



ARUCC Groningen Project Update – Fall 2019

Creating a national data exchange network for Canada

Welcome and best wishes for a successful fall/winter 2019/2020! On behalf of the project steering committee, ARUCC is please to provide this update regarding the ARUCC Groningen & Student Mobility Project. For more details, visit the [project website](#).

RFP Update

We expect to launch the Project RFP in fall 2019. The ARUCC community will be notified as soon as this occurs. Although the original intention was to launch the RFP in the summer, the legal and procurement review processes necessitated an extension to this timeline. In addition to all the work shared in this bulletin, the project leadership has been focused on hiring and working with the new legal firm for the project; refining the RFP documentation; establishing and orienting a national RFP committee and capturing their input into the RFP process; and establishing the purchasing infrastructure to support this large-scale effort. The ARUCC community will be notified via the listserv and updates to the project website once the RFP launches.

Legal Support

The project steering committee and ARUCC have hired the legal firm, [Field Law](#) which maintains offices across Canada including in Alberta, the location of ARUCC's head office. Field Law brings to the project access to more than 100 lawyers with expertise in a range of areas including IT and emerging technology. We are pleased to have this level of expertise supporting the project. The project's legal firm is reviewing the RFP documents and process and will continue advising ARUCC throughout the fall/winter.

Governance Consultation

Thank you to all the many people across Canada who participated in the governance consultation webinars and provided input into the process as the project leadership works to recommend a next phase governance framework for the project. The summary of the consultation outcomes is available [online](#) along with a next stage recommended course of action. Currently, ARUCC as a federally incorporated not-for-profit, is leading the RFP process and creation of the National Network. Further changes to governance and the operating structure will be informed by advice provided by the project's legal firm and ARUCC members and partners involved in this project.

Project Fundraising

Fundraising efforts for the National Network continue. Thank you to those institutions and organizations that provided endorsements and funds for the project. If you don't see your institution or organization listed [online](#), please contact [our executive lead](#), Joanne Duklas, to take advantage of this opportunity to support the National Network. To that end, ARUCC will soon be conducting another fundraising call to institutions and allied organizations to support the project needs for this fiscal.

The project steering members continue to consult with other higher education leaders and provincial and federal government offices to identify further funding opportunities for the National Network. As part of this process, ARUCC is submitting proposals to government and other bodies across Canada to support fundraising.



Project Committee Work

The Project Steering Committee meets bi-weekly to ensure the project remains forward focused and evidence informed. This committee provides oversight leadership with delegated responsibility from ARUCC to guide the direction of the project, oversee the work, and support any community consultation processes and fundraising. Its members routinely update and engage with the ARUCC executive through four of its directors – Romesh Vadivel, president of ARUCC; Julie Green, vice president of ARUCC; Jeff Adams, western representative for ARUCC; and Charmaine Hack, past-president of ARUCC. Also sitting on the Steering Committee and other subcommittees are representatives from [PCCAT, CUCCIO, and CanPESC](#). These representatives bring extensive Canadian higher education experience to the project.

The national Technical Advisory Support (“TAC”) subcommittee completed its work at the end of June which included providing expertise and advice related to the technical aspects of the business case and RFP. TAC members have been asked to remain available should additional questions arise. The project leadership extends its thanks to each member of the TAC for supporting this important process.

During the summer and early fall, the Steering Committee established, oriented, and began working with the national RFP Review Committee. Its membership includes leaders and IT experts from provincial application centres/hubs, post-secondary institutions, associations, and councils on admissions/articulation and transfer from across Canada. This committee is being co-chaired by Charmaine Hack, registrar, Ryerson University and former ARUCC president, and Brian Stewart, deputy CIO, University of Alberta, and chair, CUCCIO. Its mandate includes reviewing the draft and final RFP documentation, working with the legal and purchasing supports, and subsequently reviewing, scoring, and ranking proposals, and making recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, which includes four ARUCC Directors, will review the recommendations from this Committee related to the RFP, consult with the ARUCC Executive during the RFP process, and identify potential partners for the National Network.

We have encouraged these committee members to keep their higher education communities informed of the process as the fall and winter unfold; however, if you have questions, you are welcome to contact the project’s executive lead ([Joanne Duklas](#)), the chair or vice chair of the Steering Committee ([Charmaine Hack](#) or [Dr. Rob Fleming](#)), or the president of ARUCC ([Romesh Vadivel](#)).



