

# Why Community-Based Research is Important for Positive Societal Change Part 1: The Canadian Perspective

Three-part Webinar Series brought to you by Community-Based Research Canada

### More Ways to Get Involved With CBRC

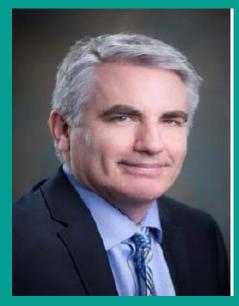








### **Presenters**



Stephen Dooley (SFU and CBRC Board)



Martin Taylor (CBRC Board Chair)



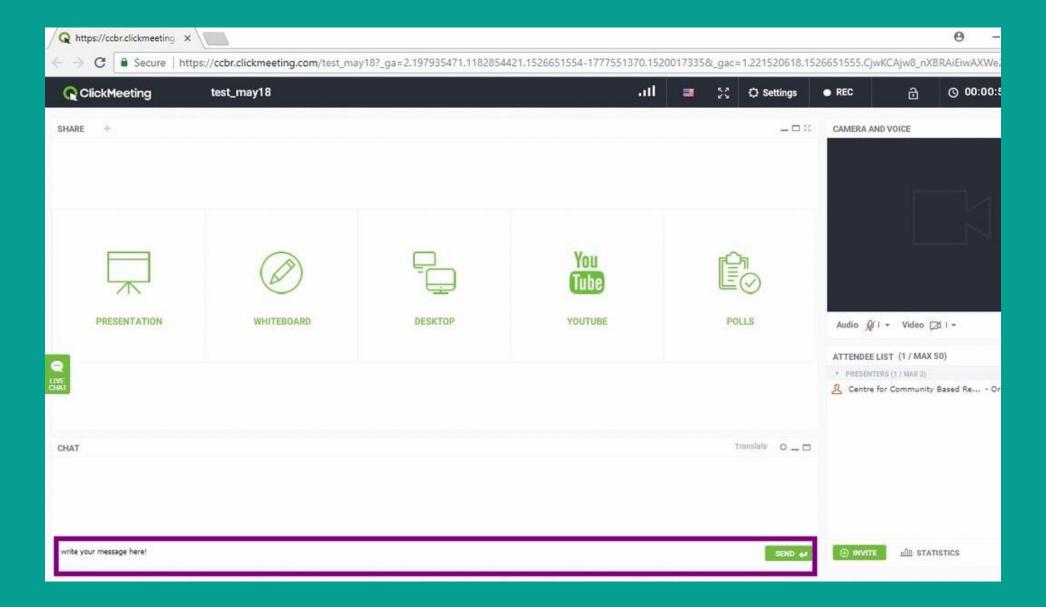
### Webinar Recordings



2016: Canada and Global Community-University Partnerships Part 1

www.communityresearchcanada.ca/webinars

### We Want to Hear from You!



### On a personal note.....



Practitioner of community focused research as a health geographer

 Supporter of community-based research as a university research administrator

Enabler of CBR as CBRC chair

### Currency of Community-University Engagement in Canada

- University research supported by public funds for the public good
- University responsibility and accountability to show return on research investments measured by societal outcomes and impacts
- Knowledge mobilization as a central tenet across the academy
- Integration of research and learning objectives
- Diversity of CUE models and networks

### SSHRC's Program Architecture

• Restructured in 2010

• 3 program foci:

- Talent (graduate fellowship and PDF programs)
- Insight (PI and team discovery grants)
- Connection (C-U and other partnership awards)

### McConnell/SFU Report 2017



Maximizing the Capacities of Advanced Education Institutions to Build Social Infrastructure for Canadian Communities

Written by Coro Strandberg Commissioned by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation's RECODE initiative and Simon Praser University

April 2017

THE J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

LA PONDATION DE SA PARILLE J.W. McCONNEL



SF

### McConnell/SFU Report 2017

"By structuring their operating systems to build social infrastructure, foster social innovation and further social progress, advanced education institutions will play a pivotal role in accelerating society's transition to a more sustainable and just future for all."

