

**Assessment of the partnership agreement between
the Corporate Services (CS) and the
Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)
in support of Canada's affiliation with the
ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)**

The agreement has been in place since 01 April 1993.

Initial Draft: 22 September 2003
Final Version: 10 October 2003
Contact: Dr. Gordon Wood

The agreement between NRC CS and CISTI was renewed on 11 September 1998.

The annual dues for CODATA for the past three years were:

2003 - \$14418 US (\$22348 CDN)
2002 - \$14261 US (\$22532 CDN)
2001 - \$13667 US (\$19953 CDN)

1. Set-up and Operation of the Canadian National Committee for CODATA.

a) Describe how the CNC/CODATA has been set-up.

Terms of Reference for the CNC (Appendix 1) were adopted in September 1993 and the Committee has operated accordingly since then.

Operationally, and to provide continuity, a secretariat has been established in CISTI with a Secretary and Executive Secretary formally identified; duties are very much part-time; budgetary allocations cover the cost of the annual meeting, distributing the CODATA Newsletter and maintaining the CNC/CODATA website.

CNC/CODATA ensures that Canada optimizes its benefits from belonging to CODATA by:

- collecting and reconciling the many views of its relevant Canadian scientific community on data issues;
- identifying, representing and promoting the capabilities and distinctive competence of the Canadian scientific community internationally;
- enhancing the depth and breadth of the participation of the Canadian scientific community in the activities and events of CODATA and related organizations;
- establishing mechanisms for communicating to its Canadian scientific community the views of CODATA and information about the activities of CODATA;
- distributing appropriate documentation, including the CODATA Newsletter;
- attracting and staging international events of value to its Canadian scientific community.

- b) Operation of the CNC/CODATA within CISTI. Please give frequency of meetings, level of attendance and main items of discussion.

Meetings: held annually at CISTI; travel costs for university sector members are paid by CISTI; the agenda are distributed in advance with Member input solicited.

Attendance¹:

- September 13, 1993 - Members 4/4; Observers 4, Guests 1
- June 17, 1994 - Members 4/5; Observers 2, Guests 1
- May 12, 1995 - Members 6/6; Observers 5, Guests 1
- May 10, 1996 - Members 5/7; Observers 2
- May 16, 1997 - Members 6/6; Observers 3
- October 2, 1998 – Members 5/7; Observers 3
- November 29, 1999 – Members 6/7; Observers 6; Guests 1
- September 15, 2000 – Members 5/7; Observers 6; Guests 2; other CNC reps. 4
- November 9, 2001 – Members 8/8; Observers 4; other CNC reps. 5
- November 8, 2002 – Members 8/8; Observers 6; other CNC reps. 2

Main items of discussion:

- Reports from Canadian members of CODATA Task Groups and Commissions;
- Reports/Observations from representatives of other ICSU Unions
- Opportunities for collaboration between CNC/CODATA and the CNC's of other ICSU Unions
- According to the year, either a report from the Canadian Delegate to the biannual CODATA General Assembly or voting instructions to the Delegate;
- Review of Canadian participation in CODATA Task Groups and Commissions; actions identified where representation is weak;
- Identification of project(s) for CNC/CODATA of benefit to Canada (eg. Data Quality and Data Consistency, Student prize, Seminar on Access to Publicly Funded Research Data)
- According to the year, either plans and rapporteur appointments for biannual *Data Activities in Canada* report or review of its current status;

Meetings organized:

CNC/CODATA organized the Seminar on *Access to Publicly Funded Research Data* forming a part of the May 2003 CNC/NRC Partners Meeting. Building on concerns first raised at the CNC/CODATA meeting in 2000, this seminar was planned to stimulate action in the natural sciences toward a coherent policy and infrastructure addressing this important issue.

CNC/CODATA jointly sponsored, with the USNC/CODATA, the 2002 CODATA International Scientific Conference in Montreal. Several members were heavily involved in organizational matters. M. Sabourin served on the Conference Oversight/Finance Committee; J. Rodgers and G. Newton served on the International Scientific Program Committee and organized sessions. G. Wood Chaired the International Scientific Program Committee.

CNC/CODATA organized two Workshops/Tutorials on Information Visualization in Ottawa (advertised nationally):

June 3, 1999:

¹ Because of resignations and the time required to recruit new Members, the roster has not always been equal to the six Members allowed in the Terms of Reference. G. Wood and P. Mezey in their respective terms as Secretary General of CODATA and G. Wood as Executive Secretary of CNC/CODATA were, per the Terms of Reference, *ex-officio* Members of CNC/CODATA so that the Member count may occasionally exceed six.

in collaboration with the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation (OCRI) and the CODATA Task Group on Data and Information Visualization; about 80 participants

May 23, 2001:

in collaboration with OCRI and with the sponsorship of a number of corporations; attended by 113 computer scientists, information specialists and software developers, primarily from 8 government departments, 5 universities and 46 companies in the greater Ottawa area.

