Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada

MEOPAR

2024 to 2025

Annual Report

MEOPAR

Annual Report
Executive Summary

Objectives Advanced and Progress Towards Achieving Expected Results

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 marked a transformative and highly productive inaugural year for MEOPAR under the Strategic Science Fund (SSF).

Through strategic organizational development and the launch of high-impact initiatives, MEOPAR has rapidly advanced Canada's ocean science capacity, strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration, and delivered tangible value towards key federal objectives for climate resilience and a sustainable blue economy.

In the first year of SSF funding MEOPAR supported 32 projects across Canada. In one major success, SSF investment of SSF funds leveraged over $18 million from the Royal Canadian Navy for a groundbreaking Antarctic expedition.

Overarching Organizational Change and Development

The successful SSF award marked a major milestone for MEOPAR and initiated a period of change for the organization.

Previously, MEOPAR was structured to meet the requirements of Canada's former Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. The signing of the SSF contribution agreement led to several change initiatives within the organization.

MEOPAR recruited multiple new board members including a new Board Chair. The MEOPAR Board of Directors, as of March 2025, is comprised of a diverse group of professionals bringing extensive experience across government, academia, and the private sector, particularly within the ocean, science, and public management domains.

THE BOARD INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN

Public Leadership
Several members have held senior executive positions in the Canadian federal government, including Deputy Minister roles in various departments such as Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Health Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility
Expertise in EDIA, policy, systems, decoloniality, and intersectional equity is present on the Board, with a focus on community-university collaborations and addressing racism and justice.

Corporate and Financial Management
Members bring experience in corporate audit, risk, change management, financial reporting, human resource strategies, and corporate governance best practices from both public and not-for-profit sectors.

Engineering and Applied Technologies
Expertise spans engineering businesses, project management, renewable energy, and sustainable technologies.

Ocean Science and Technology
The Board includes distinguished marine geologists, experts in ocean technology development, marine safety, applied environmental research, and underwater acoustics.

Overarching Organizational Change and Development

Dr. Siddika Mathani

Board Chair

THE BOARD CHAIR IS DR. SIDDIKA MITHANI, a seasoned, well-respected, and bilingual former senior executive with a distinguished career as a federal public servant in the Canadian government. Her extensive experience encompasses diverse facets of government, including scientific and regulatory affairs, programming, fiscal management, regional operations, program policy, and human resources. Dr. Mithani's background, including Deputy Minister positions, provides invaluable strategic leadership and deep understanding of governmental operations and priorities to MEOPAR's governance.

After a thorough recruitment process a new **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** was hired in the third quarter to lead the organizational transition. **DR. JAMIE SNOOK** is a Labradorian of Inuit and settler descent, he brings extensive experience in leadership, research, education, and community development across the North. Notably, Dr. Snook served as the founding Executive Director of the Torngat Wildlife Plants and Fisheries Secretariat for 15 years, where he implemented key chapters of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. He holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of Guelph.

Initial priorities of the new Executive Director included an independent human resources health check report, an independent governance review, structural changes to existing staff roles and responsibilities, and taking action toward making MEOPAR a fully independent organization.

Dr. Jamie Snook

Executive Director

MEOPAR

Since its inception MEOPAR was hosted by Dalhousie University and this relationship provided stability for the organization during the first year of SSF funding by providing in-kind office space, payroll services, and communication and productivity software programs. This base level of support has allowed MEOPAR to take a staged approach into becoming a nationally distributed organization with employees working remotely across the country. The implementation of MEOPAR activities now go beyond the academy and will include other forms of ultimate recipients such as other non-profits, industry, Indigenous organizations, municipalities, and others maximizing reach and impact across Canada.

New software programs have been introduced for Board governance, relationship management, and communications. New hires have taken place in British Columbia, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. These foundational changes in governance, leadership, and operational capacity, including a 400% increase in bilingual speakers, have not only streamlined MEOPAR's operations but also significantly enhanced its ability to steward SSF funds effectively, and directly advance federal priorities for a robust, inclusive, and globally competitive ocean science ecosystem.

Achieving our Objectives

The scientific objectives outlined by MEOPAR in the SSF contribution agreement were guided by a team of scientists who all have deep experiences within the organization. Dr. Doug Wallace was the founding Scientific Director of MEOPAR and remains involved in the organization in an Associate Scientific Director role, while Dr. Brent Else and Dr. Fanny Noisette have transitioned into the new roles of Co⊠Scientific Directors. In these roles, they provide ongoing scientific leadership with the MEOPAR Board of Directors and Executive Director.

The careful attention to scientific succession planning has ensured that MEOPAR's scientific direction is guided by three distinguished scientist who collectively provide a robust foundation in marine and climate science, and interdisciplinary research.

DR. BRENT ELSE is a Professor at the University of Calgary, specializing in Arctic marine carbon cycling and the exchange of greenhouse gases between the atmosphere and the Arctic Ocean. His research integrates chemical oceanography, micrometeorology, sea ice biogeochemistry, and remote sensing to understand the Arctic Ocean's role in climate change and ocean acidification. Dr. Else also holds leadership roles with the Arctic Institute of North America and contributes to collaborative marine environmental research and community engagement, including work with Inuit knowledge systems.

DR. FANNY NOISETTE is a Professor of Biological Oceanography at the Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR) and holds the UNESCO Chair in Integrated Analysis of Marine Systems. Her research centers on the ecology and ecophysiology of coastal marine ecosystems, particularly the impacts of climate change and global changes on systems like seagrass beds and kelp forests. Dr. Noisette emphasizes interdisciplinary and socio-ecological approaches, integrating natural sciences with social sciences and local knowledge to promote sustainable management and conservation of coastal ecosystems.

