



# Monthly Update to Alliance DRI professionals | Mise à jour mensuelle pour les spécialistes de l'IRN de l'Alliance

**March 17, 2022 | 17 mars 2022**



Digital Research  
Alliance of Canada

Alliance de recherche  
numérique du Canada



# Welcome | Bienvenue

**Nizar Ladak**

Chief Executive Officer | Président-directeur général





# Land acknowledgment Reconnaissance territoriale





# Agenda

- Introductory Comments (Nizar, Brock)
- Key Initiatives (Ghilaine)
- Operations & Transition Update (Patrick)
- Q&A Discussion (All)
- Closing





# Introductory Comments

## **Nizar:**

- Key Questions and Appreciation
- Co-creation and Mutual Engagement

## **Brock:**

- Transition Year
- O&M Funding Letters
- Capital Spending
- Operational Funding Immediate Needs List



# Key Initiatives (Ghilaine)

- ▶ **New Service Delivery Model – NSDM (April 30)**
  - ▶ Service Classification Framework
  - ▶ Roles & Responsibilities
- ▶ **Funding Model Development – FM (April 30)**
  - ▶ Eligible Cost-Match Framework
  - ▶ Funding Allocation to Services
- ▶ **NSDM \ FM Planning for Implementation – (June 30)**
  
- ▶ **HPC and Cloud Strategies (April 30)**
- ▶ **Multi-year Funding Proposal (June 30)**
  
- ▶ **Coordination Model (October 31)**





# Operations & Transition Update

**Patrick Mann**, Director, Operations

# Transition – Grant Admin

## (Almost) Complete

- ▶ JR and Patrick joined the Alliance Dec 15, 2022.
- ▶ All current JELF/IF grant consultations completed and sent in.
- ▶ Alliance web site now has the documentation.
- ▶ After discussion with CFI: *Alliance Director of Operations will sign the letters.*
- ▶ *Remaining: NDA to be signed by federation staff who have access.*
- ▶ *Working with CFI to ensure that their links and text are updated.*
- ▶ As usual continuing to do pre-consultations. Thanks to all involved!
- ▶ Waiting for the next round (Next couple of weeks).

Many thanks to JR Souza for orchestrating a very smooth transition.  
Many thanks to John Simpson for his support and advice.





# Transition

Transition	
<b>License Transition from CC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Almost done</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanks to Caroline and Bryan (CC) for keeping this on track.</li><li>• Things like Globus, Smartsheet, admin applications, etc.</li></ul>
<b>User License Transition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ongoing</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maxime collated a complete list (more complete than Patrick's!)</li><li>• Caroline working with vendors.</li></ul>
<b>MIT and CCDB-dev</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Staff joining April 4, 2022</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alliance Director of Operations will be chairing MIT</li><li>• Eduardo is joining the Alliance and will continue to be the Project Lead for RAPAC, RAC, CCDB-dev, and renewals. (<i>looking forward to continuing to work with Eduardo!</i>)</li></ul>
<b>Renewals coming up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>TODO</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eduardo is back</li><li>• General process is unchanged.</li></ul>
<b>Policy revisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>In progress</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy updates need to be accepted through renewals.</li><li>• Policies have been updated and mostly approved (Caroline Harrison).</li><li>• First batch sent (last Tuesday) to CCDB-dev for implementation.</li></ul>
<b>Accounts Approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Continuing operations</i></li></ul>	Continuing as-is through regional approval processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WestGrid: transitioning to the new BC and Prairies.</li><li>• Account documentation being copied from <a href="http://www.CC">www.CC</a> to <a href="http://www.alliancecan.ca">www.alliancecan.ca</a></li></ul>



# Transition: Domain

Aiming for completion by RAC 2023 (Sept. 2022)

- Some progress, but this is a big job. Caroline Harrison and Patrick in the planning stages.
- Extensive consultation with key players will be necessary: ie) RSNT for the help desk, CCDB-dev, MIT, IONT, Host sites, ...

