

N.B. to allow greater storage of data for health care research

The province says it will introduce legislation enabling public organizations to store prepared data at the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.

Officials say the idea is to facilitate data research which will help provide better program delivery in everything from health care to poverty reduction to traffic safety.

Health Minister Victor Boudreau said the province must know its needs in terms of future social programs, and this initiative will allow it to do just that.

"Other provinces and the federal government already have similar research centres in place," Boudreau said in a news release. "Today, we are catching up, to the benefit of all New Brunswickers."

Researchers at the ultra-secure facility on the UNB Fredericton campus will only have access to the minimum amount of raw data necessary to conduct their work.

All directly identifying information – names, addresses and Medicare numbers – are removed from the data.

Ted McDonald, director of the institute, called Tuesday's development very exciting.

"There is a large research community in New Brunswick interested in doing policy relevant research for the benefit of our province," he said, "and this will greatly expand the scope of work that can be done, while continuing to respect the privacy of citizens."

The NB-IRDT was first launched by Premier Brian Gallant in May 2015 and was lauded as a national centre for social and health research.

SOURCE: KHJ (<http://www.iheartradio.ca/khj/khj-news/n-b-to-allow-greater-storage-of-data-for-health-care-research-1.2505570>)