

Indirect Costs Outcomes Report

File Number P0037

Main Contact Information

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Statement of Account

Total Indirect Costs Funds available in 2014-2015	A	\$656,335
Expenditures incurred in 2014-2015		
Research Facilities		\$81,643
Research Resources		\$448,803
Management and Administration		\$90,376
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation		\$27,721
Intellectual Property		\$7,792
Total Indirect Costs expenditures incurred in 2014-2015	B	\$656,335
Outstanding Commitments (The expenditure was incurred but the invoice was not paid in the period ending March 31, but was paid before June 30. Be sure to include the commitments in the appropriate area(s) above.)		\$0

Health Research Affiliates

For organizations with health research affiliates only: for each area of priority, indicate the actual amount of your 2014-2015 grant that was spent by your health research affiliates.

Research Facilities	\$0
Research Resources	\$0
Management and Administration	\$0
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	\$0
Intellectual Property	\$0

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Section I - Facilities

Expenditures

Was your grant invested, completely or partially, in any of the following ways?

Note that A and B are not exclusive (i.e. for any given category, if you have covered both existing and new Expenditures, you would check both A or B).

Expenditure category	A) The grant covered existing expenditures	B) The grant covered new expenditures (not previously covered by grant)	C) The grant did not cover this category	In which category was the largest proportion of your 2014-2015 grant invested?
1. Renovation and maintenance of research facilities (excluding expenditures incurred to meet regulatory requirements - see Section IV)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Upgrade, operations and maintenance of equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Operating costs (custodial, security, maintenance, utilities, leasing, capital planning, insurance on research space)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Technical support for laboratories, offices and other facilities (excluding technical support for animal care - see section IV)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Section I - Facilities (continued)

Impact Statement

Please explain how the expenditures made in this priority area have allowed your institution (and its health research affiliates, where applicable) to maintain and/or enhance the capacity of its research enterprise. The following questions can help guide your answer:

- what difference have your grant investments made?
- are there significant changes from the previous year?
- why are these investments vital for researchers?
- why are these expenditures vital to the university research administration?
- what would have happened if expenditures hadn't been possible?
- what are the major cost drivers in this category?
- what percentage of your O&M expenditure supports CFI-funded equipment?

The Indirect Costs grant supported the ongoing operations and maintenance of research facilities across campus. There are no significant changes from the previous year.

The investments in these costs allow Mount Allison to develop highly skilled university graduates, highly skilled researchers and student mentors, to advance our research agenda in the areas of environment and health, and generally improve the higher education research environment at our institution.

The Indirect Costs grant supported custodial, security, utilities and facilities management services costs related to research space, and supported labour costs related to technical support for the Mount Allison Coastal Wetlands Institute.

The Indirect Costs grant enhances the capacity of the university to provide state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment for highly productive research. Without these Mount Allison's researchers would be limited in their capacity to engage in emerging research activities and technology and may seek other opportunities.

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Section II - Research Resources

Expenditures

Was your grant invested, completely or partially, in any of the following ways?

Note that A and B are not exclusive (i.e. for any given category, if you have covered both existing and new expenditures, you would check both A or B).

Expenditure category	A) The grant covered existing expenditures	B) The grant covered new expenditures (not previously covered by grant)	C) The grant did not cover this category	In which category was the largest proportion of your 2014-2015 grant invested?
1. Acquisition of library holdings (journals, books, collections, periodicals, Canada National Site Licensing project, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Improvements to electronic information resources (access to databases, telecommunications systems, information technology systems, and research tools) (excluding technology to track grants and to provide financial services - see Section III)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Library operating costs and administration (custodial, security, maintenance, utilities, leasing, capital planning, staff salaries)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Insurance on research equipment and vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Section II - Research Resources (continued)

Impact Statement

Please explain how the expenditures made in this priority area have allowed your institution (and its health research affiliates, where applicable) to maintain and/or enhance the capacity of its research enterprise. The following questions can help guide your answer:

- what difference have your grant investments made?
- are there significant changes from the previous year?
- why are these investments vital for researchers?
- why are these expenditures vital to the university research administration?
- what would have happened if expenditures hadn't been possible?
- what are the major cost drivers in this category?
- what proportion of the acquisitions and operating budget of the library is covered by the Indirect Costs Program?
- do you participate in inter-institutional consortia or partnerships to assist in cost reduction in this expenditure category?

