



Canadian Research
Knowledge Network

Réseau canadien
de documentation
pour la recherche

Preservation and Access Update

October 7, 2022

11:15am – 12:45pm ET

crkn-rcdr.ca

Speakers

Émilie Fortin

Member, PAC and Bibliothécaire spécialiste en gestion des données de la recherche et préservation numérique, Université Laval

Jason Friedman

Senior Manager, Heritage Services, CRKN

Ken Hernden

Chair, PAC and University Archivist and Associate University Librarian, Queen's University

James MacGregor

Manager, Research Infrastructure and Development, CRKN

Dana McFarland

Vice-Chair, PAC and eResources & Scholarly Communication Librarian, Vancouver Island University,



Agenda

- Introduction and Session Overview
- Canadiana Collections
- Canadian Content Sub-Committee Update
- Sharing the Impact
- Infrastructure Update and Preview
- CFI Project & Preview of the In-Person Workshop
- Questions

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Introduction and Session Overview

PAC Members



Ken Hernden (Chair)
Queen's University

Dana McFarland (Vice-Chair)
(not in photo)
Vancouver Island University

Creighton Barrett
Dalhousie University

Catherine Cole
Catherine C. Cole &
Associates

Sharon Farnel
University of Alberta

Émilie Fortin
Université Laval

Mark Jordan
Simon Fraser University

Ian Milligan
University of Waterloo

Eric Schwab
Toronto Public Library

Johanna Smith
(not in photo)
Library and Archives Canada

Cassandra Tavukciyan
Canadian Museum of History

Looking to the Future



Creating innovative research and collaboration capacity across Canadian digital heritage collections

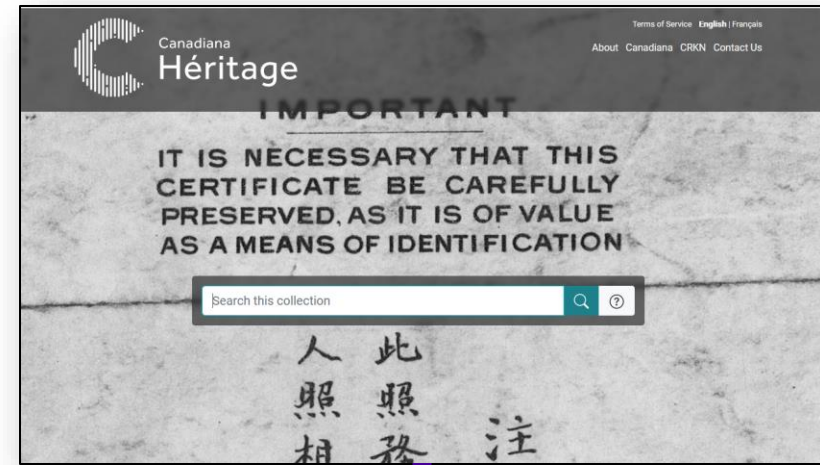
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Canadiana Collections

Digitization for the Canadiana Collections

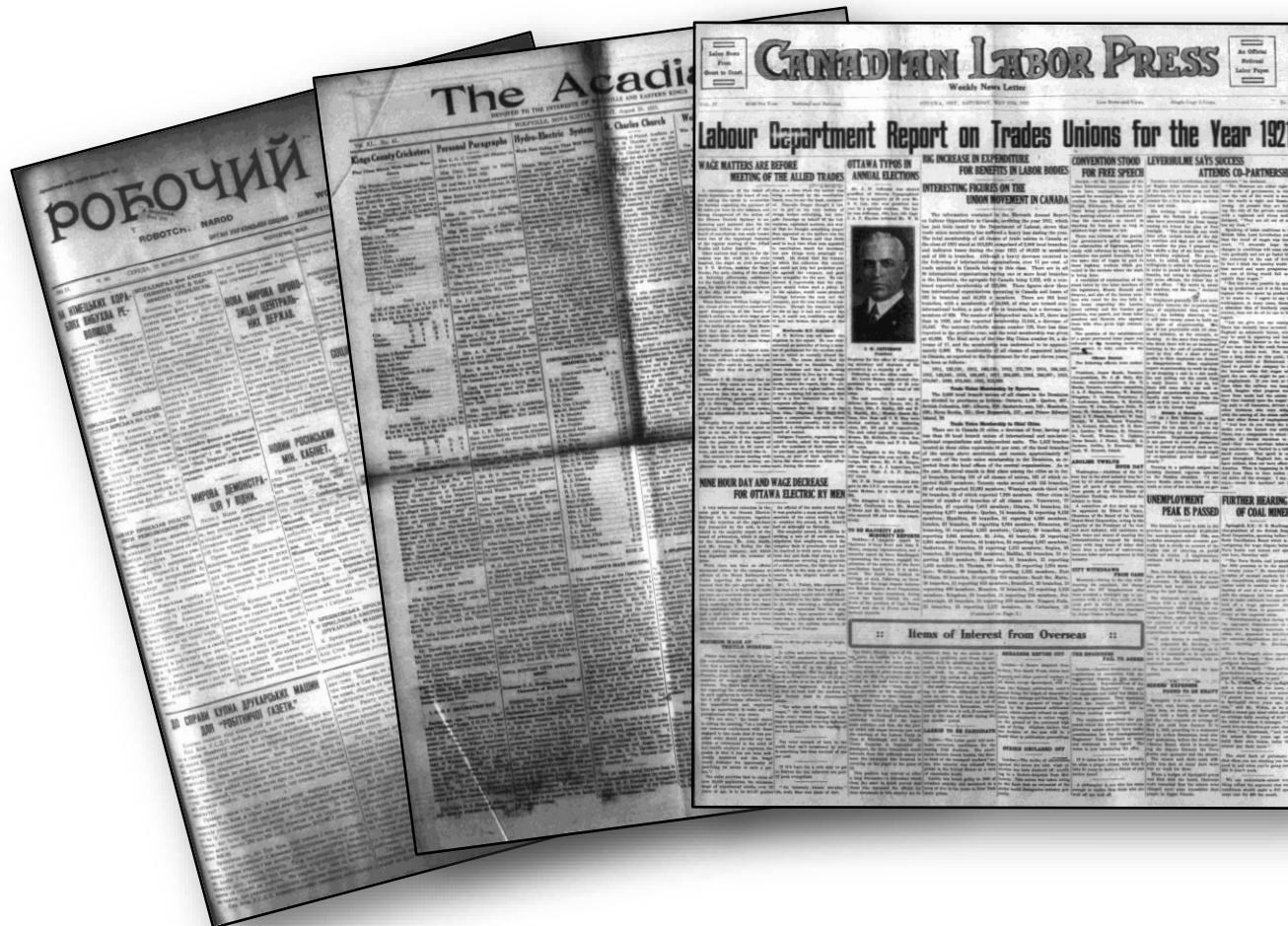


28 newspaper titles (8,391 issues)
322 annuals titles (1,304 issues)



