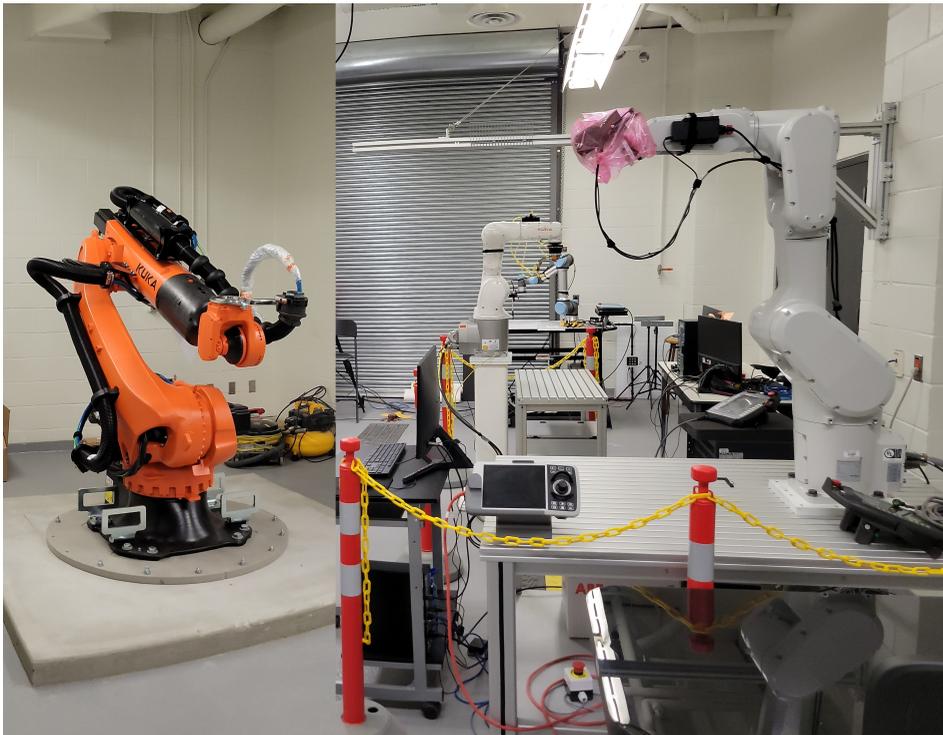
**University of Manitoba, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering**

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This research aims at developing a novel robotic manufacturing and inspection technology tailored specifically to the needs of Manitoba industries. The proposed robotic system will be equipped with high-precision force, vision, and laser sensors to automatically gather information about manufacturing processes. Advanced scientific models and computer algorithms will be developed to allow the robot to automatically detect a part, perform the planned operations, and inspect the quality of the final product without a need for explicit programming by end-users. This robotic system will enhance the productivity, reliability, and cost-efficiency of manufacturing processes, thus giving Manitoba's manufacturers a leading edge over the competition.

*"The CFI and RM matching funds have been used to develop a state-of-the-art laboratory for research in AI-powered robotic manufacturing. The purchased and deployed infrastructure includes: multiple industrial robotics arm, advanced machine vision cameras and sensor, advanced laser tracking and measurement sensors, robot tools and actuators. Thanks to the equipment and skills gained with the CFI/RM funding, we formed close research collaborations with multiple aerospace and heavy vehicle manufacturing companies in Manitoba. We are continuing and expanding these collaborations to help our local industries in Manitoba."*

*Dr. Matt Khoshdarregi*



*Lab equipment from the Intelligent Digital Manufacturing Laboratory. Photo supplied by Dr. Khoshdarregi*



## DR. KIM MITCHELL

**Program and Year:** 2023 New Investigator Operating Grant

**Project Title:** Can Literacy and Language Screening Predict Academic Performance? Using Simulated Learning Activities to Assess Medical Language Learning

**University of Manitoba, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, College of Nursing**

Our goal is to identify if screening nursing students for literacy can predict academic performance due to literacy related causes in 120 nursing students who have completed two clinical rotations. We will use a virtual simulation screening activity that can be used early in programs, after medical language learning has begun, and is simultaneously inexpensive, nursing-specific, and easily embedded in existing program courses.

