



Réseau de recherche sur les données de santé du Canada
Health Data Research Network Canada

HDRN Canada Finance Committee

Terms of Reference



Introduction

Incorporated as a non-profit Corporation in 2020, Health Data Research Network Canada (HDRN Canada, the “Corporation”) connects individuals and organizations across the country to share expertise, identify opportunities for collaboration, and foster innovation in ways that respect public expectations and Indigenous data sovereignty. HDRN Canada is governed according to its Bylaws by a Board of Directors (the “Board”).

Purpose

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation, there shall be a standing Finance Committee.

Role

The role of the Finance Committee is to:

- Oversee and prepare any reports in respect of the financial position of the Corporation, including reviewing the full risk register, on a regular basis, and to report to the Board in respect of same;
- Liaise with the public accountant, if any, appointed to audit or review the Corporation; and
- Oversee and ensure compliance with all reporting obligations that may be imposed on the Corporation by any grant-maker or pursuant to any funding agreement or arrangement.

Accountability

The Finance Committee is a Committee of the HDRN Canada’s Board of Directors. At a frequency determined by the Board, the Finance Committee will provide to the Board an update of the status of its activities, and risks and opportunities identified in carrying out its mandate stated above.

The Treasurer, or such other director as the treasurer may appoint in his or her place, shall act as Chair to the Finance Committee, and shall report to the Board on a regular basis with regard to the actions of the Finance Committee.

The Treasurer is empowered to negotiate and enter in to any contract for services that may be required to assist with the management or oversight of the financial position of the Corporation, and any contract for services that may be required to fulfill the reporting obligations of the Corporation.

The Treasurer shall keep the Board fully apprised of any contracts for services between the Corporation and any third party.



Membership

Members will include those self-identified during Board recruitment as having financial skills sufficiently developed through education or experience to be members of the Finance Committee, at least one of whom should have a professional designation or chief financial officer experience or strategic financial experience. Special effort will be made to involve diverse members with perspectives and life experience across geography, language, culture ethnicity and other factors.

In accordance with the Bylaws, If the Corporation is required to have a public accountant, the Finance Committee shall be comprised of not less than three directors, a majority of whom are not officers or employees of the Corporation.

Members are not required to be a Board director or member to be a Finance Committee Member. The Finance Committee will provide guidance on the skills and competencies sought in its external members. The Scientific Director and CEO, with input from the Chair of the Finance Committee, will identify potential individuals for consideration by the Nominations Committee, not later than the last regularly scheduled committee meeting prior to the annual meeting of members.

The Nominations Committee will include selected external candidates in the Committee memberships that it recommends to the Board at its first meeting following the annual general meeting.

The Treasurer (or delegate) shall act as Chair to the Finance Committee.

The Scientific Director and CEO (or delegate) of the Corporation will attend meetings as a non-voting Observer. Where appropriate, and decided in conjunction with the Chair, select additional members of the Board or invited guests will attend Finance Committee meetings, for all or part of the agenda, as observers.

Membership terms are staggered and will include up to two renewable three- year terms. Members are listed in Appendix A.

Quorum

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members at the time of the meeting.

In the absence of quorum, it is at the Chair's discretion if the meeting should continue, with items for discussion and review circulated to members who were unable to attend.

Decision Making

Resolutions of the Committee require vote from a majority of Committee members at a duly constituted meeting of the Committee to pass.

In cases where consensus cannot be reached, a summary of the views presented will be provided to the HDRN Canada Board for consideration.



Meeting Frequency and Agenda

The Finance Committee will meet quarterly, at such time and at such place, or by Electronic Means, as the Finance Committee determines from time to time.

The meetings shall be planned by the Treasurer in consultation with the CEO and Scientific Director of HDRN Canada and the Chair of the Board.

Expectations and Obligations of Finance Committee Members

- Foster and contribute to open, collaborative and respectful discussions
- Read and review all meeting materials, and actively participate in all meetings, drawing on their own knowledge, expertise and experience to provide constructive advice to the Corporation
- Attend Finance Committee meetings and participate in teleconferences; members unable to attend a meeting will be provided action items and any documented decisions and will be encouraged to provide written feedback. If a member is absent for two or more meetings, the Chair may review with the member his/her continued membership in the Finance Committee, with resignation being one potential outcome. Any committee member may be removed by Board Resolution.
- At the beginning of each meeting, the Chair will ask members to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Should a real or perceived conflict of interest arise, the member must disclose this conflict to the Chair whose responsibility it is to ensure conflicts are appropriately managed.

Administration

Secretariat support for the Finance Committee will be provided by HDRN Canada staff. Action items and decisions made (if any) will be captured; detailed meeting minutes will not be kept. The Chair and members shall serve without remuneration. Travel expenses for in-person meetings of the Finance Committee will be paid by HDRN Canada, as per HDRN Canada policies.

Membership and this Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Amendment: The Board may amend this policy.

Approval Date: November 24, 2021

Last Review:

Last Revision: October 26, 2021



Appendix A: Membership

Member	Role	Contact	Term (start and end date)
Chris Power	Chair	902-547-2081	2020-01-10
Robert Bell	Member	647-334-9410	2021-05-20
Guy Bujold	Member	613-297-1823	2020-01-10
Christina Weise	Member	431-276-5466	2021-05-20