There are no significant changes from the previous year.

The Indirect Costs grant provided assistance in supporting our University's operating costs for labour and associated costs of the University's professional librarians and library support staff. These individuals spend a significant portion of their efforts supporting and enhancing the University's research activities.

The Indirect Costs grant has been further used to enhance the University's collection of digital information - specifically on-line subscription to digital resources for research. About 40% of the university's acquisition budget is covered by the Indirect Costs Program.

These investments through the Indirect Costs grant are vital to maintaining research support to our faculty and staff - without these investments our researchers would have fewer resources to carry out their work.

The University participates in several Atlantic-wide library purchasing consortia.

The University's Indirect Costs of research grant also supports the University's Computing Services operations involved in research activities. Each year the University expands its computing facilities (upgrades in software, improvements to servers, etc.,) directed toward research activities and the Indirect Costs grant aids in support of these activities.

The University participates in several provincial and Atlantic-wide computing purchasing consortia. In addition, the University has a "redundancy server" arrangement with other university servers in the province, to ensure backup of the network in case of power outages.

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Section III - Management and Administration

Expenditures

Was your grant invested, completely or partially, in any of the following ways?

Note that A and B are not exclusive (i.e. for any given category, if you have covered both existing and new expenditures, you would check both A and B).

Expenditure category	A) The grant covered existing expenditures	B) The grant covered new expenditures (not previously covered by grant)	C) The grant did not cover this category	In which category was the largest proportion of your 2014-2015 grant invested?
1. Institutional support for the completion of grant applications / research proposals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Acquisition, maintenance and/or upgrade of information systems to track grant applications, certifications, and awards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Eligible training of faculty and research personnel (excluding training to meet regulatory requirements - see Section IV)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Human resources and payroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Financial and audit costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Research planning and promotion, public relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Section III - Management and Administration (continued)

Impact Statement

Please explain how the expenditures made in this priority area have allowed your institution (and its health research affiliates, where applicable) to maintain and/or enhance the capacity of its research enterprise. The following questions can help guide your answer:

- what difference have your grant investments made?
- are there significant changes from the previous year?
- why are these investments vital for researchers?
- why are these expenditures vital to the university research administration?
- what would have happened if expenditures hadn't been possible?
- what are the major cost drivers in this category?
- do you participate in inter-institutional consortia or partnerships that assist in cost reduction in this expenditure category?

There are no significant changes from the previous year.

Indirect cost investments in our Office of Research Services have increased both competence and efficiency in administrative operations related to research at Mount Allison University.

First, the IDC program provides base salary support for the Director of Research Services as well as a Research Accounts Technician. The office supports knowledge transfer through grants, compliance (research ethics, animal care, etc) and research communications.

Our researchers benefit from a high level of one-to-one service regarding the facilitation of grant opportunities, interpretation of compliance requirements, contract management and intellectual property management. These investments in both people and training have been vital. Our IDC investments ultimately increase research productivity by reducing the administrative burden that researchers face managing their research programs.

These investments allow our Office of Research Services staff to be keep up with current trends, changes and best practices within research administration. Keeping pace of best practices is a challenge for small offices but it ultimately brings with it the ongoing enhancement of research services for faculty members across the research spectrum.

Second, the IDC program provides salary support for research support activities of the office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research. The members of this office spend a significant portion of time supporting researchers, supporting research initiatives, implementing policy, ensuring compliance with Tri-Council regulations, and much more.

Third, these investments in our research management and administration operations allow us to fulfill our obligations and commitments to many national funding and related organizations who require substantial financial and narrative reports on the use of research and related funding.

