



**Research Nova Scotia
Supporting Priority-
Driven Research**

Research Nova Scotia

- Established in 2018 by the provincial government to support, organize, and co-ordinate the funding of research in two priority areas – economic growth and the health and wellbeing of Nova Scotians.
- Organization stood up in 2019
- Missions-oriented strategy building from the initial two priority areas adopted by the Board of Directors and government in 2020



RNS's REMIT

In funding decisions, RNS is guided by five interlocking pieces:

- The legislation that created RNS and laid out its mandate
- The regulations that set out how RNS is funded
- The bylaws and policies adopted by the Board of Director that establish how the organization is governed and how decisions are made
- The mission-oriented strategy
- The 3-year operating plan submitted to government





Sustainable Bioeconomy



Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience



Healthy People & Health Care Systems



Improved Quality of Life for Nova Scotians

Reduce Harm

Mission 1
Find new and alternative uses for biomass and by-product

Mission 1
Reduce harmful emissions and other waste impacting the climate

Mission 1
Advance disease detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention

Mission 1
Reduce barriers to safety, prosperity and inclusion

Improve Systems & Resources

Mission 2
Improve processes to increase productivity, efficiency, and sustainability

Mission 2
Prepare for climate change impacts on the environment and natural resources

Mission 2
Strengthen our health care delivery system

Mission 2
Ensure opportunities for people from all backgrounds to work in Nova Scotia

Build Resilience

Mission 3
Strengthen the supply chain through local and regional opportunities

Mission 3
Restore the natural environment to healthier and more recovered conditions

Mission 3
Care for vulnerable populations

Mission 3
Support and encourage the sharing of culture, heritage and identity

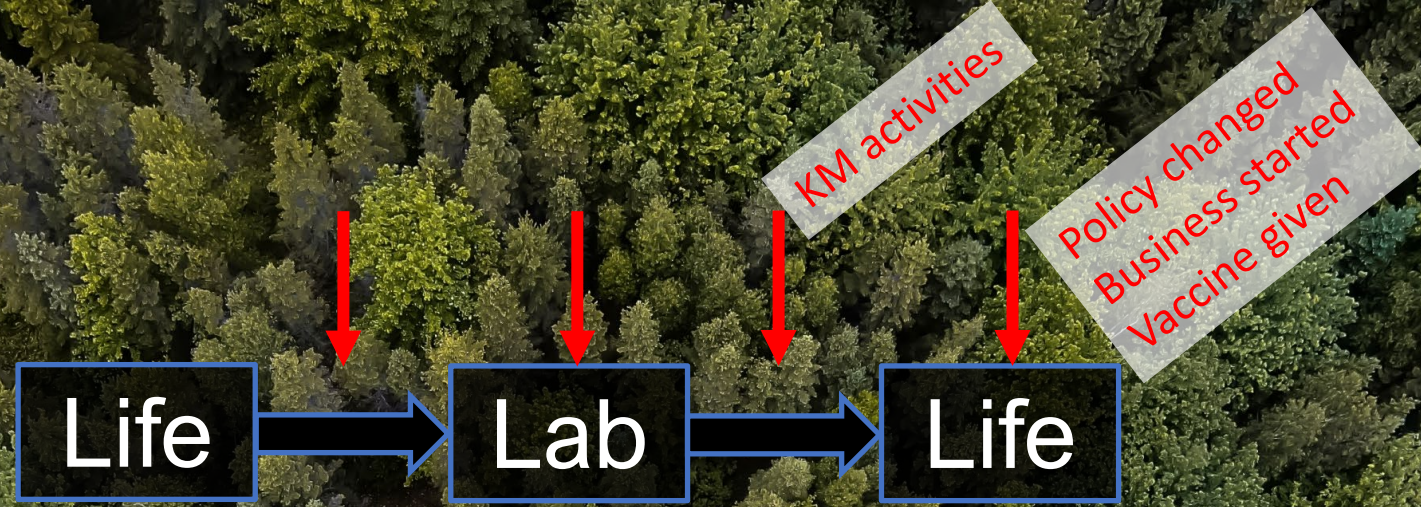
Innovate for the Future

Mission 4
Innovate to create new products and generate new markets

Mission 4
Adapt to and innovate for a changing environment

Mission 4
Promote better opportunities for future health and wellbeing

Mission 4
Create livable, sustainable and inclusive communities



Research has to be selected and designed carefully, to ensure that the application of research outputs will create societal outcomes.

What is 'Research' for RNS?

