



Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)

# Knowledge Mobilization Plan 2021-2024

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## For more than 20 years, the CRDCN research community has made significant contributions to knowledge mobilization.

CRDCN's knowledge mobilization plan supports a systematic approach to leveraging the CRDCN research community's expertise and Statistics Canada microdata for three main purposes, which are aligned with long-standing priorities for CRDCN:

- (1) to contribute to the advancement of research
- (2) to support evidence-based policy, programs and practice
- (3) to provide benefits to Canadians

CRDCN's knowledge mobilization plan presents a framework for monitoring, measuring and evaluating key outputs, outcomes and impacts that are appropriate to the role of CRDCN in the research data ecosystem. The framework draws on existing CRDCN initiatives and integrates complementary activities to maximize CRDCN's knowledge mobilization capacity.

### Contributing to the advancement of research

CRDCN contributions to research reflect the capacity of the CRDCN research community of more than 2,100 faculty members and students across Canada. Outputs, outcomes and impacts being monitored, measured and evaluated for CRDCN knowledge mobilization activities that contribute to the advancement of research include:

- Articles published in academic journals – number of articles, number of journals, disciplines
- Academic paper presentations – number of presentations, disciplines, regional/national/international
- Research collaboration – co-authored academic articles and author affiliations
- Training – CRDCN training offerings, attendee numbers/affiliations/satisfaction, CRDCN 101

CRDCN has been providing training and supporting the next generation of highly qualified personnel in data analysis and evidence-based policy making for more than 20 years.

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## Supporting evidence-based policy, programs and practice

The challenge of defining and capturing the ways that research contributes to evidence-based policy, programs and practice is shared by research organizations and post-secondary institutions, as it has become increasingly important to demonstrate how research is used to inform decision-making. Outputs, outcomes and impacts being monitored, measured and evaluated for CRDCN knowledge mobilization activities that support evidence-based policy, programs and practice include:

- Researcher reports and presentations to government, non-profit and social enterprise audiences/sectors – number of presentations, disciplines, sectors reached
- CRDCN liaison activities with government, non-profit and social enterprise audiences/sectors – number of liaison events/outputs, participant numbers, sectors
- Research-policy collaborative projects and documented use of research – number of formal collaborative projects, collaborator sectors
- Trainee career path trajectories – CRDCN-trained alumni numbers, sectors, locations

## Providing benefits to Canadians

Demonstrating the benefits of publicly funded research – like demonstrating that research contributes to evidence-based policy, program and practice – is important for securing funds for research from government budgets by demonstrating and defending the value of research as a public good. One significant challenge is that benefits to Canadians that are directly attributable to a particular research activity (beyond advancing research and contributing to evidence-based decision-making, described above) are in most cases difficult to effectively capture through metrics. The following outputs, outcomes and impacts are being monitored, measured and evaluated to serve as a proxy for CRDCN knowledge mobilization activities that provide benefits to Canadians:

- CRDCN public-facing events – number of events, media outreach activities, social media activity
- Media coverage of CRDCN research – number/spectrum of local, regional, national and international media stories and their audiences/reach
- Students trained using CRDCN data – Number of students, disciplines, affiliations, regions
- Populations served by CRDCN policy reports – policies/programs reflected in collaborations, sectors involved, estimates of populations served

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## CRDCN knowledge mobilization – Iterative and informed by research and practice

CRDCN's knowledge mobilization plan and activities draw on several established understandings in the field of knowledge mobilization research and practice. First, although there are different approaches to knowledge mobilization, collaboration among stakeholders in developing, sharing and implementing knowledge is widely recognized as a key component of the most successful knowledge mobilization initiatives. Second, while knowledge mobilization metrics are useful for reporting purposes and to improve knowledge mobilization efforts, CRDCN recognizes that such metrics capture only a fraction of the activity and contributions of a research community. Third, it is important to include narrative elements in describing these contributions to help convey the kinds of nuances that are not captured by metrics.

Knowledge mobilization for CRDCN takes the form of an ongoing, iterative cycle that supports collaboration related to: (i) research undertaken by CRDCN researchers that may be of interest to government, non-profit and social enterprise stakeholders to inform policy, programs and practice; and (ii) government, not-profit and social enterprise stakeholders' policy and program priorities that may be aligned with researcher interests. CRDCN's knowledge mobilization plan enhances and extends the existing knowledge mobilization efforts of our researchers and stakeholders in ways that increase the collective strengths of CRDCN researchers and our stakeholder communities.