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2024

# Annual Meeting Report



Hosted by **University of Ottawa & Carleton University**



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# Overview

Every year, Research Impact Canada (RIC) hosts an annual meeting to bring members across the pan-Canadian network in person. The meeting has become one of our most well-received events. This year's meeting was hosted by the University of Ottawa and Carleton University in the beautiful capital of Canada.

This report aims to capture the events of the three days through a brief summary of the meeting, feedback received, and testimonials from RIC members.

## Objectives

- Opportunity to connect in person and participate in engaging activities
- Discuss initiatives and priorities of the network's future
- Learn how other RIC member institutions prioritize knowledge mobilization and hear from keynote speakers

## Format & Location



Day 1: Hybrid  
U Ottawa



Day 2: Hybrid  
U Ottawa



Day 3: In Person  
Carleton U



## Participation



**15%**  
VIRTUAL



**85%**  
IN PERSON

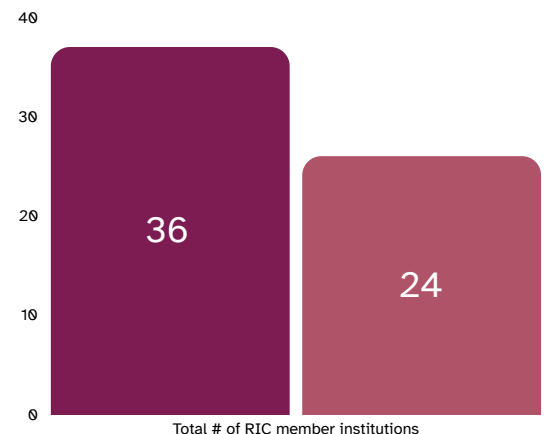


Fig. 1: Total number of RIC member institutions on the left in comparison to total number of RIC member institutions on the right who attended this year's AGM.





# Program



## Agenda

### Day 1

#### MORNING

- Welcome Remarks from *U Ottawa*
- Icebreaker
- State of the Network

#### AFTERNOON

- RIC Strategic Plan & Priorities overview
- RIC Committee updates
- RIC Strategic Planning

**Evening:** Big team dinner

### Day 2

#### MORNING

- Keynote Panel: *CityStudio Ottawa*
- RIC member presentations:
  - 2 virtual
  - 7 in-person

#### AFTERNOON

- In-Person World Cafe:
  - 5 presenters

**Evening:** Gallery tour and ARTivity workshop at the Ottawa Art Gallery

### Day 3

#### MORNING

- Welcome Remarks from *Carleton U*
- Keynote Speaker: *Dr. Ian Graham*
- LSBU: UK Perspective on Research Impact

#### AFTERNOON

- *Evidence for Democracy* workshop
- Group reflections & closing remarks





# Feedback

The feedback survey was sent out the week after the annual meeting. In total, 24 English and 4 French responses were received.



## Demographics (In Person & Virtual)

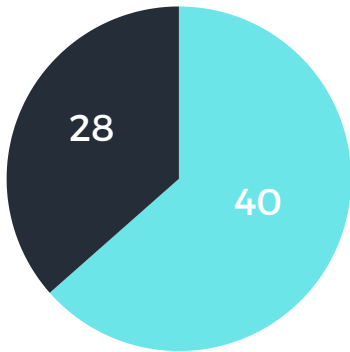


Fig. 2: Total # of attendees at the AGM (40) vs total # of survey respondents (28)

