Community-Based Research Canada
Recherche partenariale du Canada



C2UExpo 2029 Call for Proposals

communityresearchcanada.ca

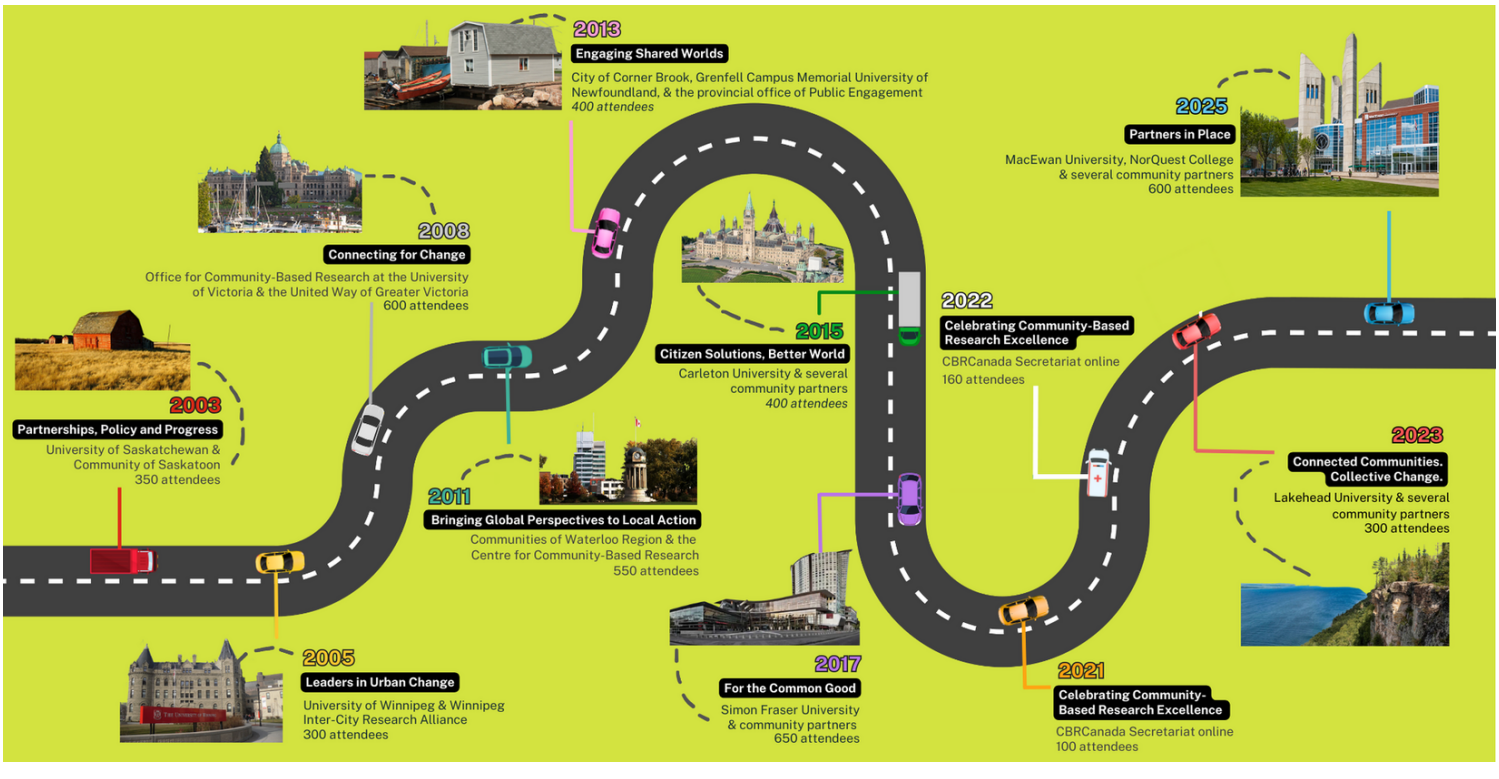
About C2UExpo

C2UExpo (Community-College-University Exposition) is a flagship event for community-campus engagement in Canada and globally. It is a Canadian-led international conference that provides space for both community and academia to showcase exemplars of community-campus partnerships addressing vital societal issues.