140 reels (199,573 pages of archival content)

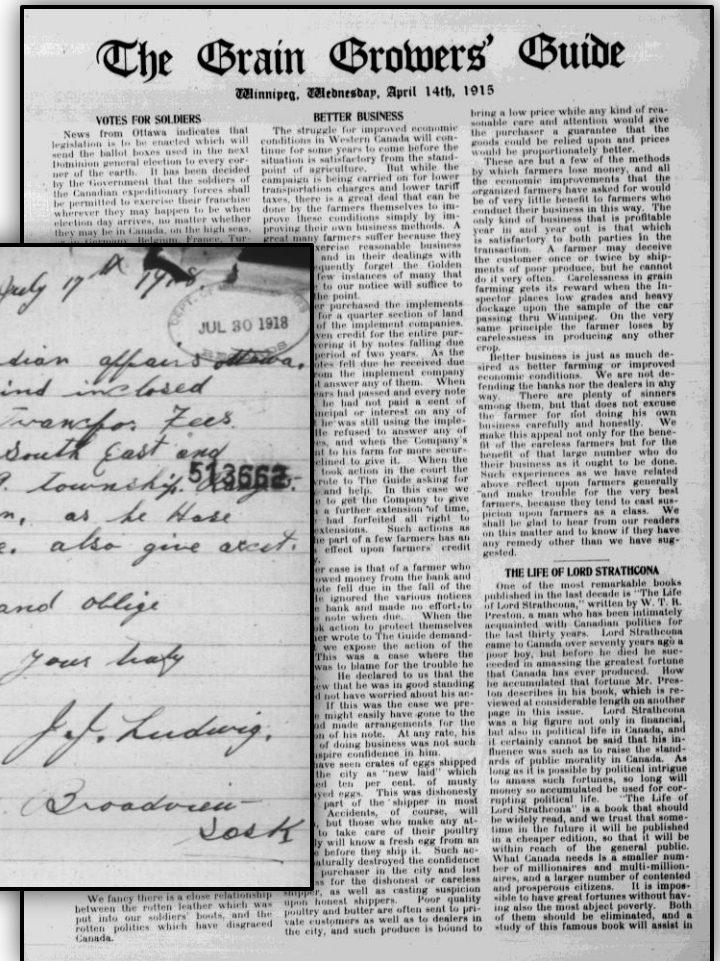
Newspapers



- Based on the Heritage Content and Priorities Task Group (HCPTG) Report
- Improving representation

Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

- Increased OCR Capacity
- Handwriting recognition for the H ritage Collection
 - Approximately 60% of the H ritage Collection is handwritten
 - Increased character recognition equals greater accessibility



Metadata Improvements

Tales of the Mississaguas /
15 images with full-text search ?

Document Record	
Creator	Chamberlain, A. F. (Alexander Francis), 1865-1914., author
Title	Tales of the Mississaguas
Identifier	01133
Subject	Indigenous peoples -- Ontario. ← Autochtones -- Ontario.
Document source	Scanned from a CIHM microfiche of the original publication held by the University of Toronto Library.
Notes	Signed: A. F. Chamberlain. Caption title. Title from title screen. pages 141-154 ; 25 cm.
Collection	Monographs
Language	English
URL	https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.01133

Decolonizing Subject Headings

- Phase I is complete
 - Replace *Indians of North America*
- Phase II is in process
 - Shortening Community names (Removing *Indian*)
 - Updating community names

