



# Data Science, Research and Development Strategic Research Network

Record of Discussion - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

## 1. Welcome and Round Table Introductions (Co-Chairs)

Co-chairs Will Gibbons (TBS) and Emmanuel Mongin (ISED) welcomed all participants to the first meeting of the Data Science, Research and Development (DSRD) Strategic Research Network (SRN). All participants were invited to introduce themselves to the network.

The co-chairs explained the primary goals of the Strategic Research Network:

- To provide a forum that allows departments connect with each other, exchange information, and collaborate.
- To demonstrate progress to date with the community (each SRN meeting will aim to have a research presentation).

Will also highlighted to the participants that the aim of the Data Science, Research and Development (DSRD) unit of TBS was maturing beyond data collection and toward enabling innovation research within the community.

## 2. Terms of Reference Review (Co-Chairs)

The SRN Terms of Reference were approved by all meeting participants. Participants were also instructed to reach out to the CPIAU inbox to provide any further feedback.

## 3. Diversity and Skills Database (Danny Leung)

Danny gave a presentation to SRN participants on the StatCan Diversity and Skills Database project. The goal of the project was to make information on the (1) firm-level characteristics of business ownership structure and (2) firm-level characteristics of the workforce available in the Linkable File Environment (LFE). Characteristics included gender, immigrant status, education, and experience.

Danny also detailed some policy-related limitations to the data. The data is only available for Canadian-controlled private corporations and unincorporated businesses (due to schedule 50 with CRA).

Danny explained the relevant next steps for the project. The database will be further developed to include the occupational composition of the workforce. The database will also continue to be updated in alignment with user feedback.



Danny highlighted that indicators were being developed for (1) disabled business owners (2) visible minority business owners and (3) Indigenous business owners. StatCan was also working in collaboration with CIPO (ISED) and other partners on patent and inventor data.

SRN participants were invited to provide comments and questions:

- It was noted that there is a need to continue to develop the + portion of GBA+ with respect to the Diversity and Skills Database.
- It was noted that baseline data is required to better track business ownership for different minority groups.
- It was noted that the difference between the gender and immigrant status of business owners who received BIGS support and those who did not is largely because of sampling variation.
- It was noted that additional equity seeking groups (such as visible minorities and individuals in same-sex relationships) could be added to the Diversity and Skills Database based on what is available in the census.

#### **4. DSRD Research Planning Overview (Will Gibbons)**

Will spoke to the status of those activities that were included in the Research Plan for fiscal year 2021-22. It was noted that several research papers were underway in the BIGS program community, including those from Claudia De Fuentes, Brian Cozzarin, and David Wolfe.

Will explained that the research planning template will be used for departments to articulate and share current and future research priorities with DSRD. It was noted that the SRN should aim to foster research collaboration on issues of policy and program relevance across the BIGS community as a whole; BIGS community research goals should be a synthesis of interests of SRN participants as whole.

#### **5. Closing Remarks (Co-Chairs)**

SRN Partner Departments were instructed to share their 2022-23 FY Research Plans with DSRD via the CPIAU generic inbox. SRN Participants were also invited to provide comment the draft CPIAU 2020-21 Annual Report.