

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION CHALLENGE

Knowledge Translation (KT) Challenge

2026 MENTOR GUIDELINES

What is the KT Challenge?

The KT Challenge is designed to support teams of Providence Health Care, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Cancer, Northern Health, and Fraser Health clinicians (nursing, allied health and medical staff) who may not have much KT expertise, but are responsible for moving evidence into practice.

The KT Challenge provides participants with KT training, resources and mentorship. Activities include forming a team, attending three KT skills-building workshops, being paired with a mentor and writing a proposal of a KT implementation plan to be considered for funding. Each funded team is awarded up to \$5000 and has approximately two years to conduct their project, with assistance from their mentor.

Are you interested in being a mentor?

We are seeking mentors for the teams participating in the 2026 KT Challenge.

What's in it for you?

In addition to the satisfaction of working with a team of point-of-care practitioners and contributing to improved patient care by helping them implement evidence-informed practices, there are many professional benefits.

- You will have the chance to shape and provide input into implementation projects that can directly improve patient care in BC.
- You will have valuable networking opportunities that may open the door for future health research and KT collaborations within PHC, VCH, BC Cancer, Northern Health, and Fraser Health.
- You will contribute to your colleagues' (and your own) professional development.
- You will be able to guide teams towards presenting their completed projects at conferences and perhaps publishing findings/results in peer-reviewed publications.
- You may be able to submit and present the project to your own professional association.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the mentor?

- Be available as a resource to your team members throughout the project.
- If available, attend the three (virtual) KT skills-building workshops, on December 4, 2025; January 29, 2026; and February 26, 2026 (optional, but strongly recommended).
- Work with your team to refine their idea of the practice change.
- We recommend that teams meet with their mentor to develop their funding proposal, develop an appropriate timeline, and ensure their proposal is ready for submission. The suggested meeting frequency is **once every two weeks** between December and the April 10, 2026 proposal application due date. Note: The team leader, not the mentor, is responsible for organizing these meetings.
- Write a paragraph regarding your involvement in the development of the proposal, as well as your anticipated involvement in the project (if funded). This will be included in the proposal for funding.

- Attend scheduled team meetings. We recommend teams schedule monthly meetings with their mentor from the time funding is announced to sustain momentum (over the two years of the implementation phase).
- Continue to meet with your team to conduct all phases of the KT project, including evaluation, writing the final report, and participate in the Celebrating KT event.
- Participate in the evaluation of the KT Challenge throughout the project and up to three months after project completion.
- The mentor should negotiate with the team leader/team how they will work together, for example:
 - a. What type of meetings (e.g., virtual, face-to-face, telephone), how often, and for what purpose.
 - b. Mode of giving feedback on documents (usually by email) – what turn-around time is appropriate; expectations regarding responding to comments.
 - c. Extent of mentor's involvement in problem-solving - changes in team personnel; conflict with other commitments; ethics submissions (only if required); navigating institutional policies; leadership commitment. No single solution is likely to exist – negotiate a process with the team leader if/how the mentor could be helpful to problem-solving and coaching.

What is NOT expected of the mentor:

- To act as Team Leader – the team leader's responsibility is to coordinate the work of the team, including:
 - identifying team members;
 - developing initial and final drafts of the funding proposal;
 - calling and conducting team meetings;
 - collaborating with the team to conduct the KT project;
 - drafting final report.
- Be accountable for the quality of the KT project – the mentor should provide advice that will contribute to the quality of the work, but the work belongs to the team.

Time Commitment:

- While there is no defined time commitment, as noted above, we recommend that teams meet with their mentor regularly every two weeks during the proposal preparation phase and monthly during the implementation phase.

Note that the following organizational contacts will be available to the mentors (and to teams), should you have questions during this process.

- PHC: Riley Louie, researchtraining@providencehealth.bc.ca
- VCHRI: Krista Glowacki, education.award@vch.ca
- BC Cancer: Megan Courtney, research.kt@bccancer.bc.ca
- NH: Marcelo Bravo, KT@northernhealth.ca
- FH: Ashley Kwon, ashley.kwon@fraserhealth.ca

When the mentor cannot be helpful, or if the problem persists, issues can be brought to the attention of the KT Challenge Lead at your organization.