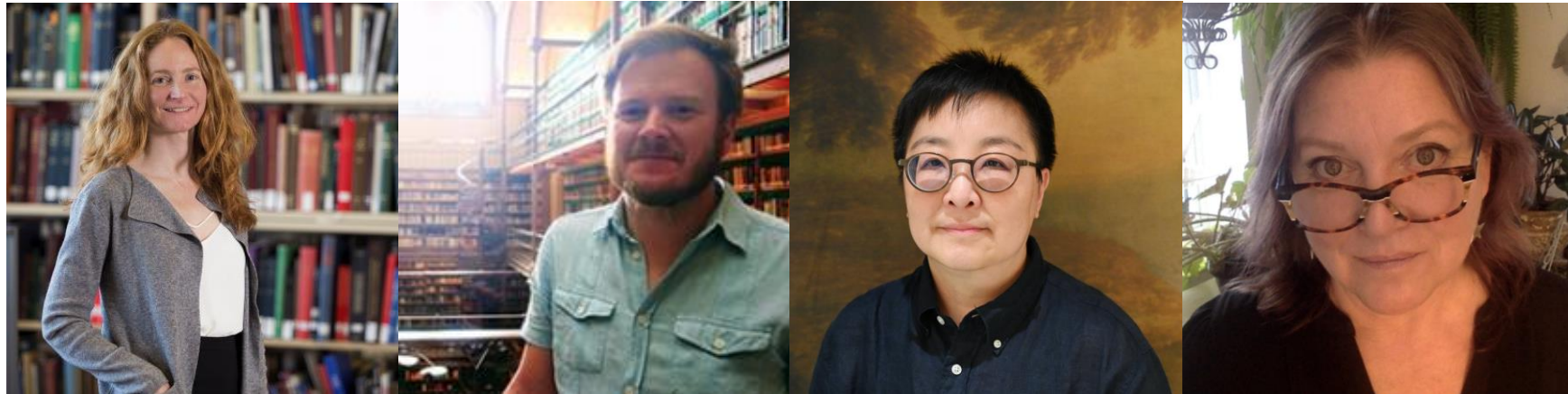
Metadata Improvements





Canadiana Content Sub-Committee Update

Canadiana Content Sub-Committee Update



Dana McFarland (Chair)
(not in photo)
Vancouver Island University

Alison Harding-Hlady
(not in photo)
Library and Archives Canada

Rosa Pinto
(not in photo)
Toronto Public Library

Heather Dean
University of Victoria

Dan Mirau
Concordia University of Edmonton

Julia Roberts
University of Waterloo

Victoria Dickensen
(not in photo)
McGill University

Susanna Ng
Chinatown Storytelling Centre

Jonathan Scotland
(not in photo)
University of Toronto

Sharing the Impact

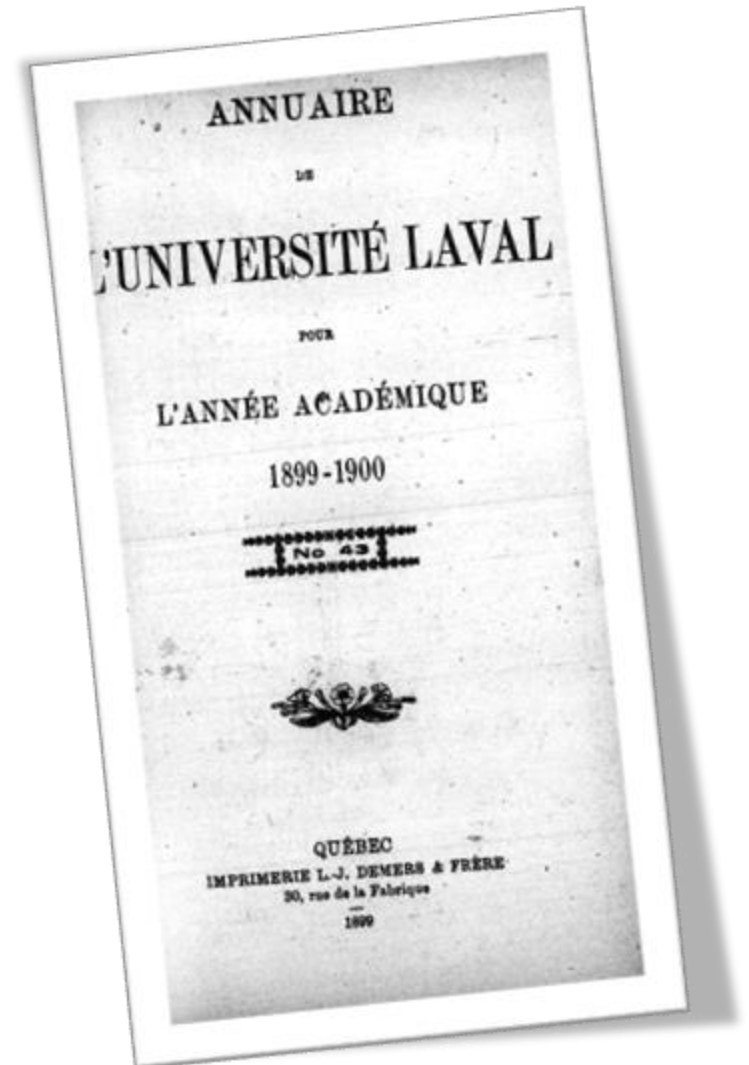
Impact on Research and Education



Impact on Research and Education

Université 
de Montréal

« L'accessibilité à ces annuaires est une très bonne nouvelle pour les chercheurs. » -Researcher



Impact on Research and Education

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

WILSON, EDWARD FRANCIS. (1890, September). Medicine Hat. *Our Forest Children*, 2(7), 21. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_39/2?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_39/2?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1889, April). The work goes on. *Our Forest Children*, 3(1), 46. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_25/3?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_25/3?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1890a, February). Medicine Hat. *Our Forest Children*, 3(11), 130. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_35/4?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_35/4?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1890b, May). Medicine Hat. *Our Forest Children*, 4(2), 185. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_38/11?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_38/11?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1890c, September). Medicine Hat. *Our Forest Children*, 4(6), 254. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_42/15?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_42/15?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1890d, January). Our Indian homes. *Our Forest Children*, 3(10), 118–119. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_34/8?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06666_34/8?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1890e). *Our Indians in a new light: A lecture on the Indians*. Halifax, NS: Holloway.

Wilson, Edward Francis. (1891, January). Medicine Hat Indian home. *The Canadian Indian*, 1(4), 118–119. [Canadiana Online](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06250_4/33?r=0&s=1). URL: https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_06250_4/33?r=0&s=1 [December 17, 2021].



Impact on Research and Education



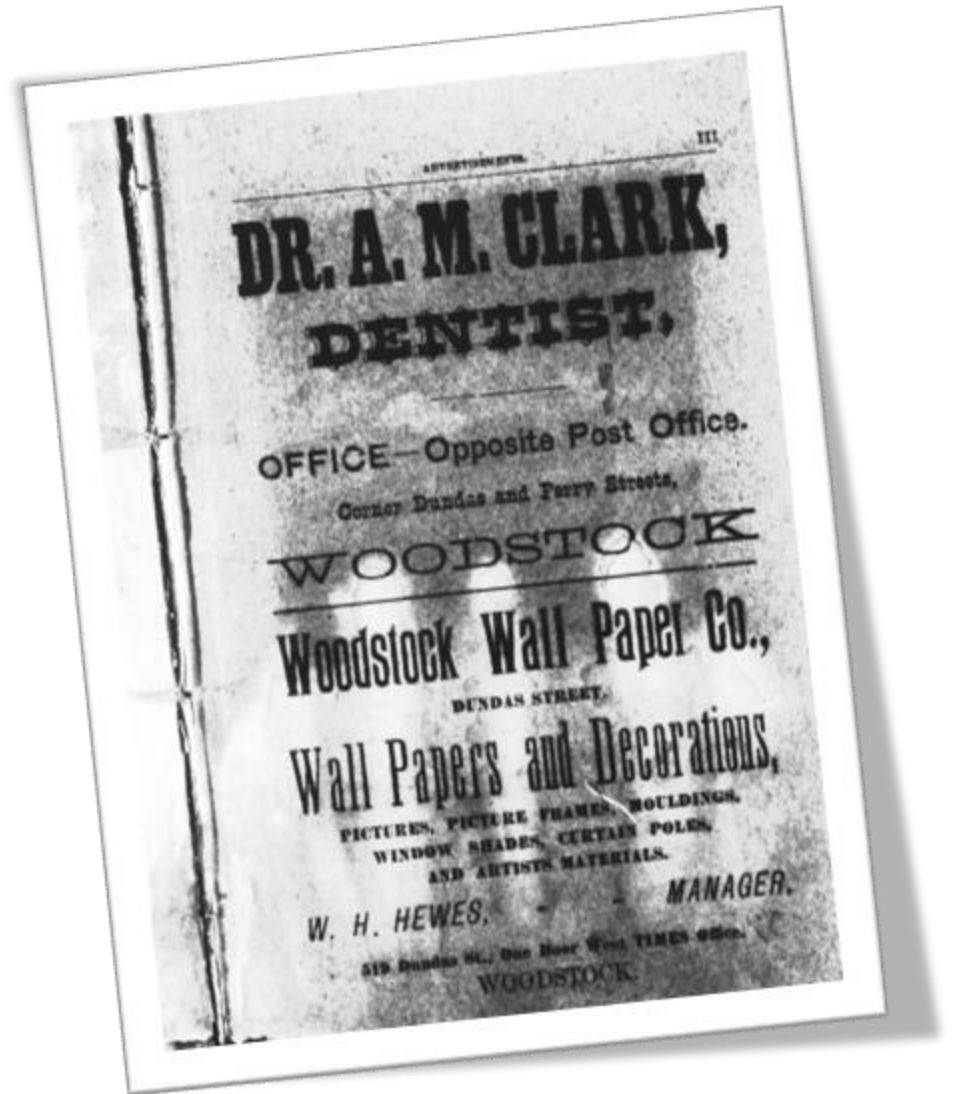
“My research is on colonial Canada and given that context I've long been accustomed to microfilm. Having much of that material available to me at home, with well digitized copies, has made, for me and my students, this practice of being stuck at home for a couple of years extremely productive.

