

RESEARCH | Turning
IMPACT research
CANADA | into action

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A Word from the Director

I am pleased to present our second annual report for Research Impact Canada. This year saw us welcome the University of Ottawa as our newest RIC member. Although a new university to RIC they have already developed a knowledge mobilization plan which includes a series of knowledge mobilization awards. Their growth in knowledge mobilization is a testament to their commitment to ensuring their research has an impact beyond scholarship.

Our annual meeting in Vancouver in September 2018 was a pivotal point in our development. Not only did we operationalize our evaluation plan by retaining the efforts of Stephen MacGregor (PhD Student, Queen's University) to design and undertake the first phase of our evaluation, we also subsequently retained Géraldine Piguet (U. de Montréal) to support our communications efforts. Both portfolios have taken off as exemplified by this Annual Report. We also conceived of our monthly member engagement activity we call Dr. RIC. Dr RIC is a monthly zoom call where the agenda is set by RIC members as a forum to discuss whatever is on their mind as it relates to knowledge mobilization. Topics have included internal awards, tenure & promotion, institutional KMB plans, role of libraries and open access as examples. The KMBuddy program was also launched at the Vancouver meeting and successfully funded buddy projects among RIC members. These projects aim to build capacity of participating KMBuddies and will roll out in 2019-2020. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Conference Board of Canada to mobilize knowledge for the Future Skills Centre which was announced in February 2019.

You will read how we were honoured with the Real Impact Outstanding Contribution Award by the global scholarly publisher, Emerald Publishing but more importantly you will also read about individual successes from RIC member universities. At the end of the day it is their successes that tell the RIC story. We exist to build capacity for knowledge mobilization on campuses across Canada. We focus on the institutional capacity to support knowledge mobilization. The real benefit for Canada – the impact of Research Impact Canada – is when staff at RIC member institutions support the knowledge mobilization/translation, community-based research, public engagement, service learning, data access and research communications of our faculty, students and their research partners/stakeholders.

David Phipps, Executive Director Research & Innovation Services
Research & Innovation, York University

Network Director, Research Impact Canada

Mission and Values

Mission: We build Canada’s capacity to be a leader in knowledge mobilization by developing and sharing best practices, services and tools, and by demonstrating to relevant stakeholders and the public the positive impacts of mobilizing knowledge

Vision: We will maximize the impact of university research for the social, cultural, economic, environmental, and health benefits across local and global communities.

Values :

- We believe that academic research contributes to social, cultural, economic, environmental, and health benefits across local and global communities.
- We believe that the university research enterprise encompasses research, scholarship and creative activity by faculty, students and staff across all disciplines.
- We value community, industry and government partners as active participants in conducting research.
- We believe that knowledge mobilization services reflect the capacity and opportunities of institutional

RIC at a Glance



13 years of turning research into action



17 institutions



8 different KMb models
(ex. Community based-research, Research support, Public Engagement, Community Service Learning)



+75 persons dedicated to Research Impact Canada



9409 twitter followers



160K annual budget

Our 2018 Successes

RIC's KMb 'Buddy' System

The Professional Development Committee for Research Impact Canada / Réseau Impact Recherche Canada (RIC) has introduced a new opportunity for member engagement and skills development and exchange. The KMb Buddy System is being piloted in 2019.

This program offers modest funding for KMb professionals affiliated within RIC seeking to improve their skills and capacity to engage in effective KMb practices. The KMb Buddy System is supported and adjudicated from within the PD Committee with oversight from the Governance Committee. Under this program, it is anticipated that each year people can apply grants up to \$1000 to support their professional development. Options for consideration are:

- Service stream. This is more operational in nature. Examples are: connect with fellow RIC practitioners to learn about good practices, or, professional development investments to improve their skills as a practitioner
- Leadership stream. This is more strategic in nature. Examples are: seeking mentorship, skills and/or KMb leadership development (at a strategic level)

For this year, we received only two submissions and both were deemed to be worth supporting. In both instances, the host organization offered cost sharing and the 'giving back' or dissemination was consistently strong.