CNC/CODATA continued its practice of convening annual meetings to carry out its business. A new feature introduced in 2001 was to invite representatives from all the ICSU Unions to which Canada adheres to participate. This has proven to be valuable for a multi-disciplinary committee like CNC/CODATA.

Reports and communications:

Continuing its practice since 1994, the Committee prepared and produced its biannual *Report on Data Activities in Canada*. A snapshot, rather than an exhaustive survey, of data-related activities, the report is distributed in hard copy to the CODATA General Assembly as well as to all Canadian recipients of the CODATA Newsletter. The report for 2002 is posted, along with previous reports, on the CNC/CODATA web site.

The Committee also continued to distribute the CODATA Newsletter to some 350 addresses in Canada.

2. How has CISTI, through its CNC/CODATA, dealt with the following:

a) Collection and reconciliation of the many views of the Canadian community on issues relevant to CODATA.

- appointments to CNC are based on geographic, linguistic, gender and discipline² distributions (as widely as a maximum of six permits; see list, Appendix 2);
- with the meetings held in Ottawa because of cost constraints, advantage is taken of the availability of government and private-sector experts in a number of fields who are invited to the annual meetings as Observers (see list, Appendix 2);
- representatives from all the ICSU Unions to which Canada adheres are invited to participate in each annual CNC/CODATA meeting. This input, from a broader cross-section of the community than would be possible from the limited number of formal members that our resources permit, increases the impact and improves the decisions resulting from the meetings.
- Invitation, with the 400 copies of the *Data Activities in Canada* report, to database managers to contribute information concerning their activities;
- Web site for CNC/CODATA with opportunity for input.

b) Identification, representation and promotion of the capabilities and distinctive competence of the Canadian community at the international level as measured by the following:

- *Election of Canadians to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of CODATA Commissions/Task Groups (TG)/Working Groups (WG)*

Please review and complete the following information:

² Disciplines of current Members are: biology, chemistry, oceanography, thermodynamics, geoscience, psychology, physics and informatics

<i>Year of Election</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Commission/TG/WG</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Location</i>
1994	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Chair	WG on Electronic Information Transfer	No (1994-1997)	Ottawa (Ont.)
1996	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Vice-Chair	TG on CODATA and the World Wide Web	No (1996-1997)	Ottawa (Ont.)
1998	Dr. P. Mezey	Chair	TG on Data Quality and Database Compatibility: Development of General CODATA standards	No (1998-2000)	Saskatoon (Sask.)

- *Election of Canadians as Members of CODATA Commissions/Task Groups (TG)/ Working Groups (WG)*

Please provide the following information, when appropriate:

<i>Year of Election</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Commission/TG/WG³</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Location</i>
1990	Dr. C.B. Bale	Member	TG on Chemical Thermodynamic Tables	Research in Thermochemical Calculation	Montreal, Que.
	Dr. R. Tomlinson	Corresponding Member	Commission on Data for Global Change		
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Corresponding Member	TG on Materials Management Database	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Consulting Member	TG on Database for Experimental Data and Electronic Publishing	Materials Science, Informatics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Consulting Member	TG on Biological Macromolecules	Materials Science, Informatics	Ottawa, Ont.
1992	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Member	TG on Biological Macromolecules	Materials Science, Informatics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Corresponding Member	TG on Materials Management Database	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
1994	Dr. R. Berman	Member	TG on Geothermodynamic Data	Geothermodynamics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Member	TG on Global Plant Checklist Network	Materials Science, Informatics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. L. Speers	Member	Commission on Standardized Terminology for Access to Biological Data Banks	Land and Biological Resource Research	Ottawa, Ont.

³ Not all of these Commissions and Groups are still functioning; some completed their tasks; others were not approved by the General Assembly for renewal; CODATA has approved fewer Task Groups in recent years; Commissions are no longer used.

