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RÉSEAU **IMPACT**
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STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-2027



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This RIC Strategic Plan outlines how the network will expand as a leader in knowledge mobilization between 2024 to 2027. The plan is the result of a collaborative effort of members of the network, including insights from our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Thinking Group, Implementation Committee, and Member Engagement Committee. This plan was prepared by Sylvia Urbanik (Senior Knowledge Mobilization Specialist) and Bissy Waariyo (Acting Director of Operations) on behalf of Research Impact Canada.

An accompanying workplan will outline priority areas and actions that will be implemented over the next three years. The actions in the workplan will foster a member-driven approach to collectively working towards network goals.

Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

RIC is committed to principles of EDIA, and we strive to enhance EDIA in our approach to research, knowledge mobilization, and partnerships within our network and the public. We recognize that power differentials within academic institutions and societies reproduce systems of inequity, so we support new ways of working that benefit diverse audiences. We respect and value the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge systems and are dedicated to continuously learning best practices to engage in mutually beneficial relationships of knowledge co-creation with Indigenous communities.

WHO WE ARE

Research Impact Canada (RIC) is a pan-Canadian network dedicated to helping universities and other organizations maximize the impact of their research for the public good.

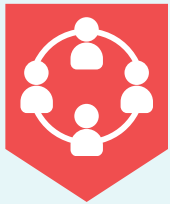
We are a national leader in helping universities and other organizations create value and impact from knowledge. Through a focus on sharing best practices, co-developing resources, and delivering training in knowledge mobilization, we help build institutional capacity to turn knowledge into action.

We are an open and collaborative bilingual network of 30+ institutions across Canada and the UK. We work with academic and non-academic partners across a variety of organizations - including researchers, research administrative staff, academics, students, faculty, public sector leaders, and projects dedicated to skills development.



WHAT WE DO

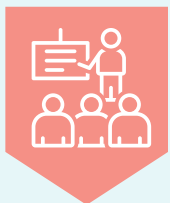
We help build institutional and organizational capacity for research impact by:



Facilitating a national bilingual community of practice where members have opportunities to engage in active dialogue, share best practices, and contribute unique content in their areas of expertise.



Developing and sharing tools and resources that help create impactful research and meaningful engagement.



Delivering training in key knowledge mobilization areas, such as impact planning, compelling communications, data visualization, effective stakeholder engagement, impact evaluation, and more.

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Bridging the gap between research and society:

Knowledge mobilization ensures that valuable research findings and insights are effectively communicated, translated, and applied in real-world settings, maximizing their impact on society. We aim to ensure that research benefits diverse populations, including those historically excluded from academic research.

Empowering evidence-based decision-making:

Knowledge mobilization enables informed decisions based on reliable research evidence, and is inclusive of people with diverse expertise and lived experiences, leading to effective strategies, policies, and practices.

Strengthening equitable community engagement and partnerships:

Our work helps foster meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations between research institutions, non-profit organizations, community groups, and government entities, encouraging an environment for collaboratively addressing societal challenges that embeds equitable and inclusive approaches.

Empowering positive social change:

Knowledge mobilization contributes to addressing pressing social issues, improving social services, and empowering communities to make evidence-informed decisions that lead to positive social change and improved quality of life for Canadians.

HOW WE WORK

The following are our key principles



Reciprocity

We share what we know, and we learn from each other. There is reciprocity among member institutions and between academic and non-academic research partners.



Access

We aim to reduce barriers to participation in the RIC Network. We strive to reach diverse audiences and provide opportunities to inclusively participate in English and French.



Member-Driven Governance

In all aspects of governance, it is the voices of our members who are encouraged, valued, respected. Our governance structures are all designed to support the effective function of our organization and provide greater value for members.



Financial Accountability

Through strong governance structures and transparent financial decision-making practices, we demonstrate our accountability to RIC members.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We empower diverse forms of knowledge and lived experiences. We implement actions to improve EDIA in our work and remain open to learning from our network and the public to evolve our EDIA practices.

OUR PRIORITIES

Below are our priorities over the next few years.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF NETWORK MEMBERS

- Developing regional and language focused programming
- Developing capacity building resources
- Telling the stories of institutional successes
- Fostering network connections and collaborations

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION PROFESSION

- Growing and diversifying our membership
- Advocacy for a pan-Canadian knowledge mobilization strategy
- Recognition of knowledge mobilization excellence
- Contributing to regional and national conferences

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Connecting impact networks internationally
- Maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships
- Identifying emerging partnerships

LOOKING AHEAD

Research Impact Canada is recognized as a leader in building institutional capacity for knowledge mobilization and research impact, and our members are the driving force behind our success. As we look ahead to the next three years, our goal is to expand our network to include more diverse members from universities, colleges, hospitals, and other research organizations. This growth will foster collaboration with non-profit organizations, businesses, and government offices across Canada, benefiting communities nationwide. Through knowledge mobilization, RIC will contribute to better-informed business practices, improved social services, and evidence-based policy development, ultimately benefiting all Canadians.