



DRAFT ETHICS ACTION PLAN

**Institute Advisory Board Ethics Designates
December 18, 2013**

Purpose of presentation

- **To present to the IAB Ethics Designates, for discussion, a renewed approach for ethics at CIHR based on the Ethics Task Force report and Science Council (SC) discussions**
- **To receive input on the draft ethics action plan**
- **To receive input on success factors for an optimum ethics advisory structure(s)**

A Renewed Approach

- June 2013 Recommendations of **Task Force on Ethics Reform** at CIHR
- June & November 2013 **Governing Council** discussions supportive of an integrated approach with Ethics core to CIHR business
- October 2013 **Science Council** endorsed the draft Ethics Action Plan placing ethics at the core of CIHR's business and integrating ethics in initiatives and policies

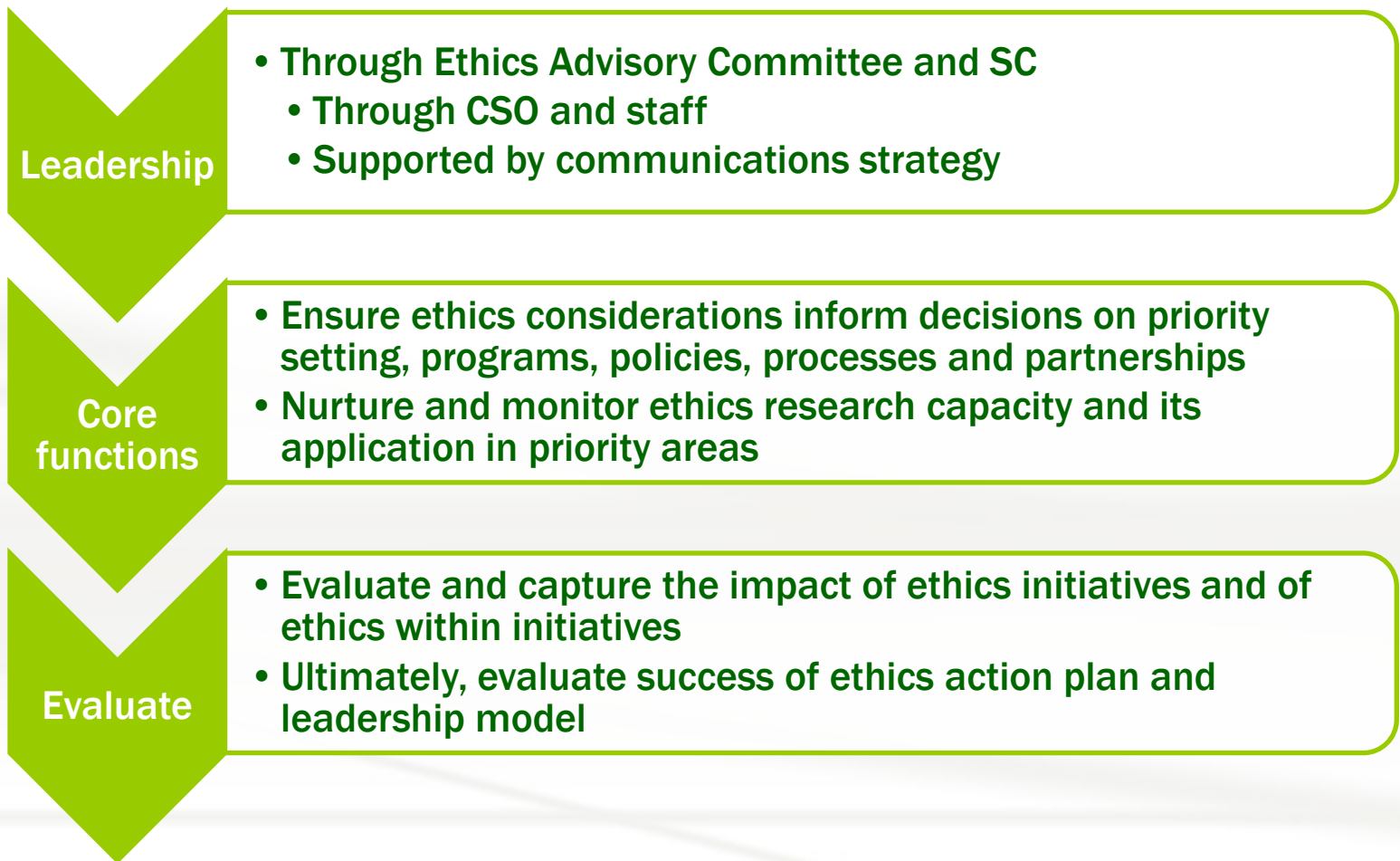
Proposed Ethics Action Plan

- **Aims to strengthen ethics impact in meeting CIHR's mandate, by systematically embedding ethics, consideration of ethical issues, and application of ethical principles, into CIHR's work.**
- **Focused on an integrated approach that will lead to more immediate and relevant impact because of the involvement of those who need ethics advice, i.e., Science Council.**

Proposed Ethics Action Plan

- **Unanimously endorsed by Science Council in October, 2013**
- **Serves as part of CIHR's response to the Task Force on Ethics Reform as it addresses major issues raised in report**
- **Will be finalized by the CIHR Ethics Advisory Committee**

Proposed Ethics Action Plan



Proposed Ethics Action Plan: Action Area (1)

Ensure ethics considerations & recognized ethics expertise inform SC decisions on priority setting, programs, policies, processes and partnerships

For instance, through:

- Systematically reviewing expertise on key decision-making committees
- Reviewing existing and emerging Signature Initiatives for their ethics components
- Recognizing the need for an ethics policy because of a current policy gap
- Other?

Proposed Ethics Action Plan:

Action Area (2)

Nurture and monitor ethics research capacity in Canada and its application in priority areas

For instance through:

- Continue to offer the small-scale ethics catalyst grant within Science Council priority areas
- Identifying targeted ethics research within priority initiatives such as those in SPOR
- Identifying and facilitating recruitment of peer reviewers with the necessary knowledge and skills
- Other?

Proposed Ethics Action Plan: Action Area (3)

Evaluate and capture the impact of ethics initiatives and of ethics within initiatives

For instance, through:

- Assistance from the SC Subcommittee on Performance Measurement
- The development of performance indicators and targets for ethics research and for the implementation of the Ethics Action Plan
- The monitoring of impacts of ethics research
- Other?

Develop and implement a new ethics communications strategy

For instance, through:

- Highlights of progress in advancing the CIHR ethics mandate
- Highlights of ethics in the CIHR strategic plan Roadmap refresh
- Specific audiences such as researchers, ethicists, ethics researchers, international bodies
- Presence of CIHR leaders at national and international events

Proposed Ethics Action Plan: Action Area (5)

Monitor results and formally evaluate the ethics leadership model and action plan after five years

For instance:

- Building on the performance data collected over time
- Will provide an independent assessment of CIHR's progress in advancing the ethics mandate
- Within a reasonable timeframe – could be in conjunction with an International Review
- Other?

Optimum Ethics Advisory Structure(s)

What are the factors for effective Advisory Committee or Structure (s)?

- Integrated with Science work of the organization (i.e., timely, effective ethics knowledge is disseminated and used)
- Credibility, integrity
- Strong ethics expertise/capacity *and* expertise/capacity to translate ethics knowledge into use
- Other?