



RESEARCH  
**IMPACT**  
CANADA

RÉSEAU **IMPACT**  
RECHERCHE  
CANADA

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2021**

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

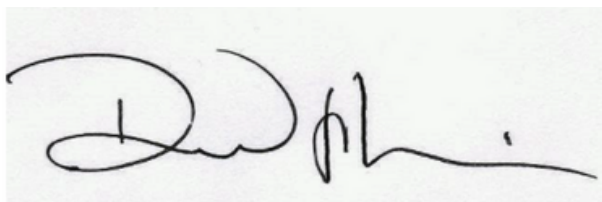
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This year has been filled with accomplishments and change for Research Impact Canada. Since our initial conception in 2006, we have now grown to 22 members, all adding diversity, depth, and expertise in different ways of connecting science to society. This is all thanks to the active participation of students, faculty, and staff in activities of the Network.

This past year, we welcomed three new members: Concordia University, Athabasca University, and a first non-university member, Ontario Shores, a hospital dedicated to mental health research and services.

Networks that maximize the societal impacts of research in a specific discipline are common worldwide. However, it is rare to have networks focused on institutional capacity for knowledge mobilization, agnostic of discipline. Research Impact Canada is only one of a few networks focused on research impact across disciplines and across sectors, making us trailblazers in the field of knowledge mobilization at the international level. While we have a long-standing relationship with the US-based network Advancing Research Impact in Society, this year we began a collaboration with a new network hosted at the University of Sheffield, the UK Policy Engagement Network.

Looking forward, our network has a national reputation for leadership in knowledge mobilization, and we are now furthering our network internationally. I am thrilled with the idea of seeing what the future holds for Research Impact Canada, to all those who participated to make the Network initiatives a success, thank you.



**David J. Phipps, PhD., MBA**

Network Director, Research Impact Canada; and  
Assistant VP Research Strategy & Impact, York University



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This report was prepared by Sylvia Urbanik, Knowledge Mobilization Specialist at Research Impact Canada.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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Welcomed 3 new institutions to the RIC Network, including our first non-academic member



Launched 2 online course modules for skills in Knowledge Mobilization



Launched the Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award



Co-hosted Summit 2021 with ARIS



Revamped our website and branding!

## WHO ARE WE?



- ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
- BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY
- CARLETON UNIVERSITY
- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
- KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
- MCMASTER UNIVERSITY
- MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
- ONTARIO SHORES
- SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
- UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON, UK
- UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
- UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
- UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
- UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
- UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL
- UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
- UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
- UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
- UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
- YORK UNIVERSITY

We are a pan-Canadian network of **22 institutions** with a goal of maximizing the **impact** of academic research for the public good



**22**  
Institutions  
and counting

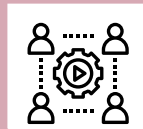


**60+**  
People dedicated  
to Research Impact



**15**  
Years of turning  
research into action

## WHAT DO WE DO?



**Build institutional support** to encourage collaboration to connect research, policies, and innovations

Help researchers and partners to **demonstrate the impact of their research** excellence



Facilitate a **community of practice** by developing and sharing best practices, services, and tools

# WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN 2021?

*Initiatives to build knowledge mobilization capacity and value engaged research*

## **Resources and course modules**

Growing our online resource repository of webinars and tools has been a primary focus of 2021. Most notably, two e-learning modules for our Knowledge Mobilization course, [Accessible & Inclusive Event Planning for Knowledge Mobilization](#) and [Infographic Design for Knowledge Mobilization](#), were launched.

We are in the process of creating additional e-learning modules. One of these exciting new e-learning modules will allow various audiences to gain a better insight into why and how partnerships can be beneficial for knowledge mobilization, as well as how partnerships can be initiated, navigated, and assessed. Our Storytelling and Data course will highlight real-life examples of how storytelling can be applied in different contexts, along with data visualization principles, to achieve significant impact with research. Look for these in 2022!

## Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award

In 2021, RIC and the Professional Development Committee launched an award for graduate students, which recognizes research that follows engaged scholarship principles and aims to increase audience awareness. The *Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship Award* recognizes students who have contributed to engaged scholarship, co-creation of knowledge, or knowledge translation.

