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NEWS RELEASE

Major Investment to Support Data Access

The Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) awarded \$14.5 million by SSHRC and CIHR

Montréal – The Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) have renewed their financial support to the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) until 2021 by awarding a directed grant of \$14.5M.

The announcement was made this morning in Saguenay by the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue.

The Network arms researchers with the data to explore and analyze trends and issues that touch virtually every aspect of Canadian life. In 2015, over 1,600 researchers have accessed one of the 27 facilities located across the country to examine issues such as population aging, child development, low income and inequality, Aboriginal health, and economic integration of immigrants.

CRDCN Executive Director, Martin Taylor, is delighted by this new grant: “Since 2005, SSHRC and CIHR support has been vital for the Network’s development. This renewed funding will enable the CRDCN to advance its mission and capitalize on Statistics Canada data to address research and policy issues of high priority for Canadians.”

This major research infrastructure is a partnership between Canadian universities and Statistics Canada supported by funding agencies to facilitate access to Statistics Canada’s confidential microdata, including census, social and health surveys, as well as an increasing number of administrative data files.

Byron Spencer, the Network’s Principal Investigator and McMaster Professor of Economics, sees the future vitality and impact of the CRDCN strongly tied to analysing administrative data collected by government and business organizations and to linking these files to the census and survey data already available through the Network. Spencer says “this will allow researchers to gain new insight on major social and health issues and trends in Canadian society and thereby inform public policy in ways not previously possible.”

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