

Engaged DRI—Governance Options

[Two options](#) for governance of the new organization are proposed for comment.

We remind the community of the tight timeline for this proposal and invite comments by email to info@engagedri.ca by Friday, **April 26, 2019**.

The release of the call was on April 6, 2019, with the final submission proposal due May 6, 2019. The call can be found here: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/136.nsf/eng/home>.

The call for proposals requires applicants to respond to three specific areas of focus for the new Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) organization: implementation, collaboration and engagement, and governance and management. ***The posted draft relates only to the required section on governance and management.*** The remaining sections are under development and will be posted as soon as they are ready to allow comment by the community. The final complete proposal will also be posted for comment by the community.

The call for proposals is focused on the high-level design and principles guiding the new organization. More detailed proposals on the roles and structure of the new organization would be developed by those who initiate the new organization should the proposal be accepted.

The proposed governance structures emphasize high-level features, with details left for consultation after a new organization is formed. The implementation plan, collaboration and engagement sections being developed will lay out the path for consultation after a new organization is formed.

The common principles underlying the two proposed options for governance of the new DRI organization are:

- members would be limited to Canadian institutions and stakeholders;
- members of the Board of Directors will reflect the expertise required to direct the new organization, as well as have a good understanding of the DRI ecosystem;
- an equity, diversity and inclusion lens would be applied across the organization, including the board and all committees/working groups/councils;
- given that provincial funding is likely to be part of the DRI delivery system, the new organization will need to consider how provinces/regions might interact with it. Discussions are underway with the federal government as to how to best enable and represent this interaction;
- the new organization will need to coordinate closely with CANARIE.

While all comments are welcome, feedback is particularly sought on:

- the kinds of institutions that should be considered research institutions and organizations that should be considered key stakeholders;
- how strategic and operational coordination with CANARIE should occur; and
- the size and representation of the Board of Directors.

Option 1: Two-Level Membership Model

Membership

In this model, there would be two classes of members:

1. Level 1 members – Research institutions
2. Level 2 (associate) members – Other key stakeholders, including national and provincial/regional DRI-related organizations, and private sector organizations

Level 1 members would have voting privileges, while Level 2 members would not.

Board Composition

The composition of the Board would be a maximum of [15] directors, nominated by the Level 1 members. Up to [two] directors would be representatives of Level 2 members, up to [two] members from the User Council (see below) and up to [three] directors would be independent (unaffiliated with members). The Board would establish the appropriate governance committees, such as a Finance/Audit Committee, a Governance Committee, etc.

As appropriate, the Board might appoint members as advisors and observers to these committees.

Funding from the federal government would be governed by a funding (i.e. contribution) agreement between the new organization and the federal government. An Investment Committee of the Board would oversee development of recommendations to the full Board with respect to the allocation of the funding toward the various components (e.g. compute, data and software).

User Council

A User Council composed of researchers would be established to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on matters related to the services provided by the organization to researchers. The User Council would work closely with staff assigned to the functional areas to ensure the services and recommendations to the Board reflect the needs of the broad research community. The members of the User Council (i.e. researchers) would be nominated and elected by the Level 1 members.

Operations

Operations of the organization would be overseen by a Chief Executive Officer taking direction from the Board. The Chief Executive Officer would be responsible for hiring staff. Staff would be responsible for strategic and operational planning; policy development and research; oversight of all operations related to the delivery of national DRI infrastructure and services for data management, advanced research computing, and research software; community engagement; communications; financial management and reporting; and such other functions as may be appropriate. The Chief Executive Officer would form advisory groups as necessary to ensure expertise from relevant stakeholders in the community, such as advisory groups on data management, advanced research computing and research software.

Option 2: Single-Level Membership Model

Members

In this model, there would be only one class of members that, all of which would have voting privileges. Research institutions and other key stakeholders, including national and provincial/regional DRI-related organizations and the private sector would be entitled to membership.

Board Composition

The composition of the Board would be a maximum of [15] directors, nominated by the members. The Board members would be distributed by region, there would be dedicated director positions for representatives from key stakeholders and up to [three] independent directors not affiliated with members.

The Board would establish the appropriate governance committees, such as a Finance/Audit Committee, Governance Committee, etc.. The Board might also appoint members as advisors and observers to these committees.

User Council

A User Council composed of researchers would be established to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on matters related to the services provided by the organization to researchers. The User Council would work closely with staff assigned to the functional areas to ensure the services and recommendations to the Board reflect the needs of the broad research community. The members of the User Council (i.e. researchers) would be nominated and elected by the Level 1 members.

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Funding from the government would be governed by a funding (i.e contribution) agreement between the new organization and the federal government. Staff would receive and assess investment proposals for the various components (i.e. data, compute and software), and recommend funding allocations to the Board for approval.