



Research
Manitoba



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

EXCITING NEW CHANGES ARE HAPPENING AT RESEARCH MANITOBA

Monday, May 8, 2023 – Winnipeg, Manitoba. Today [Research Manitoba](#), the provincial research agency, is excited to announce two new staff role changes. **Freyja Arnason** will be taking over the new role of Director of Strategy and Programs and **Liz Lylyk** will be taking over the role as the new Director of RITHIM.

The Research Manitoba board and staff would like to congratulate Freyja and Liz on their new roles and acknowledge and thank both for the enormous contributions they have made to date in leading and managing RITHIM.

“Both individuals are invaluable assets to our team and proven leaders with vast operational experience, a wealth of knowledge, and a keen ability to connect with stakeholders. The skills they possess complement both of these roles immensely and will create growth and impact within these two areas,” said Karen Dunlop, CEO, Research Manitoba. “Together we will continue to build the Research Manitoba success story.”

[Learn More About Freyja Arnason:](#)

Research Manitoba is ecstatic that Freyja Arnason will be taking over the new role of Director of Strategy and Programs. Freyja has a deep understanding of research programming having begun in this area earlier in her career with the provincial research agency. She has a Master of Arts Degree in Canadian Politics and Public Administration and over 15 years of experience working in progressively senior roles in the research and innovation sector, first with the Government of Manitoba and then with Research Manitoba. Most recently, as the Director of Research Improvements Through Harmonization in Manitoba (RITHIM), she led a multi-stakeholder system level provincial initiative to streamline and harmonize processes for health research approvals. As she moves into the Director of Strategy and Programs role, she looks forward to building a strong team and collaborating with academic institutions, industry partners, and provincial and federal agencies to identify strategic opportunities for research and innovation in Manitoba. Freyja's strong leadership and team building abilities that she brought to her directorship of RITHIM will now benefit the Programs team as Research Manitoba continues to respond to the needs and opportunities that enable us to contribute to Manitoba's economic health and well-being.

[Learn More About Liz Lylyk:](#)

Research Manitoba is very pleased to share that Liz Lylyk is the new Director of RITHIM. Liz has over 25 years of experience in the healthcare system including 16 years in the Clinical Trials Unit at CancerCare Manitoba. There, as the Resource Coordinator, Ethics & Regulatory Affairs, Liz held a key role in establishing standards, guidelines, and structure for trial conduct. Liz is experienced in all aspects of clinical trials including research ethics board submissions, impact reviews, regulatory affairs, Health Canada submissions, consent development, pediatric trials, and investigator-initiated trials.

As the Manager of RITHIM, Liz worked closely with the Director of RITHIM and RITHIM Project Officers to support stakeholders including researchers, academic institutions, and health system partners to improve time-to-conduct for health research in Manitoba. Liz's strong leadership and strategic abilities that she brought to her management role with RITHIM will benefit the program and team as she enters into her new role as the Director of RITHIM. Liz will continue to work toward completing the final phase of PRAS and resume stewarding the relationships with key stakeholders including researchers, post-secondary institutions, industry, government, and health system partners to foster research and innovation in Manitoba.

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- ✓ Research Manitoba: www.researchmanitoba.ca
- ✓ RITHIM: www.rithim.ca

Research Manitoba:

[Research Manitoba](http://www.researchmanitoba.ca) promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence and innovation in health, natural and social sciences, engineering, and the humanities in Manitoba. Research Manitoba supports local talent development by providing research support to early career researchers and graduate students, along with fostering strategic partnerships to strengthen research and innovation in Manitoba.