The Measurement of Scientific, Technological
and Innovation Activities

Frascati Manual 2015

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTING AND REPORTING
DATA ON RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL
DEVELOPMENT

Creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

1. **Novel:** aimed at new findings
2. **Creative:** based on original, not obvious, concepts and hypotheses
3. **Uncertain:** uncertain about the final outcome (including uncertainty about whether its objectives can be achieved to any degree at all)
4. **Systematic:** planned and budgeted
5. **Transferable/reproducible:** the potential for the transfer of the new knowledge, ensuring its use and allowing other researchers to reproduce the results (potential for application in new areas or contexts)



Priority-Driven Research

Public Priority

Curiosity-driven, speculative, exploratory and/or of largely intrinsic value (at least initially)

Application *may* result, but was not the inspiration.

Tri-Agency, etc.

List priorities	Mission-oriented	Mission-directed
Subject area listed, but no specific societal outcomes e.g. Call for research and earmarked funding for clean tech; research must pursue knowledge in this area.	Outcomes defined, with multiple research pathways to deliver e.g. Research to improve mental health care for vulnerable populations; research must contribute to this outcome.	Research pathways designed to achieve specific outcomes e.g. Research to identify efficacy, acceptability and feasibility of respiratory infection control systems for long-term care residents.

Proprietary, evidence-gathering, evaluation, testing, or industry R&D

Targeted to specific or discrete applications, programs or companies

e.g. Product development/testing, process efficiency, policy development, market validation, evidence-gathering, program evaluation

ACOA, InvestNS, IRAP,

RNS



PRIORITY RESEARCH AGENDA

1. Opportunity or risk to society.
 - Start with what we want to accomplish
 - Turn these into challenges that research can solve
 - Focus efforts in priority areas
2. Work with partners and those who use research
 - Governments, industry, communities
 - This is not an end-of-grant activity- users should be at the table to ensure relevance, usefulness and urgency



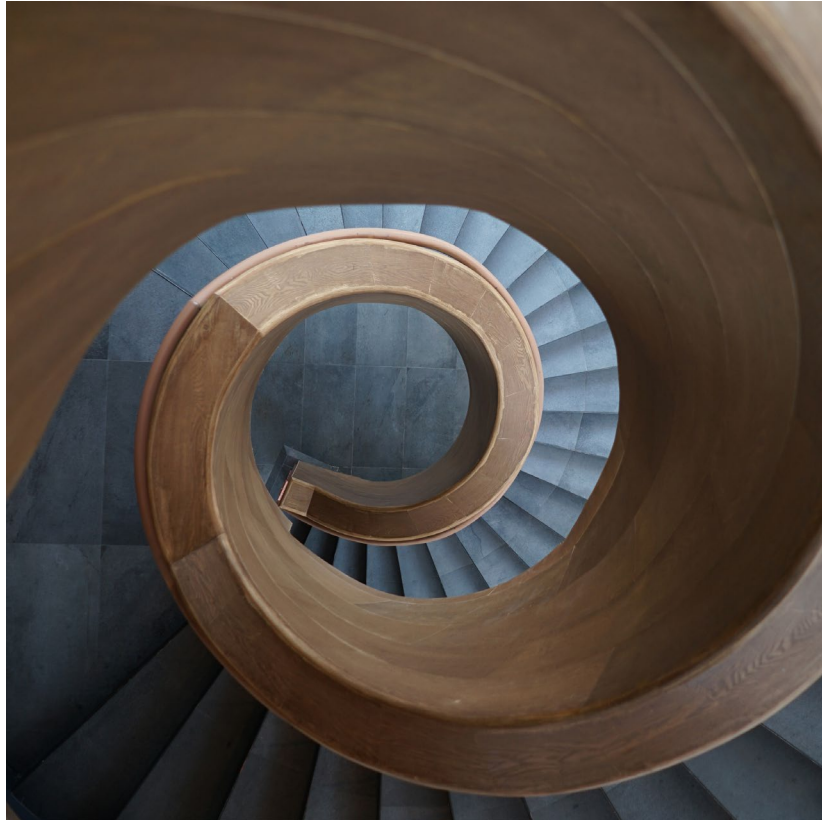
PRIORITY RESEARCH AGENDA (cont.)



