We respectfully acknowledge that the Community-Based Research Canada Secretariat is situated on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. In the spirit of reconciliation, CBR Canada is committed to engaging with and learning from diverse Indigenous Peoples and communities across Canada. CBR Canada stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and is committed to upholding and working to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We are committed to the decolonization of knowledge and stand against all forms of systemic injustice and racism in our society. We support the Black Lives Matter movement and all movements and organizations that align with our values.
History and Mandate

Founded in 2008, Community Based Research Canada (CBR Canada) is an organization of over 30 universities, colleges and non-profit organizations advancing a community-based research approach in Canada. First, its intent was to serve as a network of researchers implementing a community-based research approach across Canada and internationally. CBR Canada’s mission has since evolved to become a national champion and facilitator of community-based research excellence in the broader context of community-campus engagement through its solid network of post-secondary institutions, community organizations and individuals.

CBR Canada’s mandate is nested within a national research ecosystem whereby community organisations with their community partners and post-secondary institutions with their allied research institutes engage on an equal footing to address societal challenges and achieve positive impacts for the benefit of people residing in Turtle Island/Canada. CBR Canada plays a convening and enabling role to harness research resources, and to facilitate collaborative relationships, especially between community partners and universities, colleges and health institutions, in ways that might not otherwise occur or be sustained.

An important role has been to convene bi-annual C2UExpos as national flora for the showcasing and advancement of best practices in community-based research and community-university partnerships.

CBR Canada’s goals and activities have been guided by a strategic plan approved in 2014. The organisation incorporated as a federal not-for-profit corporation in 2016, signalling its evolution from an informal network. Today, CBR Canada is a membership-based organization of over 30 universities, colleges, and national non-profit organizations. It is governed by the Board of Directors with its Secretariat operations located at the Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR).
Within the broader context of community-campus engagement, nationally and internationally, CBR Canada is part of a movement to change the research culture, especially to promote the importance of community and post-secondary sector collaboration to co-create knowledge, advance social innovation, and generate evidence that is timely, robust and appropriate for informing policy and practice. In so doing, CBR Canada values multiple forms of knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge, academic knowledge and knowledge gained through lived experience.

CBR Canada’s new strategic plan coincides with a time of significant developments in Canada and internationally in community-based research in the broader context of community-campus engagement activities, including the role of networks as coordinating, convening and enabling organisations. Nationally, the community-campus collaboration initiative (CCCI) was launched in 2011 with the support of the Governor General, David Johnston. With the vision of Canada becoming a smarter and more caring nation, the CCCI aims to promote a culture of collaboration to harness the resources of communities and post-secondary institutions to address big and complex societal issues in the social, environmental and cultural domains that require multi-sector approaches and solutions. CBR Canada is a participating organisation given that community-based research has been identified as a key mechanism for collaborative initiatives and for building an evidence-base for understanding and addressing societal challenges in Canada.

Still within Canada, CBR Canada is part of and conduit for both national and international networks in the broad public engagement domain. These include the Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning (CASL), Research Impact Canada and the Community Campus Engaged Canada. Internationally, CBR Canada is linked with the Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH), the UK National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), the Community University Partnership Program (CUPP) at Brighton University, the Living Knowledge Network in Europe, the Global Alliance for Community Engaged Research (GACER) and the PASCAL International Observatory among others. CBR Canada shares with these allied organisations a guiding philosophy and principles that draw from an understanding of knowledge democracy, focus on network capacity bridging for community-based research, and support a national movement for knowledge creation and application for societal benefit and impact.

Innovation and partnerships in theory, method and practice are central to the mission and goals of CBR Canada. The outcome is co-created knowledge as the evidence-base to inform policies, programs and practices that address major societal challenges. As such, CBR Canada seeks to support social innovation, responsiveness and resilience as priorities for the prosperity and well-being of Canadians. This commitment aligns with federal leadership under the CCCI and emergent plans of several Canadian provinces.
CBR Canada is committed to bridging partnerships and knowledges - across cultures, disciplines, borders and sectors - to help address the global challenges of our time and to seek peace and prosperity for all people and the planet by 2030 and beyond. We believe that community-based research, as a collaborative approach that mobilizes people with different types of expertise and skills, can facilitate the societal transformation needed to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The very nature of CBR is directed to building relationships, evidence and innovation by combining knowledge and action for transformational change.
Development of the Strategic Plan

In April 2019, at the Community Based Research Canada annual meeting, board members identified the need for a renewed strategic plan that reflects changes in the community-based research landscape across Canada and beyond since the last plan was drafted in 2014. Since this time, CBR Canada has incorporated as a non-profit organization, and the organizing leadership (The Secretariat) has moved from the University of Victoria to the Centre for Community-Based Research (CCBR) in Waterloo. In parallel, other entities have taken shape in support of the broader push for community engagement between communities and campus and the funding landscape continues to advance a strong ecosystem for community-driven research in Canada.