	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Member	WG on Electronic Information Transfer	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Member	TG on CODATA and the World Wide Web	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Corresponding Member	TG on Materials Management Database	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
1996	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. R. Berman	Member	TG on Geothermodynamic Data	Geothermodynamics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Corresponding Member	TG on Materials Management Database	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J. R. Rodgers	Member	TG on CODATA and the World Wide Web	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Prof. P. Mezey	Member	Data Information & Visualization	Scientific and Technical Info	Saskatoon, Sask.
	Dr. L. Speers	Member	Commission on Standardized Terminology for Access to Biological Data Banks	Land and Biological Resource Research	Ottawa, Ont.
1998	Dr. J. R. Rodgers	Member	TG on Global Plant Checklist Network	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Prof. P. Mezey	Member	Data Information & Visualization	Scientific and Technical Info	Saskatoon, Sask.
	Dr. L. Speers	Member	Commission on Standardized Terminology for Access to Biological Data Banks	Land and Biological Resource Research	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. R. Berman	Member	TG on Geothermodynamic Data	Geothermodynamics	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G.H. Wood	Corresponding Member	TG on Materials Management Database	Scientific and Technical Info.	Ottawa, Ont.
2000	Prof. P. Mezey	Member	Data Information & Visualization	Scientific and Technical Info	Saskatoon, Sask.
	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J. Ripmeester	Member	TG on Data on Natural Gas Hydrates	NMR	Ottawa, Ont.
2002	Prof. P. Mezey	Member	Data Information & Visualization	Scientific and Technical Info	Saskatoon, Sask.
	Dr. B.M. Wood	Member	TG on Fundamental Constants	Measurement Standards	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. J. Ripmeester	Member	TG on Data on Natural Gas Hydrates	NMR	Ottawa, Ont.
	Dr. G. Baillargeon	Member	Access to Biological Collection Data	Biology	Mont-Joli, Qué.

	Dr. Fuhu Ren	Consulting Member	TG on Preservation and Archiving of Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries	Scientific Data and Information	Richmond, BC
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- *Canadian Involvement in International CODATA Events*

Please review and complete the information contained in Table A.

- *Other (Please specify)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended <i>Data for Science and Society – Second National Conference on S&T Data</i>; Washington, DC, March 2000 • Attended workshop on <i>Data Issues in the Nordic Region</i>, Stockholm, April 2002 • Hosted meeting of Fundamental Constants Task Group, Ottawa, June 2002 • Attended <i>International Symposium on Open Access and the Public Domain in Digital Data and Information in Science</i>, Paris, March 2003

c) Enhancement of the depth and breadth of the participation of the Canadian community in the activities and events of CODATA and related organizations as measured by the following:

- *Election of Canadians to CODATA Executive Positions*

Please review and complete the following information:

<i>Year of Election</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Location</i>
1988	Dr. C.B. Alcock	Member, Executive Committee	No (1988-1990)	Materials Science	Notre Dame, Indiana & Toronto
1990	Dr. G.H. Wood	Secretary-General, Officer and Member Executive Committee	No (1990-1998)	Scientific and Technical Information	Ottawa, Ont.
1998	Dr. P. Mezey	Secretary-General, Officer and Member Executive Committee	Yes (1998-2004)	Chemistry	Saskatoon, Sask.
2000	Dr. G. Wood	Co-opted Member; Executive Committee	No (2000-2002)	Scientific and Technical Information	Ottawa
2002	Dr. G. Wood	Member; Executive Committee	Yes (2002-2004)	Scientific and Technical Information	Ottawa

- *Other (Please specify)*

CODATA Prize

The winner of the 2002 CODATA Prize was Prof. Arthur Pelton of École Polytechnique, Montréal. This international competition, financed and managed by CODATA, recognizes outstanding achievement in the world of scientific and technical data.

Student Prize

As a means of stimulating interest in data among younger scientists in Canada, CNC/CODATA has initiated a prize for Canadian university students. Called the Sangster Research Laboratory Prize, the award is for the best data-related research paper by a student at a Canadian university. The Prize will care for all expenses related to giving that paper at the next CODATA Conference in Berlin in 2004.

d) How many active members are there in the Canadian community and in CODATA?

In principle CODATA, being a multi-disciplinary body, has as its community, both in Canada and worldwide, all scientists who use data in their work. Canadians involved *actively* probably do not exceed a couple of dozen; scientists involved *actively* internationally (based on the number listed in the CODATA Handbook) [number about 450](#).

e) Establishment of the mechanisms for communicating to the Canadian community the views of CODATA and information about the activities of CODATA.

- maintenance of a Web site pertaining to CNC/CODATA (<http://www.codata.org/canada>)
- maintenance of the CODATA international Web site (points to the sites of all other Member countries, news, conferences, lists of publications, etc. - see <http://www.codata.org>)
- contacts with database managers for input to, and distribution of, the report on *Data Activities in Canada*

f) Distribution of appropriate documentation, including the CODATA newsletters, if applicable, e.g. CODATA Newsletter.

- distribution of the CODATA Newsletter (2-3 times/year) to [about 350 addresses](#); coordination with those choosing to receive it electronically
- distribution of the biannual *Data Activities in Canada* report, in hardcopy as an insert with the Newsletter and in electronic form on the CNC/CODATA Web site (The Web version has hotlinks to many of the databases and data projects cited in the report, thereby greatly facilitating access to further information.)

g) Attraction and staging of international events of value to the Canadian community.