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Section IV - Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

Expenditures

Was your grant invested, completely or partially, in any of the following ways?

Note that A and B are not exclusive (i.e. for any given category, if you have covered both existing and new expenditures, you would check both A and B).

Expenditure category	A) The grant covered existing expenditures	B) The grant covered new expenditures (not previously covered by grant)	C) The grant did not cover this category	In which category was the largest proportion of your 2014-2015 grant invested?
1. Creation and support of regulatory bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Training of faculty and other research personnel in health and safety, animal care, ethics review, handling radiation and biohazards, and environmental assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. International accreditation costs related to research capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Upgrades to, and maintenance of facilities and equipment to meet requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Technical support for animal care, handling of dangerous substances and biohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Section IV - Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation (continued)

Impact Statement

Please explain how the expenditures made in this priority area have allowed your institution (and its health research affiliates, where applicable) to maintain and/or enhance the capacity of its research enterprise. The following questions can help guide your answer:

- what difference have your grant investments made?
- are there significant changes from the previous year?
- why are these investments vital for researchers?
- why are these expenditures vital to the university research administration?
- what would have happened if expenditures hadn't been possible?
- what are the major cost drivers in this category?
- to what extent is compliance with Canadian and international regulations required to access research funds from international sources?

There are no significant changes from the previous year.

The Office of Research Services provides coordinated administrative support to both the Animal Care Committee and the Research Ethics Board, including records-keeping, file management and maintenance, and so on. These functions are carried out by the Director of Research Services with the assistance of one support staff. This support reduces the burden on committee chairs (who also contribute a significant amount of their time to the successful functioning of these necessary committees) and members, and provides efficient services to researchers who require these services.

These investments have ensured that researchers who submit protocols to the REB receive timely and appropriate responses in order to ensure that the research enterprise is not compromised by administrative burden. Further, these investments have ensured that our Office of Research Services, our Animal Care Committee, and our Research Ethics Board are connected to regional and national networks of committees and administrators, who can assist in the interpretation of the national standards and guidelines, provide feedback on review processes, and provide advice on contentious issues.

The IDC funds have been used to offset staff costs associated with preparing / revising protocol forms, establishing improved record keeping procedures, and so on.

The Indirect Costs funds are also used in part to offset the costs of having a veterinarian on call to support the regulatory requirements associated with animal research and the work of the Animal Care Committee.

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Section V - Intellectual Property

Expenditures

Was your grant invested, completely or partially, in any of the following ways?

Note that A and B are not exclusive (i.e. for any given category, if you have covered both existing and new expenditures, you would check both A and B).

Expenditure category	A) The grant covered existing expenditures	B) The grant covered new expenditures (not previously covered by grant)	C) The grant did not cover this category	In which category was the largest proportion of your 2014-2015 grant invested?
1. Creation, expansion, or sustenance of a technology transfer office or similar function	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Administration of invention patent applications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Support for technology licensing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Administration of agreements and partnerships with industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Administration of agreements and partnerships with the public sector (federal, provincial, municipal governments; including health, education, and social services)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Section V - Intellectual Property (continued)

Impact Statement

Please explain how the expenditures made in this priority area have allowed your institution (and its health research affiliates, where applicable) to maintain and/or enhance the capacity of its research enterprise. The following questions can help guide your answer:

- what difference have your grant investments made?
- are there significant changes from the previous year?
- why are these investments vital for researchers?
- why are these expenditures vital to the university research administration?
- what would have happened if expenditures hadn't been possible?
- what are the major cost drivers in this category?

There are no significant changes from the previous year.

Indirect cost investments in our Office of Research Services have increased both competency and efficiency in administrative operations related to helping researchers work through intellectual property issues at Mount Allison University.

The IDC program provides base salary support for the Director of Research Services as well as a Research

Accounts Technician. These staff in turn work closely with our Innovation Officer (whose salary is partially funded from other sources) who is responsible for these issues. Together the staff provides services on all research matters ranging from knowledge transfer through grants, compliance and research communications.

