

# NDRIO

New Digital  
Research Infrastructure  
Organization

# NOIRN

Nouvelle organisation  
d'infrastructure de  
recherche numérique

Supporting a World-Class, Collaborative &  
Competitive DRI Community in Canada

Organizational Overview

February 18, 2020

# Background

# Background & Purpose

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DRI and our ability to create, use and manage it are the currency of the future. An integrated and sustainable DRI ecosystem is critical to our continued global research competitiveness. It is also necessary in order to:

1. Attract and retain globally competitive talent
2. Build and sustain global research excellence
3. Increase the potential for game-changing research
4. Maintain our Canadian advantage in data analytics
5. Accelerate innovation and commercialization in the private sector
6. Enable better and more efficient public service delivery and decisions
7. Maximize our public investment in research

# Background & Purpose

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The 4 key elements of DRI are:

1. **Advanced Research Computing (ARC):** involving super computers that allow researchers to analyze massive amounts of data.
2. **Data Management (DM):** allowing researchers to find and access data.
3. **Research Software (RS):** enabling researchers to access and use data.
4. **Digital Network for Research & Education:** allowing researchers to share data and collaborate across Canada and around the world.

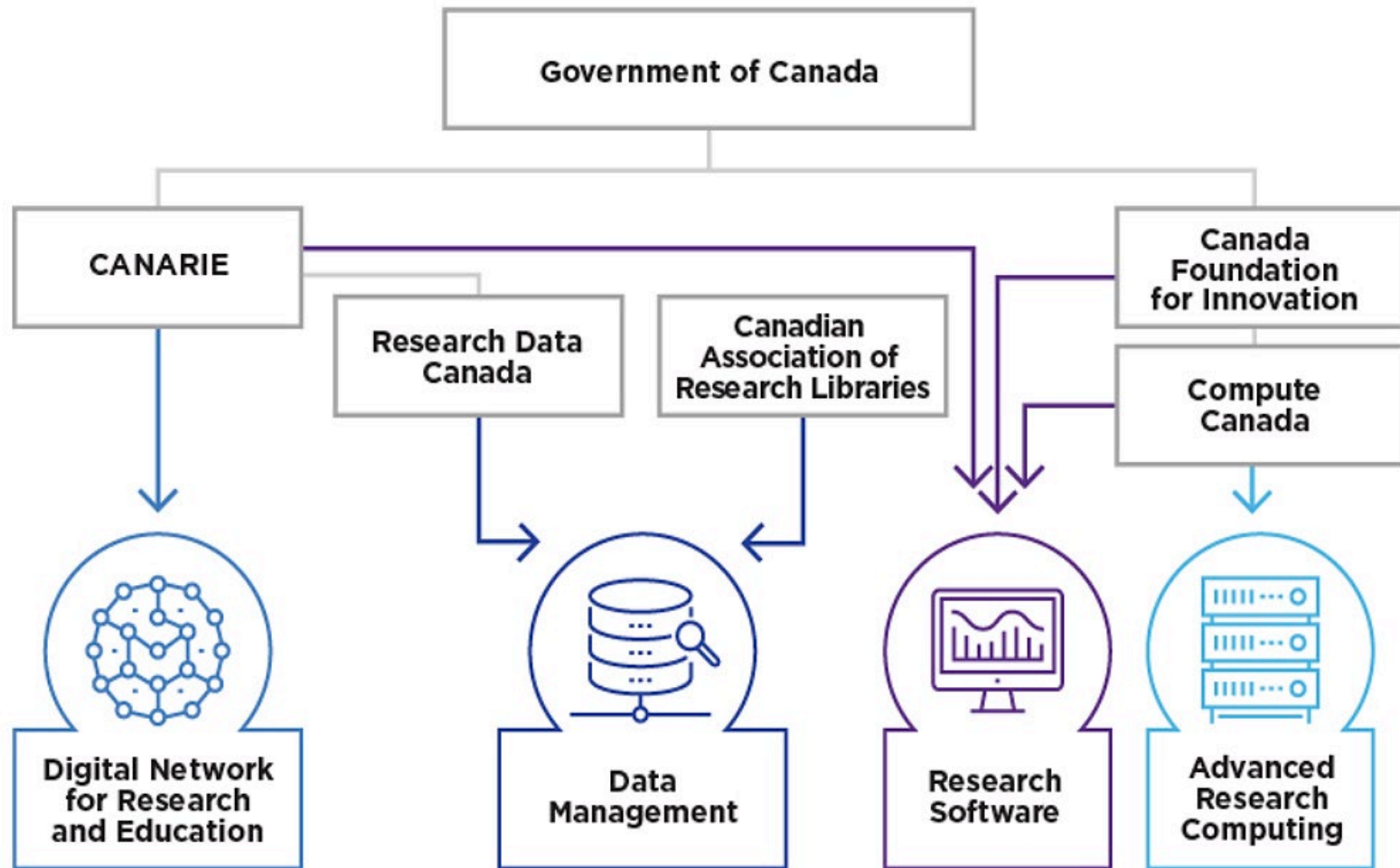
The 4 elements of DRI are supported by Cybersecurity and Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP).

