NB-RDC Annual Review Report

January 1 to December 31
2011

NB-RDC

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Executive Summary

The University of New Brunswick, with campuses in Fredericton and Saint John, is the largest university in New Brunswick and plays a vital role in the creation and dissemination of knowledge to stakeholders in government, industry, the non-profit sector and the population at large. As one of the first Research Data Centres opened in Canada, the UNB-RDC is central to the creation and dissemination of social policy research by members of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy (CRISP), the faculty of Nursing, the Department of Economics, and other departments across the university.

The presence of the RDC and the opportunities available to researchers and policymakers have been instrumental in an ongoing initiative to develop connections among UNB faculty, graduate students, provincial government employees and NGOs that will benefit both the University and the wider community. The impetus came from a clear mission statement from the NB Department of Health and other Departments to move towards evidence-based policy evaluation and formation. At the same time, there was a clear recognition that the ability for the Province to undertake its own research program to assemble policy-relevant evidence was limited. Our efforts began in late 2009 with a key meeting involving Raymond Currie and Byron Spencer making presentations to an audience of approximately 20 deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers from 9 government departments. Outreach and information sessions for government departments, health councils and NGOs continued through 2011, with partner funding provided by the NB Social Policy Research Network.

In May 2011, UNB hosted the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, and a featured session at the Congress was a signature session on new uses for administrative data, some of which are already available on a pilot basis through the RDC network. The session featured an excellent range of speakers from across Canada and Europe, and included senior a senior representative from the RCMP as well as Anne Bertrand, the province of New Brunswick's chief privacy officer.

2011 also saw the agreements reached with both the University of Moncton and Memorial University for branch RDCs to reopen in Moncton and open in St. John's. We anticipate both RDCs opening for business in mid to late 2012. Memorial is the only major university in Canada that does not yet have an RDC, and their inclusion in the network is a very welcome addition.

The UNB-RDC activity levels and outputs in 2011 were relatively steady in aggregate in 2011, reflecting an increase in activity at the Fredericton RDC but also the cessation of operations at the Moncton RDC following its 2010 closure. However trends are finally positive for the NB-RDC, particularly in terms of increased collaborative work with various agencies of the Province of New Brunswick. Contracts involving graduate students have also increased.

Ted McDonald
Academic Director

Section One: Background Information

a. **NB-RDC Contact Information**

    38 Dineen Drive, Keirstead Hall Room 320
    University of New Brunswick
    Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5A3
    Phone: (506) 458-7240
    Facsimile: (506) 458-7240
    E-mail: rdc@unb.ca
    Web Site: www.unb.ca/rdc

b. **NB-RDC Staff**

    Dr. Ted McDonald
    Academic Director

    Zacharie Tsala Dimbuene, Ph.D
    Statistics Canada Analyst

    Jennifer Moorcraft
    Administrative Officer, CRISP

c. **NB-RDC Management Committee**

    Dr. Ted McDonald
    Department of Economics, UNB

    Professor Gregory Kealey
    VP-Research and University Provost, UNB

    Dr. Lucia Tramonte
    Department of Sociology, UNB

    Dr. Michael Haan
    Departments of Economics and Sociology, UNB

    Siobhan Hanratty
    Harriet Irving Library, UNB

    Stephanie Slauenwhite
    Assistant Dean, Faculty of Arts

    Ex Officio Members: Zacharie Tsala Dimbuene, Jennifer Moorcraft

d. **Operation of the RDC**

The Centre is open 09:00 until 17:00, Monday through Friday. 6 workstations are available to researchers.

Section Two: Research Output and Training Activities

Criterion 1: Total Number of Contracts

Table 1: NB-RDC Summary of the Number of Contracts Started, Completed and Withdrawn						
	Contracts Started Primary	Contracts Started Secondary	Contracts Completed Primary	Contracts Completed Secondary	Contracts Withdrawn Primary	Contracts Withdrawn Secondary
2011	12		5		1	

Instructions: The source for the information in this table is the Program Manager's Report which will be sent to each Centre by Statistics Canada by the end of March of each year. You need not fill in this section unless you wish to verify the totals supplied by Statistics Canada. The information required for the detailed list of researcher output needed in Appendix 1 can be found in the PI Survey.