DR. DOUG WALLACE is a Professor in the Department of Oceanography at Dalhousie University and holds the Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Ocean Science and Technology. He is a world-renowned oceanographer specializing in chemical oceanography and atmospheric science, with a focus on the ocean carbon cycle and air-sea gas exchange processes. Dr. Wallace has significantly contributed to marine biogeochemistry research and climate science, including leadership roles in international research programs and the Canadian Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network. His distinguished career spans academia and research institutions in Canada, Germany, and the United States.

Drs. Else, Noisette, and Wallace are further complimented by an extensive advisory network including a research management committee, a national advisory committee, and an international advisory committee which are collectively comprised of leading ocean research scientists in Canada and the world. This collective scientific leadership directly informed and guided the strategic direction of MEOPAR's inaugural year, enabling the launch of high-impact research and talent development initiatives that align with national priorities.

Strengthening the Evidence Base for Decision-Making and Adaptation

OBJECTIVE 1

MEOPAR made substantial advancements in fostering a more integrated and accessible ocean knowledge ecosystem. The Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) was a central focus, and this involved launching a Call for Proposals, which resulted in ultimate recipient agreements (URAs) awarded to the 3 regional CIOOS nodes (**Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of St. Lawrence),** directly enhancing access to and utilization of critical ocean data.

A strategic deviation from the initial Corporate Plan was MEOPAR's decision to host a national CIOOS Coordinating Office, a move that enhances national coordination and establishes a single-access point for ocean data, contributing to enhanced knowledge dissemination from diverse stakeholders. Through these initiatives, CIOOS facilitated meaningful engagement with end-users and key partners, including Indigenous communities, in areas such as data governance (e.g., application of CARE and OCAP principles by CIOOS St. Lawrence) and tool development (e.g., CIOOS Atlantic's Ocean Storm Viewer).

6

CoPs Selected

$300K+

Funding Awarded

MEOPAR also re-invigorated several Communities of Practice (CoPs), supporting six CoPs with one-year funding totaling $303,300. These CoPs actively engaged practitioners, academics, HQP, and government scientists in knowledge sharing and best practices. For instance, the Canadian Ocean Mapping Research and Education Network (COMREN) worked towards an Ocean Mapping Innovation Fund to promote hydrography in remote and Indigenous areas, while the Network on Coastal, Oceans & Lake Optics Remote Sensing (NetCOLOR) consulted with the Canadian Space Agency on Indigenous engagement and co-developed tools with end-users. The Ocean Acidification (OA) CoP notably partnered with CIOOS to improve data connectivity and stability, actively contributing to DFO's Climate Change Strategy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These efforts directly align with federal objectives to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and increase collaboration.

Furthermore, MEOPAR supported a strategic initiative with the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA), to define the scope and establish a partnership for an assessment on "Building a Collaborative Future for Ocean Research in Canada".

OBJECTIVE 1

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND ADAPTATION

"MEOPAR is dedicated to helping CIOOS achieve their goal to be a home for all Canadian ocean data."

Jamie Snook, Executive Director of MEOPAR

Case Study 1

Building a home for Canadian ocean data: The Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS)

With MEOPAR's support in establishing its national coordinating office, the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) is entering a new phase, positioning itself as the central hub for Canada's ocean data. By leveraging partnerships across regions, CIOOS transforms information into actionable knowledge and fosters place-based solutions that deepen our understanding of the ocean.

CIOOS is built on three regional associations - CIOOS Pacific, CIOOS Atlantic, and the St. Lawrence Global Observatory (SLGO) - which collaborate nationally with funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and MEOPAR. Together, these efforts strengthen Canada's capacity to share, access, and apply ocean data, advancing both scientific research and community resilience.

OBJECTIVE 1

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND ADAPTATION

"Almost all the students who attended conferences are now in our field, either doing graduate studies or working with industries. It's been hugely beneficial to keep students in our world."

Dr. Ian Church, leader of COMREN and associate Professor in Geomatics Engineering at the University of New Brunswick.

Case Study 2

Funding and Exploring Innovative Solutions to Complex Ocean Problems Through Communities of Practice

MEOPAR's investment in Communities of Practice (CoPs) creates vital spaces for experts to connect, collaborate, and share knowledge. These communities bridge gaps across disciplines and sectors, providing members with support, learning opportunities, and practical tools to address Canada's most pressing ocean challenges. By fostering collaboration and resource sharing, CoPs strengthen both research and practice, driving innovative and impactful solutions.

In 2024-2025, MEOPAR supported six active Communities of Practice:

- Canadian Marine Shipping Risk Forum (CMSRF)
- Canadian Ocean Mapping Research & Education Network (COMREN)
- Coast and Ocean Risk Communication (CORC)
- Canadian NEMO Ocean Modelling Forum (NEMO)
- Network on Coastal, Ocean and Lake Optic Remote Sensing (NetCOLOR)
- Ocean Acidification (OA)


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Increasing Economic Opportunity, Coastal Community Resilience, and Marine Ecosystem Protection

OBJECTIVE 2

MEOPAR's efforts in this area were significantly advanced through its Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Fund. The KM Fund, launched in October 2024, received 45 proposals, and funding totaling $504,610 was awarded for twelve high-impact KM projects. This initiative directly supports the dissemination of scientific knowledge to diverse end-users, fostering scientific literacy and skills.

45
Proposals Submitted

12
Projects Selected

$500K+
Funding Awarded

OBJECTIVE 3

IMPROVING ACCESS TO AND USE OF OCEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

"This wasn't something we would have been able to do without such a large-scale collaboration. Partnering with the Royal Canadian Navy to work on one of their newest ships was an amazing opportunity to bring Canadian scientists from both government departments and universities together, allowing us to contribute to the international effort to understand the global ocean."