*“Receiving Research Manitoba funding is potentially a career-turning moment for me as a new investigator. Nursing education research is vital but underfunded as a research focus. Knowledge gaps in how to educate and retain students in a complex practice-focused discipline impact the supply of strong nursing practitioners to the healthcare system which is presently in crisis due to shortages of nurses exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Receiving funding could be perceived as an endorsement of the importance of our work which sits at the intersection of social science and health.”*

*Dr. Kim Mitchell*

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## DR. WARREN CLARKE

**Program and Year:** 2023 New Investigator Operating Grant

**Project Title:** Addressing Anti-Blackness in post-secondary spaces: Decolonizing white settler learning to create educational pathways for Afro-Caribbean Black students

**University of Manitoba, Faculty of Arts, Department of Anthropology**

Cultivating Racially Safe Canadian Postsecondary Pedagogical Praxis: Implementing and Evaluating a Multisystemic Intervention Program for Mentoring Afro-Caribbean Black

Students outline a research project that would begin both to collect intersectional data on Afro-Caribbean Black [ACB] secondary and postsecondary student and community member demographics and experiences, which would evaluate how to deliver culturally sensitive mentorship programs for ACB students.

*“The award will extend my ability to uncover the multi-faceted ways of Black experiences in Manitoba. As a Black scholar whose work is public-facing, I take pride in working towards educating and supporting Manitoba’s Black youth’s education and social development.”*

*Dr. Warren Clark*

# RITHIM

## BRIDGING THE GAP TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF HEALTH RESEARCH IN MANITOBA

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Research Improvements Through Harmonization in Manitoba (RITHIM) is a provincial initiative involving multiple stakeholders with the goal of building a best-in-class provincial program for health research in Manitoba.

RITHIM is unique across Canada in that it will harmonize ethics, privacy, and health system institutional impact review processes to streamline health research approvals in Manitoba.

The new provincial health research application system will build further efficiencies in the process by creating one coordinated electronic application process with a user-friendly experience.

RITHIM is led by Research Manitoba, in partnership with key stakeholders which include the Manitoba government, provincial and regional health authorities, universities, hospitals and healthcare facilities, researchers, and corporate industry.

RITHIM will help to attract and retain world-class researchers and enhance Manitoba's potential for industry investment and research partnerships.

*“The RITHIM initiative will simplify the approval processes for human ethics, privacy, and impact, allowing researchers to focus on what matters - coordinated and seamless health research in Manitoba.”*

***Dr. Mario Pinto, Vice-President (Research and International), University of Manitoba***

# RITHIM

## MAJOR MILESTONES 2023-2024

- 
- > Engaged a new vendor to complete the build of the online RITHIM application system.
  - > Reconfigured the RITHIM application form to streamline the application process for researchers.
  - > Built business processes to support the future state of RITHIM, including the integration of institutional impact reviews and the establishment of harmonization processes.
  - > Supported the Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee (PHRPC), which completed a very successful second full year of operations, meeting all its review metric targets.
  - > Supported the Committee for the Harmonization of Health Impact, Privacy, and Ethics Review (CHIPER)'s transitional state of operations, ensuring ethics approval is in place prior to PHRPC approval.
  - > Continued development of a new RITHIM website to be launched ahead of the electronic system to facilitate user training.
  - > Continued engagement and close collaboration with key stakeholders across the health system and post-secondary institutions.
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### COMMITTEE FOR HARMONIZED HEALTH IMPACT, PRIVACY, AND ETHICS REVIEW

The Committee for Harmonized Health Impact, Privacy, and Ethics Review (CHIPER) was established on January 1, 2022, as a result of amendments to Manitoba's Personal Health Information Act (PHIA).

CHIPER's mandate is to provide robust ethical reviews of health research, as outlined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2). All health research conducted by persons affiliated with regional health authorities, universities and colleges, and hospitals and healthcare facilities in Manitoba will be reviewed by CHIPER. In addition, investigators from outside of Manitoba who propose to conduct health research in Manitoba are also required to submit projects to CHIPER for its approval.