3. Bring research to bear effectively and in a focused way
 - Researchers rise to the challenge
 - Encourage creativity, diversity and imagination



ONGOING ENGAGEMENT



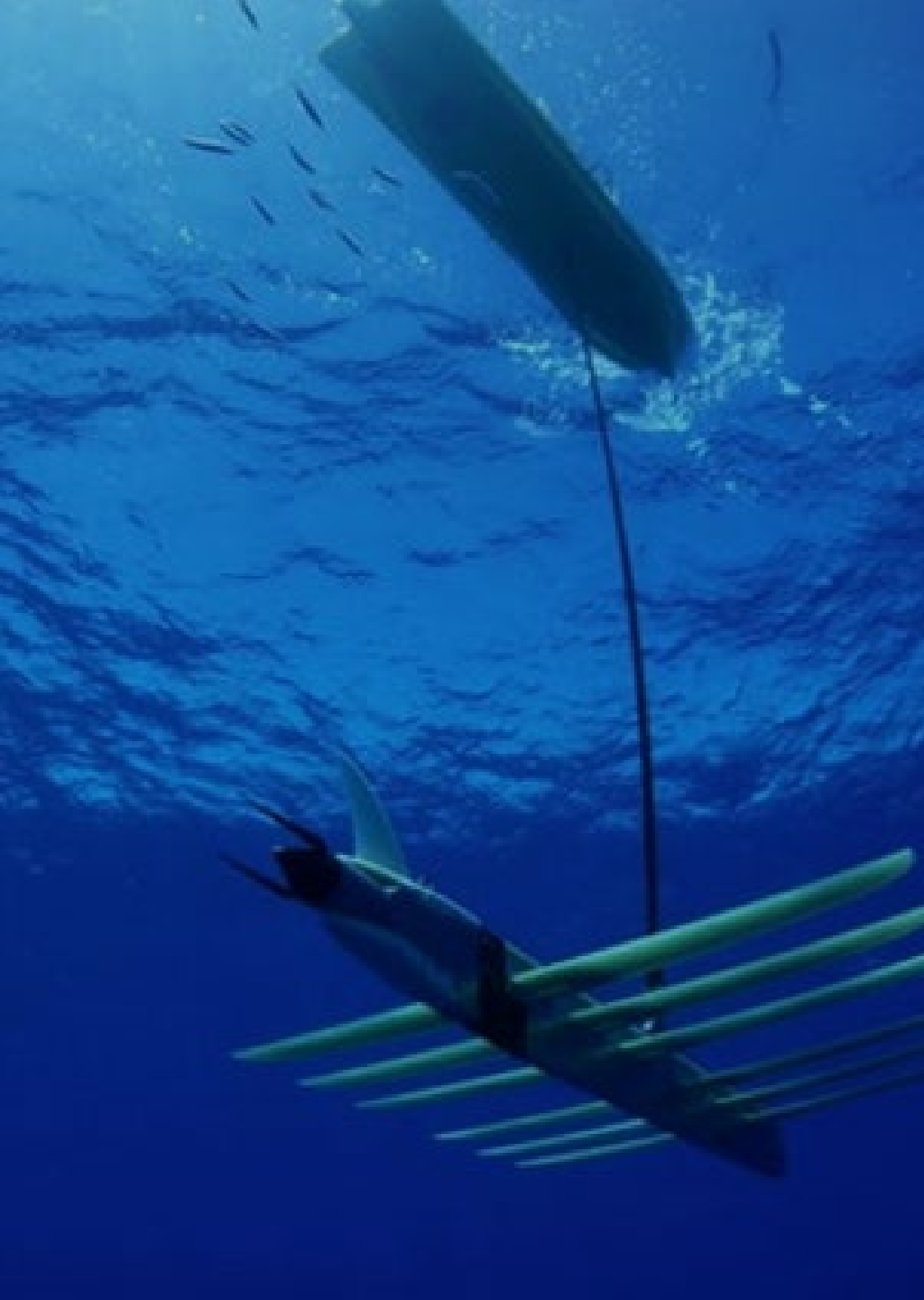
- Stay on top of subtle shifts in Government and provincial concerns. What are they focused on this month?
- Identify universal priorities – ongoing needs that will always be important to Nova Scotia
 - (e.g. healthcare, rural growth, economic development, community dynamics)



ONGOING ENGAGEMENT (cont.)

- Understand the interest in local and regional – which regions matter to government, and can you authentically position your research to speak to them?
- Be responsive, but not disingenuous. Research may not solve today's problems, so how can it be positioned to solve tomorrow's?
- Ask how can you get your search results into the right hands?





EMERGING TRENDS

- Population growth
- Entrepreneurship, innovation, connecting research and industry
- Community resilience and opportunity
- Defence, NATO-DIANA, and cybersecurity





Engaging with RNS

Matching federal awards: how will these funds result in public-oriented research, contributions to the outcomes identified in the Strategy?

Specific competitions based on government priorities:

e.g., New Health Investigator Grant

Intentional research: working with RNS to co-create a project that addresses provincial needs. E.g., Water Surveillance: Emergency Preparedness and Innovation Opportunities

It starts with a conversation.





RESEARCH
NOVA SCOTIA

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