This has also been so helpful financially. I would have had to have spent six months in Ottawa, in the archives, looking at microfilm.” -Dr. Julia Roberts (member of the CCSC)

Impact on Research and Education



“thanks so much for doing this, it will really help with our collection research.” -Staff member at the Woodstock Museum



Impact on Research and Education



“Thanks so much for this! This set of PDFs will provide lots of raw material for me and my students to experiment with new approaches to history.” -Professor T. Sayle





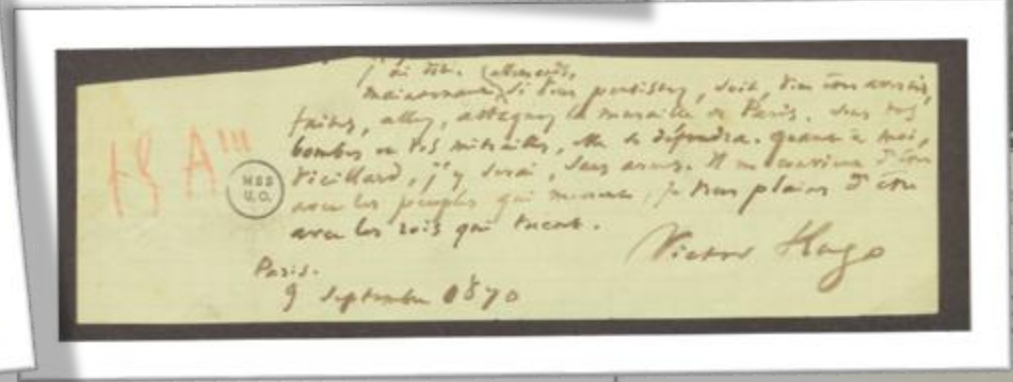
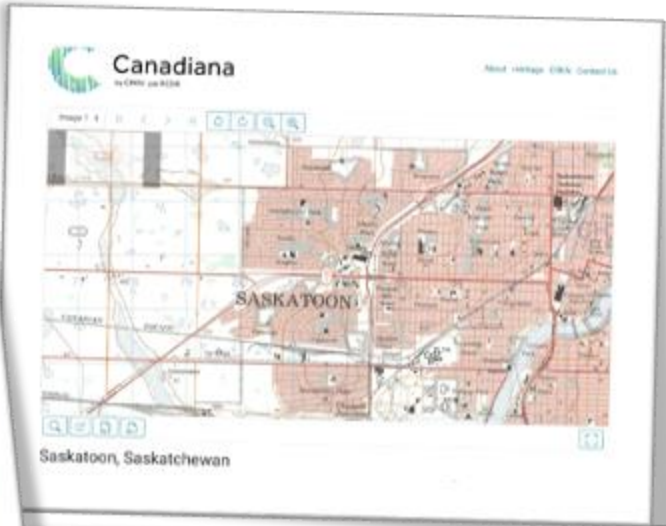
Impact on Researchers

“It was such a happy revelation to discover that CRKN had undertaken the Ingersoll Chronicle digitization project!” –Ingersoll Public Library

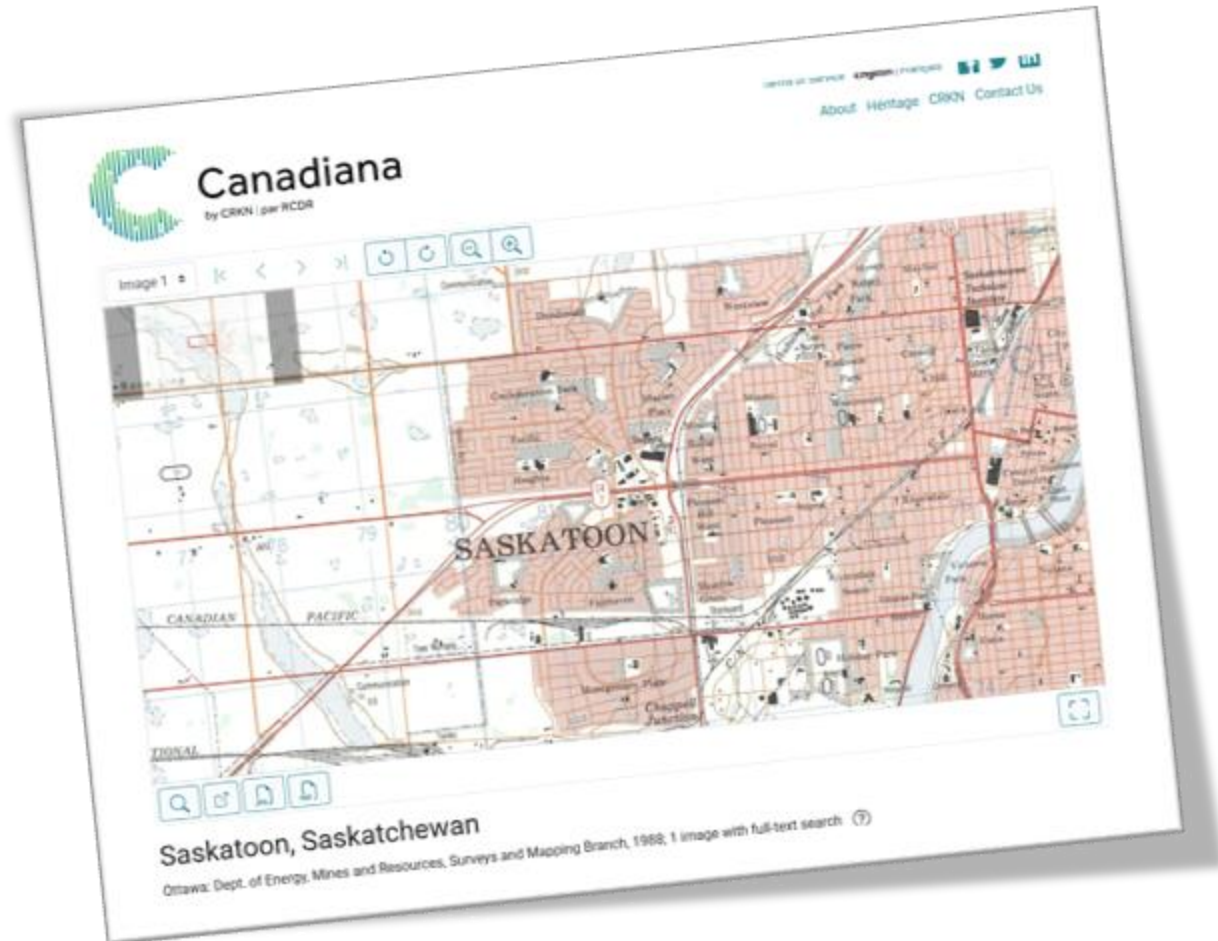
“First of all, a very hearty thank you for running such an excellent and helpful site. I’ve just discovered it and I feel like I’ve discovered gold.”
–PhD candidate