In the current transitional state, CHIPER is responsible for ensuring that a research ethics board has approved a research project before the Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee (PHRPC) review and decision.

To prepare for CHIPER's full scope of responsibility, RITHIM has been actively working to ensure that the committee has a robust and diverse membership, with outreach initiatives specifically targeting community and legal representatives.

# RITHIM

## Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee (PHRPC)

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The Provincial Health Research Privacy Committee [PHRPC] was established on January 1, 2022, in accordance with amendments to Manitoba's Personal Health Information Act [PHIA].

PHRPC is the statutory committee responsible for conducting privacy reviews of applications by researchers for the use of personal health information for research purposes.

The responsibilities of PHRPC are to determine:

- > whether the importance of a research project outweighs any intrusion into privacy;
- > that the research cannot be done without using identifiable personal health information;
- > that it is impossible or impractical to obtain consent from the people the personal health information is about;
- > that adequate safeguards are in place to protect the confidentiality of the information; and
- > that the information is the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose of the research project.

The establishment of PHRPC enabled the implementation of initial changes toward a harmonized health research approval process, which will streamline and improve the efficiency of health research in Manitoba. PHRPC is operating in a transitional phase until the launch of the new provincial health research application system and the full RITHIM program.

With the full launch of the RITHIM program, PHRPC will be one pillar of the RITHIM harmonized review alongside research ethics and health system institutional impact.

RITHIM is responsible for the administration and support of PHRPC.

# RITHIM

## PHRPC OPERATIONS 2023-2024

The committee reviewed 111 new applications in 2023-2024, a 20% decrease from the previous year.

70% of new applications were approved with conditions to be addressed by the research team before full approval.

PHRPC saw a 36% increase in the number of amendments reviewed in 2023-2024 over 2022-2023. However, the average time for approval of amendments dropped by five days during the same period. Amendment review was supported by the addition of a committee Vice-Chair in May 2023.

All applications submitted during 2023-2024 were deemed to require PHRPC review, no applications were determined to be outside of PHRPC's scope by the review panels.

APPROVED WITHOUT  
CONDITIONS

11

TABLED

22

CONDITIONALLY  
APPROVED

78

### PHRPC OPERATIONS 2023-2024 QUICK FACTS

The committee meets monthly in panels to review new applications.

- > The committee Chair was re-appointed for an additional one-year term
- > A committee Vice-Chair was appointed
- > The committee approved new Terms of Reference

12

Panel meetings held

1

Full committee meeting held

23

Average days for new  
project approval

167

Amendments  
reviewed

13

Average days for  
amendments approval

## 2024-2027 RESEARCH MANITOBA STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

IN THE FALL OF 2023, INVISON EDGE WAS CONTRACTED BY RESEARCH MANITOBA TO GUIDE THE CREATION OF A THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN. RESEARCH MANITOBA STAFF MET WITH INVISON EDGE IN JANUARY 2024 FOR AN INITIAL PLANNING SESSION WHERE BACKGROUND INFORMATION WAS DISCUSSED.

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This was followed up by targeted meetings with Research Manitoba's Board of Directors on March 4, 2024, where several exercises were undertaken to unearth Research Manitoba's strengths and opportunities. In the end, three main goals were identified and in the upcoming year, action steps will be identified in order to achieve these goals.

### THESE GOALS ARE:

**ELEVATE  
MANITOBA'S  
RESEARCH  
ECOSYSTEM**

**CONTINUE  
ADVANCING  
MANITOBA'S  
HEALTH  
RESEARCH  
CAPACITY**

**FOSTER  
RECONCILIATION  
THROUGH  
INDIGENOUS-LED  
RESEARCH**



Research Manitoba Board of Directors and staff at the second strategic planning workshop session



Board member Dr. Pinto works on a timeline exercise during the planning session

# Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

# MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

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The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Research Manitoba and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. In management's opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality, incorporating management's best judgment regarding all necessary estimates and all other data available to the audit report date.

Management maintains internal controls to properly safeguard the assets and to provide reasonable assurance that the books and records from which the financial statements are derived accurately reflect all transactions and that established policies and procedures are followed.