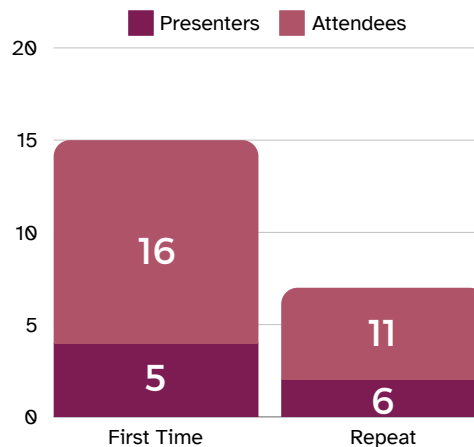


Fig. 3: First time attendees vs repeat attendees

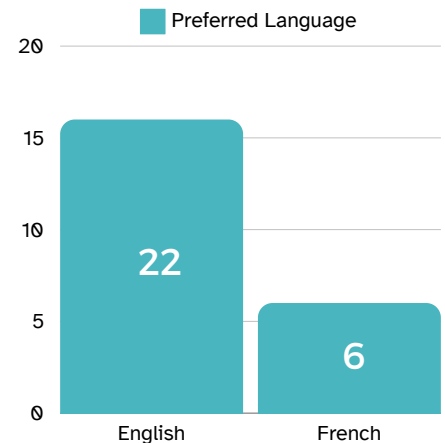


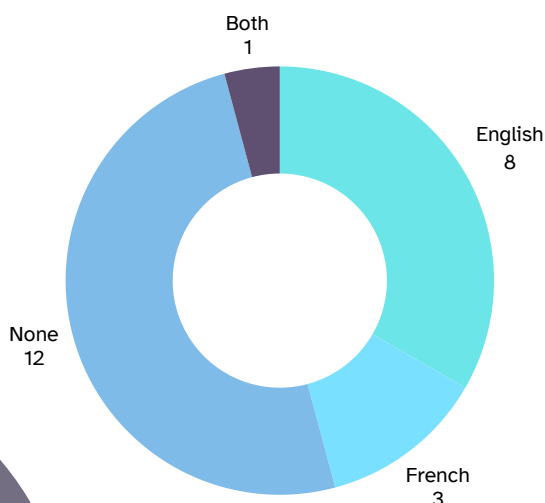
Fig. 4: # of attendees indicating their preferred language of communication

RIC's membership grew again in 2024 and all six new members from this year attended the annual meeting. This included The Royal, CIGI, U Saint Paul, U Bristol, U Laval, and Waypoint. We also had more bilingual members attend this year in comparison to previous years.



## Bilingualism & Zoom Interpretation

- Simultaneous live interpretation for both English and French were provided on Zoom on Day 1 and 2 for all attendees
- French slide decks were shown alongside English slide decks on Day 1 and 2
- There were 1 bilingual and 2 French presentations



90% of the attendees found the Zoom interpretation easy to use and enjoyed the bilingualism provided at the 2024 AGM, but here were a few suggested improvements:

- A quick visual slide showing where to find the Interpretation button on the Zoom toolbar
- Give folks a few minutes to log on and get ready before presenters start speaking