“It is quite wonderful that you have put these Province of Canada Legislative Assembly journal appendices online. I write to make sure you know that they do not go unappreciated.” –Independent historian

Member Content in Canadiana



Member Content in Canadiana

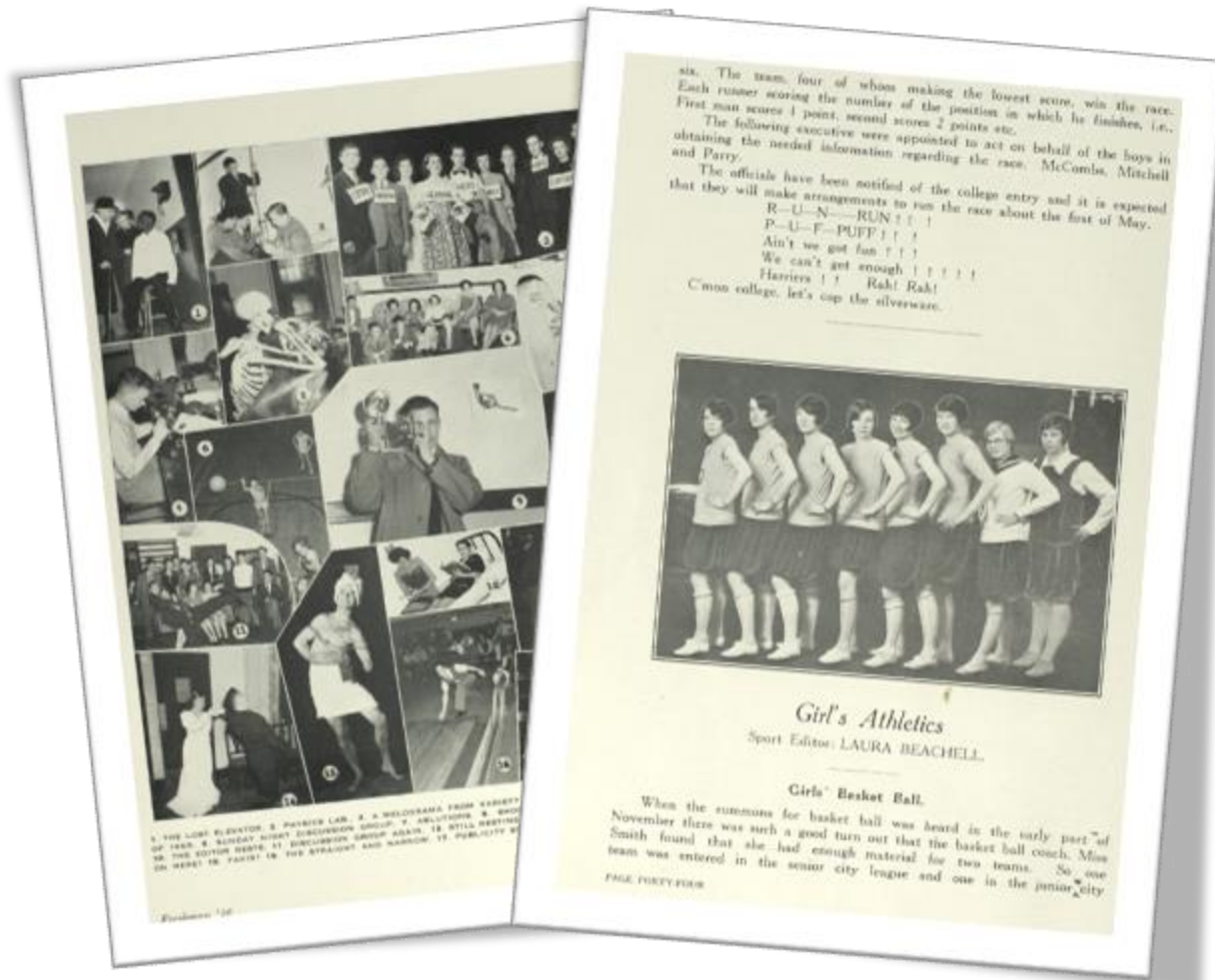


- 1:50,000 scale National Topographic Series
- Approximately 22,000 digitized Canadian maps
- First large scale addition of CRKN member content to Canadiana



McGill

Member Content in Canadiana



- Approximately 34 student publications
- Date ranges from 1914 to 1968
- Smaller scale addition to Canadiana



Supporting our Community

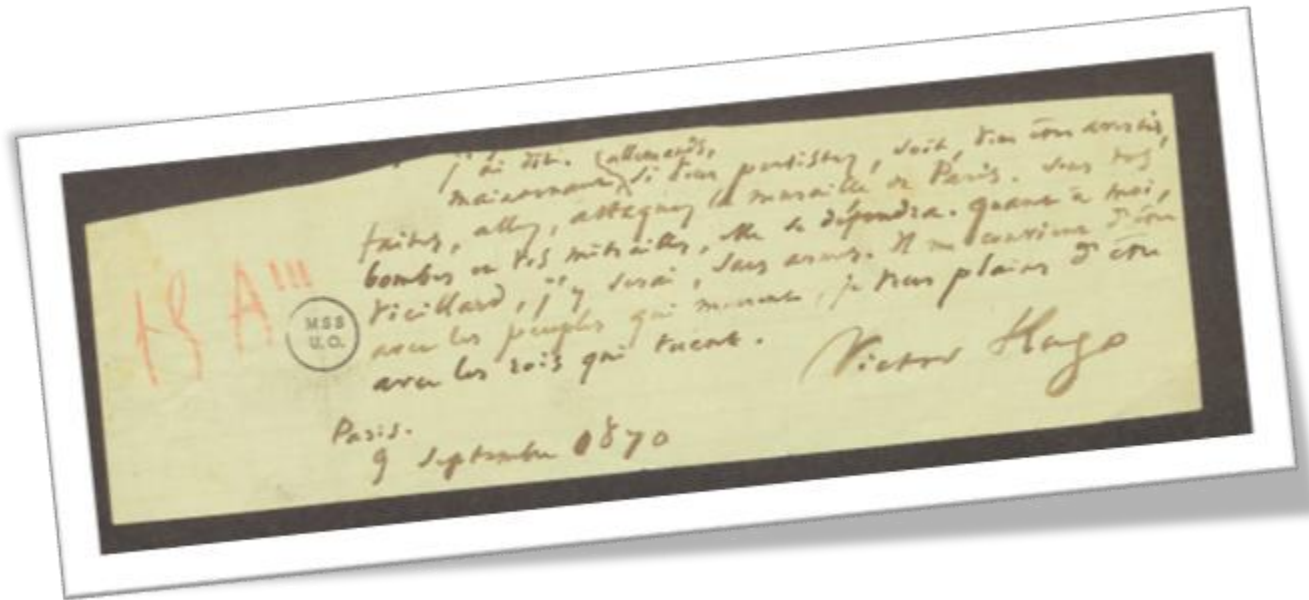


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  of SASKATCHEWAN



Victoria West Athletic
Association

Supporting our Community



- French literature archives, including text from George Sand and Victor Hugo
- Text, art, photographs, even vellum!



uOttawa

Supporting our Community

“Newspapers were less about freedom of expression and more of a colonial enterprise”

“I think our first step in the decolonization part of this project is that we can prove what happened in Canadian history and do the work to dismantle that.” - Professor S. Drouin



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Quiz Time!