As stated in Table B, the 18th CODATA International Conference and 23rd General Assembly were held in Montreal in Sept-Oct. 2002.

Please review and complete the information contained in Table B.

h) In CISTI's opinion, to what degree is CODATA effective, useful and relevant? Are the Committee's activities worth continuing?

- It was in the 2002 CNC/CODATA meeting that the idea of the Seminar on Access to Publicly Funded Research Data was born. CODATA provided the umbrella under which that Seminar, which involved a wide variety of CNC's, was feasible. The Study which the Seminar recommended is of vital interest to the long term access to such data by the Canadian scientific communities. G. Wood, as Chair of CNC/CODATA, is chairing the interdepartmental Steering Committee which will manage the Study.
- CODATA's work is an essential component of the infrastructure of science. Data, the ultimate products of research, must be accessible by the scientific community at large if progress is to occur. CODATA works not only to ensure that those data are reliable, standardized and comprehensible but that the lessons and techniques learned in one discipline are adapted to other disciplines thereby saving much duplication of effort. Relevancy is assured by CODATA critically reviewing its programs biannually, stopping some and initiating new ones - all with a peer-review process.
- As each country benefits from the infrastructure of international science, it is important that each country also contribute; hence the activities are definitely worth supporting.

i) Has your organization encountered difficulties in fulfilling its obligations and responsibilities? If so, please explain.

The CNC is limited in its ability to take on projects by a lack of funds. At its last meeting, the Committee explored ideas like forming a Canadian data society (with individual memberships) or holding a national data-related workshop to stimulate interest. The issue is on the agenda of the next annual meeting.

No infrastructural difficulties have been encountered to date; the secretariat concept seems to be working well in keeping the Committee functioning cost-effectively and according to its Terms of Reference.

An ongoing challenge is that of keeping the Canadian scientific community aware of data-related issues and their importance to every discipline. Often considered part of the scientific infrastructure that is the responsibility of 'someone else', data are taken for granted and it is assumed they will always be there and be of useable quality. CNC/CODATA invites Canadian representatives of the ISCU Unions to suggest, in collaboration with CODATA, joint sessions on data issues to the chairs of program committees for their respective national and international conferences.

j) Other (Please specify)

- The biannual report *Data Activities in Canada* compiled by the CNC serves as an especially useful tool for any scientist or engineer needing to find data specific to Canada such as hydrological or geoscience data. In addition, by virtue of its being distributed in hard copy to the Member nations of CODATA and in electronic form on the CNC Web site, it helps to inform the world about Canadian expertise and facilitates data exchange.

3. Reporting (as per the agreement)

a) *Annual Activity Reports*

Please review the information below and send a copy of the missing reports, if any.

Due date	30 November of each year
Received by NRC International Relations Office	
	Minutes of the 9 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Sept. 92)
	Minutes of the 10 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Sept. 93)
	Minutes of the 11 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (June 94)
	Minutes of the 12 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (May 95)
	Minutes of the 13 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (May 96)
	Minutes of the 14 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (May 97)
	Minutes of the 15 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Oct 98)
	Minutes of the 16 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Nov 99)
	Minutes of the 17 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Sept. 2000)
	Minutes of the 18 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Nov. 2001)
	Minutes of the 19 th CNC/CODATA Meeting (Nov. 2002)
Other Activity Reports	
	Report on Data Activities in Canada (1994)
	Report of the Planning Meeting of CODATA (March 95)
	Report for 1996 of CODATA (1996)
	Report on Data Activities in Canada (1996)
	Synopsis of Activities CNC/CODATA 2001
	Short Report on: CODATA Activities 2002
	Synopsis of Activities CNC/CODATA 2003

b) *Reports from the Canadian Delegation on the CODATA General Assemblies*

General Assemblies are usually held every 2 years.

Please review the information below and send a copy of the missing reports, if any.

Due date	One month after the General Assembly (GA)
Dates and Location of General Assemblies from 1992 to 1996	1992 - Beijing, China 1994 - Chambéry, France 1996 - Tsukuba, Japan 1998 – New Delhi, India 2000 – Baveno, Italy 2002 – Montreal, Canada
Reports received by NRC International Relations Office	
	1994 GA Report
	Report of the 40 th CODATA Executive Committee Meeting (March 95)
	1996 GA Report
	2000 GA Report
	2002 GA Report

4. Management Issues (as per the agreement)

a) *Appointment of Canadian Delegates to the CODATA General Assemblies*

Please review and modify as necessary.