Domain Transition	
CCDB	Eduardo has provided a list but needs extensive consultation
Help Desk (Znuny)	Initial discussion with Maxime and Sergiy Khan
Docs Wiki	Initially add a banner, but no further progress.
<a href="https://status.computecanada.ca">https://status.computecanada.ca</a>	Talking to CCDB-dev (Steven Bucholtz). Standalone so working on changing the logo and text but otherwise no changes.
Alliance Google Workspace	Lead by John Simpson and Vainina In progress: Documentation being moved. Training sessions, ...
LDAP and IdP	Not started yet!
System Names	Not started yet!
Contact emails	le) support@cc, rac@cc, ...: <b>No changes currently.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Of course need to coordinate with Help Desk</li></ul>
<a href="https://www.computecanada.ca">https://www.computecanada.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Being copied to new alliance web site. Go live 1-st week of April.</li><li>• Heather Cavanagh and Kat Guerin (Alliance comms)</li></ul>



# Transition: National Teams and RAC

National Teams	
<b>SLC</b>	Alliance Director of Operations will chair SLC starting April, 2022
<b>TLC</b>	Alliance Director of Operations is chairing TLC as of Dec 15, 2021
<b>NSC and CSAC</b>	Masood Akhtar has taken over NSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major ongoing cybersecurity planning effort</li></ul>
<b>CoCTOs</b>	VP Operations and Cybersecurity chairing CoCTOs as of December 2021. Alliance Director of Operations will continue to be a member of CoCTOs
<b>National Teams</b>	No other changes
<b>Site Leads + CTOs</b>	Informal discussion group chaired by VP Operations and Cybersecurity

RAC	
<b>RAC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RAC 2022 review complete (as usual many thanks to Eduardo and the RAPAC team)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eduardo's usual review is ready and will be put on the new web site.</li></ul></li><li>• For the interim year: rac@CC, support@CC, docs.CC, .. will continue to be supported.</li><li>• RAC allocation letters going out shortly (see next slide for Narval/Béluga issues)</li></ul>



# Narval/Béluga Update

Narval Outage	(Situation is still pretty fluid.)
Mar 9, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction pushed down power cables and network cable.</li><li>• Pulled cable out from datacentre – extensive damage suspected.</li></ul>
Mar 10, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RAPAC meeting to discuss a plan for a long-term outage</li></ul>
March 14, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network cable has been installed, but not available yet.</li><li>• Inspection on-going.</li></ul>
March 15, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slack note from Bart Oldeman: considering temporary high-voltage power cable!</li></ul>
March 16, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updates from Cristian at TLC: a temporary power cable is indeed possible and being installed!</li><li>• RAPAC meeting</li></ul>
Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just heard that 1.5 MW may be available. That would be enough for all Narval with some left for spikes!</li><li>• Narval will come up TOMORROW!!!</li></ul>

## RAPAC meeting consensus

- **Assume Narval will be up shortly, but Béluga will be delayed until May (maybe longer).**
- Copy all Béluga allocations to Narval for a limited period. (Julie Faure-Lacroix)
- Implement "*Sleeping RAC*" on graham/cedar to give additional resources to default users.
- Normal RAC letters will go out shortly with a generic paragraph (next week).
- Plus another email to the Béluga users.
- Plus MOTDs for default users.

## Béluga

- Waiting for cooling doors (delayed to May)
- Also dependent on power.



# CAB

Maintenance	
<b>Cedar Update</b> <i>Mar 21, 2-3 days</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Cedar Downtime starting 2022-03-21</a></li><li>• OS updates, Lustre upgrade and additional OSS servers for <code>/scratch</code></li><li>• Slurm upgrade and fixes, OmniPath and NVIDIA driver upgrades.</li><li>• This will hopefully fix a large list of problems, most importantly:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slurm performance improvements (less socket timeouts);</li><li>• Lustre <code>/scratch</code> stability and performance improvements;</li><li>• OmniPath problem resolution: hfi1 device becoming inaccessible;</li><li>• GPU memory not being freed after job finished.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Graham Update</b> <i>Mar 28, 1 day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Graham maintenance</a></li><li>• Upgrade scratch</li><li>• Update cluster image</li><li>• Update CUDA drivers</li></ul>
<b>Graham Tape Library</b> <i>Apr 27, 2 days</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Graham Tape Library Update</a></li><li>• More frames, drives and media to add to the tape library.</li><li>• Requires a shutdown of the library making backups and nearline inaccessible during the work.</li></ul>



# Reminder: TECC

## Looking forward to TECC!

- ▶ Mar 29 to 31
- ▶ Looks like a great program.
- ▶ <https://tecc.computecanada.ca>





# Discussion



# In Closing

**Nizar Ladak**

Chief Executive Officer | Président-directeur général





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Accelerating Canada's  
Research Future.

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