

ALBERTA'S SPOR SUPPORT UNIT FUNDING; PLATFORM LEADS

Aug. 11, 2014

A quick note to update everyone on the progress we're making in bringing Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit into being.

The first installment of CIHR funds for Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit was received by AIHS, the Unit's co-funder and administering body, in late March, 2014. So, how is the money going to be used?

In my meetings and presentations in the research community, there is misinformation about this. Many assume that Unit funding will go to support individual research projects or individual research operating grants. This is not the case.

Funding received by the Unit will support the creation and development of the Unit's seven platforms and the capacity required to offer expertise and services for provincial patient-oriented research services. The goal is give all Alberta researchers access to core resources and services—"people" infrastructure—to enable them to be even more competitive on a national and international scale and increase the quantity and quality of patient outcomes research

The [Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit Steering Committee](#) hoped to have the seven platform Leads confirmed and announced by early summer but processes are taking longer than anticipated. Look for an announcement on the Leads in late August, early September at the latest.

SUPPORT Units in other jurisdictions across the country are in varying stages of development and implementation. Contact information for each SUPPORT Unit can be found on the [CIHR website](#). In Alberta, with our long history of funding across the spectrum of health research, we want our SUPPORT Unit to be strategically developed and sustainable over the long haul. That means linking research capacity to wider health system impact so that we can contribute to transforming the health system. The SPOR SUPPORT Unit Steering Committee and Platform Lead designates are determining how the Unit will develop and grow as well as the mechanism for cost recovery and sustainability that will work best in Alberta.

And finally....Alberta's SPOR SUPPORT Unit has been in productive discussions with representatives from the Northwest Territories Department of Health about opportunities for collaboration and engagement between our Units.