<i>Year of the GA</i>	<i>Name of Delegate</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>No. of votes</i>	<i>No. of votes by proxy</i>
1992	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Canadian Delegate	1	2
1994	Prof. P.G. Mezey	Canadian Delegate	1	1
	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	IUCr Delegate	1	2
1996	Prof. P.G. Mezey	Canadian Delegate	1	2
1998	Prof. P.G. Mezey	Canadian Delegate	1	1
	Prof. M. Sabourin	IUPsyS Delegate	1	0
2000	Dr. G.H. Wood	Canadian Delegate	1	0
	Prof. M. Sabourin	IUPsyS Delegate	1	1
2002	Dr. G.H. Wood	Canadian Delegate	1	1
	Prof. M. Sabourin	IUPsyS Delegate	1	0

b) *Canadian Delegations to CODATA General Assemblies and Guidance Given by NRC*

- Constitution and By-Laws

Please review and complete, as appropriate.

<i>Year of the GA</i>	<i>Proposed Modifications</i>	<i>NRC Guidance</i>	<i>Decision of the GA</i>
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in definition of 'National Committee' to accommodate differences among Members • Authorization for the Executive Committee to coopt additional members with specialized skills as necessary 	Support	Approved
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less restrictive nomination procedure • clarification of definitions of Quorum and majority required for approvals • stipulation of procedure for approval of Task Groups and Commissions 	Support a more open and democratic system	Approved
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions for a suspended National Member to be reinstated • Change Affiliate Member to Regional Member • Amplify duties of General Assembly to include membership matters explicitly • Establish quorum for Postal ballots • Widen scope of acceptable background experience for Officer candidates 	Support	Approved

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish review process for proposals for Task Groups • Emphasize that the lifetime of Working Groups is no more than 2 years 		
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor editorial changes for clarification • Clarify responsibilities of the Nominating Committee 	Support	Approved
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update CODATA objectives • Introduce Associate National Member category for developing countries • Introduction of mechanism for dealing with member nations in arrears with their dues (Statute 3.5) • Update Postal Ballot procedure to recognize email options • To avoid conflict of interest, clarify that no CODATA Officer or Executive Committee member may Chair a CODATA Task Group, Working Group or Commission 	Support	Approved, except for Statute 3.5 which was referred back to the Executive Committee

- Finance

Please review and complete, as appropriate.

<i>Year of the GA</i>	<i>NRC guidance</i>	<i>Vote of the Delegate</i>	<i>Decision of the GA</i>
1994	Oppose any increase in dues higher than 5% in any one year.	In favour.	Approved the dues schedule, with nominal 4% increase, as proposed by the Treasurer
1996	Any increase in dues higher than the inflation rate of 2.8% will considerably affect the ability of NRC to maintain its current affiliations.	The Canadian delegate commented on the 2.8% inflation rate and pointed out the difference between 2.8% and the proposed 4% increase. Abstained	Approved 4% increase in dues.
1998	Dues for 1999 and 2000 to be held at the 1998 value	Support	Approved
2000	No change to the number of units assigned to a current CODATA Member. Future increases in the value of a unit to be linked to a generally accepted measure of global inflation in the Consumer Price Index Dues for new Members to be fixed at 20% of what they pay for ICSU membership New minimum level of National Dues set at 1k\$ (US)	Support	Approved
2002	The 23 rd GA proposes that the dues for 2003 and 2004 will be adjusted in accordance with the decision made by the 22 nd GA. That is, this adjustment will be based on the “all items estimate of inflation for the seven major countries as published by the OECD. The rate of inflation used will be the rate of two years previous. The value of Membership dues for 2003 will be adjusted by the inflation rate of 2001. The value of Membership dues for 2004 will be adjusted by the inflation rate of 2002.	Support Note: Because France was in serious contravention of paying its dues, the Canadian Delegate proposed, and the GA approved, the following motion: “The 23 rd CODATA General Assembly notes that France is in contravention of Statute 3.1 (b) of the CODATA Constitution. In recognition of France’s past and ongoing fiscal and scientific contributions to CODATA , the General Assembly encourages the Delegate of France to resolve the situation before the Opening session of the 24 th General Assembly in 2004.”	Approved