Note to reader: See Appendix 1 for a detailed list of research output for the calendar year.

Definitions
Primary: refers to the RDC where the original contract was signed and is defined by the location of the principal investigator.
Secondary: is defined as other locations where the research activity is taking place.
Started: is the count of all the contracts started during the calendar year
Completed: is the number of contracts that met their contractual obligations
Withdrawn: is the number of contracts that were withdrawn at the request of the principle investigator

Criterion 2: Summary of Project Output

Rating	Units	Un-weighted Total	Weighted Total
	Table 2: NB-RDC 2011 Measure and Weighting of Output		
0.5	Completed Projects	5	2.5
2.0	Books		
1.0	Edited Books		
1.0	Book Chapters	1	1
1.5	Refereed Articles	3	4.5
0.5	Working Papers	1	.5
1.0	Policy Reports	1	1
2.0	PhD Theses		
1.0	MA & Hon. Theses	6	6
2.0	Full Year Graduate Course (6 credits)		
1.0	Semester Graduate Course (3 credits)	1	1
0.5	RDC Data in Conference, presentations or invited talk (same conference presentations may be counted only	19	9.5
2.0	CRDCN Conference Organization		
.5 to 1.	Organize Conference Sessions, Workshops, Symposi	2	1.5
17.0	**Total**	**40**	**27.5**

Instructions: source for the first line (Completed Projects) is the Project Manager (PM) report. The source for the remainder of the table is Table 9 in the Summary Spreadsheet.

Box 2a Summary of Substantive Comments on Publications

> Output has been steady or increasing in most categories, with weighted activity up approximately 40% from 2010 though admittedly from a relatively low base. We expect that output will continue to increase in 2012 and especially in 2013 when both branch RDCs become active.

Instructions: Source of information is Section 4 in the PI survey

Box 2b Summary of Major Media Coverage of Research

> Professor Mike Haan, Canada Research Chair in Social Policy at UNB, received extensive media coverage throughout the province of New Brunswick in 2011 for his work on the looming demographic challenges for New Brunswick.

Instructions: Source of information is Table 3 in the Summary Spreadsheet

Criterion 2a: A Measure of Research with Health, Labour Force and Financial Security Focus

Table 2a: NB-RDC Focus of Research		
Category	**Count**	**% of Total**
Labour Force Focus	5	25
Financial Security Focus	1	5
Health Focus	13	65
Other Topics	1	5
Total Number of Projects	20	100

Instructions: see table 10 of the Summary Spreadsheet.

Criterion 3: Training and Employment

Table 3a: NB-RDC Summary of Training and Employment*			
	Thesis in Progress	**Thesis Completed**	**Job Title**
Undergraduate		5	Research Assistant
Masters	6	1	PI
Doctoral	5	0	PI, RA
Postdoctoral			

Instructions: see Table 11 in the Summary Spreadsheet.

Table 3b: Teaching in the NB-RDC		
Courses or Training sessions	**Number**	**Approximate average number of participants**
Summer school (1 or 2 week sessions)		
Training sessions or Workshops (1 or 2 days)	3	15
Data seminars	2	15
RDC promotion	12	8
Full year graduate or undergraduate course (6 credits)		
Semester graduate or undergraduate course (3 credits)	1	14
Other, specify _____		
Total	18	52

Instructions: see Table 4 in Summary Spreadsheet

Box 3 Substantive Comments and Summary of Training within the RDC

Training at the NB-RDC has occurred in a variety of forms and forums, spanning information sessions on RDC data holdings to prospective users, short courses on technical aspects of statistical analysis, and formal course-based instruction. Even more encouragingly, there was a significant increase in the number of graduate students using the RDC for their Masters or Ph.D. research.

