COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Final Report and Action Items

Community Research Unit
12/15/2014
COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Final Report and Action Items

On November 13th and 14th 2014, the Community Research Unit in the Faculty of Arts, University of Regina, brought together individuals from across Saskatchewan to present their community-based research findings and needs. The Community Research Unit, or CRU, connects community groups and University of Regina faculty and students through research, service-learning, and other collaborative activities to seek answers to community questions to foster positive action and change. It was our goal to provide community members a forum to share the work they had done and present further needs for research, as well as to network and form future partnerships. Both the Community Film Showcase and the Community-Based Research Showcase intended to stitch together key themes, put those in conversation with activities taking place on campus, and identify ways to work more collaboratively in the future.

With over 140 participants actively engaged in community issues – listening, viewing, discussing, and sharing – the events were a success. The full day Community-Based Research Showcase on the 14th ended with a session that identified strategies to address some of the challenges with campus-community collaboration and outlined a path forward, including steps to better link campus to community in ways that

“What people are really talking about is a need for community relationships... about needing to get connected between community and researchers and the university.”

Crystal Giesbrecht, Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan
address campus and community needs while also highlighting challenges in doing this work and strategies to overcome these challenges.

Community Film Showcase

Film as a method of research is provocative and engaging, and can highlight issues, concerns, and solutions in a way that’s uniquely accessible and inspiring. The films showcased at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, all set in Saskatchewan and/or created by Saskatchewan filmmakers, enabled the audience to learn about community issues and connect with each other through enjoyment of art.

The short films featured at the showcase covered a variety of Saskatchewan based content and ranged from four to fifteen minutes long. *Big Yellow Taxi* (2014) by Brian Ganong connects heritage and sustainability through Joni Mitchell’s song and presses us consider how we treat our build environment, natural environment and each other.

*Safe Passage* (2014) and *The Long Return* (2014) are two separate projects produced by mispon: A Celebration of Indigenous Filmmaking Inc. with production mentors Michele Sereda, Trudy Stewart, Ann Verrall and Janine Windolph. *Safe Passage* looks at the personal and scientific impacts environmental changes are having in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan, and *The Long Return* follows Janine Windolph’s journey home from Regina to La Ronge as she looks to the wisdom of her elders, the people, and the land for inspiration on forming her identity.

*Saskatchewan Grasslands National Park* (2013) by Colin Hubick and Red Hat Studios is a collection of shots from a tour of the park and PFRA pasture land with Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson, raising awareness about the need for better management to conserve grassland habitat.
Bridging the Gap: Regina Landlords and Renters on Social Assistance (2011) by Riley Moynes of Living Sky Media, University of Regina CRU, and Carmichael Outreach highlights the problems with low income housing in Regina and aims to spark dialogue between landlords and the government to curb the rise in homelessness.

The film showcase concluded with three pieces by Marcel Petit of m.pet productions. Katrina Wolfe...Missing (2013) is a tribute to Katrina Wolfe, a young First Nations woman who was last seen on July 2, 2010. THIS is Our VOICE (2012) is a project with Oskayak High School Students for NASHI’s Event on Human Trafficking, and Insult 2 Injury (2012) visually embodies Janet Roger’s poem of the same name.

The Community Film Showcase was well attended by approximately 50 people including community members, University of Regina faculty, students, and researchers. The Community Research Unit is thrilled to have funded films as research projects, and it is our hope that we can continue to help support film as a means for research and public outreach.

Community-Based Research Showcase

This event brought together community members, researchers, University of Regina faculty, and students to share, network, and brainstorm about research that is taking place in Saskatchewan at the community level. The day consisted of three key pieces: 1) presentations on twenty different projects that summarized research work being done and/or requested assistance for future research on these topics. The majority of the presentations were oral. Five presenters had poster presentations as well as displays set up for participants or individuals who happened by throughout the day to read and discuss; 2) built-in opportunities for networking and dialogue between stakeholders and
participants in community based research; 3) a core group of participants at the showcase that worked on devising action items to mobilize the need for better collaboration to occur between the University and community-based organizations (CBOs) in Regina. (See Appendix A for the complete list of community needs and action items.)