Dr. Brent Else, MEOPAR Scientific Director

Case Study 3

First of its kind collaborative scientific expedition departs for the Antarctic

MEOPAR is advancing expeditionary ocean research, creating new opportunities for science at sea. In early 2025, MEOPAR led a team of 15 Canadian scientists aboard HMCS Margaret Brooke for a month-long mission to Antarctica in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Navy. At the heart of the expedition was the Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure (MORI) - a mobile lab developed with Hawboldt Industries and funded by Irving Shipbuilding. MORI enabled advanced science aboard a naval vessel, setting a precedent for integrating research into non-research platforms and unlocking future collaborations in Canada and abroad. This milestone reflects MEOPAR's mandate to tackle urgent climate and ocean challenges through innovative solutions, fostering connections between science, policy, and communities to shape the future of expeditionary research and strengthen ocean resilience.

27	117	32
Scientists	Data Points	Days

Improving Access to and Use of Ocean Research Infrastructures

OBJECTIVE 3

MEOPAR directly addressed a critical need for ship time through its new Expedition Fund. A survey of the Canadian ocean science community revealed that 86% lacked sufficient access to vessels. The fund, designed with three funding horizons, launched a Call for Proposals for its Strategic Support Horizon, recommending funding totaling $975,000 for four projects in February 2025. These expeditions include training Indigenous youth in marine monitoring and evaluating an Indigenous lobster fishery, directly supporting coastal community resilience.

A standout achievement was MEOPAR's leadership and support for the Canadian Antarctica Research Expedition (CARE2025), the first all-Canadian marine expedition to Antarctica. MEOPAR facilitated the participation of 15 researchers, 6 from Canadian universities, and 9 from the federal government, whose projects aligned with federal priorities and complemented government objectives. This initiative leveraged significant partnerships, including a $150,000 grant from Polar Knowledge Canada for Modular Ocean Research Infrastructure (MORI) deployment and adaptation, and conservatively leveraged over $18 million from the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in vessel operations. This demonstrates a substantial contribution to increased collaboration among diverse sectors and enhanced scientific research. Extensive knowledge mobilization through CBC reporting further amplified the expedition's impact.

MEOPAR is proud to highlight CARE2025 because in addition to the RCN priorities, we engaged with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Natural Resources Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Polar Knowledge Canada. The collective effort was enabled by the SSF investment in MEOPAR.

Diversifying, Developing, and Broadening Deployment of Canada's Ocean-Related Research and Innovation Talent

OBJECTIVE 4

MEOPAR actively fostered world-class research and innovation talent through targeted programs. The Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Award program, launched in October 2024, resulted in the recommendation of $600,000 in funding for four projects (all led by women), commencing in FY2025- 2026. These projects address diverse challenges aligned with federal priorities, from food sovereignty in Inuit Nunangat to youth engagement in ocean climate challenges and coastal evolution in Nunavik.

These initiatives exemplify MEOPAR's commitment to developing skilled, diverse people to fulfill industry and societal needs.

Case Study 4

How funding can empower diverse perspectives & drive meaningful change in the global ocean conversation.

In October, Funding provided by the Government of Canada through its Strategic Science Fund (SSF) program via MEOPAR made it possible for three West African trainees from DOTCAN's WYTEC Blue program – two from Ghana and one from Cabo Verde – to travel to Canada for the first time and attend the AAORIA workshop in Ottawa and subsequent meeting in Halifax afterwards. MEOPAR investment in supporting international collaboration and opportunities for young ocean practitioners demonstrates how funding can empower diverse perspectives and drive meaningful change in the global ocean conversation.

OBJECTIVE 4

DIVERSIFYING, DEVELOPING, AND BROADENING DEPLOYMENT OF CANADA'S OCEAN-RELATED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TALENT

