

For immediate release

**ARC'S BELLES RENCONTRES:
HIGHLY POSITIVE RECEPTION TO FIRST MEETING WITH CANADA'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR
AND A PROMISING INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT**

Montreal, February 14, 2018. – The [Association pour la recherche au collégial](#) (ARC) held its annual Belles Rencontres at Montmorency College on Friday, January 12, 2018. About 50 people gathered with two goals in mind: to find out more about the issue of research data management, and to meet with representatives of government organizations, agencies and with individuals in the college science network. Excellent, interesting, timely and enjoyable were all words used by participants to describe the day!

After a heartfelt and to-the-point opening address by Hervé Pilon, director of the host institution, the day started with an interview with Canada's Chief Science Advisor, Dr. Mona Nemer. Having just completed her first 100 days in this position, Nemer spoke about her experience and new duties. "Dr. Nemer showed a clear openness to and unequivocal support for college research. I sincerely believe that we have a new ally in the development of such research," said Patrice Aubertin, ARC President. Next, the audience heard from Isabelle Laplante, Head Librarian at the Centre de documentation collégiale (CDC), who presented fundamental and useful information about the why and how of research data management from an organizational perspective. Lastly, Kevin Fitzgibbons, Executive Director of the Corporate Planning and Policy Division of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, outlined the three Councils' approach to research data management and noted that they are about to start a consultation process on the subject. In his closing comments, ARC President Aubertin pointed out that "while there are many advantages to better management of research data, it comes with many challenges, particularly for the college research community." Also on the agenda that day was an extraordinary general meeting in which ARC members increased the size of its Board of Governors and elected two new members to the Board.

Through the monitoring it conducts in conjunction with the CDC, ARC will stay abreast of new developments in the management of research data. Indeed, this issue will be addressed at the ARC colloquium to be held this coming May 7th and 8th during the 86th convention of the Association francophone pour le savoir – Acfas, at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi: *Favoriser l'accès et le partage par la création d'un observatoire* (promoting access and exchanges through an observatory). "We are doing everything possible to make sure the ARC event is both an outstanding showcase for every sector and type of college research, and a special opportunity to renew and expand one's contacts," said ARC President Aubertin, chair of the organizing committee.

The mission of the Association pour la recherche au collégial, founded in 1988, is to promote college research by representing the interests of individuals and groups engaged with such research, by organizing activities to recognize excellence in college research, and by providing services to the college research community.

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