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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Social and Health Statistics Research Makes the Big League**

The Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) is recognized as a major Canadian scientific initiative by the CFI

**Montréal** –The Canadian Foundation for Innovation has awarded \$5.9 million to the CRDCN over five years, 2017-2022, from its Major Science Initiatives Fund. The announcement was made this morning in Quebec City by the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science.

The CRDCN provides researchers the statistical data needed to conduct advanced analyses of major socio-economic and health trends and issues in Canada, including population aging, child development, social and economic inequality, determinants of health, and immigrant outcomes.

CRDCN Executive Director, Martin Taylor, commented that: “The MSI fund was created to support world-class level national research infrastructure; we are proud to be acknowledged as part of this unique group of research facilities in Canada.”

Hosted by McMaster University, the CRDCN is a partnership between a consortium of Canadian universities and Statistics Canada, co-funded by CIHR and SSHRC as well as the CFI. It facilitates access to Statistics Canada’s confidential microdata, including census, social and health surveys, as well as an increasing number of administrative data files.

In 2016, over 1,500 researchers accessed one of the 27 university-based facilities located across the country. Their findings advance our understanding of key research questions and inform critical areas of public policy.

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