5. How has membership in CODATA led to benefits for Canadian scientists and engineers?

- Access to the CODATA Task Group on Data and Information Visualization significantly facilitated the organization of the first Workshop on Information Visualization in 1999.
- CODATA provided seed grants for both Information Visualization Workshops held in Ottawa
- [The CODATA umbrella facilitated the organization of the recent Seminar on Access to Publicly Funded Scientific Data.](#)
- Holding the 2002 CODATA Conference in Montréal offered Canadian scientists and engineers a low-cost opportunity to participate in CODATA activities.
- Those interested have an open window on the world of data-related issues through the biannual CODATA International Conference, Newsletter, participation in Task Groups & Commissions, Web sites, etc.
- In science and engineering much duplication of work can be avoided if relevant data are available and CODATA is the organization that promotes data access and data quality. One of CODATA's mandates is to promote systematization of data management and to emphasize the role of primary data providers in making their results accessible by modern electronic means.
 - As an example, in toxicological risk assessment, various molecular fragments and functional groups are indicated as harbingers of toxic activities. Databases of numerical shape descriptors of molecular fragments have been used by various research groups (eg. Guelph, Waterloo and Montreal) through access to a central molecular shape database at the University of Saskatchewan.
- CODATA has played, and continues to play, a prominent role in the struggle to delay ratification of the draft WIPO Treaty on database protection. This treaty, if adopted as drafted, would have had serious implications concerning scientists' access to data; as part of the international scientific community, Canadian scientists and engineers have benefited.
- The work of the Fundamental Constants Task Group is basic to all science; Canadian membership in CODATA helps support that important work and Canadian participation in the Task Group helps ensure its relevance to Canadian needs.
- One of the reasons why scientists worldwide, including Canada of course, have such easy access to databases involving biological macromolecules is that, in the early days of macromolecule database development, CODATA assembled all the major players (many of whom had never met each other before, nor had any intention of doing so) and insisted that standards be agreed upon for interchangeability of data.

6. Please provide any additional information/comments on general or specific issues related to Canada's affiliation with CODATA.

- CODATA allows great latitude in the activities of the committees formed by Member nations to facilitate their adherence to CODATA. In practice, the committees in some countries (eg. US, France and Russia) convene national workshops, undertake major studies (eg. *Bits of Power* in the US) and propose Task Groups with objectives of national benefit; in some countries, however, the committees are very small and relatively inactive. CNC/CODATA falls somewhere in the middle of this range.
- One contributing factor is, perhaps, some ambiguity in the *raison d'être* of the CNC. Is its purpose simply to be a two-way communication link with CODATA internationally or is it also to be a proactive force in promoting data-related activity and awareness in Canada? To perform the latter task clearly requires more resources than provided under the partnership agreement. Some guidance from CISET, with respect to mandate might be helpful.
- As granting agencies are not excited about data-related projects, is it conceivable that CISET

might consider making funds available to CNCs on some competitive basis for projects?

7. Proposed Plan of Action for the upcoming five years

Please give information on the Plan of Action of CISTI in support of Canada's affiliation with CODATA for the next five years. Please indicate benefits to Canada of maintaining this affiliation.

- maintain a secretariat (a) to support CNC/CODATA and its activities and (b) to distribute the CODATA Newsletter;
- contribute considerable in-kind leadership and support to the proposed Study on Access to Publicly Funded Scientific Data as it pertains to the Canadian natural science, engineering and medical communities;
- motivate the CNC to involve more Canadian scientists in the work of CODATA;
- encourage the CNC to undertake data-related projects of benefit to Canada such as the one currently under way;
- assist the CNC in seeking funding for such projects;
- encourage the CNC in its efforts to host meetings or workshops of appropriate Task Groups or Commissions in Canada.

Appendix 1

CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ICSU COMMITTEE ON DATA FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CODATA)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **The purpose of the Committee, which will report to the Director General (DG) of the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI), is:**
 - a) to collect and reconcile the many views of its scientific community on relevant issues;
 - b) to identify, represent and promote the capabilities and distinctive competence of its Canadian scientific community internationally;
 - c) to enhance the depth and breadth of the participation of the Canadian scientific community in the activities and events of CODATA and related organizations;
 - d) to establish the mechanisms for communicating to its Canadian scientific community the views of CODATA and information about the activities of CODATA;
 - e) to distribute appropriate documentation, including the CODATA Newsletter;
 - f) to attract and stage international events of value to its Canadian scientific community;
 - g) to recommend to the DG the nomination of the Canadian Delegate for each CODATA General Assembly. (Upon approval by the DG, the name of the nominee will be forwarded to NRC International Relations Office for official appointment.);
 - h) to recommend to the DG the nomination of one person to attend the workshop of CNC Officers which will be organized by NRC International Relations Office on a regular basis.

2. **Membership of the Committee**

The Committee shall have six regular voting members with new members appointed by the DG of CISTI upon recommendation of the existing Committee. Due regard should be taken to proper geographical, linguistic and gender distribution of membership as well as to adequate representation of all disciplines covered by CODATA.

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by the DG of CISTI from among its regular members on the recommendation of the Committee.

The Executive Secretary of the Committee shall be appointed by the DG of CISTI and shall be an *ex-officio* voting member of the Committee.