# Background & Purpose

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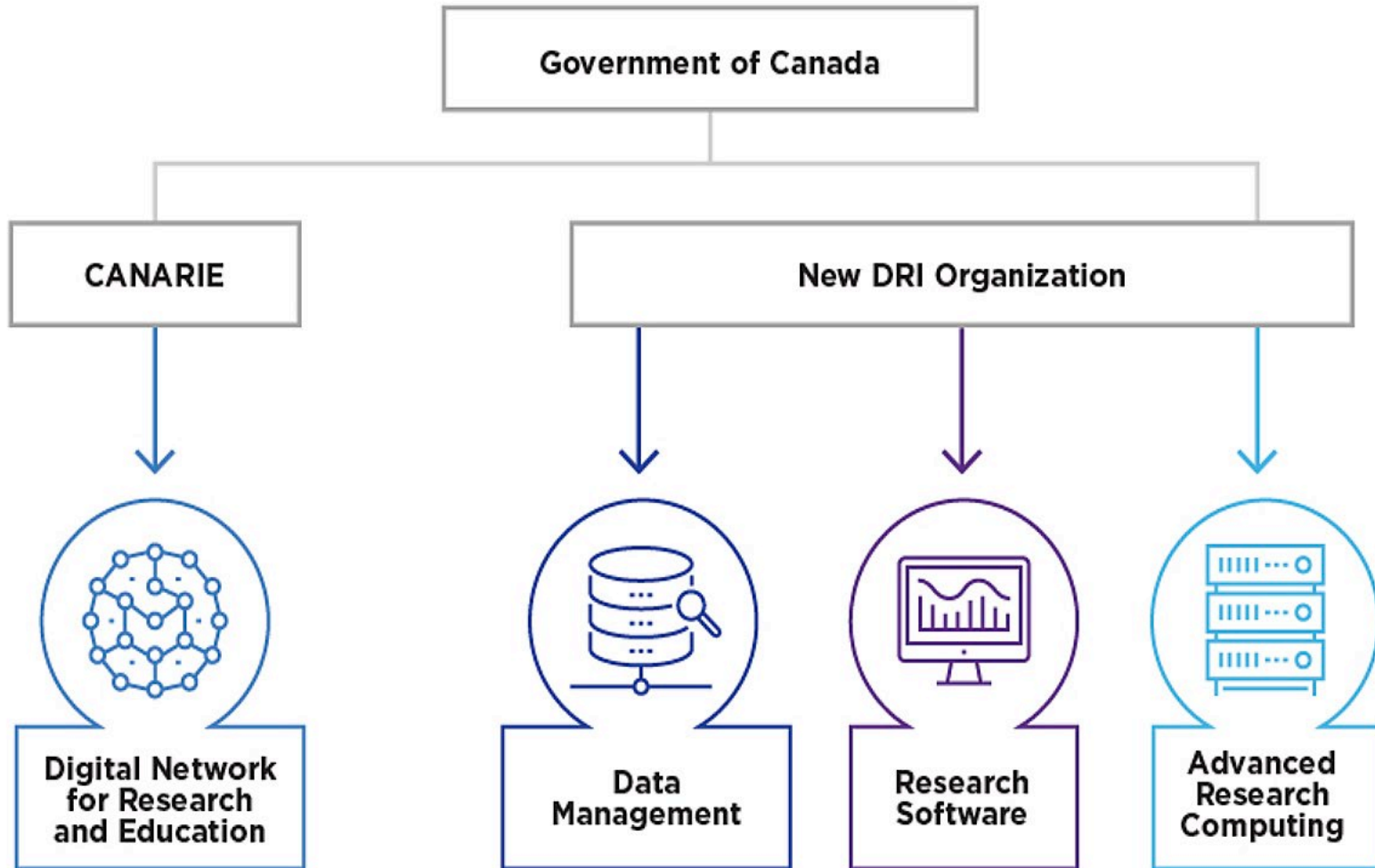
- As part of the national DRI strategy, ISED has set aside up to \$375M of its 5-year funding to establish a new national not-for-profit organization.
- The New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization (NDRIO) will advance and invest in the **ARC**, **DM** and **RS** components of the DRI strategy, working collaboratively with all stakeholders.
- CANARIE will continue to lead in the area of the Digital Network for Research & Education.