## Community-Campus Collaboration Initiative (CCCI)

- Launched in May, 2012
- Supported by the Governor General, David Johnson
- Developed by United Way Canada; SSHRC; and Research Impact KM network
- Four areas of focus to build C-C capacity to address "big societal" issues:
  - Community based research
  - Integrating community experience into learning
  - Knowledge mobilization
  - Policies and institutional supports



### CUE Networks in Canada

- Community Based Research Canada (community-university partnership research)
- Research Impact (knowledge mobilization)
- Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning (student engagement)
- Community Engaged Scholarship Partnership (academic staff policies)
- CUExpo meetings (convention for all of the above)

### International Approaches and Models

Global Alliance for Community Engaged Research

UNESCO Chair in CBR and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

European Living Knowledge Network

UK National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement

### Community Based Research Canada

- CBRC is a national network that advances research that leads to social innovation and social entrepreneurship
- CBRC builds the necessary CBR capacity within higher education that better advances systems-level change in Canada
- Champion of the C2UExpo movement
- CBRC promotes standards for quality research

### CBRC STRATEGIC PLAN

#### Vision:

 A vibrant society in Canada enabled by community based research that addresses major societal challenges.

#### Mission:

To be a national champion and facilitator for collaborative community based research and community-campus engagement in Canada.

#### Goals:

- Catalyze a national movement and capacity building
- Advance community-university research, policy and advocacy engagement
- Provide communication and network support

### Hallmarks of CBRC approach

- Community driven- begins with a research topic of practical relevance to the community and promotes community self-determination
- **Participatory** community members and researchers equitably share control of the research agenda through active and reciprocal involvement in the research design, implementation and dissemination

 Action-oriented - the process and results are useful to community members in making positive social change and to promote social equity.

### Value proposition

- CBRC enhances the capacity of our communities and universities by:
  - Learning/sharing best practices in design, implementation and evaluation of CBR
  - Building intra- and inter-institutional research teams in collaboration with community partners for funding applications
  - Interacting with SSHRC, CIHR and other funding agencies on CUE/CBR program development
  - Networking with and providing research support to community organizations and agencies locally and nationally (e.g., United Way, Imagine Canada)

### Value proposition

- CBRC enhances the capacity of our communities and universities by:
  - Participating in the development of CBRC through its Board of Directors
  - Connecting with allied international efforts in CUE/CBR (e.g., UK NCCPE; GACER)
  - Contributing to national conferences and fora (esp. CUExpo and CCPH)
  - Advancing the recognition and respect of CBR in our universities, colleges and hospitals
  - Benefiting from the proven success of CBRC

### Existing and Planned Services

- On-line directory featuring people and projects of CBRC members.
- Capacity building and skills development on CBR and community engagement (webinars, customized workshops, coaching, support in developing research projects).
- Regional and national face-to-face gatherings for networking, knowledge exchange and partnerships building.
- National CBR "community of practice" a national community-campus engagement network and action plan with key partners, networks and funders.
- CBR excellence and impact assessment

### Promoting excellence in CBR

- Four components of CBR excellence
  - Community Relevance
  - Research Design
  - Equitable Participation
  - Action and Change
- National Summit (2014)



60 PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## CBRET: Community-Based Research Excellence Tool

- Tool designed to have both qualitative and quantitative measures
- 9-point scale to the right can be used to score each of the five sections
  - Relevance to communities
  - Participation of stakeholders
  - Robust data and interpretation
  - Knowledge mobilization
  - Mobilization of people
- Reflective questions at the end can be used to consider areas of weakness and strength



### Questions Arising

#### Why CBR?

- Asking the right questions
- Engaging the right players
- Research making a difference

#### What CBR?

- Case specific issues
- Harnessing university and partner strengths
- Commitment to excellence and rigour

#### How CBR?

- Application and enhancement of best practices
- Learning from and sharing with our networks
- Creating institutional incentives and supports



www.communityresearchcanada.ca

- Martin Taylor, CBRC Board Chair
  - smt@uvic.ca
- Joanna Ochocka, CBRC Board Vice Chair
  - joanna@communitybasedresearch.ca

SFU



THE ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL & REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN SURREY

### What is the Active Community Engagement Model?

- Steering Committee comprised of community partners
- Role of the Committee is to take leadership for the planning and delivery of the project
- Recruitment and training of peer research assistants
- Community consultation days explore meaning of the data
- Part of the city of Surrey's refugee settlement plan



### **Oiur Community – Our Voice**

Refugee Settlement, Surrey LIP & The City of Surrey's Immigrant Settlement Plan

#### **Steering Committee**

- new and recently settled refugees in Surrey
- regional service providers
- local residents
- businesses
- government
- academic institutions