Fig. 5: # of attendees using Zoom Interpretation for English or French

# Perceived Outcomes



## What Members Felt They Gained from the AGM

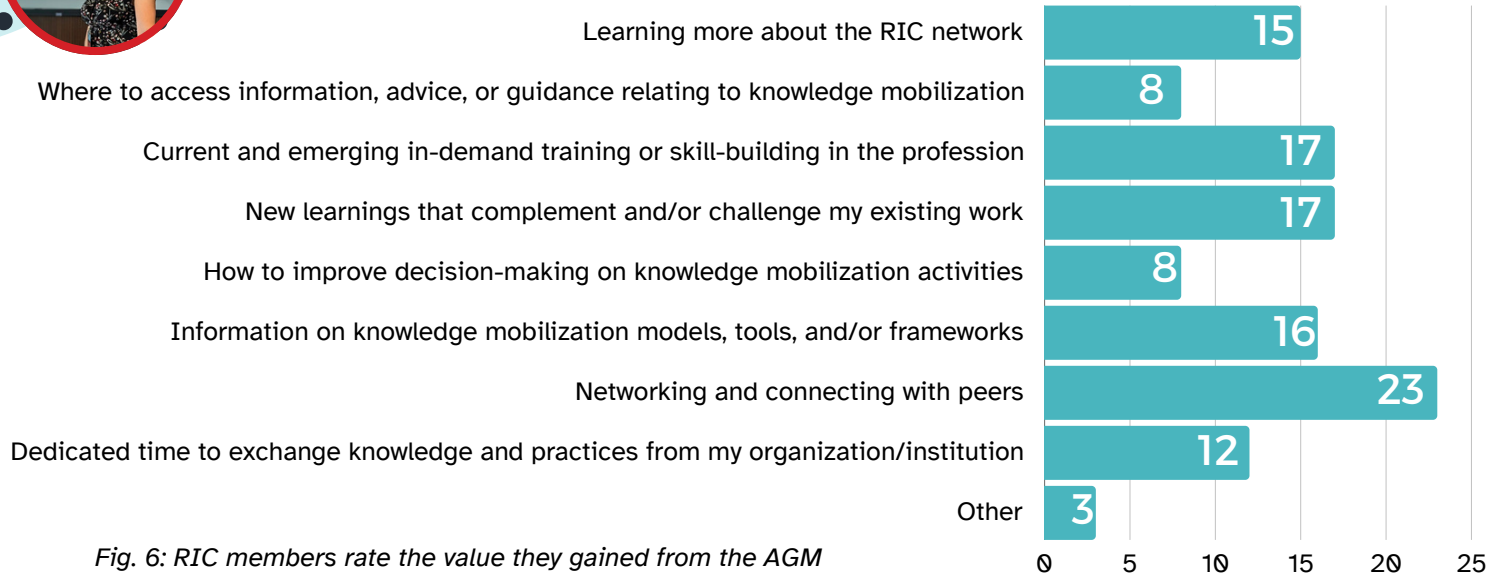


Fig. 6: RIC members rate the value they gained from the AGM

While attendees noted many valuable takeaways from the annual meeting, here were the top three:

- **Networking and connecting with peers:** By far, the top-rated comment we kept hearing from the attendees was fostering connections with other professionals working in the same space. One attendee said, “The greatest value was making and improving connections with RIC members in different industries. You never know what opportunities for collaboration will arise.” The annual meeting, being interactive and on a smaller scale, provided this dedicated time and space for members to truly invest in those relationships.
- **New learnings that complement and/or challenge existing work:** Attendees also felt the annual meeting provided inspiration and ideas for their own work. They noted highlights of what they learned from others and saved the information to share with their colleagues/teams upon return and planned to apply the new tools and resources they learned about for their own projects, initiatives, and strategies at their institutions/organizations. Unsurprisingly, the new learnings were often related to **current or emerging in-demand training or skill-building in the profession.**
- **Learning more about the RIC network:** Lastly, attendees felt a deep sense of community from being part of the RIC network. The AGM not only allowed them to convene together and foster further collaborations and networking, but also to “collectively hear about, and provide strategic input on, the strategic direction of the network and its committees for the following year.” An attendee remarked, “I felt this provided a sense of cohesion and that we were collectively moving in an agreed-upon direction.” Another attendee mentioned that they “felt a sense of belonging in a community that understands the goals of our office and the researchers at our institution. We are like-minded individuals who care deeply about our community and are committed to making a positive impact on society.”



# Other Key Takeaways

## Logistics

- **In-Person Format:** Attendees consistently mentioned the invaluable experience of attending the annual meeting in person versus hybrid or virtually. As one attendee noted, being in person meant “being fully present, focused, attentive to what was being said, and being able to respond [directly].” Attendees also noted that meeting other RIC members in person made it easier to build connections first and then maintain those relations over Zoom afterward rather than the other way around.
- **Programming:** Attendees enjoyed the structure of the meeting wherein the first day was focused on the network’s activities, the second day was on RIC member presentations, and the last day involved a hands-on workshop for professional development. In particular, the concurrent presentations in breakout rooms and the world café session were highly favoured.
- **Content:** Attendees also commented on the diversity of the perspectives heard throughout the annual meeting based on the presentation content. For instance, the keynote panel was noted as being crucial since it was transdisciplinary and across sectors. It was an example of a solution involving comprehensive, well-informed perspectives from all parties rather than focusing only on challenges in silos.
- **Timing:** Attendees also noted the timing of the meeting was perfect and to keep it the same in the future. They enjoyed the optional breakfast at 9 am and liked that the programming began at 10 am local time each day. They also liked that the days were not too long as we ended before 5 pm each day.



