



Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN)

Training Plan 2021-2024

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CRDCN has developed a training plan to build on its strength as a key partner to fill gaps and complement existing training

Providing training and supporting the next generation of highly qualified personnel in data analysis and evidence-based policy making has remained central to CRDCN's vision and mission. In recent years, in the context of the evolving data ecosystem, this training has in some ways become more critical than ever. CRDCN has developed a training plan to build on its strength as a key partner to fill gaps and complement existing training from partners such as universities and academic libraries, Statistics Canada and local Research Data Centres (RDCs), government departments, scholarly societies and graduate studies associations, software partners and other organizations in the research data ecosystem.

CRDCN's role in training and collaborating with training partners

To inform CRDCN's training plan, an overview of past offerings was used to identify the following categories of existing training as well as gaps for members of the CRDCN research community:

- software;
- statistical methods;
- data management and reproducibility;
- mixed methods (involving statistical analysis);
- Statistics Canada datasets;
- data/access continuum;
- using the RDCs;
- knowledge mobilization and policy communications; and
- research data career pathways (including internships/mentorships).

Using these training categories, CRDCN is expanding on existing training partnerships and exploring prospective partnerships at the following three levels:



Platform/promotion: CRDCN communications channels are used to promote training provided by partners that would be of interest to the CRDCN research community. CRDCN may also be able to lend its delivery platform (e.g. webinar platform for virtual events, campus or event space for in-person events) for hosting the training. Examples

include instructional sessions on software, data management, RDC datasets, or RDC data analysis that are valuable for members of the CRDCN research community. Platform/promotion work will generally not involve input from the CRDCN on content (this differentiates it from facilitation/initiation).

2

Facilitation/initiation: CRDCN identifies areas of training provided by partners where it can assist in tailoring training to be most valuable to both the CRDCN research community and training partner. CRDCN communications channels are used to promote the training and CRDCN will likely lend its delivery platform (e.g. webinar platform for virtual events, campus or event space for in-person events) for hosting the training. Examples include partnering for training in local RDCs (and across the Network) or with the Data Liberation Initiative, and training tailored for projects in which CRDCN is a collaborative partner.

3

Programming/production: CRDCN leads and/or closely collaborates with a training partner on programming and production for training offerings. CRDCN communications channels are used to promote the training and CRDCN will likely use its delivery platform (e.g. webinar platform for virtual events, campus or event space for in-person events) for hosting the training. Examples include training that is provided as part of a CRDCN webinar series and annual conference, as well as training that supports emerging scholars (such as the National Policy Challenge). This is resource-intensive and is reserved for training that is critical to CRDCN strategy.

The levels of training partnership described above are intended to assist CRDCN in arranging training partnerships and considering capacity and timelines in making training offering decisions, plans and commitments.

Evaluating the effectiveness of CRDCN training offerings and annual training program

CRDCN has developed an evaluation framework for evaluating individual training offerings and for conducting an annual evaluation of its training program. Individual training offerings will be evaluated according to:

- active learner engagement in the training offering;
- instructional platform and delivery model;
- instructor/partner engagement with learners;
- instructor/partner training material;
- learner self-reporting on how well learning objectives were met; and
- learner self-reporting on likelihood of applying the training in their work.

CRDCN's training program as a whole will be evaluated annually according to assessment of scores of individual training offerings, lessons learned from particularly successful and unsuccessful training offerings, whether the training targets set at the beginning of the year were met, and analysis of training participation compared to relevant RDC researcher survey responses (e.g. research indicating the training needed, the number of publications using datasets for which CRDCN provided training offerings). The evaluation will inform decisions about CRDCN's training offerings and partnerships.

Invitation to prospective training partners

Contact CRDCN (info@crdcn.ca) if your organization provides training in areas that are relevant to the CRDCN research community and you wish to discuss training partnership with CRDCN.