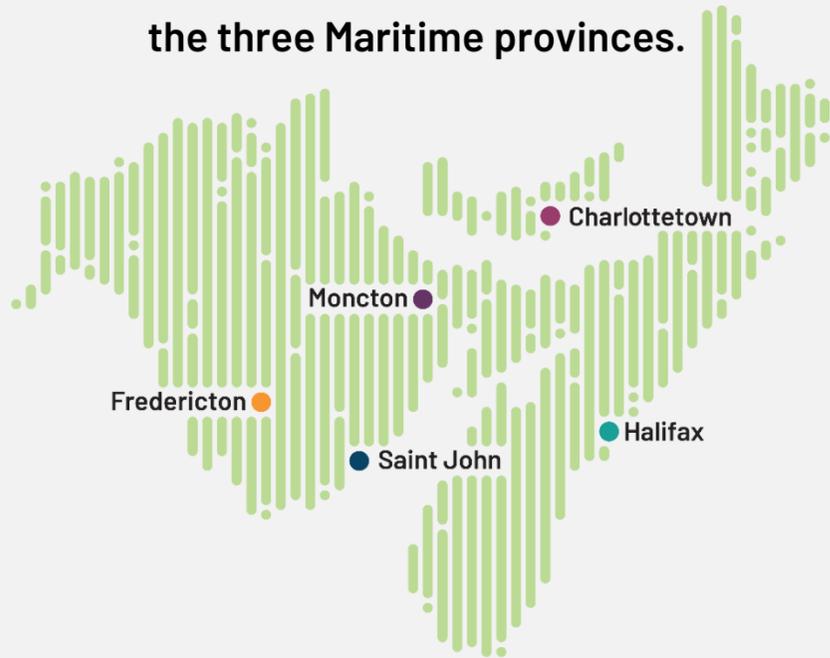


# THE MARITIME SPOR SUPPORT UNIT BRIDGE PROCESS: AN INTEGRATED KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION APPROACH TO ADDRESS PRIORITY HEALTH ISSUES IN NOVA SCOTIA

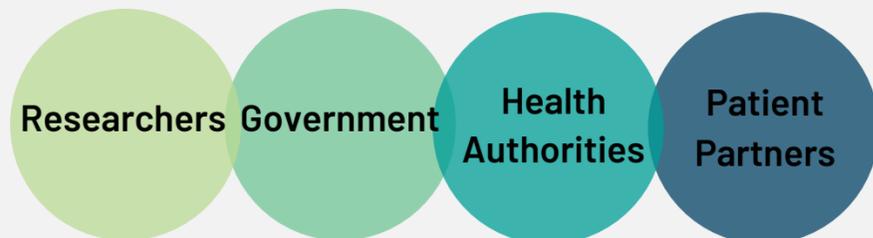
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## BACKGROUND

The Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit (MSSU) aims to support patient-oriented health research that is applicable to policy and practice across the three Maritime provinces.



In 2018, the Nova Scotia (NS) Site of the MSSU established the “Bridge process” to foster collaborative research teams between researchers and knowledge-users and to produce research that addresses priority-health issues in NS.



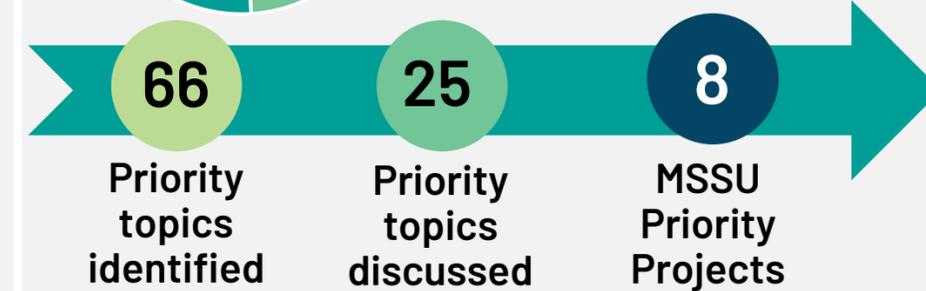
## METHODS

The Bridge process takes an integrated knowledge translation approach by engaging knowledge users throughout each stage of the process:

- 1 Identification of Priority Topics**  
The MSSU collaborates with the two provincial health authorities (Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health) and the Department of Health and Wellness to identify priority health topics.
- 2 Engage Stakeholders to Refine Priority Topics**  
Researchers, decision-makers, healthcare professionals and Patient Partners engage in a half-day event to discuss and further refine the topics into research questions, through facilitated discussions.
- 3 Facilitate Groups to Undertake Priority Projects**  
Research questions aligning with priority health topics are identified for further exploration. The MSSU supports the development of research projects around the priority research questions.
- 4 Apply for Priority Project Support**  
If a project is identified, collaborative research teams can apply for MSSU Priority Project Support. Providing access to in-kind project management, coordination and research supports from MSSU staff.

## RESULTS

Since June 2018, the Bridge process has been carried out four times.



MSSU Priority Projects include research related to e-mental health, primary care, pharmacy scope of practice, osteoarthritis, and more.

**89%** of participants who completed the evaluation survey (n = 119) have engaged with others they otherwise would not have met.

**79%** of participants who completed the evaluation survey (n = 122) had greater understanding of the gaps and policy needs in the specific topic areas.

## CONCLUSION

This is a promising model for building collaborations across stakeholder groups and integrating the use of evidence into policy and practice.

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