**Process for Creating the Research Showcase**

The Community Research Unit began planning the research showcase in June 2014. After setting the format and timing of the event, a call for proposals was sent to community organizations and distributed through university electronic mailing lists, posters, and an advertisement in a local newspaper. It was vital that “research” be defined in a jargon-free, inclusive manner so that CBOs could see the work they had done fitting into the proposal description. CBOs were asked if their organization had: created an innovative community program, studied how to better serve clients, conducted interviews, created a documentary, written a report on a certain issue, or done any other type of research. Furthermore, CBOs were also asked whether they had interest in undertaking research but were in need of assistance to do so. By late September, proposals were accepted, themed sessions were synthesized, and coordination for the Community Film Showcase and Community-Based Research Showcase was well underway. Registration for the event opened in mid-October.

**Participants and Location**

The showcase took place at the University of Regina in the Research and Innovation Centre Atrium, with a poster display lining the hallway beside the atrium. Approximately 100 people registered for all or some sessions of the showcase and approximately twenty people stopped by the day of the event to take in one or more sessions. Participants were from a variety of cities and rural
locations across Saskatchewan. In addition to CBO workers, volunteers, and directors, there were University of Regina faculty and students from a wide range of departments and faculties. Attendance for the workshop discussion and action item creation at the end of the day was approximately twenty-five people, with five tables brainstorming on a variety of key questions and issues.

**Sessions and Presentations**

Presentations were divided into themed sessions throughout the day. The presenters were given ten minutes to report on their research summary or research requests. After each session, participants were given fifteen minutes to ask the panel of presenters any questions they had about the topic or specific research or research needs.

**Session 1: Social Inclusion**

- **The Development and Implementation of the Saskatchewan Indigenous Strategy on HIV and AIDS (SISHA)** *Margaret Poitras, All Nations Hope Network*

Key Message: As Indigenous Peoples within Saskatchewan are bearing the major burden of HIV and AIDS in Saskatchewan, a strategy must be developed to combat this tragic trend. The strategy development relies on key stakeholders and focuses on seven priorities.
• **How to Transition Unemployed and Marginalized Individuals with Low Levels of Education and Minimal Work Experience into Successful Employment** *Murray Giesbrecht, ACERT*

  Key Message: The Adult Centre for Employment Readiness and Training (ACERT) implemented a three-year program that led to the Safeway Career Development Program. This program focuses on developing essential skills for unemployed adults, as well as helping Canada Safeway Ltd to develop skilled workers they need to maintain and expand their business.

• **A Living Wage for Regina** *Simon Enoch, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) & Paul Gingrich*

  Key Message: The CCPA calculated the Living Wage for a Regina family, and offers rationale behind this calculation. Furthermore, the research demonstrates the benefits for employers and community members when the Living Wage model is adopted.

• **Like Any Other Job? An Analysis of Potential Changes to Canada’s Prostitution Legislation** *Crystal Giesbrecht and Diane Delaney, Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS)*

  Key Message: PATHS supports Bill C-36, Canada’s legislation on prostitution, based on their study of legislation in other jurisdictions and the impacts of prostitution on those working in the sex trade as well as on society.

**Session 2: Research Requests**

• **Homelessness in Regina: Factors in Effectively Addressing Homelessness** *Tyler Gray, Carmichael Outreach*

  Key Message: In consideration of Carmichael’s previous research report on homelessness, this presentation seeks research assistance with identifying
some of the complex factors that need to be focused on in order to effectively address homelessness in Regina.

- **Moving Forward with the Regina Community Food Assessment (CFA)** *Tracy Sanden, Community Food Systems Steering Committee*
  Key Message: The CFA addresses assets, gaps, and community priorities in an Action Plan to improve community food security in Regina. Further research is needed in the areas of local food consumption, indigenous food systems, and environmental impacts of agriculture in Saskatchewan.

