Thank you to everyone who attended the symposium and helped make it a success! We had an overwhelming turnout of university and community participants. We hope that you had a chance to learn more about the Community Research Unit and make connections with people and organizations interested in similar issues.

Information about the CRU is available on our website www.arts.uregina.ca/cru and is regularly updated. You will find copies of our annual report online, as well as information about our research projects and the Arts CARES service-learning program.

One of the goals of the symposium was to hear your research needs and ideas. We listened, and it’s clear that are certain research needs that affect a broad range of organizations and people in the community. Here are some of the ideas we heard.

**Community-based Research Project Ideas**

**Housing**
- How to maintain skills for housing (like tenant relationships with landlords, how to clean/cook/budget, how/what facilitates transition to self reliance?)
- The real costs of housing
- Affordable and accessible housing for everyone, and specifically for women and seniors
- The impact of government policies on housing

**Outcome/evaluation research**
- How to measure outcomes for programs/program evaluations
- Developing the tools that link outcomes to inputs and evaluate what exists and what needs to change

**Building community/organizational capacity**
- How do build the capacity of non-profit sector to deal with changing human resource issues
- Funding - How to find a central resource that outlines all of the funding sources and options, and collaborative approaches to funding, strategic plans & funding
- Is there any way we can improve collecting of information to ensure we’re accountable and transparent to the people we work with?
- Marketing plan to inform and enlist Regina citizens and raise our profile
How to improve client access to existing programs

How do you measure social inclusion or social capital on a community level?

Develop community indicators addressing root causes of social problems; indicators for meeting determinants of health

**Other ideas**
- How do we mitigate the effects of street prostitution in the inner city?
- With the current influx of refugees, what percentage are affected by child soldiers and how will that impact street gangs?
- LGBT issues integrated into all discussion & research
- Issues relating to multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS)

**University Session**
Faculty members, researchers and students on campus also shared their ideas about they need to work collaboratively with the community. Here is what they told us when asked “What do you need from the University of Regina or the CRU to enable you to work collaboratively with the community?”

- **Institutional support**, particularly in the university rewards system, supports through the Office of Research Services, and a unit like the CRU that can pursue long term research outcomes, partnerships (to act as a conduit to the community groups) and act as a “home” for this kind of work
- **Funding**, especially longer-term funding
- **Training** for faculty and **classes** offered to students in this kind of research methodology
- **Collaboration across the University of Regina**, interdisciplinary partnerships
- Recognition of **alternative research outcomes and products**, including publications
- **Recognition and value** of this type of research by the university
- Facilitating **continued dialogue**
- **Recognition and valuing of students**, particularly practicum students
- **Supports for faculty researchers**, like mentoring or supporting a “community of practice”

**Next Steps**
Some of these projects and ideas will require long-term work, or may be more appropriate for other units or centres to work on. The Community Research Unit is committed to working on some of these ideas in the short-term. Here’s what you can expect from the CRU in the coming months:

- A facilitated discussion of housing-related research needs
- Follow-up on research projects we have the immediate capacity to facilitate: organizations who have submitted their research idea will be contacted directly
- CRU input into the current review of the Faculty of Arts tenure and promotion policy
- Support for continued dialogue between researchers

Due to high interest in our event, we will be considering hosting a similar event in the future.