



community-based research

preliminary indicators of excellence



2014 national summit



On November 3-4, 2014 a National Summit *on Pursuing Excellence in Collaborative Community Campus Research* (CCCR) was held in Waterloo, Ontario. The purpose of this summit was to **extend, deepen, and make more practical the impact of community-based research (CBR) in solving complex community problems.**

This Summit was supported by a SSHRC Connection Grant and brought together Canadian leaders of collaborative community-campus research. During the two-day summit, more than 60 participants focused on advancing the pursuit of excellence within the growing CBR movement, including attempting to clarify indicators of excellence in CBR.

The following document was developed by the Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR) in response to discussions at this National Summit. This document uses information gathered from the pre-Summit literature review and participant case studies in addition to the raw data collected during the Summit.

This document begins with a mapping of an anticipated outcomes for a single CBR project. The following slides then unpack each area of anticipated outcomes with: (1) **corresponding categories of evidence** and (2) **sample indicators of excellence.**

The indicators in this document are samples and not intended to be an exhaustive list. It is anticipated that these indicators will be refined and expanded on through an anticipated partnership grant project coming out of the Summit, intended to develop CBR hubs across Canada.

Anticipated outcomes of a community-based research (CBR) project

Research Process

Greater relevance to communities



More meaningful participation of stakeholders



Research Rigour

More meaningful and useful data and interpretations



Research Impact

Greater mobilization of knowledge



Greater mobilization of people



More societal issues being addressed collectively through research

What follows is an unpacking of the five anticipated outcomes outlined in the previous slide. Each of the following slides outline a single anticipated outcome into categories of evidence. Underneath each of the categories of evidence are some samples of corresponding indicators.

Prior to the Summit, a working definition of indicator was created. As such, for this document indicators (or “observables”) are signs – actual things that you can see or hear – that provide evidence that something has been achieved.

Good quantitative or qualitative indicators must be:

- **Relevant** (e.g., resonates with community values/interests)
- **Appropriate** (e.g., is easily understood)
- **Measurable** (e.g., can be calculated or interpreted over time)
- **Reportable** (e.g., is based on available data)
- **Comparable** (e.g., can be used in multiple cases)
- **Verifiable** (e.g., can be confirmed by others)

The indicators in this document are intended to be discussion starters that need to be expanded and refined.

Remember, we still have a partnership grant project to continue this work.

Anticipated outcome:

Greater relevance to communities

Evidence that community needs are central to the research

- reports of expressed community needs being translated into operationalized CBR project(s)
- hear more learning from past positive and negative experiences
- reports that this project will lead to other projects (sustainable engagement)
- presence of a research agreement or a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- presence of a community advisory committee or steering committee
- reports that the vision for research is in line with community direction and values

Evidence that the research is aligned with community norms and ways of knowing

- number and reported quality of community-defined gatekeepers' involvement
- reports of research being respectful and responsive to community changes
- reports of appropriate and relevant language being used
- reports of research honouring community traditions and ways of knowing
- reports of researchers taking the time to co-determine ways of being together with other community members
- presence of clearly defined structure, roles, and responsibilities for researchers and other communities members

Evidence of reciprocal relationships between researchers and other community members

- reports of the researchers taking the time to nurture foundational relationships instead of rushing to “do something”
- reports of transformational relationships
- reports of researchers' commitment beyond funding timeframe
- reports that quality relationships are important
- reports of ongoing, transparent, and bidirectional communication between researchers and other community members

Anticipated outcome:

More meaningful participation of stakeholders

Evidence of reciprocal participation among research partners

- number of academic disciplines represented on a research team
- reports of multiple research partners shaping the research agenda from proposal, design, data gathering, analysis, and dissemination
- reports that partners feel that they benefit commensurate to their involvement
- reports that resources are equitably shared between partners
- reports that partners are strategically chosen in light of the research purpose
- presence of ongoing project evaluation to encourage collaborative reflexivity
- number of years research partners have worked together

Evidence of reciprocal participation of community members

- number of community members as co-applicants on research proposals
- reports of community expertise being valued
- reports of community members taking ownership and responsibility for research processes
- percentage of community members staying with the project to completion
- amount of grant money allocated to community partners
- amount of grant money paid to community researchers
- reports of community members shaping the research agenda, from proposal, design, data gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Evidence of reciprocal participation of new community-based researchers

- number and reported quality of new researchers (including students) trained and mentored
- number of new researchers (including students) hired
- reports of new researchers (including students) shaping the research agenda from proposal, design, data gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Anticipated outcome:

More meaningful, and useful data and interpretations

Evidence of rigorous methodology

- reports that methods link back to the research purpose statement
- reports that methods align with research purpose in sequential design
- number and reported comprehensiveness of stakeholder perspectives incorporated
- reports that research tools align with research purpose
- reports of research tool quality
- presence of CBR ethics review
- evidence that accepted procedures for quantitative and qualitative data gathering were followed
- evidence that accepted procedures for sampling were followed
- evidence that accepted procedures for recruitment were followed