AAORIA FORUM

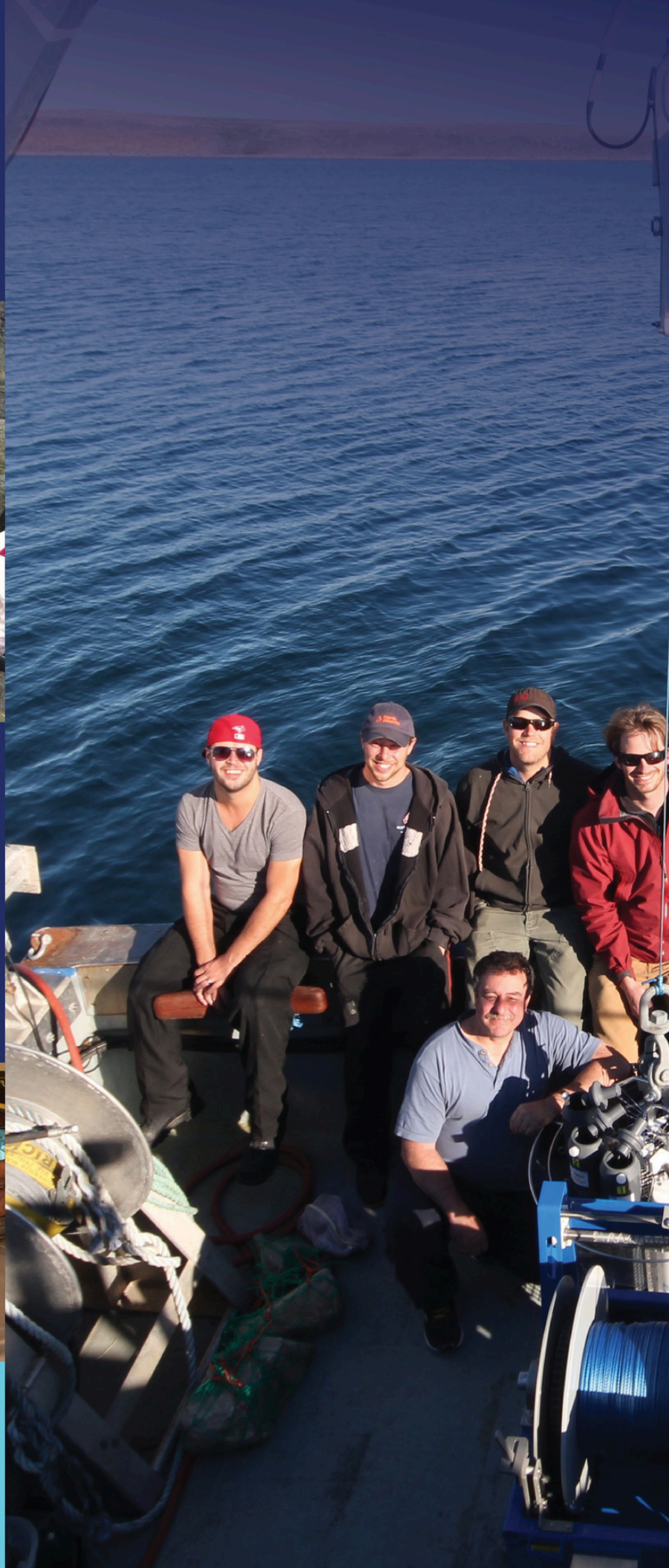
OCTOBER 8-10, 2024 OTTAWA, ONTARIO

OBJECTIVE 4

DIVERSIFYING, DEVELOPING, AND BROADENING DEPLOYMENT OF CANADA'S OCEAN-RELATED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TALENT

"It was a transformative experience"

2024 Participants

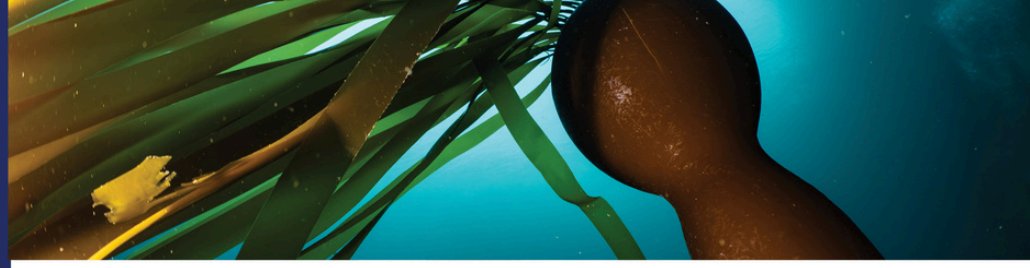


Case Study 5

Charting the course: A collaborative future for ocean research in Canada

MEOPAR's investment in defining Canada's ocean research priorities is a direct reflection of our mandate. In partnership with the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA), we recognize that collaboration is essential to developing innovative solutions to today's ocean challenges. Through pioneering a new expert panel with the CCA on ocean research coordination, MEOPAR strives to serve as a cornerstone of collaboration, unlocking opportunities both nationally and internationally. This partnership with the CCA will result in a timely report, guiding funding and resources toward areas of the ocean sector that best reflect Canada's priorities and needs.

Advancement of Federal Priorities and Socio-Economic Benefits



MEOPAR's activities directly advanced several federal priorities. Through CIOOS and CoPs, MEOPAR contributed to Canada's knowledge economy and strengthened evidence-based decision-making.

The focus on Indigenous engagement across various programs, directly supports the Government of Canada's commitment to a relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership. The Expedition Fund and Antarctica Expedition also enhanced Canada's leadership in global ocean science and contributed to international initiatives.

Socio-economic benefits include the development of new tools (e.g., Ocean Storm Viewer), enhanced public safety, and increased collaboration across sectors (academia, government, industry, Indigenous communities). Projects like the Indigenous lobster fishery evaluation and efforts in wastewater solutions in Arctic communities directly contribute to economic opportunity and coastal community resilience. The Postdoctoral Fellowship program and the various CoPs are developing world-class research and innovation talent, which will fulfill industry and societal needs in critical scientific areas. The extensive media coverage of the Antarctica Expedition also serves as a form of public education, increasing ocean literacy among Canadians.

MEOPAR

In response to Prime Minister Carney's May 2025 mandate letter, MEOPAR is positioned to advance newly emerging Government of Canada priorities by:

STRENGTHENING global collaboration such as MEOPAR's involvement in the Antarctica Expedition.

BUILDING one Canadian economy through the establishment of the CIOOS national coordinating office which acts as a nation-building project connecting ocean data and expertise across Canada.

PROTECTING Canadian sovereignty and keeping Canadians safe by collaborating with the Royal Canadian Navy which directly exemplifies strengthening the Canadian Armed Forces through scientific partnership, and enhanced ocean observation and data can indirectly support maritime security.

ATTRACTING the best talent in the world through postdoctoral fellowship (PDF) awards.

As a third-party science and research organizations (TPO), MEOPAR is **HELPING** to spend less on government operations, and offer leveraged partnerships nationally and internationally.

MEOPAR represents an efficient use of federal funds, and its success in leveraging significant partner contributions amplifies the impact of government investment.

Activities Undertaken

THE FY2024-2025 WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF MEOPAR FUNDING UNDER THE STRATEGIC SCIENCE FUND. MEOPAR made significant progress on activities and initiatives to support the four (4) stated objectives in the contribution agreement with the department of Innovation Science and Economic Development.

Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS)

To strengthen the evidence base for decision-making and adaptation, MEOPAR significantly advanced the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS). This involved launching a Call for Proposals and awarding 3 ultimate recipient agreements (URAs), valued at $300,000.

A deviation from the corporate plan, and a notable strategic development was MEOPAR's decision to host a national CIOOS coordinating office and securing an initial contract from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to demonstrate its utility. This expanded role enhances national coordination and builds a single-access point, contributing to enhanced knowledge dissemination from diverse stakeholders.