Resolved at length in heedless calm, he lies
And plays with his dark hair.

It is the twilight, and full many an eve
Has thus been passed, whilst on the western trees
The sunbeams wait as though they sighed to leave
This six month's married pair in such a breeze
Of angry words,
'I will,' 'you heartless man,' 'you wretch,' such sounds
as these

Frightening the birds.

QUIZ QUIDDLESTICKS.

A TOUCHING HISTORY.

Quiz Quiddlesticks rose with the lark, that is, he rose with the mud frog, or a bull frog, which means the same thing in Canada; and being actuated by no common spirit, he had the audacity to dance a very animated horn-pipe, notwithstanding that he well knew his friend, who lived in the room under him was the sourest individual between the poles. But what cared Quiz for anybody. He was going to a pic-nic that day; and had hired his sweet-heart and invited his horse—no, he meant he had invited his sweet-heart and hired a stunning turn out; and expected to meet dozens of handsome ladies, and to have such fun dancing with them on the green grass. At the very thought of the delight in store for him, he became suddenly musical, and plunged into "La Sompambula" much to the dis-

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and his t
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tory to b
time—Qu
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who

The grumbler : [Vol. 1, no. 17 (July 10, 1858)]



Location

While it may not be in the top 10 population-wise, this Canadian city is the 6th most popular for Canadiana visitors (hint, it also has a CRKN member institution)?

- A. London, Ontario
- B. Fredericton, New Brunswick
- C. Gatineau, Quebec
- D. Halifax, Nova Scotia



Language

While English and French are the most popular languages of Canadiana users, what language is third?

- A. Italian
- B. German
- C. Chinese
- D. Spanish



Popularity

Of these 4 popular items in the Canadiana collection, which was the most popular for the first half of this year?

- A. Hamilton Times
- B. The Campbell divorce bill
- C. Sessional papers of the Dominion of Canada
- D. The Canadian magazine



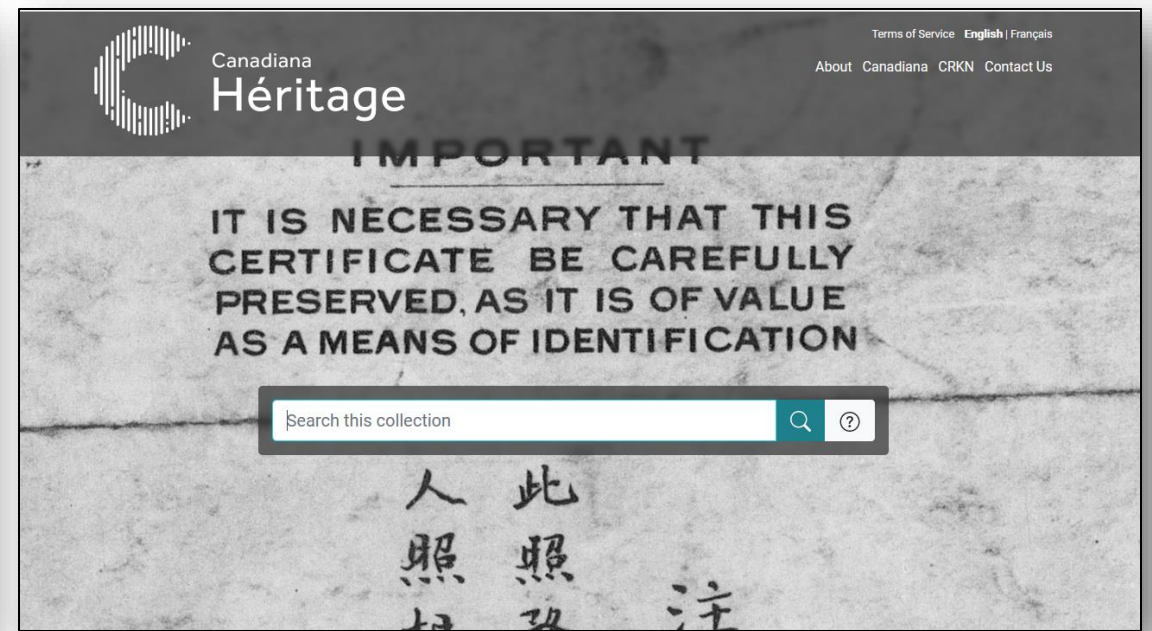
Popularity

The launch of the McGill Maps collection was officially announced on August 24. What was the most popular map on that day?