The responsibility of the external audit is to express an independent opinion on whether the financial statements of Research Manitoba are fairly represented in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The Independent Auditor's Report outlines the scope of the audit examination and provides the audit opinion.

**On behalf of Management of Research Manitoba:**



Jennifer Cleary  
Chief Executive Officer



Pamela Harrison, CPA, CGA  
Director of Finance and Administration

2024-06-05

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Board of Directors of Research Manitoba

## OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of **Research Manitoba** [the "Organization"] which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the statement of operations and accumulated surplus, change in net financial assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2024 and the results of its operations, its change in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements

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can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
June 6, 2024

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31	2024	2023
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash and bank	\$ 435,400	\$ 353,914
Portfolio investment [Note3]	1,519,188	1,491,028
Accounts receivable[ Note4]	25,880	28,492
Accrued interest receivable	56,427	13,431
	<b>2,036,895</b>	<b>1,886,865</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	427,378	250,216
	<b>1,609,517</b>	<b>1,636,649</b>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Tangible capital assets [Note5]	8,437	6,507
Prepaid expenses	40,963	13,990
	<b>49,400</b>	<b>20,497</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 1,658,917</b>	<b>\$ 1,657,146</b>

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

For the year ended March 31	2024	2024	2023
	BUDGET	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Province of Manitoba			
Economic Development Investment and Trade (Note 8)	\$ 13,604,000	\$13,604,000	\$12,044,000
Externally restricted revenue	-	-	40,770
Grants returned/rescinded	195,000	700,205	18,465
Investment income	25,000	72,961	44,889
RITHIM Industry Paid Projects	60,000	-	-
	<b>13,884,000</b>	<b>14,377,166</b>	12,148,124
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Administration (Page15)	1,107,888	1,068,468	1,025,400
Infrastructure grants-matching	3,542,000	4,291,120	4,212,835
RITHIM division	1,136,000	867,481	1,030,668
Operating grants-matching	5,050,717	5,129,713	3,570,658
Operating grants	779,395	872,313	784,539
Personnel awards	668,000	546,300	423,700
Personnel awards-matching	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,100,000
	<b>13,884,000</b>	<b>14,375,395</b>	12,147,800
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>1,771</b>	324
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, beginning of year</b>		<b>1,657,146</b>	1,656,822
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, end of year</b>		<b>\$ 1,658,917</b>	\$ 1,657,146

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

For the year ended March 31	2024	2024	2023
	BUDGET	TOTAL	TOTAL
ANNUAL SURPLUS	\$ -	\$ 1,771	\$ 324
ACQUISITION OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	-	(5,614)	-
AMORTIZATION OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	-	3,684	1,831
DECREASE (INCREASE) IN PREPAID EXPENSE	-	(26,973)	3,682
CHANGES IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	\$ -	(27,132)	5,837
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, beginning of year		1,636,649	1,630,812
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, end of year		\$ 1,609,517	\$ 1,636,649

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Annual surplus for the year	\$ 1,771	\$ 324
Adjustments for Amortization of capital assets	3,684	1,831
	<b>5,455</b>	2,155
<b>CHANGES IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL BALANCES</b>		
Accounts receivable	2,612	(7,189)
Accrued interest receivable	(42,996)	(8,650)
Prepaid expenses	(26,973)	3,682
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	177,162	(1,792,466)
Deferred revenue	-	(40,770)
	<b>115,260</b>	(1,843,238)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS</b>		
Acquisition of capital assets	(5,614)	-
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR</b>	<b>109,646</b>	(1,843,238)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year</b>	<b>1,844,942</b>	3,688,180
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 1,954,588</b>	\$ 1,844,942
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
Cash and bank	\$ 435,400	\$ 353,914
Portfolio investment	1,519,188	1,491,028
	<b>\$ 1,954,588</b>	\$ 1,844,942

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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## 1. Nature of the Organization

Research Manitoba (the “Organization”) was originally established by The Manitoba Health Research Council Act to promote and assist basic, clinical and applied research in the health sciences in Manitoba. It was continued under The Research Manitoba Act in 2014 to promote, support and coordinate funding of, research in the health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. Research Manitoba is a registered charity and is exempt from tax under the Income Tax Act.

