

# University of Regina's Statistics Canada Research Data Centre

Research Town Hall

**November 9, 2018**



## Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Comments
2. Comments from the Academic Director
3. Comments from ADM Anderson



- Welcome faculty, students, staff and visitors from the Government of Saskatchewan
- Acknowledge University of Regina is located on Treaty 4 and 6 territories:  
**Traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota and Nakoda** peoples, and the homeland of the **Métis**.
- Introduce Richard as the new Academic Director for the RDC starting in January 2019
- Introduce Ron Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Corrections and Policing as well as the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
- Acknowledge the partnership with the GoS and generous support of funding

## A RDC is coming to the U of R!

In partnership and with funding from the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina will soon host a branch Research Data Centre (RDC).



For many years, there has been a desire to establish a Research Data Centre in Regina. Currently, University of Regina researchers must travel to the SKY-RDC located at the University of Saskatchewan to access this data. The requirement to travel to Saskatoon has proven to be a significant barrier.

The Government of Saskatchewan has been proactively searching for opportunities to improve the well-being of Saskatchewan people through the use of information and technology while ensuring the privacy of the clients they serve. Information and data analytics identifies problems and produces tangible solutions. It also enables Government to better understand and respond to citizens' needs effectively; allocating appropriate resources to solutions that are working.

With funding provided by the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, a project is underway to establish a branch Research Data Centre (RDC) in Regina to provide access to Statistics Canada microdata.

The Ministry of Justice has taken the lead for the provincial government on behalf of several ministries interested in using the RDC facility.

The Government of Saskatchewan is also interested in making some of its data available through the RDC network. This data can be linked to Statistics Canada data allowing for much more powerful and insightful analyses.

## What is a Research Data Centre?

- Initiative by Statistics Canada, SSHRC and university consortia to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community
- Supported by CFI and CIHR



- The Research Data Centres RDCs are part of an initiative by Statistics Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and university consortia
- RDCs help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community.
- The program is also supported by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).
- RDCs provide researchers with access, in a secure setting, to Statistics Canada microdata.

## What are the benefits of a RDC?

- Provides opportunity to generate a wide perspective on Canada's social landscape
- Provides social science research facilities
- Opportunity to expand collaboration
- Opportunity to train a new generation of quantitative social scientists



The research data centres provide opportunities to:

- generate a wide perspective on Canada's social landscape;
- provide social science research facilities across the country in both larger and smaller population centres;
- expand the collaboration between Statistics Canada, SSHRC, CIHR, CFI, universities and academic researchers, and build on the Data Liberation Initiative; and
- train a new generation of Canadian quantitative social scientists.

## Available Datasets

- Statistics Canada's Population and Household Surveys
- Canadian Census data
- Administrative and linked data sets
  
- RDC data holdings  
<https://crdcn.org/data>  
or  
<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/data>
  
- PUMF/RDC files



PUMF = public use microdata file

The Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) Collection is a subscription-based service which offers institutional access to the collection of available Statistics Canada public use microdata files (Statistics Canada catalogue no. 11-625-X). Public use microdata files contain anonymized, non-aggregated data. For a yearly fee, designated contacts at subscribing institutions can have unlimited access to all microdata and documentation available in the PUMF collection.