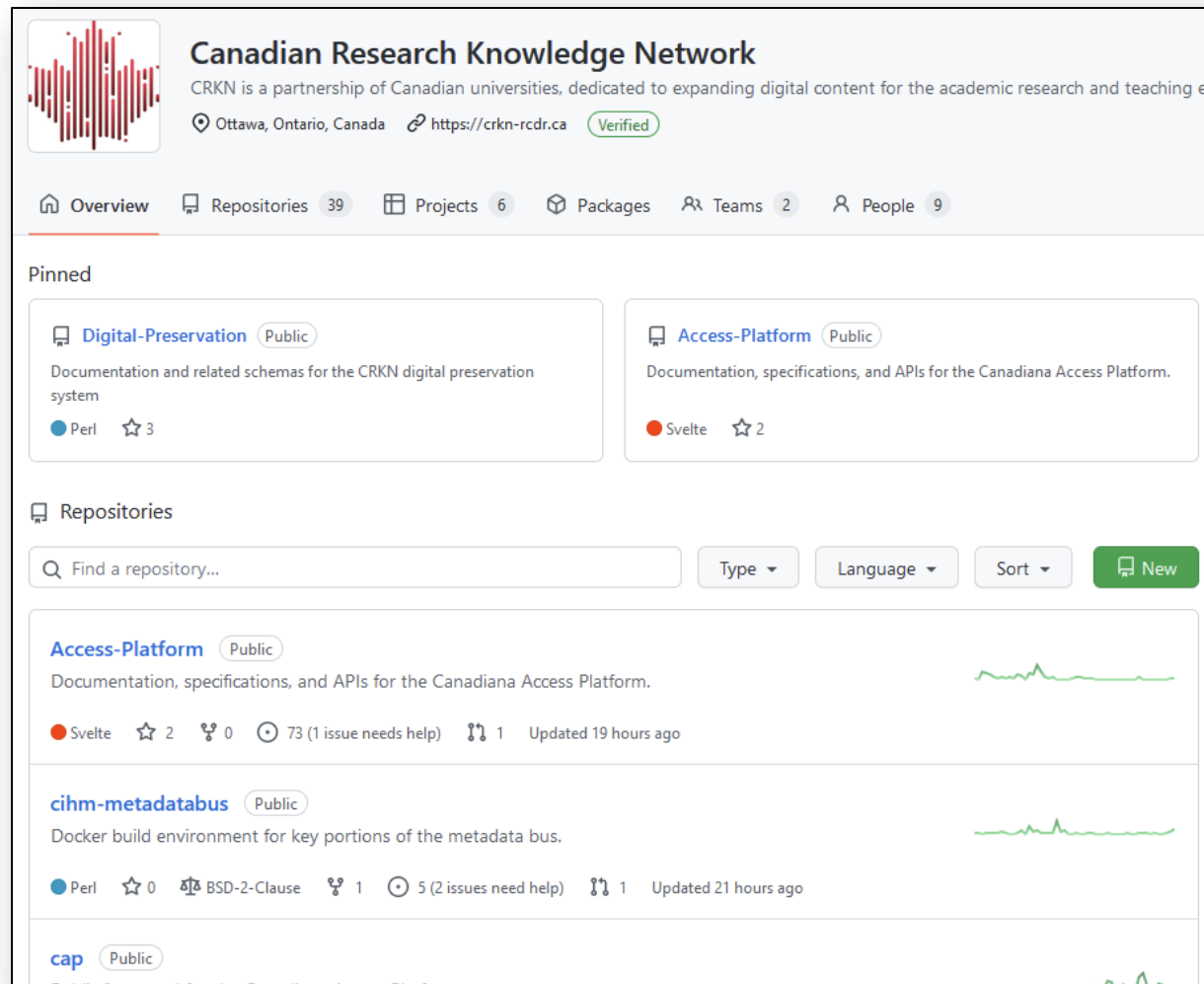
- A. Toronto, Ontario
- B. Heart's Content, Newfoundland
- C. Driftwood Creek sheet (West), British Columbia
- D. Mount Albert sheet (East), Quebec

Infrastructure Update and Preview

What is the Canadiana Platform?



What is the Canadiana Platform?



The screenshot shows the GitHub profile for the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). The profile header includes the organization's name, a description: "CRKN is a partnership of Canadian universities, dedicated to expanding digital content for the academic research and teaching er...", location "Ottawa, Ontario, Canada", website "https://crkn-rcdr.ca", and a "Verified" badge. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for Overview, Repositories (39), Projects (6), Packages, Teams (2), and People (9). The "Pinned" section features two repositories: "Digital-Preservation" (Public) with a description "Documentation and related schemas for the CRKN digital preservation system" and 3 stars, and "Access-Platform" (Public) with a description "Documentation, specifications, and APIs for the Canadiana Access Platform." and 2 stars. The "Repositories" section has a search bar and filters for Type, Language, and Sort, along with a "New" button. The first repository listed is "Access-Platform" (Public), described as "Documentation, specifications, and APIs for the Canadiana Access Platform.", using Svelte, with 2 stars, 0 forks, 73 issues (1 needs help), and 1 pull request, updated 19 hours ago. The second repository is "cihm-metadatabus" (Public), described as "Docker build environment for key portions of the metadata bus.", using Perl, with 0 stars, 1 fork, 5 issues (2 need help), and 1 pull request, updated 21 hours ago. A third repository "cap" (Public) is partially visible at the bottom.

- Centralized web platform
- Monolithic slab of custom code
- Maintained by small team
- Technically open source and available on GitHub

What is the Canadiana Platform?



Don't panic!

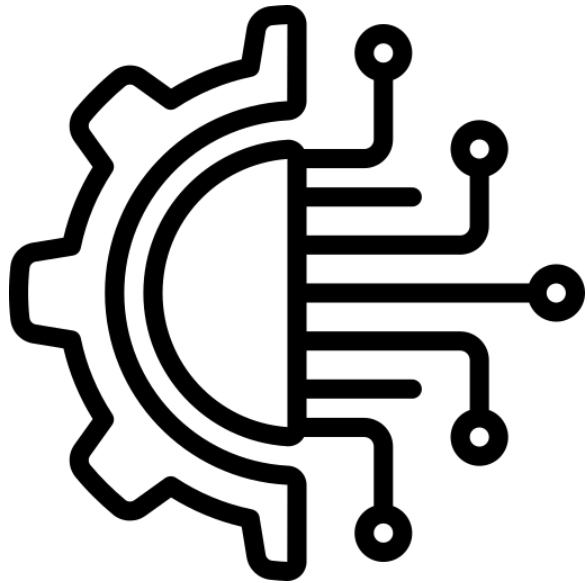
This is a very common and accepted situation for centralized websites or platforms, and even for some infrastructures!

What is the Canadiana Platform?

But as scholarly infrastructure, this limits us

Technically	Support and Governance
Lots of time spent maintaining custom code instead	Reinforces a client/service model instead of community membership model
Limited new tools or features added	Reduces transparency in our development practices and timelines
Limited access to infrastructure outside of web interface	Limits our engagement with other projects

So What Can we Do?



Continue our transition to becoming
open scholarly infrastructure!

Canadiana as Open Infrastructure

Technical Transition	Community Governance Transition	Community Support Transition
Where relevant, replace custom code with open-source software applications	Communicate timelines clearly through public roadmaps	Introduce or improve community support options
Develop, document and support open APIs	Introduce change clearly through robust user testing	Document and support decentralized content sharing for member institutions, others
Integrate and engage with other infrastructure providers and tools	Increase member engagement in goal-setting and feature development	Improve accessibility to content overall, esp. to different kinds of users and communities

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Canadiana as Open Infrastructure