# Current National DRI Landscape



Source: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada website, 2019.

# Future National DRI Landscape



Source: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada website, 2019.



# NDRIO Priorities

# Guiding Principles

- Informed by stakeholder feedback, NDRIO released its Membership & Governance Model in December 2019.
- In it, NDRIO articulated Guiding Principles that will anchor all it does. NDRIO is:
  1. Researcher-Centric
  2. Service-Oriented
  3. Accountable & Transparent
  4. Striving for Excellence
  5. Collaborative

# Priorities 2020-21

## Stream 1: Build the Organization

1. Finalize NDRIO's governance, organizational structure and HR plan.
2. Establish the Researcher Council.
3. Articulate the strategic plan, including a national vision and strategy for growth in ARC, RS and DM, based on a user needs assessment.
4. Establish backroom finance and administrative functions, and management processes.
5. Define the NDRIO brand and establish communications mechanisms.

# Priorities 2020-21

## Stream 2: Build the New Service Delivery Model

6. Build the new service delivery model, in collaboration with regions, host sites and other DRI partners.
7. Lead the development and delivery of pilot projects (ARC – DM – RS).
8. Safeguard DRI resources through enhanced investments and coordination in cybersecurity.
9. Develop a joint DRI Ecosystem Plan, working with CANARIE.

# Priorities 2020-21

## Stream 3: Coordinate Transition Activities

10. Develop and commence implementation of transition plans, providing for continuity of service delivery and the assessment of existing HQP and infrastructure.
11. Coordinate transition activities across organizations, at the management and governance levels.
12. Lead development of a change management strategy and professional development plan.
13. Complete transition of DM – Carl Portage.

# Priorities 2020-21

Core to All  
Streams:  
Stakeholder  
Engagement

14. Lead researcher, partner and stakeholder engagement and communications.

# NDRIO Governance

# Governance

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- The governance of NDRIO includes:
  - An Independent Board Chair
  - A 14-Member Board of Directors
  - Primary Members (Voting)
  - Associate (Non-Voting) Members
  - A Researcher Council



# Board of Directors

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Chair – Janet M. Davidson, O.C., BScN, MHSA, LLD (Hon)

Vice-Chair – Peter MacKinnon, BA, LL.B., LL.M.

Dr. David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Manitoba

Donna Bourne-Tyson, Dean of Libraries, Dalhousie University

Jennifer Doyle, Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-Principal (IT Services), Queen's University

Dr. Alexandra King, MD, FRCPC inaugural Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness at the University of Saskatchewan.

Chris Lumb, P.Eng., ICD.D, has served as CEO and executive of various for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, and as a director and chair of numerous private, public and not-for-profit boards

Dr. David MaGee, Vice-President, Research, University of New Brunswick

Dr. Gail Murphy, Professor of Computer Science and Vice-President, Research and Innovation, University of British Columbia

Dr. Sina Shahandeh, Vice-President of Data Science, ecobee Inc.

Jane Skoblo, CPA, CITP, ICD.D, Vice-President of Digital Operations, Rogers Communications

Dr. Jeffrey Taylor, Associate Vice-President of Applied Research and Innovation, Nova Scotia Community College

Dr. Denis Thérien, Vice-President of Research and Partnerships, Element AI

Dr. Deb Verhoeven, Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and Cultural Informatics, University of Alberta (Edmonton)

Martha Whitehead, Vice-President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian, Harvard University

# Membership

## 136 Members:

- 51 Primary (Voting)
- 85 Associate (Non-Voting)

\*As of February 2020

- Primary (Voting) Members are post-secondary institutions, research hospitals and/or affiliated institutes eligible for Tri-Council grants.
- Associate (Non-Voting) Members include post-secondary institutions that choose not to be Voting Members and organizations with responsibilities that relate to the national DRI ecosystem.
- Membership is not required to access NDRIIO programs, which will be available to eligible researchers and research institutions across Canada.

# Researcher Council

- The creation of a Researcher Council will be a priority activity for the Inaugural Board.
- The process will be led by a researcher, Dr Guillaume Bourque, with oversight by the Inaugural Board and support from the new organization and the interim management team.

NDRIO is dedicated to promoting Canada as a global leader in digital research infrastructure.

# For More Information

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Please visit **engagedri.ca** or contact:

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New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization (NDRIO)

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