Here's an overview of the two successful submissions:

1. **University of Alberta** – KMb staff have invited York U to travel to Edmonton and deliver two KMb workshops for staff and researchers, and second, for SSHRC PG applicants. Sharing tools, resources and their experience in developing, delivering and evaluating KMb projects/services is anticipated to help improve the capacity for KMb at U of A. For RIC, the workshops will be captured on video and shared across the network. RIC leads will blog about this and there are also plans to possibly share the results at Congress and through exploring scholarly publication opportunity.
2. **McMaster** – Communications staff, who have been targeted by senior administration to get more involved in RIC proposed a mentoring trip to UBC and meet with their KMb team. This job shadowing and mentorship opportunity will help link communications roles to KMb more explicitly. The 'giving back' was also uniquely presented through the development of new KMb tools in areas of communications/social media. Also, directly engaging in the RIC Communications Committee will provide value for the network.

Both proposals met the criteria and demonstrated the potential for this program to support capacity building and mentoring across the network. We're excited to share the results from these collaborative efforts across and network and hopefully expand the KMb Buddy System in the future!

Dr RIC

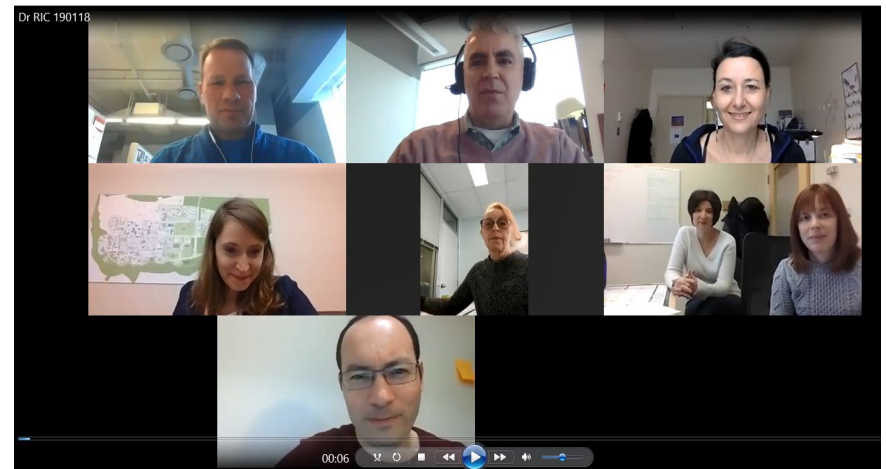
Dr. RIC is a monthly, one-hour video meeting where the topics of discussion are identified by RIC members and RIC members are the ones addressing the topics of discussion.

Dr. RIC arose as a suggestion at the September RIC Annual Meeting as a mechanism to help RIC members maintain connections to each other. While hosted by the RIC Lead Institution, the content is driven by the needs of the RIC membership. As such Dr. RIC has become the primary mechanism for informal information exchange. Topics covered by Dr. RIC have included:

- Tenure & promotion (always a favorite!)
- Open access
- KMb and Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity
- KMb vs research impact
- Institutional prizes and awards for KMb/impact
- Institutional KMb planning
- Challenges/threats to KMb practice
- Working with librarians

Documents for many of the topics have been shared. For example, in response to the discussion on institutional KMb planning, KMb (and related institutional plans) were shared by U. Saskatchewan, UBC, KPU, U. de Montréal and UQAM. Sessions are recorded and archived and topics documented for easy access.

Dr. RIC was imagined as a “group therapy” session where we could support each other’s’ practices. As a “by members for members” program it has become RIC’s principal platform for sharing information, tools and resources.



Screenshot of Dr RIC from January 18 2019 featuring: Michael Johnny (York), David Phipps (York), Virginie Portes (UdeMontréal) Karine Souffez (UBC), Heather Young-Leslie (UAlberta), Michele Charlton and Maureen Keough (Dalhousie) and Marcelo Bravo (UBC).