Communities of Practice (CoPs)

MEOPAR significantly enhanced knowledge mobilization and strengthened collaborative structures through its Communities of Practice (CoPs). Following a Call for Proposals, MEOPAR supported six CoPs with one-year funding totaling $303,300, which included four focused on ocean observation and prediction and two supporting marine risk and response. Funds were disbursed following the signature of URAs with each CoP.

Council of Canadian Academies

MEOPAR supported a strategic initiative with the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) to shape a collaborative future for ocean research in Canada, directly contributing to strengthening the evidence base for decision-making. This initiative is a follow-up to an MOU that was signed with the CCA leading into the SSF competition period. In this fiscal year, MEOPAR and the CCA defined the project scope, including a national survey and public engagement sessions. MEOPAR spent $160,000 plus tax on this project during the fiscal year.

Communication & Networking

MEOPAR engaged in a number of communication initiatives that involved updating the organizational website, establishing and growing a presence on the LinkedIn social media platform with over 1M impressions during the year, and currently over 3K followers. MEOPAR adopted HubSpot software for its customer relationship management (CRM) system, and is building a custom mailing list that currently has 1700 new contacts.

Knowledge Mobilization

MEOPAR established and launched a new Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Fund to support high-impact activities that advance ocean scientific knowledge, with a focus on effective communication approaches. In October 2024, MEOPAR developed and launched a Call for Proposals for KM projects, which received 45 proposals. Following review by the MEOPAR Research Management Committee, funding totaling $504,610 was recommended for twelve projects. This initiative directly supports the scientific knowledge being produced and disseminated to diverse end-users.

45 Proposals Submitted

12 Projects Selected

$504K+ Total Funding Recommended

Community-Based Research

MEOPAR organized a workshop in Ottawa as an official side event for the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance. This workshop served as a pre-development exercise for the fund, bringing together 30 thought leaders in community-led research from across Canada. Attendees engaged in discussions and received presentations. These initial consultations are part of ongoing work toward launching a community-based research call for proposals.

Expedition Fund

MEOPAR launched an Expedition Fund to provide ocean researchers access to ship time. This initiative directly addresses a critical need, as a survey of the Canadian ocean science community revealed that 86% of respondents identified they lacked sufficient ship time to execute their research objectives. To address this deficiency, in November 2024, a CFP was launched for the 2025 field season. A total of 13 proposals were submitted and following a review by the RMC in February 2025, funding totaling $975,000 was recommended for four expedition projects.

13 Proposals Submitted

4 Projects Selected

$975K Total Funding Recommended

Activities Undertaken

Modular Oceanographic Research Infrastructure (MORI) Antarctica Expedition

In the fall of 2024, MEOPAR seized a unique opportunity to improve access to and use of ocean research infrastructures by supporting a scientific component of a Royal Canadian Navy operation. This Antarctic expedition (February 24 to March 21, 2025) allowed for scientific research in support of Canada's application to become a Consultative Party within the Antarctic Treaty System.
Working with Natural Resources Canada, MEOPAR issued an open call for expressions of interest to the academic community in November 2024, attracting 19 researchers. A selection committee chose investigators from five Canadian universities, whose projects advanced federal priorities and complemented government scientific objectives. MEOPAR awarded $10,000 to each selected investigator for travel and research expenses.

The initiative sent a total of 15 researchers, marking the first all-Canadian expedition to Antarctica. The science team focused on geoscience, contaminants, and oceanography, addressing questions on topics such as ocean response to climate change, glacial retreat, species distribution, ocean currents, and global pollutant pathways. The expedition successfully utilized MORI, which enabled many aspects of the research.

This initiative leveraged significant partnerships, with a $150,000 contribution from Polar Knowledge Canada. More significantly, the expedition conservatively leveraged over $18 million from the Royal Canadian Navy from vessel operations cost, with ongoing efforts to seek further collaborations. Knowledge mobilization efforts were extensive, with a CBC climate correspondent reporting directly from the ship, and researchers planning further dissemination through conferences and academic journals.

Post Doctoral Fellowships

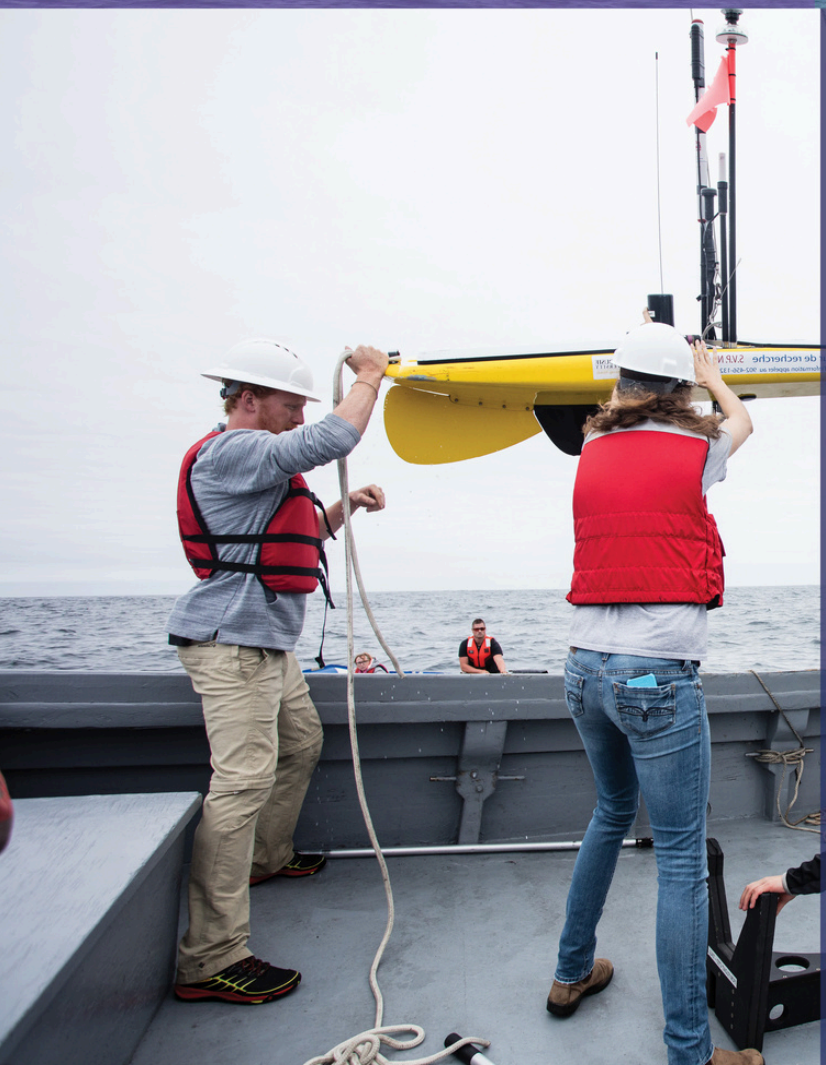
To diversify, develop, and broaden the deployment of Canada's ocean-related research and innovation talent, MEOPAR launched its Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Award program. This initiative offers opportunities for early career PhD-holders to conduct innovative, full-time, and collaborative research aligned with federal priorities in the ocean sector.