## 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared using the Canadian public sector accounting standards as established by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

### REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Organization is primarily funded by the Province of Manitoba and operates per the mandates set out in the Research Manitoba Act. These financial statements reflect agreed funding arrangements with respect to the year ended March 31, 2024.

Provincial government transfers for operating purposes are recognized as revenue in the period in which all eligibility criteria and/or stipulations have been met and the amounts are authorized. Any funding received prior to satisfying these conditions are considered unearned until conditions have been met. When revenue is received without eligibility criteria or stipulations, it is recognized when the transfer from the Province of Manitoba is authorized, except when and to the extent the transfer gives rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability for the Organization.

Externally restricted revenue consists of revenues from strategic partnership agreements recognized in the period in which the resources are used for the purposes specified. If the funds are not disbursed for the specified purposes, it is recognized as deferred revenue.

The General Research Funds - General research grants are charged to expenditures in the year the funding is committed for, by the Board. Research grants returned to or rescinded by the organization is recorded as revenue when received or rescinded.

Investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which it is earned.

RITHIM industry paid projects consists of fees for industry projects requiring reviews that are recognized in the period in which the service is provided.

### FINANCIAL ASSETS

Portfolio investments are investments that are capable of reasonably prompt liquidation and are recognized at cost.

### LIABILITIES

Liabilities are present obligations as a result of transactions and events occurring prior to the end of the fiscal year. The settlement of the liabilities will result in the future transfer or use of assets or other form of settlement. Liabilities are recorded at the estimated amount ultimately payable.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

## NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

- a) Prepaid expenses are payments for goods or services that will provide economic benefit in future periods. The prepaid amount is recognized as an expense in the year the goods or services are consumed.
- b) Tangible capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization, based on the estimated useful life of the asset. Any changes to this policy will be Board approved. The amortization for purchases prior to this fiscal year will continue to be calculated as follows:

Office and computer equipment	20% diminishing balance basis
Computer equipment for review committees	33.3% diminishing balance basis

## FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. Cash has been designated to be in the fair value category. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each balance sheet date and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost. Due to the nature of the financial instruments held by the Organization, there are no unrealized gains or losses, and therefore a statement of remeasurement gains and losses is not required for these financial statements.

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

All grants and awards and their renewals are recorded as an expenditure in the year they are committed for.

## MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

### 3. Portfolio Investment

	2024	2023
Steinbach Credit Union, charity regular savings account, 3.80% (3.70% in 2023), no maturity date and is reduced by the deficit in the chequing account.	\$ 28,165	\$ 1,491,028
Steinbach Credit Union GIC, 5.0% matures December 1, 2024	1,491,023	-
	<b>\$ 1,519,188</b>	<b>\$ 1,491,028</b>

### 4. Accounts Receivable

	2024	2023
University of Manitoba	\$ 9,285	\$ 9,285
Goods and Services Tax receivable	13,349	19,207
Arthur Gallagher Insurance	3,246	-
	<b>\$ 25,880</b>	<b>\$ 28,492</b>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

## 5. Tangible Capital Assets

	2024			
	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Closing Balance
<b>COST</b>				
Office equipment	\$ 34,151	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,151
Computer equipment	62,913	5,614	-	68,527
	<b>97,064</b>	<b>5,614</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102,678</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION</b>				
Office equipment	30,972	1,416	-	32,388
Computer equipment	59,585	2,268	-	61,853
	<b>90,557</b>	<b>3,684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,241</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 6,507</b>	<b>\$ 1,930</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,437</b>
				<b>2023</b>
	Opening Balance	Additions	Disposals	Closing Balance
<b>COST</b>				
Office equipment	\$ 34,151	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,151
Computer equipment	62,913	-	-	62,913
	<b>97,064</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,064</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION</b>				
Office equipment	30,177	795	-	30,972
Computer equipment	58,549	1,036	-	59,585
	<b>88,726</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>90,557</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,338</b>	<b>[1,831]</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,507</b>

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

## 6. Pension Benefits

Employees of Research Manitoba are eligible for pension benefits in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act (CSSA), administered by the Civil Service Superannuation Board (CSSB). The CSSA established a defined benefit plan to provide benefits to employees of the Manitoba Civil Service and to participating agencies of the Government, including Research Manitoba, through the Civil Service Superannuation Fund (CSSF). Effective April 1, 2012, pursuant to an agreement with the Province of Manitoba, Research Manitoba transferred to the Province the pension liability for its employees.