CBR Canada has grown in membership, expanded programs, created a new CBR Canada website, convened regular webinars and live online discussions, and established a presence and profile through social media, newsletters and capacity building workshops.

These initiatives are guided and supported by an active multi-sector national Board.

There are a number of national and international drivers of change that directly bear on CBR Canada’s strategic plan over the next five years. These include:

- In November 2019, Canada’s Tri-Council funding agencies signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), joining several other leaders around the world who are working to strengthen research excellence by ensuring equitable and impactful measures of research assessment. Recognizing the value and societal impact of research, beyond the journal article, will have profound implications for how research is funded and the way in which researchers are assessed.
The Canada Research Coordinating Committee recently released report *Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada 2019-2022.* The 4 pillars of the strategic plan include 1) Building relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; 2) Supporting research priorities of Indigenous Peoples; 3) Creating greater funding accessibility to granting agency programs, and 4) Championing Indigenous leadership, self-determination and capacity building in research.

The decolonization of institutions is an important movement across the country, and has been propelled by the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report in 2015. Community-based research conducted across the country intermingles with all of the 96 Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, including topics such as education, child welfare, justice, language and culture.

The *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015-30)* calling on higher education to take a leadership role in addressing global challenges.

In this context, CBR Canada continues to be well positioned to advocate for and demonstrate the value, impact and applicability of community-based research to address a wide range of societal issues. This includes advocating for an enabling policy and funding landscape to strengthen community-based research driven by communities. Our active board members and growing membership across the country help bridge knowledge and capacity between community and academic researchers in pursuit of societal goals.

In developing a new strategic framework, we would engage a diverse audience of academic, community and other influencers (i.e. funding agencies, policymakers, philanthropic sector) to build a road map that is inclusive and impactful for all people residing in Canada.
Vision
Community-based research contributing to equitable, just, and sustainable communities within and beyond Canada

Mission
Advancing community-based research excellence in Canada by strengthening partnerships, bridging capacity, mobilizing knowledge, and championing community-based research among individuals, communities, and institutions

Goal 1: Strengthen Partnerships
CBR Canada connects individuals, communities, and organizations locally, regionally, nationally, and globally

Goal 2: Capacity Bridging
CBR Canada develops and shares resources that foster community-based research excellence

Goal 3: Knowledge Mobilization
CBR Canada is a communications and knowledge sharing hub for community-based research

Goal 4: Champion Community-Based Research
CBR Canada advances policy changes and recognizes excellence in support of community-driven research
Activities and Services

Goal 1: Strengthen Partnerships
1. *explore the development of regional community-based research hubs
2. *create communities of practice
3. *build stronger alliances with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities
4. continue championing C2UExpo

Goal 2: Capacity Bridging
1. *explore the development of a community-based research designation for campuses
2. continue organizing webinars
3. continue organizing training workshops

Goal 3: Knowledge Mobilization
1. maintain and develop the CBR Canada website
2. enhance the resource database
3. continue the CBR Canada newsletter
4. actively maintain social media platforms

Goal 4: Champion Community-Based Research
1. *influence policy
2. continue building partnerships with funders
3. continue building partnerships with allied initiatives, including efforts to advance SDGs
4. support research as a path to reconciliation
5. establish community-based research awards

*identifies *new* activities and services
CBR Canada activities and services encompass community-based research in a wide array of interdisciplinary fields, as well as broad and dynamic research topics that reflect local realities and have a global dimension (i.e. climate change, marginalization/vulnerability, worldwide pandemics). Our activities and services support the development and mobilization of knowledge as well as help to build the research capacity related to:

1. **Laying Research Foundations**
   - goals and roles
   - stakeholder relationships
   - assumptions about
   - research group facilitation

2. **Research Planning and Implementation**
   - research ethics
   - research design
   - research methods
   - research analysis

3. **Acting on Research Findings**
   - sharing knowledge
   - initiating actions
   - art-based strategies
   - community and town hall forums

4. **Advancing Community Based Research**
   - supporting an institutional community-based research culture
   - strengthening regional/national networks
   - funding to support community-based research
   - facilitating global linkages