#### **Peer Research Assistants**

- 8 recent refugees from Somalia, Iraq, Myanmar, Columbia
- Instrument design, focus group recruitment, focus group facilitation, translation, data interpretation, development of recommendations
- All completed the TRI-Council Tutorial on research ethics





#### What We Wanted To Know ...

- What are settlement barriers faced by refugees and how are they being addressed in Surrey? Are there Surrey-specific settlement barriers that can be addressed?
- How do existing settlement practices support refugee integration into Surrey and are there gaps in services that need to be addressed?
- As the largest recipient of refugees in the province, what level of understanding and awareness do civic stakeholders have of refugees?
- What constitutes community settlement planning for refugees and how does it impact or support refugees? How does it impact or support the community?
- Are refugee settlement supports adequate and coordinated in Surrey to the maximum benefit of the community and the refugees themselves? What needs to be done?



#### OCOV's Results - What We Discovered



- Pre-Arrival
- Arrival
- Settling-In
- Long Term



#### **Pre-Arrival**



#### High expectations of a new life in Canada, but under prepared

"Government should provide support for learning English BEFORE coming to Canada"

"When you arrive in Canada, immigration/ISS/IRCC should provide a handbook (in own language) to provide information about housing assistance, day care assistance (making people aware of the issues they will face)"

Not in Canada, but dealing with physical and mental trauma

The lived experience of camps, leaving loved ones behind, fleeing war and conflict

"I think the whole mental health piece gets lose sometimes .."

### Or Community, Or Voice

#### Arrival

#### Jet-lagged, but asked to focus

"I have three children and my husband left behind in the refugee camp [I can't think] .." "Have no choice to return to Honduras; [I'm sad] .. not seeing "grandmother" before she dies .."

#### **Support from co-nationals**

"When I came to Canada, it was really hard. I had a friend who knows that I did not speak English and was helpful to have someone that understands you and what you are going through"



#### Settling-In

#### The importance of work, lack of meaningful work

"How can this be a good life if I don't have a job"

"Hard to be a role model for my child because where I am looking for light, it seems the light is being shut off. My ambition is wasted working labour"

#### Valuing the school experience

"I make new friends from my school in carpentry and auto workshop classes. It's really helpful; feeling settled to have friends at school that you can learn new skills. Being able to help family members and depend less on people for language support [is important]"

#### **English language training**

"Not being able to ask for directions in English was very hard." "The first problem is language. [We're asked] to go find a place to live and we have no language."

#### **Community connectedness**

"When I first arrive in Canada, I participated in a community kitchen program with DiversCity .. I met with other immigrants and newcomers. I make more friends and many new things about Canada."



#### **Longer-Term**

#### Still hard to settle (for good reason)

"Hard to the acquire the education here because the family must be taken care of, so one has no choice"

"My husband faced discrimination at his work place. My husband doesn't know English very well and when he starts working at his job he couldn't understand what his boss was saying .."

"We came here with many dreams but they were falling apart day by day due to what we seeing here."

"Our rent increased, we have to pay more rent then before. I have six people in my family and we live in a two bedrooms apartment. We have a big family and we have to live in a small apartment, because of the housing price "

"A large amount of debt can lead to people resorting to crime, drugs, joining gangs."



#### **Key Recommendations From The Study**

#### **Investment (or calibration of existing resources and services**) that:

- Improves city-wide mobility and access to affordable accommodation
- Furthers English language education for both youth and adult refugees
- Targets employment and self-employment opportunities
- Provides ongoing education and training for service providers, community groups and organizations involved in refugee settlement and integration

Develop greater understanding and pathways for Surrey residents to engage with refugee communities

**Grow, improve and facilitate the co-ordination and sharing of information and resources** amongst local community stakeholders (settlement agencies, public institutions, private sector, local government) <u>and</u> with provincial and national partners and groups.



#### We Are Reminded ....

Refugee Participant (Community Consultation), May, 2015

[my wish for people learning about this project]

"... I hope that our thoughts, ideas, comments, solutions will be taken seriously. I would love to see them on the ground, not only written on walls ... "



#### SURREY REFUGEE INTEGRATION STRATEGY 2017-2020









#### The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

#### WHOWEARE

The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is a robust committee made up of 30 community organizations representing community, immigrant and refugee service agencies, education, business, govemment, libraries, health, parks and recreation, faith, and others. Led by the City of Surrey, the Surrey LIP works collaboratively to identify and support coordinated, comprehensive, and strategic approaches to immigrant and refugee settlement and integration that work for all residents of Surrey, newcomers and longer-term residents alike.