Canadian Officers of CODATA shall be *ex-officio* voting members of the Committee during their term as an Officer.

Canadian members of CODATA Commissions and Task Groups, as well a representative of NRC International Relations Office, may attend meetings of the Committee as observers.

Guests may be invited, through the Chairperson, to attend the meetings of the Committee.

3. Terms of Office

The terms of office for all regular members of the Committee shall be three years, renewable once. Terms shall be initially staggered to provide continuity.

The Chairperson will normally be appointed for three years which may extend his or her term of office as a regular member.

Termination of the terms of office shall be on the 31st of December of the last year in office or until such time as a replacement has been appointed.

4. Meetings

The Committee shall meet as necessary, normally once each year. One-half of the appointed membership at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

5. Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Committee shall be located at CISTI.

Appendix 2 CNC/CODATA - Members and Observers

MEMBERS	OBSERVERS
<p>Dr. Denise Clark Associate Professor Department of Biology University of New Brunswick Bag Service 45111 Fredericton NB E3B 6E1 Tel: 506-452-6193 Fax : 506-453-3583 E-mail: clarkd@unb.ca</p>	<p>Dr. Guy Baillargeon Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada c/o Maurice Lamontagne Institute 850 route de la Mer P.O. Box 1000 Mont-Joli QC G5H 3Z4 Tel: 418-775-0741 Fax: 418-775-0679 E-mail: baillarg@agr.gc.ca</p>
<p>Dr. Hanna Dabkowska Research Scientist Brockhouse Institute for Materials Research McMaster University Hamilton ON L8S 4M1 Tel: 905-525-9140 (x12092) Fax: 905-521-2773 E-mail: dabkoh@mcmaster.ca</p>	<p>Dr. Fred Gault Director Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Statistics Canada RH Coats Building, Floor RHC 7A Holland Avenue and Scott Street Tunney's Pasture Ottawa ON K1A 0T6 Tel: 613-951-2198 Fax: 613-951-9920 E-mail: fred.gault@statcan.ca</p>
<p>Dr. Andrew W. Hakin Department of Chemistry 4401 University Drive Room E870 University of Lethbridge Lethbridge AB T1K 3M4 Tel: 403-329-2083 Fax: 403-329-5159 E-mail: hakin@uleth.ca</p>	<p>Dr. Hamid Jorjani Senior Advisor International Relations Office National Research Council of Canada Montreal Road, Building M-58, Room E-309 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-991-5457 Fax: 613-952-9696 E-mail: hamid.jorjani@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>
<p>Mr. Jean Paul Lauzon Principal Consultant AMEC Earth and Environmental 210 Colonnade Road South Nepean ON K2E 7L5 Tel: 613-727-0658 Fax: 613-727-9465 E-mail: jp.lauzon@amec.com</p>	<p>Mr. Glen Newton Head, Research Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information National Research Council Canada Montreal Road, Building M-55, Room 275 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-990-9163 Fax: 613-952-8246 E-mail: glen.newton@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>
<p>Prof. Paul G. Mezey (ex-Officio) Canada Research Chair in Scientific Modelling and Simulation Department of Chemistry and Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography Memorial University of Newfoundland Saint John's NF A1B 3X7 Tel: 709-737-8768 Fax: 709-737-3702 E-mail: pmezey@mun.ca</p>	<p>Dr. John R. Rodgers President, Toth Information Systems Montreal Road Building M-13, Room 147 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-998-9076 Fax: 613-952-8246 E-mail: rogers@snd.cisti.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>
<p>Dr. Savithri Narayanan Director, Marine Environmental Data Service Department of Fisheries and Oceans W082, 12th Floor, 200 Kent Street Ottawa ON K1A 0E6 Tel: 613-990-0265 Fax: 613-993-4658 E-mail: narayanans@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>	<p>Dr. James Sangster Sangster Research Laboratories P.O. Box 49562 Pharmaprix R.P.O. 5122 Côte des Neiges Montreal QC H3S 2A5 Tel: 514-694-1215 Fax: 514-340-5840 E-mail: James.Sangster@polymtl.ca</p>
<p>Prof. Michel Sabourin Department of Psychology University of Montreal P.O. Box 6128, Station A Montreal QC H3C 3J7 Tel: 514-343-5784 Fax: 514-735-6277 E-mail: Michel.Sabourin@UMontreal.ca</p>	<p>Dr. Barry M. Wood Group Leader Institute for National Measurement Standards National Research Council Canada Montreal Road, Building M-36, Room 26 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-990-9225 Fax: 613-952-1394 E-mail: barry.wood@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>
<p>Dr. Gordon H. Wood Group Leader Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information National Research Council Canada Montreal Road, Building M-55, Room 274 Ottawa ON K1A 0R6 Tel: 613-993-4165 Fax: 613-952-8246 E-mail: gordon.wood@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca</p>	