Proposed Data Framework

Extensive consultation and research have informed the identification of current state gaps and needs, potential opportunities (both nationally and internationally), and business and functional requirements. Figures 1 and 2 provide overviews of the proposed learner-focused framework and data model for the National Network. Core foundational principles emphasized include

- (i) ensuring the learner sits at the centre of the National Network which means digitization and portability remain critical to support them *viewing, curating, and sharing access to their validated, official credentials with whom they want and when they want*, and
- (ii) developing the capacity and infrastructure for *permission-based, trusted exchange of official documents and data* between recognized institutions and official credential depositories and exchange hubs to support learner mobility, address growing fraud, and ensure creation of a data model that is flexible, adaptable, interoperable, and agile.

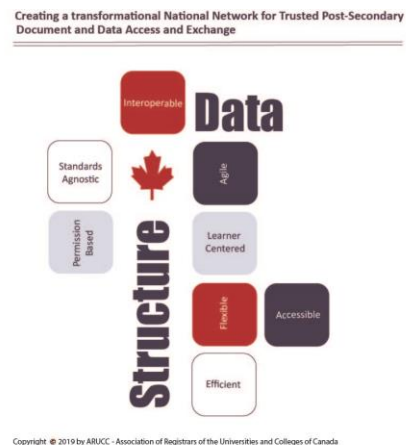
We remain confident that this extensive research and consultation process will serve the National Network well as we move through the RFP and implementation phases. Additional information is provided in this package to assist you with responding to enquiries. For detailed information and ongoing updates, please continue to visit our project [website](#).

To view larger versions of the images published on the project website, click on the pictures below.

Figure 1: Learner Focused Framework



Figure 2: Future Focused Data Structure



We continue to be inspired by the ongoing support received from those who have volunteered their time, advice, funds, and endorsements for the project. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Charmaine Hack, chair, Project Steering Committee; registrar, Ryerson University; former president, ARUCC

Dr. Rob Fleming, vice-chair, Project Steering Committee; executive director and co-chair, British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer; representative for the Pan-Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer (PCCAT)

Romesh Vadivel, president, ARUCC; assistant registrar and director, Service Point, McGill University



Next Steps

This current phase runs through and into first quarter of 2020 and focuses on the following items:

- Seeking additional funding from friends, allied organizations, and government to support the long-term goals of the Project including making any funding submissions, as identified
- Continuing to keep the membership and higher education community informed about the Project's progress
- Incorporating into the RFP any advice received from the legal, purchasing, and others involved in the process
- Launching the RFP, interviewing potential candidates, reviewing proposals, and identifying potential partners
- Holding meetings and sessions with members of the Canadian higher education community to continue capturing input and providing updates, including a full day retreat with membership and friends on Oct 25 in Montreal
- Developing a framework for identifying pilot institutions and organizations for the first phase of implementation

Detailed Deliverables (current and anticipated)

The work of the project steering committee and its team continues! Here's a sample summary of activities in this phase.

April 2019 – January 2020 – current and anticipated

- Oct 25 full day retreat for membership and friends in Montreal, co-located with the [PESC Data Summit](#)
- ARUCC fundraising continues – second round of fundraising to members in fall 2019
- Funding sources continue to be identified to support the project (ongoing) – ARUCC continues to develop and submit targeted proposals to access government and other funding
- Project's Technical Advisory Committee completes their mandate, including developing RFP documents (Jan to June 2019)
- Legal firm retained and reviews RFP documents (Aug-Oct 2019)
- National RFP Review Committee formed and supports RFP document finalization and review (June-Sep 2019)
- RFP documents finalized and launched (planning: fall 2019 – revised timeline)
- Governance consultation occurs at various national and regional conferences and meetings (CUCCIO, PCCAT, WARUCC, OURA, Groningen Declaration Summit, registrarial regional meetings, etc.) (Apr to Aug 2019); National Network governance document is prepared summarizing emerging themes from consultations with recommendations for Steering Committee review (Jun-Sep 2019); further legal and community advice sought on options for operational structure (fall 2019)
- Planning begins for an invitation-only Retreat Day designed to bring people together to discuss future opportunities, emerging technologies, and guide planning framework development; retreat augmented by direct outreach to fall and winter registrarial meetings (Oct 25, 2019)
- Review of proposals and recommendation(s) to Steering Committee (fall/winter 2019/20)