- **Seniors Neglect and Abuse Response Line (SNARL) Project** *Dianne Barrow, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism*
  Key Message: Saskatchewan currently has no dedicated service for reporting if seniors are victims of abuse or neglect. To inform an effective response to senior abuse and neglect, an environmental scan of services provided to older adult victims by Saskatchewan Health Regions is needed.

- **A Holistic Approach to Understanding and Addressing Key Barriers to Educational and Employment Skills Upgrading for Young Adults** *Mona Hill, Ignite Adult Learning Corporation*
  Key Message: Research is needed to establish why so many marginalized young adults are unable to successfully complete educational upgrading and other training, and to offer reasonable recommendations that could greatly increase the chances of successfully completing the programs offered.

“I expected to learn about the various types of research projects showcased. My expectations were met in full and surpassed in that the event also provided an opportunity to engage with non-traditional potential partners.” - Participant
• **Youth Educating about Health and Harm Reduction**  
*Meaghan McIlmoyl and Mahaila Scott, Planned Parenthood Regina*  
Key Message: A recent survey regarding future needs to be addressed by Planned Parenthood includes outreach to GLBTTQ, Aboriginal populations and newcomers to Canada using a harm reduction approach. PPR is seeking ideas for research on reaching these groups with sexual and reproductive health issues.

Session 3: Culture and Heritage

• **Growing Ecomuseums on the Canadian Prairies: the Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative**  
*Glenn Sutter, Royal Saskatchewan Museum*  
Key Message: Ecomuseums are locally-driven, place-based organizations that encourage sustainable community development, based on heritage conservation and interpretation. Through top-down and bottom-up steps, a handful of diverse demonstration sites have been established in Saskatchewan.

• **Living Heritage - Connecting Heritage to Quality of Life Issues**  
*Sandra Massey, Heritage Saskatchewan*  
Key Message: Understanding heritage as a living, dynamic component of daily life, quality of life issues related to health and wellbeing, citizenship and social cohesion, and education and employment will be highlighted and connected to the need for public policies and programs that support and nurture a sense of identity, belonging and place.

• **Visitor Centered Approach to the Development of Exhibitions and Programs in a Free Choice Learning Environment**  
*Julie Fisowich, Saskatchewan Science Centre*
Key Message: Going beyond traditional survey methods by using a visitor centered approach, science centres can monitor visitor reactions to exhibits through observations, personal interviews and public forums. The information gathered can guide development of future exhibitions and determine if the exhibit goals are being met and if learning has occurred.

Session 4: Campus Engagement

- **Improvising With iPads: A Partnered Inquiry into Technology-based Music Therapy, Improvisation and Cultural Expression in Health Settings** Rebecca Caines, University of Regina; Rick Kotowich, Native Health Services; and Amanda Schenstead, Wascana Rehabilitation Centre

Key Message: The use of iPads and improvisation in music therapy has facilitated therapeutic and creative engagement while combating isolation and developing new forms of innovative community-based art, and cultural affirmation.

- **Community Engagement at the Institut français - Research and Actions for the francophone in Minority Settings** Frédéric Dupré, Institut français, and Angeline Dubois, Centre canadien de recherché sur les francophonies en milieu minoritaire

Key Message: Projects and initiatives in partnership with community leaders address key issues for the social and cultural development of francophones in minority settings. These include grants for research projects, facilitating Métis and francophone round tables, and a commission on inclusion in the Fransaskois community.

- **Regina’s Student Run Health Clinic: Evaluation of Client Needs and Volunteer Experiences** Christina Mutschler, University of Regina
Key Message: This evaluative study shows that students appear to be benefiting from the experience of volunteering with low SES clients and clients at the clinic appear to be benefiting from the educational programs, free meals, and interactions they receive. Suggestions for improvement include stable hours of operation, stability of programs each week, and more advertising to promote the programs at the clinic.

Research Showcase Outcomes: Action Items

The research showcase concluded with a facilitated workshop discussion.

