

2024-2025 Dawson RSF Investment Story

In 2024–2025, Dawson College was awarded **\$36,730** from the Research Support Fund (RSF). Consistent with the College’s strategic priorities, the full allocation was invested in the **Management and Administration** expenditure category.

How the funds were invested

- **Salary Support (\$32,730):** RSF funds offset salaries for staff in the research office, ensuring continuity of essential services such as funding opportunity identification, application review and compliance, institutional and REB approvals, post-award financial and compliance oversight, and policy and report development.
- **Professional Development (\$4,000):** A portion of funds (\$1,138.62) supported professional development activities for the Research Officer and Research Administration Technician, including membership and professional development offered by the *Canadian Association of Research Administrators* (CARA) and the *Association pour la recherche au collégial* (ARC). The remaining funds (\$2,861.38) were used to support staff participation at the CARA national conference.

Outcomes and Impact

- RSF funding enabled Dawson College to successfully complete its first external research audit. Professional development supported through CARA membership and the CARA national conference equipped staff with the training and peer networks needed to manage the audit effectively. This milestone strengthened institutional compliance and deepened funder confidence, which in turn positioned Dawson to secure separate funding to explore the establishment of an AI in College think tank — illustrating how RSF support builds the institutional capacity that underpins future growth.
- Staff participation in professional development activities expanded institutional expertise, fostering more efficient internal review of grant applications and strengthening compliance with evolving funder requirements.
- Sustained salary support allowed research staff to dedicate time to policy development and reporting, reinforcing accountability and consistency across research administration processes.

These investments represent a deliberate focus on strengthening human capacity in research administration. By providing staff with opportunities for training, networking, and professional development, the College enhances its internal expertise and ensures compliance with evolving funder requirements. At the same time, salary offsets help sustain the day-to-day research administration functions that are crucial to supporting faculty and student researchers.

Through the RSF, Dawson College has been able to invest in both stability and growth: maintaining the operational backbone of research administration whilst building new expertise that positions the College to support an expanding and increasingly complex research portfolio.