



2026 Nova Scotia Health Health Care Innovation Team Awards

Deadline: Thursday, November 13, 2025, by 4:00 PM

Individuals and teams throughout NS Health have an ongoing commitment to continuously improve quality and patient safety in all aspects of our programs, processes, and services. The Health Care Innovation Team Awards are designed to celebrate these efforts and encourage others to embrace our commitment to quality.

The NS Health Care Innovation Team Award recognizes four important elements: disruptive innovation, cutting edge system transformation and outcomes, diverse population, and sustainability of change. Administrative and operational teams, including interdisciplinary teams and cross-functional teams, across all sectors of healthcare are invited to apply.

The principles of quality are embedded in the NS Health's mission, values and proposed strategic directions and the NS Health [Action for Health Strategic Plan](#). These guide the work we do every day and projects should demonstrate alignment with them.

- Vision: Healthy people, healthy communities – for generations.
- Mission: To achieve excellence in health, healing and learning through working together.
- Strategic Directions:
 - Our Services: Deliver a high-quality and sustainable health system
 - Our People: Strengthen and support a healthy, high-performing workforce
 - Our Community: Work with our communities to improve the health and wellness of Nova Scotians

Continuously improving quality requires that NS Health's commitment become a visible, fundamental part of the culture of our organization. This is an exciting opportunity to tell us about how you and your team are contributing to important work.

Tips for Success

Proof-read your submission; check for typos, spelling mistakes, incomplete sentences, etc.

- Avoid long sentences.
- Create an introduction that addresses W5H2 (What, Who (who by/who for), When, Where, Why, How, How much?)
- Avoid excessive use of acronyms and be sure that each acronym is defined upon its first use in the document
- Please ensure you keep the word version of your document for future editing purposes. Please ensure all text fields prior to saving as PDF are in editable word version (not pasted photo/PDF versions).



NS Health Care Innovation Team Awards Competition

The NS Health Innovation Award is modeled on the Solventum Health Care Innovation Team Awards, a national award presented at the annual National Health Leadership Conference. Following their Nova Scotia Health quality award submission, there is an award at the national level that Nova Scotia Health teams may choose to submit to with a deadline of February 1st, 2026. Please see the CCHL website for more information on the various award categories!

[Make a Nomination](#)

NS Health Care Innovation Team Award Template

The template has been provided to help with the nomination process. Please be sure to complete all sections and address each point in the attached template, with particular **attention to the score value of these sections**. Each section and each point within the section will be scored, so please leave these in the document.

Hint: Make it easy for the judges to find the required responses and score your submission.

Please limit narratives and use bullets for brevity. Relevant attachments or supplemental information should be placed in an appendix and included in the PDF. **Data should be included in the report, rather than in the appendix**. The appendix should be concise and only contain information that supports the application. **Limit the appendix to 3 pages**. All assertions must be documented. **Ensure that your submission does not exceed the word limit**. Lengthy submissions may be disqualified by the judges.

Please send completed template documentation to jolene.whitmore@nshealth.ca as **one single PDF document**.

Judging

The submissions will be reviewed by a judging panel that will consist of individuals appointed by the NS Health Quality & System Performance Leadership Team. Panel members will include NS Health staff, physicians, and patient representatives.

Ensure that you meet the NS Health Quality Team Award submission **deadline of Thursday, November 13, 2025**. as the package of submissions will be sent immediately to the judging panel.



Submission Form
2026 NS Health Care Innovation Team Award
Deadline: Thursday, November 13, 2025, by 4:00 PM

***PLEASE FILL IN THIS TEMPLATE**

Administrative and operational teams including interdisciplinary teams, cross-functional teams across all sectors of healthcare are eligible to apply. A team must consist of a minimum of three people.

Please indicate the category that you are applying for:

- ☐ **Disruptive innovation initiative(s) within an organization:** This category honors new innovative intervention(s) that disrupt our “normal” work to drive a different outcome focused on a major issue facing healthcare in Canada resulting in fundamental and sustained change within a single site, or multi-site organization.
- ☐ **Disruptive innovation initiative(s) across a health system:** This category honors new innovation intervention(s) that disrupt our “normal” work to drive a different outcome focussed on a major health system issue facing healthcare in Canada resulting in fundamental and sustained change across the continuum of care, intersectoral work, between two or more organizations, service networks, and partners.

Main contact information for administrative purposes

Prefix:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Project title:

Start date of the project:

- ☐ This program was initiated within the past three years and has sustained itself for at least 18 months.



Please list project team members, with job titles, including anyone seconded or invited onto the team from other departments/groups. Include a separate page if necessary.

Name	Job Title	Role as it relates to the project
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Project Title:

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Executive Summary (Limit: 250 words)

Brief description of the project, highlighting the reasons why the team should be considered for this award.