## Areas of Improvement

- **Bilingualism:** While some French support was provided (e.g. live interpretation and French slide decks), more concerted efforts still need to be made to make the annual meeting bilingual. Some suggestions include having more French-first sessions with francophone presenters, a mix of bilingual keynote speakers/panelists, and having a bilingual emcee host the meeting. Another suggestion was to work closely with the RIC Bilingualism/Francophone Committee to plan and solicit French-first content. Encouraging expression of both languages would also help, especially during the decision-making sessions.
- **Better integration of virtual attendees with in-person discussions:** RIC wanted to return to a fully in-person meeting this year. However, budget constraints from some of our RIC members prevented them from flying in and so the annual meeting became partially hybrid. While efforts were made to ensure meaningful virtual participation (e.g. virtual icebreaker, group activity, presentations, etc.), there were still limited opportunities for virtual attendees to participate in the in-person discussions.





# Testimonials



"I'm new to being involved with RIC, and wasn't sure what to expect. [...] It was as such a friendly, welcoming atmosphere, filled with people passionate about the work they are doing. I'm so happy I decided to come in person and to submit an abstract to present, too. [...] We are passionate about research making an impact - that's love. The RIC AGM demonstrates that love. And I am thrilled that 10 years later, I've become much more involved in RIC!"

"La participation en personne est imbattable. C'est une expérience riche et unique."

"The AGM helped me deepen my thinking, sharpen my skills, and build relationships that will be valuable in practical ways for my day-to-day work. Looking forward to next year already!"

"I valued the ability to meet many member representatives in person and establish those relationships so that I can reach out to them with questions or ideas to collaborate. I valued hearing examples of what other members are doing in KM."

"Attending the RIC annual meeting was truly enlightening. In just three days, I gained more practical insights than in the previous months combined. The event showcased the real-world application of KMB concepts and demonstrated the collective commitment to creating impact. This experience not only expanded my understanding but also helped me overcome personal barriers. Thank you for the amazing work, always!"

"I enjoyed attending virtually, but I was very aware that, had I been able to attend in person, I could have got so much more from the event. It was a little hard to organise travel from the UK, as we only joined a few months before the AGM. Attending virtually has given me a flavor of what is on offer and insight into the benefit of travelling to Canada for a future meeting."





# Acknowledgements



## Thank You

Research Impact Canada's 2024 annual meeting would not have been possible without our RIC host institutions. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Roberto Ortiz Nunez, Senior Knowledge Mobilization Advisor at the University of Ottawa and Caroline Flocari, Project Officer for Strategic Initiatives at Carleton University, for all their help in making this event a success.

A huge thanks as well to Sylvia Urbanik, Senior Knowledge Mobilization Specialist at Research Impact Canada, for emcng the annual meeting and leading the RIC Strategic Plan and Priorities.

Special thanks to Sandy Chan, Knowledge Mobilization Specialist at Research Impact Canada, for organizing the annual meeting.

Last but not least, thank you to David Phipps, Network Director, and Connie Tang, Director of Strategy and Business Development at Research Impact Canada, for your leadership.

## Report

- Author and Designer: Sandy Chan
- Photos: uOttawa Research and Innovation & Heather Young-Leslie (U Alberta)



## Conclusion

We would be remiss if we didn't thank all of our RIC members for your continued support and participation in our annual meetings year after year. It is because of you that this network exists as a wonderful community of practice to be and a place that thrives with genuine connections and impact!