

## Supporting Youth Mental Health Care in New Brunswick

*Medavie funding ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick in partnership with  
New Brunswick Health Research Foundation*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2018

**Moncton, NB** – ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick (ACCESS OM NB) is working to ensure New Brunswick youth experiencing mental health challenges have access to the right care, at the right time, in the right place. Medavie is providing \$360,000 over three years in support of ACCESS OM NB operations and activities. These funds are in addition to the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) investment in March 2015 of \$1.7 million over seven years. This funding brings Medavie's support of mental health initiatives in New Brunswick to over \$1.5 million to-date.

ACCESS OM NB is the only provincial demonstration site of the 14 ACCESS Open Minds sites across Canada. Led by Primary Investigator Dr. Jimmy Bourque of the Université de Moncton, ACCESS OM NB has taken a community approach to youth mental health system transformation, partnering with Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne, P.E.E.R Saint John, and the Elsipogtog First Nation community. ACCESS Open Minds is a national research and evaluation project co-funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and the Graham Boeckh Foundation (GBF) that aims to transform the way youth aged 11 to 25 access and use mental health services in Canada.

This funding was announced at the Université de Moncton this morning, with partner representatives and stakeholders in attendance.

### Quick Facts

- The rate of hospitalizations and emergency department visits by young Canadians for mental disorders increased by 45 per cent from 2006 to 2014, with youth aged 15 to 17 having the highest volume of visits and hospitalizations.<sup>1</sup> New Brunswick's rate of youth hospitalization due to mental health issues is twice the Canadian average.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 75% of mental health problems first appear between early adolescence and young adulthood.<sup>3</sup>

- Early intervention and treatment allow youth to develop positive mental health strategies leading to improved personal achievement, positive contribution to society, and significant cost savings to the health care, justice and social service systems.

## Quotes

“With child and youth mental health being a core health cause of our Foundation, we support evidenced-based solutions in ensuring youth have access to appropriate mental health care in living their best lives. Medavie is pleased to support ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick and to help facilitate future ACCESS sites. As a not-for-profit health solutions partner, this province-wide initiative aligns with our commitment to improve the wellbeing of Canadians.”

*–Bernard Lord, CEO, Medavie*

“It is encouraging to see initiatives such as ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick supporting youth who struggle with complex mental health needs. By working together with the Integrated Service Delivery model and the Network of Excellence, we are building a foundation and continuing to focus on preventive care and support for our youth.”

*–Honourable Benoit Bourque, Minister of Health, Government of New Brunswick*

“The New Brunswick Health Research Foundation is proud to have helped guide the process that led to the significant investment from Medavie into the ACCESS Open Minds project in New Brunswick. This funding will help develop safe spaces for adolescents and youth to receive better mental health services, an emerging piece of the Network of Excellence on mental health in New Brunswick. Such partnerships between CIHR, GBF, NBHRF, and, now, Medavie are key to developing better programs and services for our youth.”

*–Dr. Bruno Battistini, President, CEO and Scientific Director, New Brunswick Health Research Foundation*

“ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick is an innovative project focused on faster access to appropriate services for the community of children and youth living with mental health challenges in New Brunswick. Medavie’s important financial contribution will directly improve support services for this community of children and youth. On behalf of ACCESS OM NB, I wish to thank Medavie for their involvement with mental health causes.”

*–Dr. Jimmy Bourque, Primary Investigator, ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick*

“I am very happy that this innovative project, piloted by one of our researchers, is receiving this generous financial support from Medavie. The mental health of New Brunswick’s children and youth is a priority. This program will considerably transform the mental health care they receive, in addition to improving their wellbeing. We can be proud of the headway we have made in this project so far.”

*–Jacques Paul Couturier, Interim President & Vice-Chancellor, Université de Moncton*

“We are pleased to partner with Medavie and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation through the ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick initiative. This initiative will help ensure young people aged 11-25 have access to safe spaces and the range of services they need at the right time by the right provider. Improving access to mental health and addiction services for young people is an important issue for the Foundation, and we are proud to be supporting this work in New Brunswick.”

*–Ian Boeckh, President, Graham Boeckh Foundation*

### **Associated Links**

[ACCESS Open Minds](#)

[1. Care for Children and Youth With Mental Disorders, a 2015 Canadian Institute for Health Information Report](#)

[2. Children and Youth Rights and Well-being Snapshot 2014](#)

[3. Kessler, Chiu, & Demler, 2005](#)

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### **About Medavie**

Medavie is a health solutions partner that integrates benefits management, health management and health care delivery. Together, with our more than 6,400 employees, we are committed to providing innovative solutions that improve the wellbeing of Canadians.

As a not-for-profit organization, [Medavie](#) oversees [Medavie Blue Cross](#), a premier all-in-one benefits carrier and public health program administrator, and [Medavie Health Services](#), a national primary health care solutions organization and the largest private provider of EMS management services in Canada.

We are proud to commit an annual social dividend to the [Medavie Health Foundation](#) to support programs and initiatives aimed at addressing some of our country's most pressing physical and mental health care challenges.

### **About New Brunswick Health Research Foundation**

The NBHRF ([nbhrf.com](http://nbhrf.com) / @NBHRF) is an independent organization governed by a board of directors comprised of key stakeholders from the health research community in New Brunswick. Provincial funding is provided by the Regional Development Corporation – Total Development Fund, the Department of Health - Medical Research Fund (MRF) and the Department of Social Development - Wellness Research Fund (WRF) for NBHRF health research programs (HRP), health strategic initiatives (HRI) with federal tri-councils, national health charities and private sector, and the Strategic Investment in Health Research Innovations (SIHRI). The foundation's mission is to provide leadership and support building health research capacity, improve the health of New Brunswickers and advance the knowledge economy.

### **For more information**

Isabelle Landry, Executive Communications Lead, Medavie  
506-867-4384  
[isabelle.landry@medavie.ca](mailto:isabelle.landry@medavie.ca)

Bruce MacFarlane, Director of Communications, Government of New Brunswick  
506-444-4583  
[bruce.macfarlane@gnb.ca](mailto:bruce.macfarlane@gnb.ca)

Patricia Seaman, Senior Manager, Event Planning, Communications and Public Engagement  
New Brunswick Health Research Foundation  
506-476-5327  
[patricia.seaman@nbhrf.com](mailto:patricia.seaman@nbhrf.com)

Alysha Elliott, Communications Officer, ACCESS Open Minds New Brunswick  
506-461-0843  
[alysha.elliott@unb.ca](mailto:alysha.elliott@unb.ca)

Media relations, Université de Moncton  
506-858-4129  
[Servcomm@umoncton.ca](mailto:Servcomm@umoncton.ca)