Criterion 4: Staff

Table 4: NB-RDC Summary Table of Staff *		
Roles and Responsibilities	**Students**	**Non-Students**
RDC Analyst		1
Technician	0.1	
Professional Research Associate		
Administrative Support Staff		0.1
Statistical Assistants (part-time, Branch staff, extra hour employees)	0.15	
Knowledge Transfer Staff	.	0.1
Other(s): Please Specify, Academic Director		0.1
Summary		

*Please indicate the full time equivalent (FTE).

Criterion 5: Knowledge Mobilization Activities

Table 5: List of Knowledge Mobilization Activities NB-RDC 2011	
RDC Website (indicate number of hits)	250
Newsletter (indicate frequency of publication, number of subscribers)	n/a
Research highlights or synthesis reports (indicate number produced per year)	n/a
Brown bag lunch sessions (indicate frequency)	n/a
RDC information sessions	12

Instructions: see table 5 in the Summary Spreadsheet.

Box 5 Substantive Comments on Knowledge Mobilization Activities within the RDC

Most of our knowledge mobilization activities were aimed at developing the foundation for future government/NGO/academic collaborations through information sessions on RDC data holdings, how to access RDC data, and the type of policy-relevant research possible with RDC data.

Other knowledge mobilization involved a series of public lectures, media interviews and stakeholder consultations involving Professor Michael Haan, Canada Research Chair in Social Policy at UNB-Fredericton. Michael was also one of four keynote speakers in the UNB 'Ideas that Matter' series that brought academic research to the general public.

Instructions: Source for this is table 5 in the Summary Spreadsheet.

Vignette 1

Example of vignette: **Can New Brunswick's Population Time Bomb be Defused?**

In 1956, New Brunswick tied with Prince Edward Island for the highest fertility rates in Canada (4.6 children per woman, compared to an average of 3.9 for the rest of Canada). Today, we face one of the biggest baby busts, second only to Newfoundland and Labrador for having the smallest proportion of young people in its midst. When coupled with relatively low immigration rates, this creates an environment where population composition increasingly affects the prospects of economic growth and self-sufficiency. This discussion provides the backdrop for a series of related invited lectures and seminars by Professor Michael Haan, Canada Research Chair in Social Policy at UNB on the implications of such a profound population change and prospects for reversing New Brunswick's demographic dilemma. The seminars and lectures were aimed specifically at a variety of non-academic audiences. These presentations (to senior government policymakers, private sector employers, and the general public) were extremely well attended and received, and generated significant press in provincial media outlets. This series of lectures have also lead to more formal research collaborations between UNB researchers and government policymakers using RDC data.

Instruction: Provide example of research mobilization in the RDC

Criterion 6: Networks of Collaboration, Partnerships in Research and Interdisciplinary Work

a. **List of researchers' disciplines**

Table 6a: List of NB-RDC researchers' disciplines	
Academic Discipline	**Number of Researchers**
Economics	7.5
Sociology	5.5

Engineering	3
Biomedical sciences	3
Psychology	2
Education	1
History	1
Nursing	1

Instructions: Please refer to Contact List provided by Statistics Canada.

b. **Research networks in which researchers are involved as a RDC researcher**

Table 6b: Research Networks	
Research networks	**Number of Researchers**
Metropolis	3
Life Course Cluster	2
New Investigator Network	1
Social and Economic Dimensions of an Aging Population	1
CLSRN	2
Religion and Diversity Project	1
Religion and Violence e-Learning Project	1
NB Social Policy Research Network	4

Instructions: Please summarize the information provided in section 3a of the PI survey.

c. **Partnerships with any level of government agencies in which RDC researchers are involved**

Table 6c: Partnerships with Government Agencies	
Government agencies	**Number of Researchers**
Executive Council Office, New Brunswick	2
Department of Health, New Brunswick	2
RCMP	2
Post secondary education training and labour, NB	3
Citizenship and Immigration Canada	2
Invest NB	2