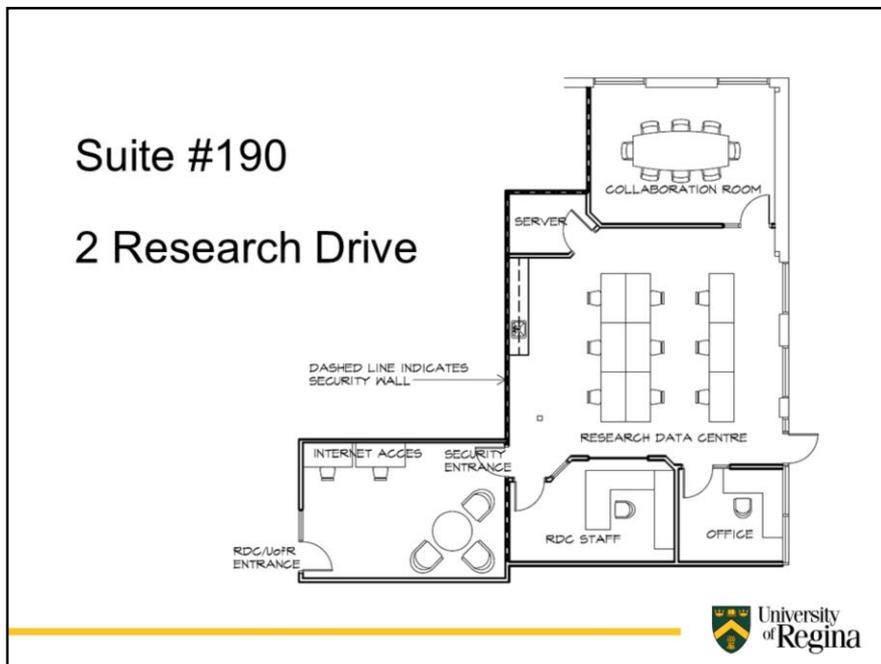
Where will the RDC be located?

Suite #190

2 Research Drive

Innovation Place





Here is a floor plan diagram for the facility. The secure area is on the right-hand side of the diagram.

In the main lab area, we have sufficient space for 9 researcher work stations although we will start with 6.

There is a collaboration or meeting room where researchers can meet to discuss projects or training sessions can be held. This room will be equipped with teleconference and audio/visual capabilities.

And there is office space for the RDC staff and for University IS staff when performing any system maintenance work.

Outside of the secure perimeter (the lone room on the left-hand side of the diagram) is space where researchers can access internet or eat their lunch. We will have lockers available for researchers to store laptops, phones, coats or other personal items.

When will the RDC be available?

We are targeting  
April 2019 for our  
grand opening.



## Timeline (to date)

- Spring 2017: Partnership with GoS established
- November 2017: RDC proposal submitted to CRDCN
- December 2017: Conditional approval received
- June 2018: Funding from GoS confirmed
- October 2018: Lease signed with Innovation Place



Here are a few key milestones up to the current point in time.

## Timeline (going forward)

- Oct – Nov 2018: Renovations to begin
- Dec 2018 – Jan 2019: Renovations completed
- Jan – Feb 2019: Move-in and testing
- March 2019: Pre-opening inspections
- April 2019: RDC is opened to researchers



And here are the key milestones going forward.

## Why are we talking about this now?

- It takes from 3 to 6 months for a researcher to gain access to the RDC, and
- We would like to see as many researchers as possible ready to use the facility as soon as possible once it opens.

# Application Process

**Step 1:** Project proposal

**Step 2:** Complete the online [application form](#) on the SSHRC website

**Step 3:** Evaluation of the proposal

**Step 4:** Complete the security screening process

**Step 5:** Sign a microdata research contract with Statistics Canada

**Step 6:** Submit a product/output



Source: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/process>



# Application Process

- Guidelines vary by affiliation of the researcher

<u>Academic Researchers</u>	<u>Government funded Researchers</u>
Faculty research (non-student)	Government funded research - federal
Masters or doctoral research (students)	Government funded research - provincial / territorial
Program of research (academic)	Program of research - federal
Academic course	Program of research - provincial / territorial
Unaffiliated academic research	

Source: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/process>



## Vetting of Research Outputs

- Maintaining Confidentiality
- RDC Analyst



## Further Information

- Canadian Research Data Centre Network website  
<https://crdcn.org/>.
- RDC Network Conferences
- FAQs: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/rdc/faq>



Introduce Richard as the next speaker who will speak about the opportunities an RDC will present researchers from the University's perspective.