



Mark Leggott
RDM Program Manager
CANARIE
45 O'Connor Street, Suite 500
Ottawa, ON
K1P 1A4

June 19, 2018

Dear Mr Leggott,

I write in support of CHORD, CanDIG's proposed Research Data Management project to build a Canadian, distributed, genomic data service for the research community.

The Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH) is an international, nonprofit alliance formed in 2013 to accelerate the potential of research and medicine to advance human health. Bringing together 500+ leading organizations working in healthcare, research, patient advocacy, life science, and information technology, the GA4GH community is working together to create frameworks and standards to enable the responsible, voluntary, and secure sharing of genomic and health-related data. CanDIG is a Canadian driver project for the GA4GH standards- and framework-building activities, participates in almost all of the GA4GH work streams and meetings, and brings a distinctively Canadian approach to data federation to our shared effort.

Genomics, and genomics data sharing, is a rapidly emerging field, and the conversations being lead by member organizations at GA4GH work streams are at the forefront of developing standards for relevant data, metadata, and APIs for interoperability. As a GA4GH driver project, CanDIG participates on the global stage on the definition of data and interoperability standards for genomic data, and benefits from the connections that GA4GH builds between like-minded efforts around the world. And as a genomics project, CanDIG brings together several of Canada's largest producers of genomic research data and their shared expertise in handling such volumes of genomics data.

Through its GA4GH participation, CanDIG is well positioned to both ensure that emerging international best standards for genomic data and its sharing are reflected in any Canadian national data service for genomics and related data, and conversely to make sure the needs of the Canadian genomics data researchers inform international standards setting.

Sincerely,

Peter Goodhand
Chief Executive Officer
Global Alliance for Genomics and Health