



CLARI

Change Lab Action Research Initiative

The primary goal of CLARI is to engage faculty and students in priority research areas as identified by Nova Scotia communities and organizations. Initiated by seven post-secondary institutional partners and funded by the Government of Nova Scotia, CLARI began operating in 2016.

This report reflects CLARI activities for the fiscal year 2019-20.

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NOVA SCOTIA ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK

In the spring of 2019, CLARI brought together community and faculty partners from the eight 2018 funded projects to discuss the possibility of a network of people interested in community-led research. This was a successful effort to begin bringing like minded people together to hear about other community-led research outside of their field of inquiry and possibly outside of their own locale. This gathering re-emphasized the need to improve the understanding of all parties about what community-led research is and who is engaged in it.

Community Engagement

In 2019 CLARI held community meetings in Sydney, Antigonish, New Glasgow, Amherst, Halifax and Greenwood to promote opportunities to access post-secondary resources through CLARI. The intention is to undertake semi-annual meetings with community leaders around Nova Scotia, focusing on access to post-secondary resources.

Emergent Networks

Part of the CLARI mission is to connect people and communities in creative ways that support the knowledge-gathering efforts of all communities. The emerging themes of funded projects offer insight

into the topics that are important to Nova Scotians. When themes emerge, CLARI attempts to work with leaders in those fields to bring parties together for larger conversations. There are currently three themes that have emerged.

Justice Research

An emerging CLARI network will focus on issues of justice, policing and incarceration. Five CLARI-funded projects explore issues related to these topics. CLARI project leaders in this area have taken the initiative to bring people together to discuss how shared resources can support a better understanding of these topics in Nova Scotia. CLARI is working with these leaders to support this activity.



Project: An Evaluation of 'Fair and Impartial Policing' Implicit Bias Training
By Dr. Meg Ternes (SMU) and Dr. Chris Giacomantonio (Halifax Regional Police)

Project Title	Faculty Partner	Institution	Community Partner
Happy Community Project: Program analysis and consolidation	Dr. Mary Sweatman	Acadia	Happy Community Project
Transportation Innovation Lab & Community Connects Prototype	Dr. Patrick DeLamirande	CBU	CommonGood Solutions
Cdn Biosphere Reserve Climate Change Adaptation Forum	Dr. Kenneth Oakes	CBU	Bras D'Or Lakes Biosphere Reserve Assoc.
Sister Dorothy Moore: A Mi'kmaw Elder's Life of Courage, Determination and Love	Dr. MaryJane Harkin	MSVU	Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre
Arts Canopy: Rooted in Research	Dr. Ann Fox	St. FX	Arts Health Antigonish (AHA!)
Root Causes of Women's Criminality in Canada	Dr. Meg Ternes	SMU	Elizabeth Fry Society
Collaborative Approach to Improving Food Security on Cape Breton Island	Dr. Beth Mason	CBU	NewDawn
Developing a Strategic Plan for Healthy Mind Cooperative	Dr. Daphne Rixon	SMU	Healthy Minds Cooperative
Barriers & Possibilities: Organizing with Low Wage and Precarious Workers	Dr. Alex Khasnabish	MSVU	International Workers of the World
Leadership Skills in Non-Profit Sector	Dr. Catherine Loughlin	SMU	Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia
Contribute Program: Youth leadership program development	Dr. Alan Warner	Acadia	Free Spirit Therapeutic Riding Association
Rural Agri-Business and Immigrant Engagement	Dr. Claudia DeFuentes	SMU	CBDC Bluewater
Literacy Development Through Story Telling	Dr. Judith Patouma	U. Ste. Anne	FeCANE
Community Engagement and Ownership Analysis	Dr. Chantal Hervieux	SMU	CommonGood Solutions
Engaging the 7th Step Society of NS in Community-Based Participatory Research	Dr. Jamie Livingston	SMU	7th Step Society
Localizing Food Procurement in Educational Institutions in Shelburne County	Dr. Patricia Williams	MSVU	Centre for Local Prosperity
Measuring Adjustment and Personal Growth of Program Participants	Dr. Leanne Clossen	SMU	Leave Out Violence NS

2019 Projects. CLARI supports a thematically diverse selection of projects in rural and urban centres.

Food Security

Four CLARI-funded projects are focused on issues of food security. Themes of these projects include local food production, cultural food security as well as agri-businesses and immigrants. Recently CLARI supported faculty leaders at Mount Saint Vincent University to bring representatives from around the province together to discuss how they might work together to enhance cultural food security in Nova Scotia. Topics included supporting newcomer settlement, cultural diversity, and economic growth. These efforts are supported by CLARI as a way to ensure CLARI resources are used to support issues of importance to Nova Scotians.