HRSDC	2
CMHC	1
City of Fredericton	3

Instructions: Please summarize the information provided in section 3b of the PI survey

d. List of collaborations with NGOs in which RDC researchers are involved

Table 6d: NGO Collaborations	
NGO	**Number of Researchers**
Multicultural association of Greater Moncton	1
Multicultural association of Charlotte County	1
Saint John Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Center Inc	1
Saint John Y Settlement Services	1
Community Action Group on Homelessness	3
Greenshield Federation	3
Caris Ltd.	3

Instructions: Please summarize the information provided in section 3c of the PI survey

e. **List of funding agencies that support researchers' RDC project**

Table 6e: Funds for RDC researchers	
Agency	**Number of Researchers**
CIHR	4
SSHRC	4
NSERC	3
CHSRF	2
Killam	1

Instructions: Please summarize the information provided in section 3d of the PI survey

Criterion 7: Summary of Major Achievements and Challenges for the past Year

- Reaching agreement on the reopening of the Branch RDC at the Université de Moncton and the establishment of a new Branch RDC at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Raising awareness among government, NGO and business leaders about the availability of the RDC and the possibilities for collaboration and partnership
- Increasing activity, particularly from graduate students

- We continue to be the RDC with the lowest activity in the network
- Securing stable, ongoing funding support from the University of New Brunswick sufficient to operate effectively.

Criterion 8: Major Objectives and foreseeable Challenges for next Year

- Opening of the NB Institute for Data, Research and Training in mid 2012 as a repository for provincial administrative data. Together with the RDC (both of which are located on the 3rd floor of Keirstead Hall), these facilities will provide a 'one-stop shop' for research relevant to New Brunswick
- Successfully hosting the CRDCN annual conference in October 2012
- Supporting Moncton and Memorial branches as they commence regular operations
- Continuing to increase the number and breadth of researchers using the RDC
- Renewing partnerships with the NB SPRN and the Government of New Brunswick.

- Securing stable, ongoing funding support from the University of New Brunswick sufficient to operate effectively.

Section Three: RDC Operating Budget – Revenue and Expenses Report for Fiscal Year

RDC Operating Budget: Revenue

Table 7: NB-RDC Revenue May 2011-April 2012	
Source	**[Amount]**
University (VP-R)	$73380.82
SSHRC	$32863.50
CIHR	$32863.50
CFI	$
Other-RDC-NCC	$
HRSDC	__$
Fee for Service	$2598.75
CRISP	$5000
Partner Contribution SPRN	$7500
UNB Libraries	$2500
UNB Non-space Fund	$2616.15
Total Revenue	**$159,322.72**

Note: While RDC activity is based on calendar year, the financial report is based on the fiscal year of your University (e.g. April 1st to March 31st).

RDC Operating Budget: Expenses

Table 8: NB-RDC Expenses May 2011-April 2012			
	AMOUNT		
	In Cash	**In Kind**	**Total**
Statistics Canada Services	133907.82	-	133907.82
Director Buy-Out of Time and Responsibilities		5200	5200
Secretarial and Administrative Staff	876.28	2100	2976.28
Translation Services			
Student Support for Longer Opening Hours	588.94		588.94
Statistical and Methodological Services			
Supplies, Telephone, Security	750.00		750.00
Computer Software, Supplies and Licenses	5600.00		5600.00
Computer Assistance	1875.62	1350	3225.62
Computer Depreciation and Replacement	4362.02		4362.02
Local Governance, Conference, Receptions	1200		1200
Workshops, Courses, Training			
Travel (not Directors or training)	950		950
Fellowship, Incentives Grants			
Dissemination (Website, Promotion of RDC)		1500	1500
Branch RDC's Annual Costs			
Other			
Actual Square footage of Centre (not dollars)	870 Square Feet		
Total	150,110.68	10150	160,260.68

Table 9: Summary of Contributions NB-RDC - May 2011-April 2012	
Source of funds	Percentage of Contribution
University of New Brunswick	
Cash Contributions – Operating	44.4%
In-kind Contributions	8.0%
Total for university	52.0%
SSHRC/CIHR – Grant	41.3%
Partner, fee for service	6.3%