Commencing April 1, 2012, Research Manitoba was required to pay to the Province the employees' current pension contributions. The plan is funded by the Organization's employees at rates of 8.0% to 9.0% of the employees' salary. The Organization is required to match at rates of 7.1% to 9.0% of the employees' salary. The amount contributed by Research Manitoba in the calendar year 2024 was \$81,892 [\$76,372 in calendar year 2023] and the employees' share was \$88,408 [\$82,676 in calendar year 2023]. Under this agreement, the Organization has no further pension liability.

## 7. Commitments

### GRANTS

Research Manitoba has committed grants and awards under the General Research Fund, Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Fund, Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Fund and Strategic Partnership Fund as follows:

YEAR	GENERAL RESEARCH FUND	MATCHING GRANTS	TOTAL
2025	\$ 3,202,026	\$ 3,626,421	\$ 6,828,447
2026	1,575,182	3,363,571	4,938,753
2027	-	160,000	160,000
2028	-	100,000	100,000
Total	\$ 4,777,208	7,249,992	\$12,027,200

### PREMISES

The Organization has entered into an agreement to lease its premises for \$76,920 annually until the agreement expires in August 2030.

## 8. Related Party Transactions

Research Manitoba is related to all Province of Manitoba departments and agencies. During the year, Research Manitoba had the following transactions with related organizations:

	2024	2023
Grant revenue	\$ 13,604,000	\$ 12,044,000

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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## 9. Financial Instrument Risk Management

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROCESSES

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the determination of the Organization's risk management objectives and policies and, whilst retaining ultimate responsibility for them, it has delegated the authority for designing and operating processes that ensure effective implementation of the objectives and policies to the Organization's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Board of Directors receives quarterly reports from the Organization's CEO through which it reviews the effectiveness of the processes put in place and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies it sets.

The Organization's financial instruments are exposed to certain financial risks, including credit risk, interest rate risk and liquidity risk.

There have been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk, policies or procedures used to manage financial instrument risks.

### INTEREST RATE RISK

The Organization is exposed to interest rate risk arising from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the cash flows related to its investments. The Organization's objective is to minimize interest rate risk by locking in fixed rates on its investments when possible.

At March 31, 2024, a 1% move in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, could impact the interest revenue of the investments by \$15,192 [\$14,910 in 2023]. These changes would be recognized in the statement of operations.

### CREDIT RISK

The Organization is exposed to credit risk through the possibility of non-collection of its accounts receivable. The majority of the Organization's receivables are from government entities which minimizes the risk of non-collection. The Organization also makes sure it meets all the eligibility criteria for the amounts to ensure they will collect the amounts outstanding.

### LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Organization has a planning and budgeting process in place to help determine the funds required to support the Organization's normal operating requirements on an ongoing basis. The Organization ensures that there are sufficient funds to meet its short-term requirements, taking into account its anticipated cash flows from operations and its holdings of cash and cash equivalents.

## SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES BY OBJECT

For the year ended March 31	2024		2023
	Budget	Total	Total
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,684	\$ 1,831
Bank fees	420	484	385
Board and committee	3,250	835	1,411
Communications	22,774	6,703	4,423
Conference and transportation	24,950	13,673	7,986
Courier and postage	500	308	-
GST expense	-	2,760	-
Insurance	4,000	4,108	3,218
IT/Telecommunications	124,211	110,851	86,654
Office space	77,500	76,923	76,923
Office supplies	16,764	9,815	7,265
Professional development and memberships	13,660	1,302	8,082
Professional fees	31,145	73,303	40,834
Salaries and benefits	785,714	763,719	786,388
	<b>\$ 1,107,888</b>	<b>\$ 1,068,468</b>	<b>\$ 1,025,400</b>



Research  
Manitoba