Evidence of rigorous analysis

- number and reported comprehensiveness of stakeholder perspectives involved in analysis
- evidence of following quantitative and qualitative standards of quality (reliability/validity, trustworthiness) in data analysis
- number and reported quality of stakeholder perspectives in verifying research findings

Anticipated outcome: Greater mobilization of knowledge

Evidence of producer push*

- number and reported quality of knowledge mobilization products disseminated
- number and reported quality of community members contributing to knowledge mobilization products
- number and reported quality of visual and aural dissemination strategies
- number and reported quality of community information sessions held

Evidence of user pull*

- number of requests for knowledge mobilization products
- number and reported quality of new connections brokered
- reports of research being useful for multiple stakeholder groups
- number of new stakeholders showing interest in the research

Evidence of knowledge exchange*

- number and reported quality of community forums or other knowledge exchange events held
- reports of research products informing policy development
- reports of research products supporting new funding applications

Anticipated outcome: Greater mobilization of people

Evidence of short-term mobilization

- reports of stakeholders implementing recommended action
- reports of stakeholders wanting to learn more about CBR
- reports of stakeholders owning the knowledge coming out of the project
- number and reported quality of allies engaged (e.g., within government) to implement recommended change(s)

Evidence of long-term mobilization

- reports of community members reaching out to researchers with research ideas and needs
- number of community members acknowledging CBR as an important tool for change
- reports of increased community capacity to enact change(s)
- reports of decreased time-lag between research dissemination and policy changes
- reports of CBR influencing local activities and policy
- reports of CBR influencing regional activities and policy
- reports of CBR influencing provincial activities and policy
- reports of CBR influencing national activities and policy
- reports of CBR influencing international activities and policy

NOTES

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Chad Gaffield (U) - ON
William Holden (C) - SASK
Martin Taylor (U) - ON
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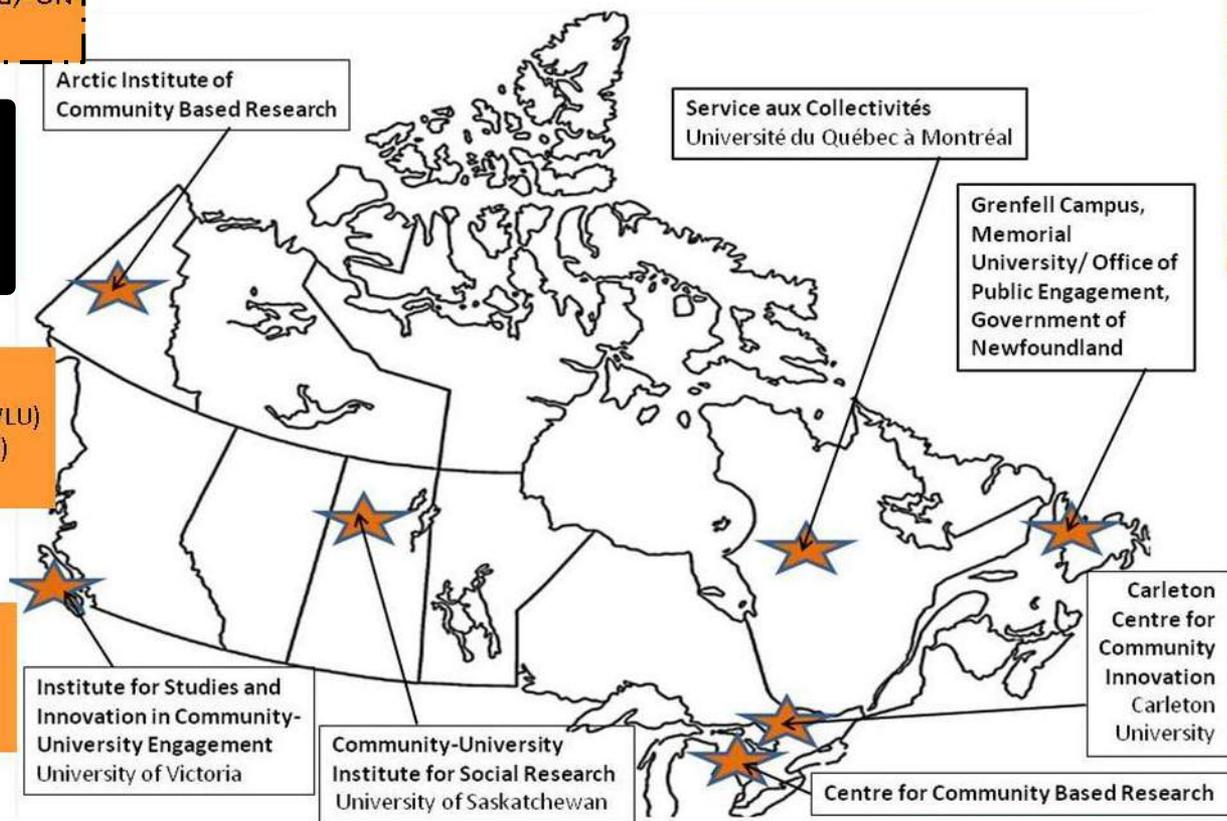
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