HDRN Canada 

Scientific Director and CEO’s Report

September 15 2022



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**Overview:** The first section of this report highlights major initiatives and accomplishments since the last Board meeting in February 2022, major new milestones for the coming quarter, and anticipated challenges. Following this overview, the remainder of the document offers additional details on areas of significant investment and / or importance to HDRN Canada’s mission.

# Section 1: Highlights

### Key progress since the last board meeting:

* DASH has implemented the DASH Data Access Request (DAR) Form in the DASH website portal. This will further streamline the access request process for researchers by removing the burden of having to complete multiple local DAR forms.
* HDRN Canada’s 18-month report was submitted to CIHR in July. The final version of the report is attached to the Board package for your information.
* Submission of application to CIHR’s Clinical Trials Fund for the HDRN Canada Pragmatic Trials Training Platform on July 12, 2022 (development of budget, facilitating 40+ letters of support and grant writing).
* HDRN Canada singed a MOU with the Population Health Research Network in Australia, focused on mutual learning and collaboration related to data access for multi-regional research. The announcement of this partnership has been made public on the HDRN Canada website.

### Major milestones for coming quarter

* A company, The Evidence Network, has been hired to conduct HDRN Canada’s interim evaluation. Work on the evaluation began in early August and will continue to the end of November when the report will be completed. Engagement activities with the Board will be held in September/October to gather input.
* HDRN Canada’s Public Advisory Council will be meeting in-person for the first time on October 17.
* Our Leads Team is meeting in-person on October 18-19 to discuss strategy and implementation of the Strategic Plan. This is the Team’s first in-person meeting since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
* The Privacy Team is developing two new resources for the DASH website:
* Guidelines for researchers with respect to addressing the differences between REB approval and privacy compliance.
* A set of requirements for developing a data sharing agreement with each HDRN Canada data centre.
* We created a new position for “Strategic Communications and External Funder Relations” and have hired a very experienced person into this role. She will be starting on September 19.
* We are a preparing a large grant for the Strategic Science Fund which will be submitted September 19.

### Anticipated and ongoing challenges

* A number of staff have moved on to new opportunities in recent months, including the Indigenous Data Team Lead, Administration and Finance Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Metadata Specialist, and Manager of Partnerships. These changes reflect widespread trends seen in Canada and the U.S. with employees seeking new opportunities once pandemic restrictions eased. HDRN Canada is working to fill vacancies as quickly as possible to ensure momentum is not lost.

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