Research Impact Canada Receives Real Impact Award

Research Impact Canada (RIC) was honored with the Real Impact Outstanding Contribution Award by the global scholarly publisher, Emerald Publishing on Nov. 20.

The Real Impact Outstanding Contribution Award aims to:

- raise the profile of individuals, teams and institutions that have placed real impact at the top of their agenda;
- recognize innovative approaches to impact;
- celebrate interdisciplinary research;
- bridge the gap between research and practice; and
- tell real impact success stories and showcase those driving the debate.

The judges were impressed with RIC's vision of a globally leading network that enables researchers and their partners to demonstrate contribution to and impact of research excellence, and the fact that impact has been RIC's sole objective, creating impacts on culture, society, health, economy and environment as well as on public understanding.

“While there were many fantastic entries, the winners most strongly demonstrated all of, or specific areas of, the five Cs of impact health: commitment, competencies, co-production, connectivity and clarity. They represent some of the most inspiring work across the sector to broker research into practice or set in place the organizational structures to do so.”

It is a privilege to be able to formally acknowledge the valuable work of colleagues across the sector, and to highlight the efforts of so many to make a difference.”

Julie Bayley,

Professor and head of the judges panel, University of Lincoln



David Phipps giving a speech at Real Impact Award 2018

Bringing Our Expertise to Future Skills Centre

On February 14, 2019 Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) announced that Ryerson University, the Conference Board of Canada (CBoC) and Blueprint, a non-profit research organization, were selected to partner and operate Canada's new Future Skills Centre. The Future Skills Centre (FSC) will operate at arm's length from the Government of Canada to fund projects across Canada that develop, test and measure new approaches to skills assessment and development. FSC will and fund projects to:

- identify emerging skills that are in demand now and into the future to help Canadians make informed training decisions;
- develop, test and evaluate innovative approaches to find out what will help Canadians gain the skills they need to adapt and succeed in the workforce; and
- share results and best practices across all sectors and with Canadians to support investment in the skills needed for the future.

Research Impact Canada was invited by CBoC to partner on knowledge mobilization for the Future Skills Centre. Funded until March 31, 2024, we will leverage the strengths and connections of both organizations to ensure that stakeholders are engaged, research (where appropriate) is co-produced, and results are widely disseminated especially to marginalized and harder to reach audiences. We will also focus on building the capacity of skills stakeholders to undertake knowledge mobilization as a function of all FSC funded projects.

Core to RIC's participation in FSC is the development and deployment of Yaffle across Canada. Led by Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Yaffle is an on-line tool that helps connect universities with the people and places around it (www.yaffle.ca). Yaffle is a vital part of RIC's commitment to FSC

by providing a place for researchers and partners to showcase expertise, research and publicly engaged activities in an open and accessible way. Yaffle also helps tackle real-world problems facing individuals, groups, and communities today by brokering collaboration opportunities to expertise either online or through the facilitation of knowledge brokers at RIC member universities. Yaffle was developed and is managed by the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/02/government-of-canada-takes-action-to-ensure-canadian-workers-are-prepared-for-the-jobs-of-tomorrow.html>



Knowledge Transfer Example – From Guelph to McMaster

The McMaster Research Shop is a co-curricular volunteer program in which graduate and upper-year undergraduate students work on research projects in partnership with a community organization. We work with non-profit and community groups to provide plain language answers to their research questions. Established in 2015 and working under the Office of Community Engagement since 2017, the Research Shop has been undergoing a process of formalization since January 2019. Informed by the literature on science shops, stakeholder consultations, staff reflection sessions, and discussions with our colleagues at the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute (CESI) at the University of Guelph, we are adjusting our model to more effectively achieve our goals of benefit to community and quality experiential learning opportunities for volunteers.