Strategic investment in training opportunities with indirect costs funds this year to support Intellectual Property Development include attendance by our Innovation Officer at Springboard-sponsored workshops and conferences. These have greatly enabled this small office to enhance its intellectual property management expertise and to provide a consistently high level of service to researchers working at Mount Allison University.

We support researchers with a high level of one-to-one service regarding intellectual property management, including advice on commercialization, patent filing and protection, business partnership development, company startups, etc. Our IDC investments ultimately increase research productivity by reducing the administrative burden that researchers face in developing their commercialization interests.

The Director of Research Services spends time working with researchers and funders working out details of contracts, contribution agreements, and other types of agreements, in order to facilitate new and exciting research activities that have high intellectual rigour while responding to the challenges and issues faced by the private sector, NGOs, and society as a whole. This work includes proposal review, contract/agreement negotiation and review, and much more.

Our Innovation Officer has benefited from these investments, staying on top of the latest trends in the field, which in turn allows for better service to faculty.

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Section VI - Overall Impacts

We strongly recommend that the Vice-President of research (or equivalent) answer the following questions pertaining to the overall impacts of the Indirect Costs grant.

1. Attraction and retention of researchers

Has the Indirect Costs grant contributed to the attraction and retention of high-quality researchers at your institution?

Yes No

If "yes", please provide an explanation.

A key feature of our institution is our internal research grants program for both faculty and students. This program enables our researchers to initiate new research agendas leading to larger research programs later on. This is an important component of our retention strategy.

The Indirect Costs investments have been used build capacity in our Research Office (for both the Director and the Research Accounts Technician), in tandem with the Provost and Vice-President of Academic and Research, to support the internal grant competitions and applications processes and the appropriate use of these funds.

2. Attraction of additional funding

Has the Indirect Costs grant contributed directly to your institution's ability to attract additional funding to support the research environment?

Yes No

If "yes", please provide an explanation.

The increased competency and abilities of the research office staff have improved the quality of research applications to other sources of funds beyond the tri-council granting agencies (such as the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, Environment Canada, etc) which in turn has led to an increase in research funding support from these and other agencies.

Additionally, 2014-15 was a very successful year for our institution with high success rates in the NSERC Discovery Grant and SSHRC Insight Development Grant programs, due in part to the improved capacity to support quality proposal development. Our university was also successful in receiving another 3-year grant under SSHRC's Aid to Small Universities program, and the SSHRC Standard Institutional grant (the proposals for which were prepared by the Provost's office and the Office of Research Services).

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Section VI - Overall Impacts

3. Redirection of funds

In the case of a number of institutions, the incremental impact of the Indirect Costs Program includes not only the results of investing the grant itself, but also the results of the other investments the institution is able to make by re-directing its own funds away from the areas covered with the grant. These impacts may be in the area of research support or also in the institution's renewed ability to meet the other aspects of its mandate.

Has your institution redirected some of its own operating funds as a result of the Indirect Costs Program?

Yes No

If "yes", please provide an explanation.

The Indirect Costs program has allowed the University to redirect funds to the academic priorities of the institution. Through the annual budget process, the increases to the annual IDC allocation have allowed a concomitant reduction in the budget lines now supported by the Indirect Costs program.

4. Other overall impacts

If the Indirect Costs Program has had other overall impacts on your institution, which were not listed in the previous questions, please provide details.

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Section VII - Public Disclosure Requirement for Institutions

As of June 30, 2012, institutions are required to post a few elements of information on the indirect costs of research and the Program on their website. Please copy and paste below the URL of the webpage where this information is posted.

http://www.mta.ca/Community/Administrative_departments/Financial_Services/Financial_reports/Indirect_cost_of_research_program/Indirect_cost_of_research_program/

Section VIII - Your comments

Describe any problem you have experienced with the Indirect Costs Program, suggest improvements to the program, or highlight particular successes of the program at your institution.