Throughout the day, participants were asked to write down various community research needs and stick them to a large board. Four major themes emerged from the “community needs” sticky notes: more health research services; promoting inclusive research projects and supports; increasing research for housing, homes and health families; and improving University campus and community collaborations. Near the end of the day, approximately twenty-five

“I really valued the day, especially the discussion at the end. It is great to know that the University is interested in working with the non-profit sector and I look forward to seeing how it evolves. I think it will be a win-win situation that will benefit our community greatly.” - Participant
participants and presenters broke into five groups for a tabletop discussion. They took up questions such as: “What is the role of campus in supporting CBOs” and “What are the challenges for CBO and faculty collaboration? What are the barriers?” Challenges suggested by multiple groups included:

- “Cultural” differences between academy and CBOs (timelines, vocabulary)
- Measuring and evaluating impact
- Lack of communication, relationships, and connection
- Not knowing the research needs
- Too much researcher focus on publication, not enough on action
- Lack of understanding of research needs

After the answers to these questions were shared in the larger group, a facilitator drew out strategies for addressing the challenges. These included:

- Creation of a regular research symposium
- Hiring an outreach/liaison position to facilitate connections with CBOs
- Focused events for the general public on research findings
- Better engagement with University leadership

“I personally felt this event was very successful in closing the gap between community-based research and university-based research. Collaboration and knowledge of ongoing projects is essential.”
– Participant
• Engaging researchers and sharing research techniques with CBOS
• Mobilizing knowledge beyond an academic audience
• Increased CBO access to University resources.

These ideas, we believe, can serve as Action Items and inform a path of engagement between campus and community. To assist in that endeavor, we sought feedback from all participants on prioritizing these items.

As part of the post-workshop evaluation process, we transformed the list into a survey question that asked participants to rank and therefore prioritize these actions. Surveys were sent to 96 showcase participants and 47 responses were recorded. From the responses, participants have indicated that the top priority is to hire an outreach/liaison position. People also prioritized teaching CBOs research techniques and hosting events such as the symposium and/or other knowledge mobilization projects that are not exclusively academic in nature. The CRU is now taking up these recommendations within its Board and with other partners to explore options to act on these items.

Research Showcase Evaluations and Conclusion

Overall, the evaluations indicated that participants’ expectations of the event were met and surpassed. 78% of respondents indicated an increase in their knowledge about community issues, 68% indicated they knew more about community-engaged research and networks after the event, and 60% learned more about the work of the Community Research Unit. Many respondents also
commented that they took away something from the day that will affect their work or practice, whether it be the potential for collaboration with the university and with other organizations that attended, the “importance of disseminating results to the public”, or in one specific case “a clear example that my institution might emulate, to foster closer relations with the University community.” Of note, 97% of respondents indicated they would attend a future similar showcase.

The CRU is excited for the future of University and CBO partnerships. The Action Items give us an idea of key items the community is seeking from the campus and our goal is to take action on items that best address community needs while also aligning with the mandate of the CRU and the University’s Strategic Plan. Later in the year the CRU will release an Action Plan that will include updates on actions being undertaken and those on the horizon to best mobilize the input from the community as we continue to find innovative ways to work together.

“During my years of work in Regina, I have not been aware of any similar occasions to gather together… to share successes or to present the challenges to come in the form of requests for research assistance.

The networking that occurred during and after the event has been unparalleled. Had it not been for this event, many of us would not have had the excellent prospect of making those connections for future benefit.”

Mona Hill, Ignite Adult Learning Corporation
Conclusion

This report summarizes the proceedings of the Community Film Showcase and Community-Based Research Showcase. Over one hundred participants turned out to learn about research done by community organizations and present research needs to University of Regina students and faculty. The goal of this report was to showcase these presentations and support the continued and enhanced collaboration of the University and community organizations. We would like to thank everyone who made this event possible. The Community Research Unit is committed to acting on the recommendations from the Showcase evaluations and increasing opportunities for community and university to mutually benefit through research projects.