In October 2024, MEOPAR launched a CFP, and 33 proposals were submitted. Following a review by the RMC in February 2025, 4 researchers were funded with $600,000 in total funding committed. The four funded projects are all led by women and directly support MEOPAR's scientific objectives and federal priorities.

33
Proposals Submitted

4
Women-Led Projects Funded

$600K
Total Funding Allocated



Scientific Directors Research Award

In support of MEOPAR's overarching objectives, the Scientific Directors' (SD) Research Award provides funding to two MEOPAR SDs to advance research programs aligned with MEOPAR's objectives and scientific strategy. MEOPAR SDs submitted project proposals, which were reviewed by the Research Management Committee (RMC). The RMC recommended funding for both projects, totaling $150,000 for the first year.

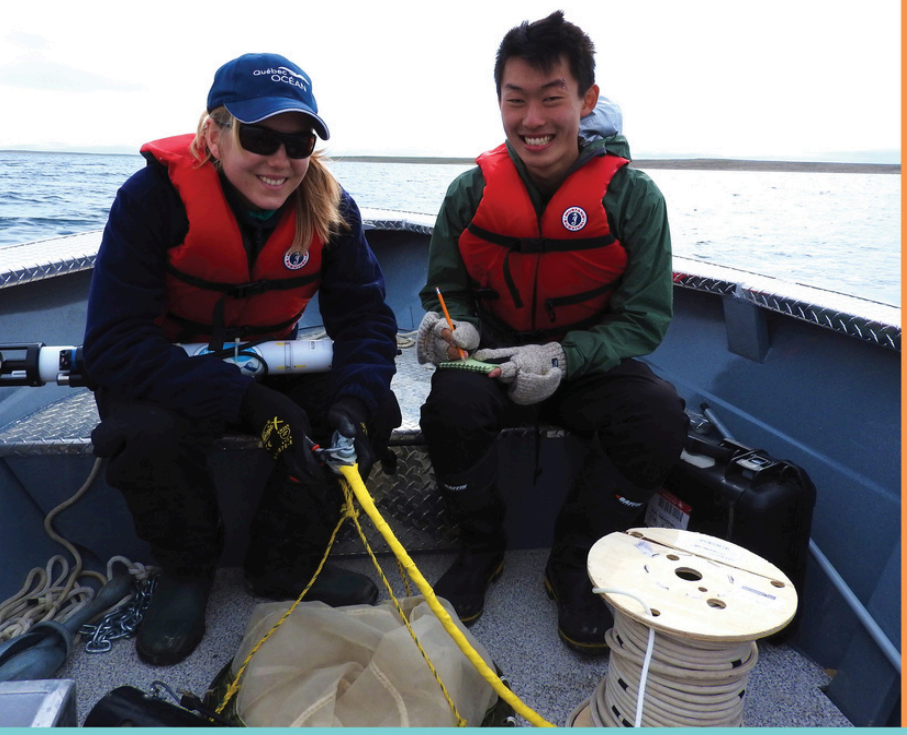
2
Scientific Directors Awarded

$150K
Total Funding Recommended

MEOPAR

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility

MEOPAR collected voluntary self-identification data from MEOPAR's Board of Directors and Senior Management revealing that 45% of respondents identify as female, 45% identify as male, 9% chose not to disclose their gender, and 15% identified as belonging to equity deserving groups.



MEOPAR appointed of a new Board member during the first year who brings specialized expertise in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA), further strengthening the Board's capacity to foster inclusive governance and equitable decision-making. This appointment reflects MEOPAR's dedication to building a Board that is representative, forward-thinking, and equipped to address the complex challenges of marine and coastal resilience through diverse and inclusive leadership.

MEOPAR's employee recruitment strategy incorporates practices to promote fairness and reduce bias. Since October 2024, MEOPAR has been working with an external human resource consulting firm to implement more inclusive hiring practices.

MEOPAR has engaged a consultant with expertise in EDIA to offer the first of a series of workshops for MEOPAR staff. Initial training was focused on exploring the core concepts of EDIA and how to address challenges at the individual and organizational levels as EDIA-focused activities are undertaken. Continued training will be offered through the development of a comprehensive learning program. The next phase will focus on equipping employees with the tools and strategies to actively apply EDI principles in their day-to-day work.