Other Networking Activity

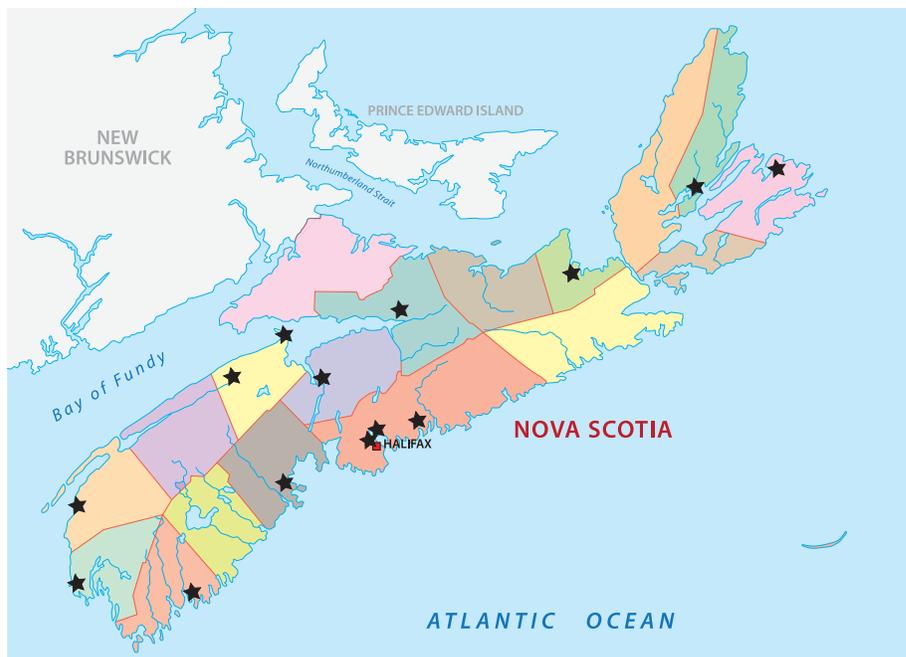
The collegial nature of scholarly research and the autonomy of faculty create both benefits and challenges. Beyond CLARI there are few structures in the post-secondary system that support those faculty who want to easily connect across their institution, more broadly with faculty at other Nova Scotia institutions, or with other community members. CLARI's role in connecting faculty to each other and to community is an important one, according to faculty who choose community-based research methods. If inter-disciplinary research is the way of the future, then processes and methods that make such connectivity easier are essential.

Francophone/Anglophone research network

In discussions with Université Sainte-Anne faculty, it became clear that some Francophone faculty at this partner institution would choose to be better connected to both Anglophone and Francophone faculty in other Nova Scotia post-secondary institutions. CLARI has recently funded a first project at Université Sainte-Anne, and plans for 2020 include discussions of a possible summit bringing Francophone faculty from Nova Scotia institutions together to support connectivity between Université Sainte-Anne faculty and the broader post-secondary community in Nova Scotia.

Social Policy and Machine Learning

Social Policy and Machine Learning faculty at two CLARI partners (SMU, Acadia) have joined with faculty at Dalhousie and are in early discussions with several social policy agencies to support their efforts with significant machine learning resources. This may include not only research-based resources but also training for analysts and senior



CLARI has supported a diverse array of projects in cities, towns and rural areas.

managers. CLARI's shared resources and expertise throughout the province benefits social-serving agencies with mandates in rural areas of the province where such expertise is less accessible.

Microresearch.ca

A project of the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, NSHA and the IWK, Microresearch supports the development of practical basic research skills in Nova Scotia communities, allowing them, with modest support from postsecondary faculty, to undertake research on issues of community importance. CLARI has developed a close working relationship with Microresearch, given our similar objectives. In this capacity, post-secondary faculty in CLARI institutions are being engaged to support Microresearch efforts to build community and local research capacity.



Project: Youth Experiences When Engaging in an Arts-Based Entrepreneur Program
By L-R: Dr. Shane Theunissen (MSVU), Ryan Veltmeyer (ARTpreneur), Dr. Christine McLean (MSVU), and Dr. Sarah Reddington (MSVU).

COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH



Project: Community Strategy and Engagement Plan for Tidal Energy Development in Scot's Bay

In 2018, the first year that CLARI supported community-led research, eight grants (\$58,135) were awarded to communities to engage with CLARI faculty and students on priority community issues. Nineteen additional grants totalling approximately \$137,000 were awarded to community-led research projects in 2019. Of that amount,

\$101,000 (74%) was specifically earmarked to support student research engagement. Funded faculty have told us that community partners have benefited from, on average, approximately 100 hours of faculty contact per project and more than 200 hours of student research time.

Community-engaged Research Investment to date

Investment	2018	2019
Number of projects funded	8	17
Total project funding	\$58,000	\$122,000
Funding support to student engagement	\$40,000	\$86,000
Proportion of funding to student engagement	69%	71%
Faculty investment (approx. hrs/project)	100	TBD
Student investment (approx. hrs/project)	220	TBD

S.E.A.R.C.H. program

CLARI and the Nova Scotia Department of Business have established a collaboration in support of the Nova Scotia Department of Business' Social Enterprise Action Research Challenge (S.E.A.R.C.H). The Department of Business has set aside \$50,000 to support CLARI partner students to undertake research projects with a Nova Scotia social enterprise. One student proposal from each CLARI partner will be awarded funding up to \$6,000; the seven student researchers will have the opportunity to present their work at the 2020 Social Enterprise World Forum being held in Halifax in the fall of 2020.

Administrative Activities

The CLARI website has been relocated to actionresearch.ca. This space will become a place of engagement for faculty, students and community to connect. It will also support communications, not only of funding opportunities for communities but of other activities going on in Nova Scotia as well as other parts of Canada and around the world (for example, Campus-Community Engagement efforts being led by Carleton University).

To read more about the projects featured in this report, visit actionresearch.ca



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