This event was made possible by funding from the Community Engaged Scholarship Initiative. You can learn more about the initiative at http://engagedscholarship.ca.
Appendix A: Community Needs and Action Items

Community Needs

Health Research Service

- How can we prove that taking a holistic approach to sexual health/health/education/addictions etc is valuable? How do we educate about this?
- Diversifying sexual education and what routes to take
- How can we prove that sexual health, mental health and addictions is a public health issue and not a criminal justice one
- RNs/RPNs involved in community centers & schools (within North Central)
- Research & services focusing on health
- Services for seniors: housing, health care, transportation, safety, social services
- Health equity
- Support for data collection/environmental scans for “rural” health region (ex: data surrounding, homelessness in Five Hills health region or Moose Jaw area)
- How can we bridge the gap between addictions/mental health/sexual health
- Confidentiality in health care: help or hindrance?

Need for Inclusive Research Projects & Supports

- Better support from people coming off reserves and rural communities
- Wanting to know the impacts of newcomer integration and the barriers they’re facing
- Indigenous research (CBR) (2)
- Making space for/accepting people as they are, then providing community appropriate programming
- Better supports for immigrants
- Communication
- Cross-disciplinary research
- What role are community organizations having in the strategic planning process?
- How do we as community organizations make those connections? Vice versa?
Housing, Homes & Healthy Families

- How does food insecurity impact children/student summer learning
- Affordable housing for ages 18-80+
- Research evaluation on early years programming
- Lighting in pedestrian ways (Wascana Park, bike paths)
- Locally derived set of sustainability and quality of life indicators (emerging out of broad community and province wide consultations)
- Need assessments to explore parents’ need to better support their children in learning
- How does parents past academic success (or failure) act as a barrier to learning and literacy in home environments
- More local and health produce in North Central (lack of grocery stores within this specific community)
- Changing the marketing of food, health food/less costly...junk food/more costly

Improving Campus & Community Collaborations

- Better connection between community organizations and faculty/student resources
- How to apply research results
- Community based research
- Funding
- Community and campus collaboration
- Links to community research
- Theory to practice
- Utilization of arts professionals and arts engagement in support of broader community goals
- Teamwork: for various CBO’s/initiatives to work together and support each other
- Any research helps legitimate the work we do (research is PROOF)
- Authentic engagement in arts and culture

Action Items/Mobilization

Role for Campus

- Partnerships between schools and CBOs
- Hired position to facilitate discussion
- Reward CBO’s that have students doing community research (university should be paying CBO)
- Engage researchers and teach CBO’s research techniques
• Create forum to share info and findings (similar to this event)
• Overcome resistance (ie by government) to action from research
• Mobilizing knowledge outside an academic audience (this is a desire for both scholars and CBOs)
  o Ex: knowledge mobilization symposium
  o Grant applications, knowledge transfer
• Translate research for accessibility
  o What’s the difference between this and social marketing
• Helping community understand forms of research
• Better understanding of how to share info (ie media) for the ultimate goal of mobilization

Challenges & Strategies

C: Too much focus on publication, not enough on action (in research)

S: There needs to be more discussion on the purpose of research

C: Sharing resources with the community (not just internally with the university)

S: Allowing access for CBOs to academic journals that currently the University only gets, MOV’s between campus and community, better advertising a university library card for community members or helping direct community members to open access publishing or having University budget for library cards for community members, getting VPR to give money for community research and providing a manual for this process to CBOs

C: Not knowing the research needs

S: Relationship building, more effective engagement with Arts CARES, having a permanent research off campus office, university developing concrete expectations from CBOs, better utilization of College Ave campus, have a University position that physically goes into the communities, more community members physically coming to campus

C: Not knowing what the university is looking for from CBO’s

S: Again, position at the University to do outreach/liaison with CBO’s, further developing the CRU, create a strategic plan to include: a clear path for relationship building, better understanding of university protocols, better engagement with high up leadership within university so concerns and solutions can be better met