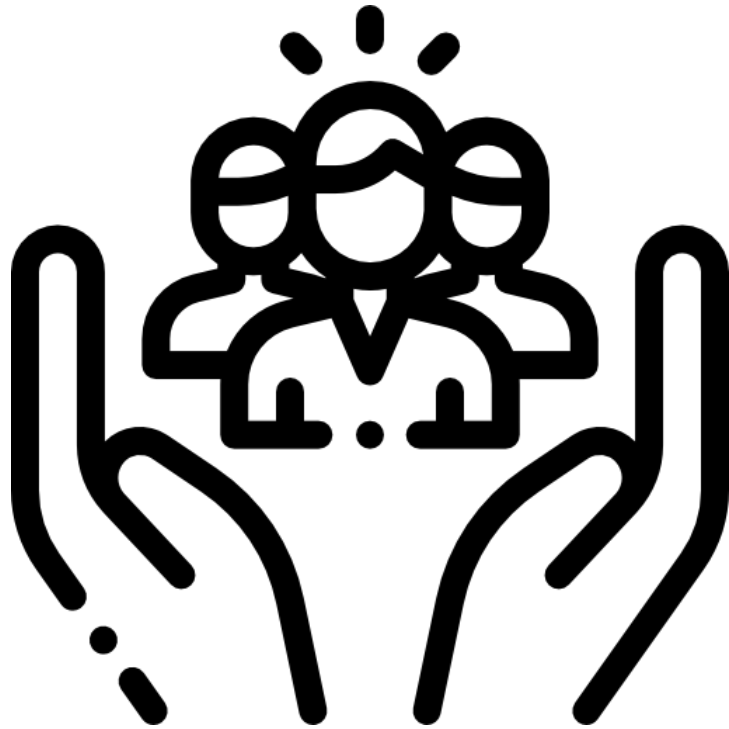
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Benefits to This Approach

- ✓ Increased transparency
- ✓ Increased member/community engagement and ownership
- ✓ Increased member satisfaction
- ✓ Improved access to content
- ✓ Improved relationships and interoperability with other platforms
- ✓ Cooler tools

Challenges to This Approach



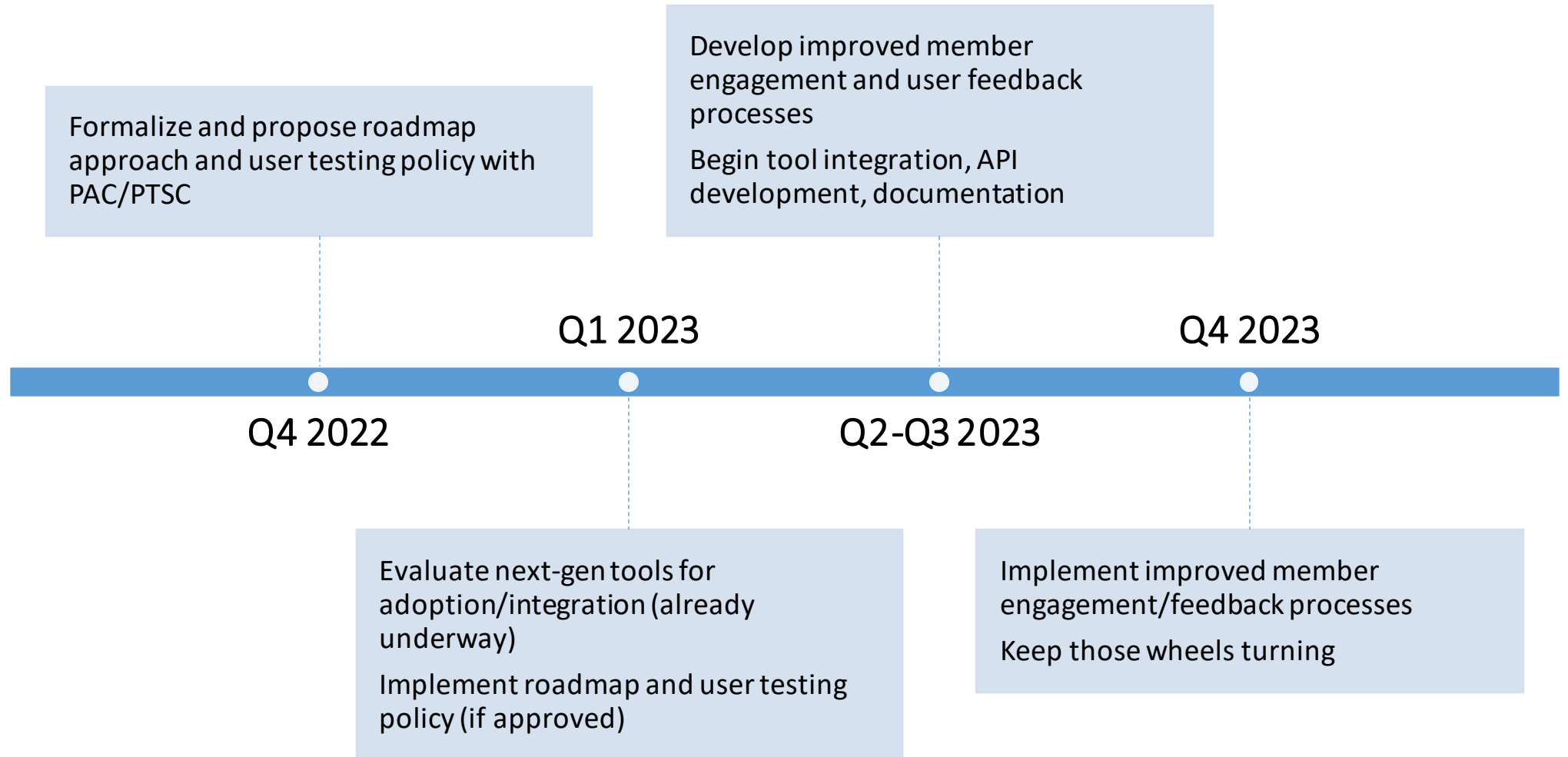
- Requires time to nurture and manage communities
- Requires work to balance priorities
- Infrastructure & Development team must adapt and grow
- Requires support from our member community through their:
 - Time
 - Ideas
 - Financial/in-kind support

Why We Are Excited

- The I&D Team is ready for this
- This transition shows maturity in governance and technology
- The Canadiana collection will become **far** more accessible and relevant
 - Institutions will be able to contribute, access and display content in new ways
 - Researchers will have new ways to access and integrate our content with their research
- We will contribute to Canada's role as international leaders in DRI



Next Steps



CFI Project & Preview of the In-Person Workshop

Member Driven Canadiana Priorities



- Incorporating member content
- Modernizing platform
- Implementing open Infrastructure
- Increasing interoperability
- Focusing on user driven development

Digital Cultural and Heritage Collections of the Future: A CFI Innovation Fund Application

- CFI Application Strategy Task Group
- Researcher Council
- Heritage Infrastructure Business Plan Task Group
- Internal CFI Committee



**Some committee members not pictured*

Digital Cultural and Heritage Collections of the Future: A CFI Innovation Fund Application



Summary of the work to date leading to the CFI Innovation Fund application



Formal introduction to the CRKN Researcher Council and overview of their findings to date



Foundational brainstorming and roundtable discussions with senior leadership



Project next steps



Digital Cultural and Heritage Collections of the Future: A CFI Innovation Fund Application

What do you think your senior decision makers need to know when coming to the table to talk about the future of Canadiana and the CFI project?

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Questions?

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Thank you!