HERSA-Team Canada: Statement of Shared Intent

Members of the Higher Education Research Security Association (HERSA) and the Team Canada Research Security Community ("Team Canada") recognize the growing importance of proactive, peer-led international collaboration in strengthening research security, safeguarding academic integrity, and supporting trusted global research partnerships - enabling economic growth and collaborative sovereign capability.

Building on the strong relationships established through the HERSA–Team Canada Exchange Initiative, as well as other virtual and in-person engagements, both communities share a commitment to fostering a trusted network of practitioners dedicated to advancing research security across the higher education sector. While both communities of practice operate within their own legislative, policy, and institutional contexts, we recognize the deep expertise, and exceptional skill sets within both communities of practice from which both HERSA and Team Canada can mutually benefit through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mutual support.

To support this objective, HERSA and Team Canada intend to pursue several practical, community-driven initiatives over the coming years, including:

i. Knowledge Exchange and Professional Development
    - Facilitate regular exchanges of emerging practices, lessons learned, case studies, and institutional approaches to research security
    - Promote joint professional development opportunities, including webinars, workshops, and practitioner-led training.
    - Explore collaborative training initiatives in areas such as export controls compliance, due diligence, open-source intelligence (OSINT), research risk assessment, and bibliometric analysis.
    - Support mentorship and peer matching opportunities for both new and experienced research security practitioners.

ii. Policy and Legislative Awareness
- Share insights on evolving legislative, regulatory, and policy developments in Canada, the United Kingdom, and other partner jurisdictions.
- Deliver periodic briefings and discussions on emerging research security trends, risks, and opportunities.

iii. Community Building and Communication
- Establish regular engagement mechanisms to strengthen relationships between practitioners and institutions.
- Explore the development of a shared collaboration space to facilitate ongoing communication, resource sharing, and community discussion.
- Support periodic virtual engagements and biannual in-person meetings, where feasible, to advance shared priorities and strategic dialogue.

iv. Sector Leadership
- Promote awareness of research security across the higher education sector through the identification and support of academic champions and institutional leaders.
- Encourage evidence-based dialogue with governments, funding agencies, and sector stakeholders on issues affecting research security practice.
- Foster a collaborative and inclusive professional community that supports responsible international collaboration and the protection of research, innovation, and institutional values.

Guiding Principles

This partnership is founded on the principles of trust, reciprocity, openness, professional integrity, and mutual respect. It is intended to serve as a flexible framework for cooperation rather than a formal governance structure, enabling

both communities to identify and pursue opportunities that provide tangible value to practitioners and institutions.

Through this shared commitment, HERSA and Team Canada seek to strengthen the resilience, capability, and connectivity of the research security profession while supporting the continued advancement of trusted international research collaboration.

Support from the Canadian and UK Governments

This progress would not have been possible without the support of a number of governmental and institutional organisations. The 2026 conference exchange initiative, delivered primarily through the HERSA 2026 Annual Conference in the UK and the Canada Research Security Conference (CRSC) 2026 in Winnipeg, Canada, benefited from the support of the UK Science and Technology Network, a joint initiative of the UK Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), together with Global Affairs Canada.

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