#### SURREYLOCALIMMIGRATION PAR TNERSHIP MEMBERS

#### Kelly Aslanowicz

Senior Manager, Business Development Human Resources Management Association

#### Minakshi Bagai

Acting Director of Employment Services Sources Community Resources Society

#### Ravi Basi

Manager, Multicultural Services SurreyLibraries

#### Debra Bryant

Chief Executive Officer Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC

#### Devinder Chattha

Director, Language Studies, Settlement & Social Services Progressive Intercultural Community Services

#### Patrick Donohoe

Dean, Faculty of Academic & CareerAdvancement Kwantlen Polytechnic University

#### Steve Dooley

Executive Director Simon Fraser University Surrey

#### Neil Fernyhough

Manager, Community Programs Alexandra Neighbourhood House

#### Meri Ghazaryan

Manager, Global Connections Immigrant Employment Council of BC

#### Daljit Gill-Badesha

Healthy Communities Manager City of Surrey, Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture

#### Jonguil Hallgate

Surrey Interfaith Council

#### Anita Huberman

CBO,Co-Chair of the Surrey LIP Committee The Surrey Board of Trade

#### Tahzeem Kassam

Chief Operating Officer DIVERSEally Community Resources Society

#### Jamie Kopp

Program Manager Umoja Operation Compassion Society

#### Jennifer Kuenzig

Community & Contract Services Manager Douglas College, Training Group

#### Caroline Lai

Manager, ELLWelcome Centre Surrey School District #36

#### Jenny Lam

Regional Manager SUCCESS Surrey Delta Service Centre

#### Catherine Ludgate

Manager, Community Investment Vancity

#### Jagbir Mand

Program Coordinator
Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub Society

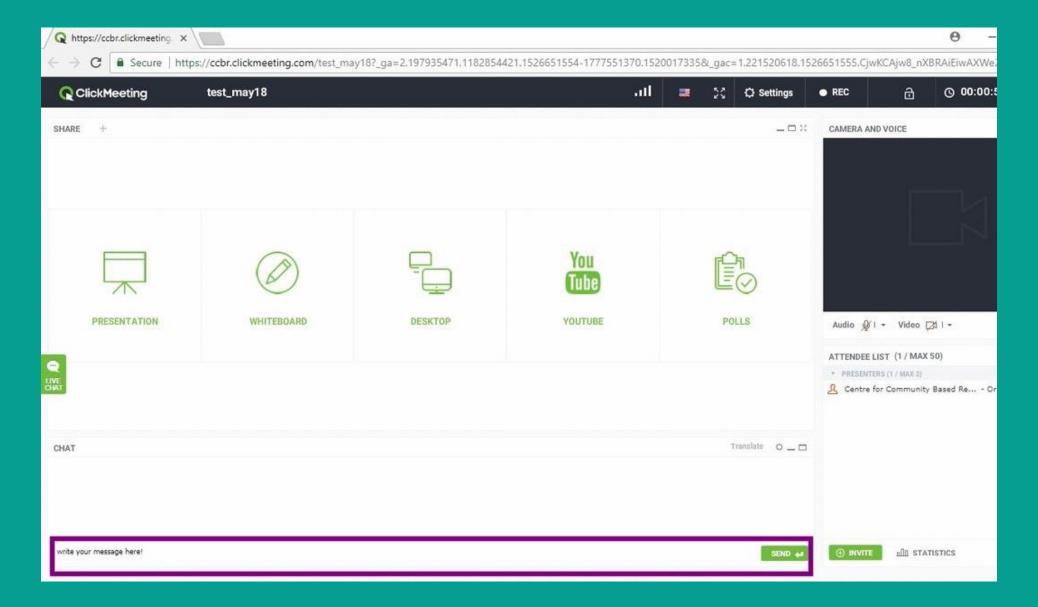
#### Harbinder Mann

Employment Specialist, Human Resources City of Surrey, Human Resources

#### Aileen Murphy

Senior Social Planner, Surrey LIP Contract Manager City of Surrey, Social Planning

### **Questions?**



### Please Share Your Feedback







### Thank You!

www.communityresearchcanada.ca