Employment and Social Development Canada
Emploi et Développement social Canada

Service Canada

Research at ESDC

Canadian Research Data Centre Network

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Research Landscape at ESDC

- ESDC's mandate is to help Canadians successfully navigate through life's transitions, to create opportunities for all Canadians to participate in and benefit from economic growth and to transform services for Canadians.

Because of its size and the breadth of its mandate, ESDC's research needs are vast.

- Research undertaken across the organization is essential to ensuring a solid evidence base to design and deliver policies, programs, and services that support the Department's mandate and strategic priorities.

- The Research function aligns with ESDC's decentralized model of policy/program/service responsibilities taking into account the independence of branches across the Portfolio which determine their research needs and priorities and fund research projects accordingly.

- While this decentralized model allows for integration of research into branch priorities and for depth and breadth of research, its scope and volume necessitates a strong governance to ensure horizontal coordination across the Department.

- The **Research Planning & Coordination Team** provides horizontal co-ordination in research planning and approvals to develop the Departmental Research Plan (DRP) and supports implementation of ESDC's Strategic Framework for Research. Contact Us: EDSC.NC.DGPSS-RECHERCHE-RESEARCH.SSPB.NC.ESDC@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Annex A: Overview of ESDC Research & Knowledge Development Activities

ESDC Strategic Framework for Research

❖The **ESDC Strategic Framework for Research**, established in December 2019, describes the department's research governance and planning process.

The Framework:

- Ensures consistency in the process to support research in ESDC - strives to balance structure and flexibility.
- Ensures horizontal co-ordination and awareness of activities throughout the Department.
- Facilitates the preparation of an annual DRP.
- Provides tools and guidelines to make it easier to engage stakeholders, disseminate research, and promote ethical practices.

Research Planning Process and Annual DRP

- A **DRP** is produced annually that identifies and describes strategic priorities, research themes and needs, as well as research projects planned and ongoing in a given year.

- The annual research planning process provides an opportunity to take stock of research results and to identify and validate new research needs in line with current and emerging priorities.

- Moving forward, we will develop the DRP every two years instead of annually, recognizing that our research themes tend to remain stable from year-to-year and that many projects are multi-year.

The development of an annual DRP is an effort to capture and reflect the overall ESDC research agenda.
A consolidated research plan supports collaboration and awareness of research across the Portfolio and it aims to eliminate duplication, foster partnerships and leverage existing data and resources where possible.

Research Themes and Alignment with ESDC's Priorities

Research Themes and Priorities

Labour Market Outcomes and Pressures
- Recent and future developments in labour market needs

Skills and Changing Nature of Work
- Automation, addressing skills gaps and disruptions in the workplace including climate change

Fair, Safe, Healthy and Productive Workplaces
- Labour standards, employment equity, temporary foreign workers and the unskilled labour force

Access to Post-Secondary Education
- Financial aid, student outcomes, financial literacy

Families and Children
- The challenges facing families including the quality and impact of child care on families; single-parent families

Poverty and Inequality
- Canadians most vulnerable to income equality

Community Development
- The impact of non-profit organizations in communities

Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities
- Education, skills and labour market impacts related to adults and children with disabilities

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of Black, Racialized and Vulnerable Groups
- Understanding barriers faced by Canadians in vulnerable circumstances in education and the workplace

Research Informing Reconciliation
- Data gathering and analysis of characteristics of Canadian indigenous populations

Seniors
- Social and economic issued faced by Canada's aging populations

Service

Optimize Service Delivery Outcomes
- Characteristics, evolving needs and preferences of clients

Innovate in Service Delivery and Design
- Innovative approaches across service channels, digitalization, and automated processes enabling safe and service experience

Anticipate and Effectively Manage Risk and Opportunities to Service Delivery
- Program integrity, future of service delivery

Research: Strategic and Service Policy Branch

SOCIAL POLICY DIRECTORATE

The **Social Research Division** is responsible for developing evidence to support the policy and program development agenda in the area of economic security, aging society and persons with disabilities.

Director: Patrick Bussiere (patrick.bussiere@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

ECONOMIC POLICY DIRECTORATE

The **Labour Market and Skills Research Division** provides evidence to inform policies and programs on labour market and skills issues. In particular, the division is responsible for assessing recent and future occupational labour market imbalances in Canada and leads Canada's participation in international assessments of youth and adult skills.

Director: Bruno Rainville (bruno.rainville@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

SERVICE POLICY AND STRATEGY DIRECTORATE

The **Service Research Division** develops evidence to improve our understanding of current and future characteristics and needs of Service Canada clients as well as on the effectiveness of various service delivery channels and on the effective anticipation and management of risks and opportunities to service delivery.

A/Director: Stephane Gascon (stephane.gascon@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)