Five outstanding graduate students were awarded the Research Impact Canada Engaged Scholarship in 2021, celebrating their dedication to conducting engaged research:

- Brady Reid, Ph. D. Rural Studies, University of Guelph
- Perri Tutelman, Ph. D. Clinical Psychology, Dalhousie University
- Andrew Kadykalo, Ph. D. Biology, Environmental and Interdisciplinary Science, University of Ottawa
- Emily De Sousa, MA Geography, University of Guelph,
- Kimiya Missaghi, MA Law and Legal Studies, Carleton University

The 2022 edition of the Award is underway. Stay tuned on RIC's Twitter and LinkedIn to learn about this year's winners!

# WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

This past year, we welcomed three new institutions to our Network



## Athabasca University

As Canada's only open and online university, Athabasca University is committed to minimizing barriers to knowledge and maximizing opportunities for research uptake and impact within and beyond the academy. Knowledge mobilization support is available to assist researchers with integrating engagement strategies into larger plans for research, in addition to initiatives such as an online micro-course on "Designing your Research for Impact."



## Concordia University

Concordia is a next-generation university that dares to reimagine the future of academia. Concordia's community-based research capacity has grown substantially in the last decade, via initiatives such as Explore Concordia and the 4th Space, a public and virtual agora steered to developing open dissemination through participation and experience.



**Ontario Shores**  
Centre for Mental Health Sciences

## Ontario Shores

Ontario Shores is one of four standalone mental health hospitals in the province of Ontario, offering specialized services to more than 8,500 users annually. The research program at Ontario Shores largely focuses on advancing service users' engagement and aims to maintain a culture of innovation and discovery. Leveraging RIC networks, resources, and expertise, Ontario Shores will develop an integrated knowledge mobilization model that directly engages clinicians, services users and their families, and the communities that we serve.

# RIC COMMITTEES

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**Research Impact Canada's activities and strategy is thanks to our engaged volunteer committees, which have continued to grow and take on new projects in 2022.**

## Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee operates to support capacity building and member engagement across the network and within institutions. Last year, the committee launched the inaugural RIC Award in 2021, supporting impactful scholarship across our member institutions and recognizing future leaders in engaged research.

York University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and University of Winnipeg also partnered to develop a summer knowledge mobilization course, MobilizeU, offering an accessible and extensive introduction to knowledge mobilization for researchers, leaders, students, trainees and staff at RIC member universities and beyond. The committee will further expand our efforts for 2022, as many members have identified interest in collaboration and engagement.

## Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee presented the Phase II evaluation report in 2021. RIC's evaluation ninja, Steven MacGregor (now Dr. MacGregor!) conducted in-depth interviews with RIC members to establish how activities were being used within the network. This resulted in three forward-thinking recommendations for the future of RIC, with an onset of actions in 2022:

- 1) A RIC member should present at each Dr RIC to help members learn about each other's work (already underway!)
- 2) RIC should support tools and training for developing an institutional knowledge mobilization strategy (already underway!)
- 3) Importantly, the network should develop a strategy to actively raise awareness about the value of participating in RIC-related activities with each institution's senior leadership



## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee transitioned to a working group in 2021, mainly providing support to the operational team. Members were involved in re-vamping the RIC website and branding, building on previous designs and expanding our colour palette in a bold new way. As the committee winds down, we'd like to thank all the committee members for their work over the years.

## Bilingualism Working Group

This year, RIC created the Bilingualism Working Group to ensure equity and representation of both official languages in its governance and operations. The Working Group developed an Action Plan for 2021, defining the guiding principles and efforts to be undertaken in the short- and long-term. This plan considered the various realities of member institutions by:

- Including French language services in policies and procedures
- Building bilingual capacity
- Communicating in both French and English, and
- Integrating Francophones into RIC governance structures

RIC has also actively implemented measures to further promote bilingualism within the network, such as hiring bilingual staff members, ensuring simultaneous interpretation for events, and finding tools and resources with French as its original language. Efforts to promote bilingualism within the network to develop an inspiring model for bilingual organizations are well underway in 2022.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Thinking Group

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) are crucial to successful knowledge mobilization. Some of the brokers in RIC member institutions are pushing the reasoning and reflection around KMb and EDI, further exploring the relationship between both. The thinking group gathers KMb workers and EDI folks from RIC member institutions who identify as women, racialized, LGBTQ+, Indigenous, and living with visible and invisible disabilities. The group is in its early days, but members have begun conversations around the intersections between EDI and KMb, EDI in RIC operations, and EDI for KMb in a Canadian context. We look forward to more insightful conversations in 2022!

# ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

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## Supporting the Future Skills Centre

Our partnership with the [Future Skills Centre](#) has strengthened in the past year, with RIC providing workshops and delivering individualized assistance to FSC's projects of innovative skills programs across Canada. We've directly supported 30+ projects so far with knowledge mobilization and are working on an interactive knowledge mobilization goal-setting tool for community organizations, skills practitioners, and researchers that will be launched in 2022. We have also delivered workshops on how to assess stakeholder engagement activities and creating compelling infographics. We look forward to expanding our work with FSC in the upcoming years and expanding on how we engage and mobilize knowledge in the skills sector!



## International Partnerships

### Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS)

Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) is a US-based network focused on building capacity for broader impacts. RIC and ARIS have sponsored joint activities such as conference presentations and developing a knowledge mobilization toolkit. In 2021, RIC and ARIS co-hosted the Summit (Research Impact & Public Engagement at the Intersection of the Future Workforce), focused on broader impacts on emerging technologies, workforce readiness, diverse and inclusive communities in STEM careers, and the changing workforce. Summit materials are available online.

### University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)

The University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) "is a community of UK universities and policy professionals committed to increasing the impact of research on public policy." They reached out in 2021 to learn about RIC and how we manage a pan-Canadian network with multiple university members, with the idea to establish the basis for future collaborations. Look for more on RIC/UPEN collaborations in 2022!

# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT US

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"RIC members understand the language and the complexities of knowledge mobilization, and so it provides a balanced perspective. It also provides me with new and different ways to think about things and approach my work."

- Cathy Malcolm Edwards, Carleton University

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*"It [the Network] is ensuring that we are still relevant to our communities and that the faculty members who may not have engaged with community and who are wanting to . . . have the support and the tools and resources they need."*

- Deepak Gupta, Kwantlen Polytechnic University,

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"One of our goals [for new services] is to make sure that people are thinking more broadly about research impact. And one of the ways we'll support that is by continuing to be involved with Research Impact Canada."

- Thane Chambers, University of Alberta

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*"Trust is probably one of the main added values of the network, with the expertise and the sharing... We're from such different institutions which most of the time are in competition. Only for that, I think we should win a prize."*

- Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal

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# NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK!

Throughout 2021, our communications working group and RIC team have worked with adHOME Creative to give our website and brand a forward-thinking refresh. The re-vamp included expanding our color palette, re-organizing the content to make it more intuitive and accessible, and creating a searchable repository of tools and resources related to knowledge mobilization and impact. In the upcoming months, we will continue to find more opportunities to highlight member-driven content from across Canada and abroad on our website.

## 2022 and Beyond

In 2022, RIC is focused on nation-wide initiatives, bringing together members of the network and beyond. Coming up soon, we will be hosting the [Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum 2022](#) on June 13-17. This will be a blend of events delivered online and local events delivered in person, and pursuing our work on questions of equity, diversity, inclusion, and bilingualism by reaching out to communities from coast to coast.

We will continue our international engagement with UPEN and ARIS and will support emerging engaged scholars across Canada via the RIC Engaged Scholarship Award. Through ongoing tool development and capacity building for RIC members and Future Skills Centre projects, we are maximizing the broader impacts of research for the benefit of all Canadians. And finally (fingers crossed) we will meet in Winnipeg in person at our annual meeting in September 2022.

In short, 2022 will see Research Impact Canada continue to build capacity for knowledge mobilization in Canada and we will work to create even more value for our members. Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn, check our website for frequent updates and participate in our activities to help us create benefits for the research and skills-development ecosystems in Canada.

# GET IN TOUCH!

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Here are ways to stay connected and up to date about RIC activities.



## Research Impact Canada Website

Check out the [RIC Website](#) for our latest blog posts, journal clubs, knowledge mobilization resources and more!



## Newsletter

RIC's monthly newsletter highlights news from the network and shares opportunities upcoming events and opportunities in knowledge mobilization. **Sign up to stay up to date!**



## Social Media

Connect with us on our social media – we're active on both [LinkedIN](#) and [Twitter](#)!

# JOIN THE NETWORK!

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Interested in becoming a part of the Research Impact Canada Network? RIC is seeking new academic members who are 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 a 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](mailto:info@researchimpact.ca)!