C2UExpo explores and introduces creative ways of strengthening communities, transforming institutions and improving policies through community-based research, service-learning, knowledge mobilization and other types of community-campus collaborations. Conference attendees are students, faculty, community leaders, researchers, educators, funders, policy makers, and others invested in a broad range of projects addressing issues of high priority on the societal agendas. The conference is held bi-annually by a local host institution or/and organization, with backbone support from Community-Based Research Canada (CBRCanada). It is intentionally scheduled in alternating years with other major international conferences (e.g., Living Knowledge), enabling ongoing global engagement in community-based research without overlapping.

Distinct from traditional academic conferences, C2UExpo is rooted in equity, inclusivity, and co-creation. The conference offers a rare and transformative space where communities and their academic partners come together to discuss, debate, and learn from each other. Together, conference participants advance social action and global social justice agenda.

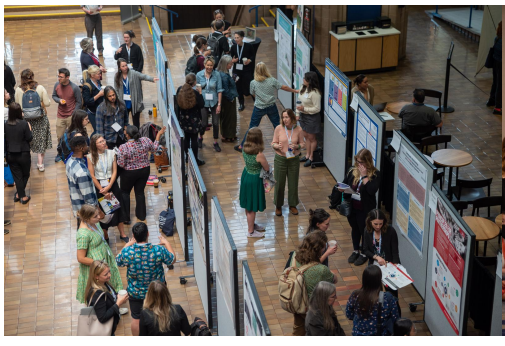
The movement began in Canada as a response to the growing need for a space where those working in community-campus partnerships could connect, learn, be inspired and build momentum for change. Since 2003, there have been 11 in-person conferences held across Canada, each addressing unique objectives, streams, and themes through a variety of sessions and opportunities for dialogue.



Reference: Ochocka, J. and Shaffiq Dar, S. (2023, June 5-8). *C2UExpo: a 20-year journey.* [Poster presentation]. C2UExpo 2023, Thunder Bay, ON, Canada.

Why Host C2UExpo

CBRCanada works with academic institutions, organizations, or alliances that have experience in community-campus partnerships and a strong commitment to social innovation to bring this anticipated conference to life. Hosting C2UExpo offers colleges, universities, and community organizations, whether individually or collaboratively, an opportunity to lead and showcase their accomplishments in advancing community-based research while contributing to a growing national and international movement for societal change.





The Benefits

Hosting C2UExpo comes with a variety of benefits for your institution and community.

Inspire

Hosting C2UExpo energizes your entire institution or organization, bringing together faculty, students, staff, and community partners in a shared commitment to social innovation and community-based research. It sparks cross-sector and cross-Canada collaboration and strengthens your local networks through meaningful program planning and shared learning experiences.

Elevate

Your institution and your community will be recognized nationally and internationally as a hub for community-engaged scholarship. By shaping the themes, hosting keynote speakers, and co-creating dynamic sessions, you will help drive critical conversations and highlight the unique contributions of your region to the CBR movement. National and international attendees will have positive influence on local economy and prosperity.

Collaborate

C2UExpo offers a rare opportunity to work hand-in-hand with CBRCanada and a national (or international) steering committee, gaining mentorship, strategic guidance, and access to a network of 70+ institutions and partners, including previous C2UExpo attendees. You'll be at the center of a collective process grounded in equity, co-leadership, mutual learning and contributions.

Grow

From accessing new funding opportunities to building organizational capacity, C2UExpo is an investment in your long-term growth. You'll gain experience managing a high-profile event, create materials that showcase your impact, and strengthen your ability to lead future initiatives that center community voice and action.

Conference Planning

Due to the nature of the conference, it is appropriate to plan and deliver C2UExpo through collaborative community-campus efforts. Funds need to be raised through sponsorship and grants, making this an entrepreneurial undertaking. The hosting organization(s) assume all responsibility for organizing the conference, including planning, fundraising, and delivery, with guidelines and support provided by CBRCanada and other organizations represented on the conference host selection committee.