TABLE A

Canadian Involvement in International CODATA Events⁴ (Please review and complete)

<i>Date of the Event</i>	<i>Name of the Event</i>	<i>Location of the Event</i>	<i>Name of the Participant</i>	<i>Involvement of the Participant</i>	<i>No. of Cdn Participants</i>	<i>No. of Foreign Participants⁵</i>	<i>Total No. of Participants</i>
13-15 April 1992	International Workshop on Regularities, Classifications and Predictions of Advanced Materials	Como, Italy	Dr. J.R. Rodgers	Chairperson of the International Organizing Committee			47
19-22 October 1992	13 th CODATA International Conference and 18 th General Assembly	Beijing, China	Dr. J.R. Rodgers Prof. P.G. Mezey Dr. G.H. Wood Dr. C. Yeung	Participant Speaker Participant Participant			260
10-12 March 1994	Symposium and Meeting of the Data Sources in Asian-Oceanic Countries	Taipei, China	Dr. G.H. Wood	Invited participant			50
18-24 Sept. 1994	14 th CODATA International Conference and 19 th General Assembly	Chambéry, France	Prof. P.G. Mezey Dr. C. Seni Dr. J.R. Rodgers Dr. G.H. Wood	Coordinator of a session on "Recognition of Rigid and Deformable Objects" and Speaker Speaker Member of the International Scientific Program Committee and Speaker Participant			285
29 Sept-4 Oct. 1996	15 th CODATA International Conference and 20 th General Assembly	Tsukuba, Japan	Prof. P.G. Mezey Dr. J.R. Rodgers Dr. P. Williams Dr. G. H. Wood	Speaker Member of the International Scientific Program Committee and coauthor Participant Member of the International Scientific Program Committee and participant			200
8-14 November, 1998	16 th CODATA International Conference and 21 st General Assembly	New Delhi, India	Prof. P.G. Mezey Dr. G. H. Wood	Speaker Member of the International Scientific Program Committee;			200

⁴ Interpreted as major events; meetings of Task Groups & Commissions and Workshops are not included

⁵ Interpreted as the number of participants who are non-Canadian and not from the host country

15–21 October, 2000	17 th CODATA International Conference and 22 nd General Assembly	Baveno, Italy	Prof. R. Hesse Prof. P. G. Mezey Prof. M. Sabourin Dr. S. Frape Mr. G. Newton Dr. G. H. Wood	Session co-Chair Plenary Speaker Session co-Chair; Speaker Session co-Chair; Speaker Speaker Speaker Participant			200
29 Sept.- 5 Oct. 2002	18 th CODATA International Conference and 23 rd General Assembly	Montreal, Québec	Dr. A. Carty Prof. A. Pelton Dr. G. H. Wood Dr. G. Baillargeon Mr. G. Burr Ms. M. Capelli Migue Ms. G. Capretta Mr. S-K Chu Dr. R. Crawford Mr. B. Dumouchel Mr. T. Feehan Mr. E. Fernandez Dr. M. LeMaire Prof. D. Lievesley Prof. S. Matwin Prof. P. Mezey Dr. A. Mitnitski Mr. G. Newton Dr. R. O'Neil Dr. J. Ripmeester Dr. J. Rodgers Prof. M. Sabourin Dr. D. Sankoff Dr. D. Schade Mrs. G. Shea Dr. D. Thomas	Opening Speaker Winner of CODATA Prize; speaker Chair International Scientific Program Committee; Opening & Plenary Session Chair Plenary & Session speaker Participant Participant Poster Participant Posterr Participant Speaker Participant Speaker Invited Speaker Keynote Speaker Speaker Speaker Member of International Scientific Program Committee; Session organizer Speaker Speaker Member of International Scientific Program Committee; Session organizer Conference Financial Oversight Committee; Session Organizer; Local Arrangements Coordinator Speaker Invited speaker Participant Invited Speaker	26	224	250

			Dr. J. Tse	Speaker			
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TABLE B

Attraction and Staging of International Events of Value to the Canadian Community (Please review and complete)

<i>Date of the Event</i>	<i>Name of the Event</i>	<i>Location of the Event</i>	<i>Name of the Organizer</i>	<i>No. of Cdn Participants</i>	<i>No. of Foreign Participants</i>	<i>Total No. of Participants</i>
2002	CNC/CODATA jointly sponsored, with the USNC/CODATA, the 2002 CODATA International Scientific Conference. (See Appendix A for details)	Montreal.	CODATA	26	224	250