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Report section below (Limit: 4,000 words)

- Do not exceed the word count limit. Lengthy submissions may be disqualified.
- The award criteria are structured on an eight-category framework (A through H), as noted below. Submissions must address the eight categories, and touch on all applicable points.
- **Data should be included in the report, rather than in the appendix.** You are welcome to insert graphs, etc. into the sections below.
- The issue statement and team leadership requirements have been developed to encourage stronger links between quality improvement efforts and strategic change.
- Leave the headings in (you may subtract these from your word count). The **headings will be blue** and your text will be black.
- Complete the following sections as per the template:

A. Issue Statement (5 points)	E. Team Leadership (10 points)
B. Innovation (15 points)	F. Patients & Families (15 points)
C. Implementation (10 points)	G. Data, Metrics, & Analysis (15 points)
D. Knowledge Transfer, Scale & Spread (15 points)	H. Evaluation & Sustainability (15 points)

Note which sections are worth the most points.

A. Issue Statement (5 POINTS)

This section should clearly describe the significance of the improvement effort within the organization or across the health system. **Note this is only worth 5 points**, so be brief. **Please note, you only need to complete one Issue Statement.** The wording differs slightly depending on which category you're applying for.

a) **Disruptive innovation initiative(s) within an organization. (5 Points)** Please be sure to discuss:

Why this initiative is important to the organization; what brought it about.

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The relationship between the disruptive innovation initiative and the overall transformation occurring within the organization, in keeping with the organization's vision and mission.

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The key issues facing the disruptive innovation initiative and the organization.

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The goals in dealing with the key issues.

Type here in black font

The patient values and needs of diverse population driving the need for a new intervention and how the disruptive innovation initiative will meet the customers' expectations.

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OR

b) **Disruptive innovation initiative(s) across a health system. (5 Points)** Please be sure to discuss:

Why this initiative is important to the system; what brought it about.

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The relationship between the disruptive innovation initiative and the overall transformation occurring within the system, in keeping with the organization's vision and mission.

Type here in black font

The key issues facing the disruptive innovation initiative and the system.

Type here in black font

The goals in dealing with the key issues.

Type here in black font



The patient values and needs of diverse population driving the need for a new intervention and how the disruptive innovation initiative will meet the customers' expectations.

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B. Innovation in Health Service Delivery & Systems (15 POINTS)

How the disruptive innovation initiative has contributed to the uptake and spread of high impact, evidence-based innovations, health system improvements and transformation of the delivery of health services to make a positive difference to patients and staff.

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Outline how new technologies, tools, methods, and innovative solutions (for example, digital, IT platforms, data analytics, models of care and pathways, patient-facing solutions) were used.

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Describe how the disruptive innovation initiative addresses the needs of diverse population.

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How has this cutting-edge transformation disrupted normal roles, processes, technology, and outcomes.

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The significance of the disruptive innovation initiative to the organization/system including a collaborative intersectoral work network and the impact on the community it serves.

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Linkages between the goals of the disruptive innovation initiative and the strategic priorities of the organization/system or service network.

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C. Implementation (10 POINTS)

Describe the extent to which targeted approaches were applied to systems and processes for the disruptive innovation initiative.

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Describe the process or processes and methods used before and after the changes were made to assess results.

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How was the progress monitored, and what adjustments needed to be made to the planned processes?

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D. Knowledge Transfer, Scale and Spread (15 points)

Identify factors and challenges in scaling and spreading innovation across your organization and system to ensure sustainability of change,

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How the initiative has contributed to the body of knowledge transfer or advancement of continuous improvement within your organization and across the healthcare system.

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How have the results of the initiative been communicated and/or shared to support improvement in other jurisdictions.

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E. Team Leadership (10 POINTS)

Discuss ways in which team members optimized team performance including techniques, training and methods used to overcome barriers to group performance and explain some of the informal practices the team used to work better by describing:

Outline the work processes used by the team in carrying out this project by describing:

The steps the team used to analyze the problem, develop a solution, test the solution and implement changes;

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The ways in which the team identified and received required resources it needed to meet its goals;

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How the team worked with others outside the organization where appropriate;

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How the team worked with other work groups, departments or programs within the organization to achieve its goals;

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The relationship of the team to the leadership of the organization, including project sponsors, program leaders and senior managers where appropriate;

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The relationships with key informants, partner organizations and stakeholders outside the organization;

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The communication strategies used to update team members and key personnel (e.g. senior leadership).

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F. Patients & Family Engagement (15 POINTS)

Provide examples of how the patient and their family were included and engaged in the design and implementation of the innovative change initiative and benefits/outcomes to patients.

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G. Data and Metrics and Analysis (15 POINTS)

Describe the scope, management and use of clinical, quality, financial and operational information by the team to make decisions. Include quantitative and qualitative metrics, data, and analysis where appropriate. Please comment on:

What were the key metrics (comparisons and benchmarks) that were used to inform whether the initiative was being addressed from inside and outside healthcare.

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Discuss the method used to monitor the disruptive innovation and explain why these measures were selected. What results were achieved.

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How did local, national, or international research and evidence inform the expected performance and metrics.

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Describe objective measurements and impact of the diverse population within the system.

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H. Evaluation / Sustainability (15 POINTS)

How the outcomes and effects of the sustained disruptive innovation/program achieved by the team improved patient and/or family satisfaction based on key quality measures.

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Discuss the sustainability/replicability of this innovative initiative to address long-term social and environmental needs to the organization/system.

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As you conclude your final section, ensure your submission does not exceed the 4,000-word limit.