Our partnership with our Guelph colleagues had been helpful in several respects, three of which will be highlighted here. First, CESI staff have validated that the challenges we encounter in scoping projects to align community and campus timelines are not indications of it not going well, but rather are a common tension of university-community engagement. Second, we will be moving closer to the CESI model (in which all Research Shop team members are paid staff) by piloting paid Team Leads in September 2019 and evaluating the impacts. Third, our discussions have affirmed that as much as we can and do learn from each other's practices, institutional context matters; having the McMaster Research Shop in a central unit serving all faculties across the

university rather than being housed within one faculty (as CESI is) brings unique challenges and opportunities, and it's important to respond to our particular setting in order to be most effective.

Project example

The Good Shepherd Venture Centre Marketplace provides emergency food and clothing services to those in need in the Hamilton community, serving 5,500 to 5,800 people on a monthly basis. The Venture Centre primarily relies on donations for their product offerings; as such, many staple items including meat, dairy, and produce, as well as household items, are not regularly available to clients. The Venture Centre is considering selling these products at or below wholesale costs in order to improve clients' abilities to access these staple food and non-food items. The Good Shepherd enlisted the help of the McMaster Research Shop to conduct a survey assessing clients' interest in and willingness to pay for this possible new service at the Venture Centre. A group of five student volunteers from the McMaster Research administered a survey among service users at the Venture Centre to carry out the assessment.

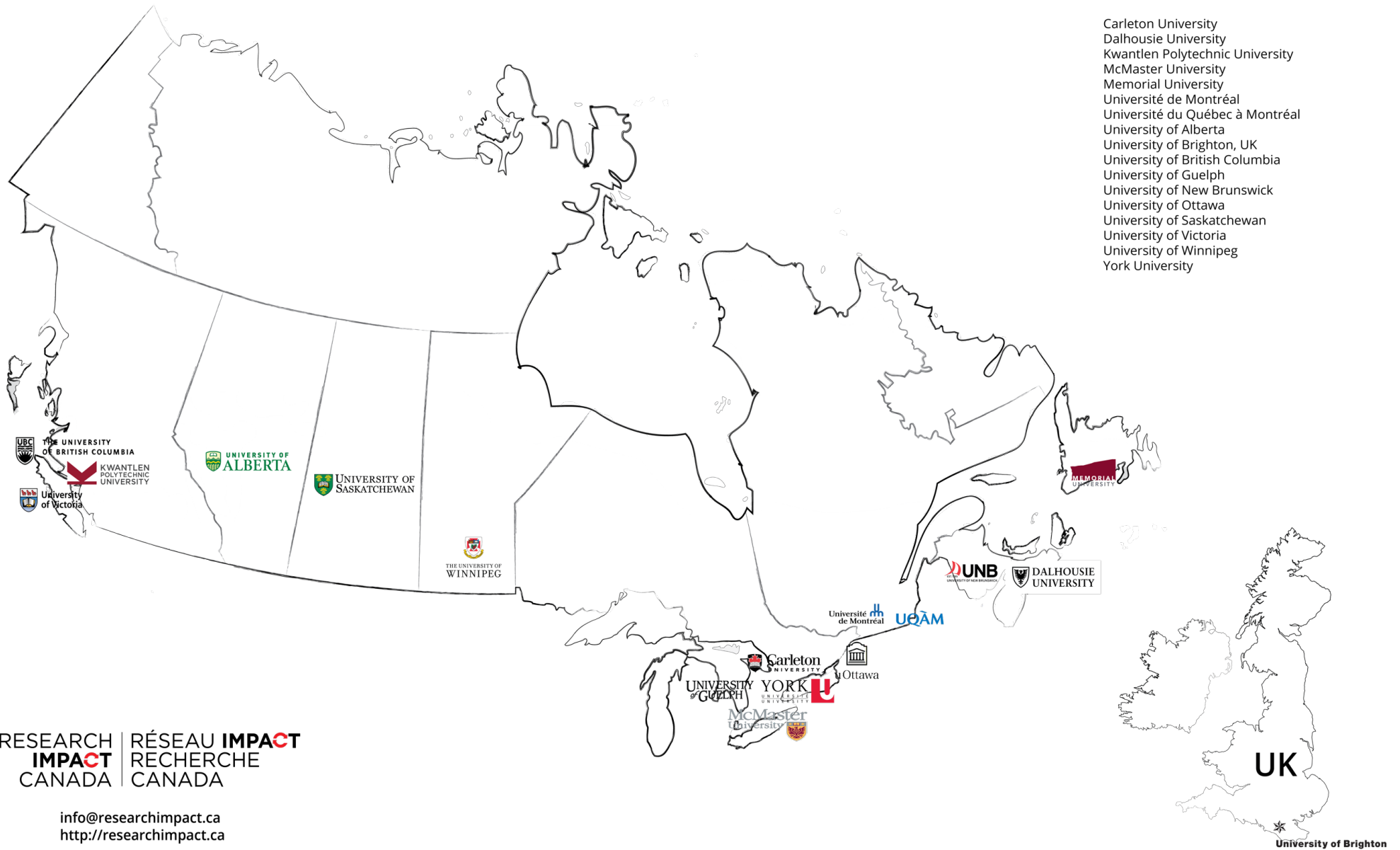
Read the full story at:

<https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/handle/11375/24572>

Research Impact Canada

Members

- Carleton University
- Dalhousie University
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- McMaster University
- Memorial University
- Université de Montréal
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- University of Alberta
- University of Brighton, UK
- University of British Columbia
- University of Guelph
- University of New Brunswick
- University of Ottawa
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Victoria
- University of Winnipeg
- York University



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What People are Saying About Us

The Hill Times

On October 1, 2018 **Robert Haché** (VPRI York University and Chair, RIC Executive Lead Steering Committee) and **Ted Hewitt** (President, SSHRC) jointly published an Op Ed in the Hill Times. The Hill Times has a national readership and which covers the Parliament of Canada, the federal government and other federal political news. The Op Ed was titled, “SSHRC, RIC bridging the gap between interdisciplinary research and real-world impact”. Citing an example of engaged scholarship from RIC member, U. Winnipeg, the Op Ed presents the case that funding research and innovation is not sufficient to create an impact for Canadians. “*But to create the next big thing and make it relevant, we must also identify the utility of innovation.*” And to that we need to engage research across sectors. To do that our academic institutions need to support knowledge mobilization and research impact. That is the job for Research Impact Canada.

Conference Board of Canada

“The Conference Board has worked with RIC since our report ‘Beyond Citations’ in 2016. RIC is the leading knowledge mobilization network in Canada. It is a perfect complement to the research and convening strengths of Conference Board. Together we will ensure that skills stakeholders across Canada are engaged in the Future Skills Centre.”

Matthew McKean,
Director, Future Skills, Conference Board of Canada

Our members

“RIC provides useful tools, webinars, blog posts, newsletters that help to stay abreast of the burgeoning field of knowledge mobilization. In addition to the quality of its activities, what hooks me to this network is the community behind it. The network is a safe and dynamic platform for testing ideas, discussing mistakes, seeking advice from other members. It’s like having access to a brain trust of knowledge mobilization advisors!”

Karine Souffez M.Sc.

Associate Director, Knowledge Exchange
Office of the VP Research & Innovation
University of British Columbia

“Dalhousie University’s participation in Research Impact Canada has helped us improve the way we disseminate information, draw attention to issues that matter, and put what we know into action. This network has helped us create an environment that encourages meaningful discussions between those who create knowledge and those who use knowledge with a shared desire to solve problems.”

Michele Charlton

Communications advisor - Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation
Dalhousie University

To Contact Us / To Join the Adventure

RIC is seeking new academic members who will contribute to developing knowledge mobilization excellence and achieving RIC goals. RIC is seeking new members actively building their knowledge mobilization capacity including Canadian and international institutions that have:

- Documented commitment to institutional knowledge mobilization and research impact: an established university plan, research plan, engagement plan, or other document that identifies knowledge mobilization or related activity as an institutional priority.
- Established investment in knowledge mobilization supports (such as community/public engagement, CBR, research support, communication, social innovation).
- Desire to share their expertise as well as learn from others.

If this describes your institution, please send us an email at info@researchimpact.ca