74% PROVIDED SELF-IDENTITFICATION DATA

MEOPAR Staff Self-Identification data

Recent voluntary self-identification data collected from MEOPAR staff reveals the following demographic composition of our organization.

53%	IDENTIFY AS Female
41%	IDENTIFY AS Male
6%	IDENTIFY AS Indigenous
29%	IDENTIFY AS Visible minorities
47%	IDENTIFY AS Immigrants to Canada
18%	IDENTIFY AS Belonging to a language minority group
6%	IDENTIFY AS Having a disability

These concerted efforts are actively fostering a more inclusive research environment, directly enhancing the quality and societal relevance of MEOPAR-supported ocean science by broadening participation, integrating diverse perspectives, and building capacity within under-represented and equity-deserving groups across Canada.

MEOPAR is regularly reviewing feedback from all available sources and proactively addressed areas for development identified in Expert Panel feedback.

The primary activities included an in-depth human resources health check report, and an organizational governance report. Each report was conducted by two different independent experts and the combined reports provided guidance to the Board of Directors on important next steps. At the governance level this has led to several additional reviews and the establishment of a new Governance Committee. This Board Committee is actively developing and adopting numerous new policies. This comprehensive renewal process, motivated and inspired by the SSF award, ensures MEOPAR's continuous improvement and underscores its commitment to robust governance, accountability, and operational excellence for effective stewardship of federal funds.

Financial Report & Notes

Detailed Financial Notes

Total Matched Funds

Total matched funds (new, incremental contributions towards Eligible SSF costs which would not exist in absence of an SSF award) were:**$880,717.**

Ultimate Recipients

Total funds that were further distributed to Ultimate Recipients was $722,970 with an additional **$1,134,940** committed.

Total Leveraged Funds

Total leveraged funds (existing investments in the ST&I ecosystem bieng leveraged to further the objectives of the SSF Recipient) were **$19,590,036.**

Non-SSF Funds Received

Polar Knowledge Canada Contribution Agreement

The funds were expensed on the Antarctica Expedition. The total contribution agreement is for $150,000 for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Contribution Agreement

There is a contribution agreement for **$511,301 over two years**. (FY 2024-2025 and 2025-2026). **No funds received** in FY 2024-2025. The funds are for advancing CIOOS through a national coordination office.

MEOPAR

Statements of operations and changes in net assets

Year Ended March 31	2025	2024
Revenue		
Government assistance – NSERC, SSHRC and SSF	**$ 2,278,521**	**287,870**
Project	**323,076**	**282,240**
Other	**19,389**	**45,475**
Total	**2,620,986**	**615,585**
Grant & program costs (recovery)		
Communications and networking	**59,069**	**4,347**
Knowledge mobilization and technology	**520,012**	**-**
Networking	**54,544**	**-**
Partnerships	**31,965**	**14,969**
Project	**-**	**(1,899)**
Research	**756,252**	**(178,423)**
Training	**-**	**(3,989)**
	1,421,842	**(164,995)**
Excess revenue over grant & program costs	**1,199,144**	**780,580**
Administrative		
Operations and management	**527,642**	**134,063**
Salaries	**468,463**	**382,802**
	996,105	**516,865**
Operating		
Amortization	**212,544**	**265,680**
	1,208,649	**782,545**
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	**$ (9,505)**	**$ (1,965)**
Net assets, beginning of year	**$ 450,889**	**$ 452,854**
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	**(9,505)**	**(1,965)**
Net assets, end of year	**$ 441,384**	**$ 450,889**

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

MEOPAR

Statement of financial position

Year Ended March 31	2025	2024
Assets Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	**$ 1,877,048**	**$ 435,630**
Receivables	**-**	**82**
Funds held in trust by Dalhousie University	**-**	**323,479**
HST receivable	**39,932**	**4,187**
Prepaid expenses	**6,134**	**10,746**
	1 923 114	**774 124**
Tangible capital assets (Note 3)	**850,175**	**1,062,719**
Total	**$ 2 773 289**	**$ 1 836 843**
Liabilities Current		
Payables and accruals	**$ 356,844**	**$ 40,909**
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	**1,975,061**	**1,345,045**
	2,331,905	**1,385,954**
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	**441,384**	**450,889**
	$ 2,773,289	**$ 1,836,843**

Related party transactions (Note 5)

Commitments (Note 7)

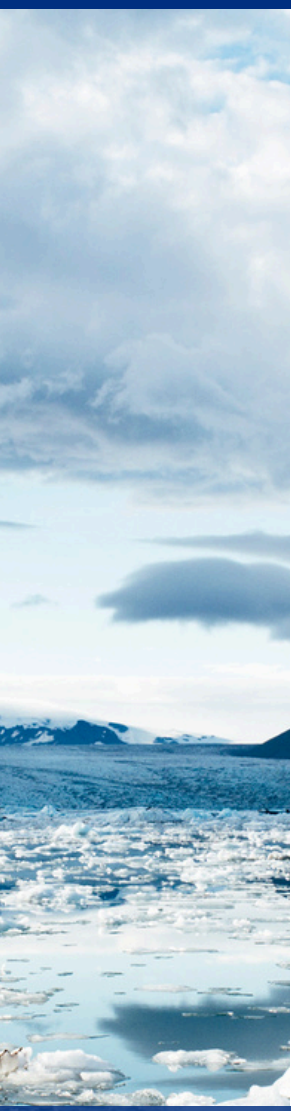
See accompanying notes to the financial statements

MEOPAR

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended March 31	2025	2024
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		
Operating		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	**$ (9,505)**	**$ (1,965)**
Items not affecting cash and cash equivalents	**-**	**-**
Amortization	**212,544**	**265,680**
	203,039	**263,715**
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Receivables	**82**	**174,711**
Funds held in trust by Dalhousie University	**323,479**	**371,633**
HST receivable	**(35,745)**	**142,969**
Prepaid expenses	**4,612**	**(2,740)**
Payables and accruals	**315,935**	**(177,732)**
Deferred revenue	**630,016**	**(572,381)**
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	**1,441,418**	**200,175**
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of year	**435,630**	**235,455**
End of year	**$ 1,877,048**	**$ 435,630**

See accompanying notes to the financial statements



Notes to Financial Statements

Authority and purpose

MEOPAR Incorporated (the "Network") was incorporated on February 17, 2012 under the Canada Corporations Act – Part II – as an income tax exempt not-for-profit organization. The Network provides funding to develop knowledge, tools, technology and highly qualified people through collaborative research.

Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO").

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and balances with banks and other institutions and term deposits.

Funds held in trust by Dalhousie University

Based on the previous funding agreement between the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council ("NSERC"), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council ("SSHRC") and the Network, grant funds were required to be held in trust and administered by Dalhousie University, the Network's host institution. Under the new agreement with the Strategic Science Fund, grant funds are no longer required to be held in trust by the Network's host institution but rather held directly by the Network.

Revenue recognition

The Network follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include government grants. Contributions which have external restrictions governing the types of activities they can be used to fund are deferred until related spending on these activities is incurred. Restricted contributions for the purchase of capital assets that will be amortized are deferred and recognized as revenue at the same rate of amortization as the related acquired capital assets. Unrestricted contributions are recorded as revenue when received or receivable, provided the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Project and other revenues are recognized as performance obligations are met and collection is reasonably assured.

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives once they are available for use as follows:

EQUIPMENT	**20% DECLINING BALANCE**

Tangible capital assets are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated amortization and impairment losses. When an item of tangible capital assets is no longer able to provide long term service potential to the Network, the impairment is recognized as an expense in the Statement of Operations. Any write downs recognized are not reversed.

Contributed materials and services

Contributed materials and services are disclosed at their fair value in the financial statements when the amount can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services used in the normal course of the Network's operations would otherwise have been purchased.

Use of estimates

Management reviews the carrying amounts of items in the financial statements at each balance sheet date to assess the need for revision or any possibility of impairment. Many items in the preparation of these financial statements require management's best estimate. Management determines these estimates based on assumptions that reflect the most probable set of economic conditions and planned courses of action. Significant management estimates relate to the useful lives of tangible capital assets, and deferred revenue. These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are recognized in the Statement of Operations as appropriate in the year they become known.

Financial Measurements

Initial Measurement

Initial measurement The Network's financial instruments are measured at fair value when issued or acquired. For financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost, fair value is adjusted by the amount of the related financing fees and transaction costs. Transaction costs and financing fees relating to financial instruments that are measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in operations in the year in which they are incurred. Financial assets and financial liabilities obtained in related party transactions are initially measured at cost, except for certain instruments which are initially measured at fair value. The Network does not have any financial assets or financial liabilities in related party transactions which are initially measured at fair value.

Subsequent Measurement

At each reporting date, the Network measures its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost (less impairment in the case of financial assets). The financial instruments measured at amortized cost are cash and cash equivalents, receivables, funds held in trust by Dalhousie University and payables and accruals. For financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost, the Network regularly assesses whether there are any indications of impairment. If there is an indication of impairment, and the Network determines that there is a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows from the financial asset, it recognizes an impairment loss in the Statement of Operations. Any reversals of previously recognized impairment losses are recognized in operations in the year the reversal occurs.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Network's main credit risks relate to its receivables. The Network mitigates credit risk by regularly reviewing collectability of receivables. There was no significant change in exposure from the prior year.

The Network is not exposed to significant liquidity, interest, market or currency risk.

Employee future benefits

The Network's staff are eligible to join the Dalhousie Grant Paid and Associated Employees' registered retirement savings plan. Contributions for staff are approximately 5% of salary. The Network records contributions to this plan as expenditures in the year the contributions are made. Contributions to the plan made during the year amounted to $11,343 (2024 - $12,877).

Tangible Capital Assets

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value 2025	Net Book Value 2024
Equipment	$ 1,595,938	$ 745,763	$ 850,175	$ 1,062,719

Deferred Revenue

	Beginning Balance	Contributions Received	Revenue Recognized	2025 Ending Balance
Strategic Science Fund	-	$ 1,857,910	$ (761,226)	$ 1,096,684
NSERC and SSHRC	238,104	-	(238,104)	-
Project	1,106,941	-	(228,564)	878,377
	$ 1,345,045	**$ 1,857,910**	**$ (1,227,894)**	**$ 1,975,061**

Related Party Transactions

The Network has economic interest in Dalhousie University by virtue of the fact that the University is its host institution under the agreement. The University provides accounting and administrative support services as well as office space without charge to the Network. The value of the in-kind contributions received by means of services, equipment and facilities in fiscal 2025 is estimated by Dalhousie to be $163,500 (2024 – $163,500). These contributions have not been recognized in the financial statements.

Grants from the Government of Canada

On November 30, 2023, the Network was awarded $38.1 million in funding from Government of Canada as part of the Strategic Science Fund (SSF) competition. The funding will be received over a five-year period. The funding schedule has been presented below:

Fiscal Year	
2024-2025	$ 3,137,100
2025-2026	8,285,200
2026-2027	7,119,000
2027-2028	10,142,000
2028-2029	9,449,200
Total Grant	**$ 38,132,500**

The disbursement of these funds will be subject to conditions outlined by the Government of Canada through the Contribution Agreement which was signed on June 17, 2024.

Commitments

The Network has awarded funding to various programs up to March 31, 2028. The annual commitments for these programs are as follows:

Fiscal Year	
2025-2026	855,155
2026-2027	240,000
2028-2029	40,000

Subsequent to the year-end, the Network has paid $537,649 of these commitments.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