To learn more about the roles and responsibilities of CBRCanada and the host institution, please refer to our *Guide for Prospective Host Institutions and Organizations* document.



Key aspects of conference planning

- ☑ Management of programming including: objectives and themes, a call for proposals, a process for proposal review, and processes for presenter support.
- ☑ Fundraising and budget management.
- ☑ Management of planning committees, and fostering local, national and international collaboration throughout the process.

Proposal Guidelines

Conference Vision

Provide a brief description and rationale for a tentative overall theme that reflects emerging research interests and issues in the field of partnerships and community engagement.

Organizational Capacity

Show how your organization(s) will provide adequate infrastructure support to each of the key aspects of conference planning.

Experience and Leadership

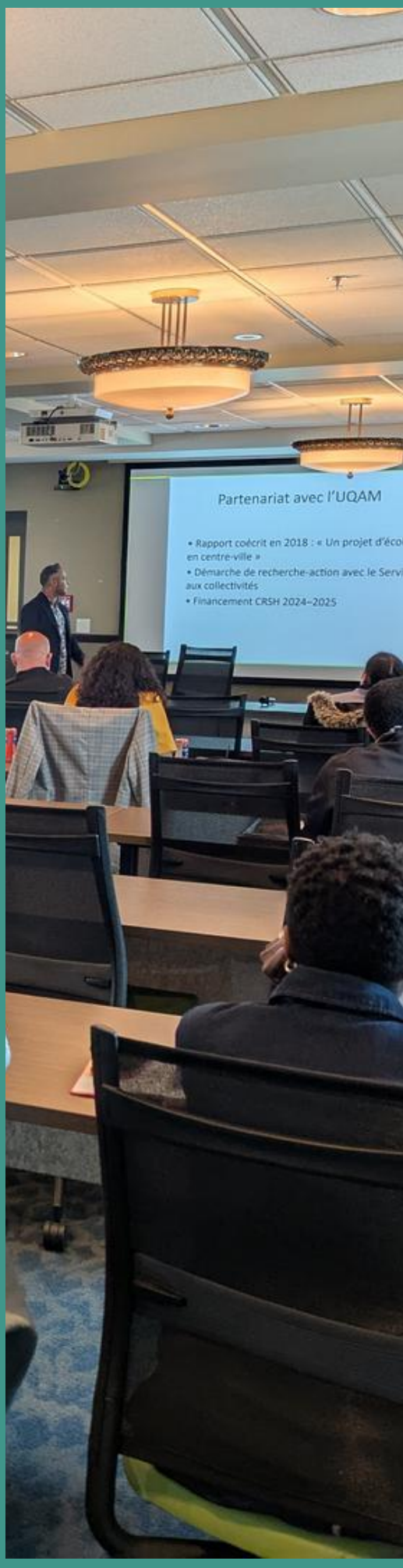
Provide evidence of your organization(s) / members' experience regarding principles of community engagement in practice, applied to any form of community-campus engagement.

Location and Venue

Provide information about the proposed conference city of region and venue, including the rationale for holding the conference in that particular place. Please provide ideas of site visits and other links to online information.

Proposed Dates

May is the proposed month for the conference, but April-June can be considered. Propose conference dates and your rationale.



Format & Submission

Please submit a proposal with the above information (5 pages maximum).

In addition to your proposal, please include:

- Letter of commitment from your President(s) and/or Executive Director(s)
- Letter of commitment from key partner organizations
- Curriculum vitae of the conference leader(s)

Key Proposal Criteria

- Experience in community-campus partnerships
- Commitment to social innovation and societal change
- Collaborative approach
- Entrepreneurial spirit

Let's Connect!

Have questions or ideas for your proposal? We encourage you to connect with CBRCanada before submitting.

We'd love to hear from you!

Submissions

Send your proposal to the CBRCanada Secretariat at info@communityresearchcanada.ca.

The submission deadline is **February 26, 2027.**



Thank you for your interest in hosting C2UExpo.

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