

Mid-Term Evaluation of Praxis Spinal Cord Institute Activities Funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)

RELEVANCE

There is an ongoing need for the Praxis WD Initiative due to significant costs associated with SCI



- **Human costs:** secondary complications, chronic pain, accessibility barriers
- **Lifetime economic cost:** ranges from \$1.5M to \$3M per individual.

The Praxis WD Initiative is **well aligned** with federal government priorities related to:



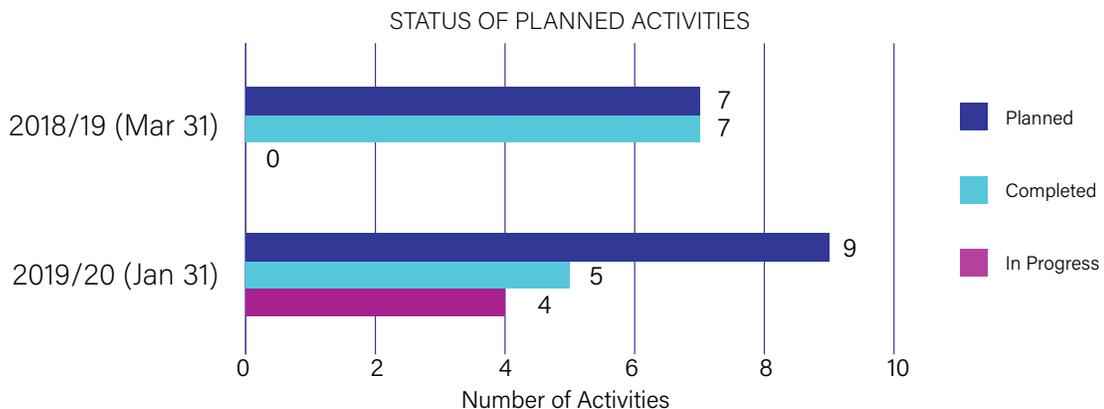
- Innovation & commercialization
- Economic development
- Creating a highly skilled workforce

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Recommendations from 2013-18 summative evaluation were largely implemented or in progress towards completion (as of Jan 31, 2020).

 COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Formally recognize commercialization efforts▪ Conduct bibliometric analysis of publications▪ Ensure appropriate performance indicators
 IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Update SCI incidence and cost figures▪ Improve communication about Praxis' role and value added▪ Assess expanding number of accredited acute and rehab programs▪ Develop business plan

2. 2018-22 activities were generally being implemented as planned.



3. On average, stakeholders were satisfied with Praxis' management of projects.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Clear & transparent process
- Strong knowledge base & content expertise
- Grants & evaluation team responsiveness

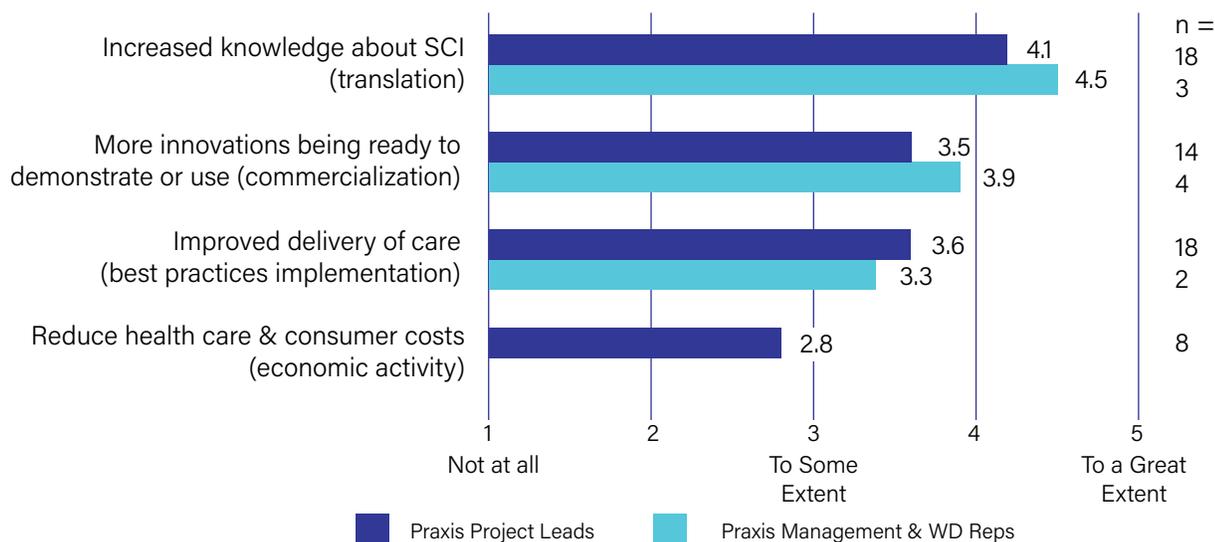
AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Internal communication & tracking
- Minimizing reporting & paperwork

OUTCOMES

1. The Initiative is significantly contributing to increasing knowledge about SCI (translation) through publications and conference presentations, which have previously achieved a high level of impact and are perceived to be important areas of SCI research by stakeholders from similar organizations.
2. The Initiative is contributing to increased delivery of SCI best practices care across multiple facilities (best practice implementation).
3. Delivery of care changes implemented under the 2013-18 Agreement demonstrate significant potential for reducing health care costs (economic activity).
4. The Initiative is also making substantial contributions to more innovations being ready to demonstrate or use by assisting SME start-ups, hosting investor events, and launching a new start-up accelerator program.

Figure : Stakeholder Perceptions of Extent to Which Projects will Contribute to Intended Outcomes



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Leverage success in generating new knowledge and evidence into increased focus in best practices implementation.
2. Continue to expand support for the commercialization of SCI technologies and start-ups.
3. Examine additional areas for streamlining internal processes.
4. Continue efforts to leverage external sources of funding and strengthen external partnerships with similar organizations and other funders.
5. Review the Praxis WD Initiative logic models and key performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure they adequately capture immediate outcomes.

EVALUATION METHOD

Scope: This represents the results of a midterm evaluation of the Praxis WD Initiative (2018-22). The evaluation covers activities over a 2-year period, from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2020.

Method: The evaluation used a mixed methods approach, which entailed the synthesis of multiple lines of evidence to respond to a series of evaluation issues and questions. The lines of evidence included a Document and Database Review, 12 Internal and External Interviews, 32 Online Project Surveys, Bibliometric Analysis and Economic Study.

Evaluation conducted by: Ference & Company Consulting Ltd.
Commissioned by: Praxis Spinal Cord Institute