

The Community University Engagement Movement in Canada

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



University
of Victoria



• UNESCO Chair in Community Based
• Research and Social Responsibility
• in Higher Education

Bon dia

Buenos Dias



Why do we have a movement?

- An era of increased accountability
- Limitation on new fiscal resources
- Persistence of complex social, environmental and economic issues
- Demands from our students
- Interest from our academic researchers and scholars

Historical elements

- Our Universities often founded on principles of “knowledge for the people”
- St Francis Xavier University and the Antigonish Movement
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- The growth in Indigenous Studies

Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada

- Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada and Community Foundations of Canada- Working Group on CUE

“We are calling for a cultural shift in how we address community needs, how we prepare for the unexpected and how we pursue opportunities. Collaborations and partnerships must be standard operating procedure from the earliest stages of new ideas and initiatives for building community resiliency and prosperity?”

Campus Community Collaboration Initiative

- Led by the Governor-General of Canada
- Members include AUCC, Research granting bodies and key charitable organisations
- The overall goal of the CCCI is to increase the capacity of Canadian communities to develop and implement innovative and sustainable solutions to address the variety of complex challenges that face them by linking more effectively to the resources and expertise of post-secondary institutions.

National support networks

- Community University Expositions
- Community Based Research Canada
- Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning
- Research Impact
- Community Engaged Scholarship Partnership

Institutionalisation-changes in every university

- Offices of Public Engagement
- Structures to facilitate community university research partnerships
- Offices of community service learning
- Changes to the strategic plans of universities
- Increased visibility to engagement practices
- Changes to career advancement practices
- Emphasis on 'knowledge mobilisation'

Four examples of organisational structures

- Institute for Study and Innovation of Community-University Engagement – University of Victoria
- Office of Public Engagement – Memorial University
- Service aux Collectivités – Université du Québec à Montréal
- Community Based Research Centre – Kitchener-Waterloo
- Knowledge Mobilisation unit – York University

Financing Engagement

- Much can be done with already existing resources!
- Changes in research granting councils
- Revisioning of the relationship between research, teaching and service
- Engagement attracts new funding – example from Victoria
- Engagement builds political support for higher education

Part of a global movement

- Global University Network for Innovation
- National Coordinating Council for Public Engagement in Higher Education in the UK
- The Talloires Network
- Living Knowledge Network of Science Shops
- UNESCO Chair in CBR and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

Challenges

- Creating a new architecture of knowledge democracy
- Resistance from traditional 'gatekeepers'
- Higher education as a contested space
- Differences in knowledge cultures between communities and universities
- Inequality between community and universities partners

Moltes gràcies Muchas Gracias

