

BUILDING RESPONSIVE, SUPPORTIVE, AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITYBASEDRESEARCH.CA



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2025-2026**



CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY
BASED RESEARCH

The Centre for Community Based Research is a non-profit social enterprise established in 1982.



OUR MISSION

The Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR) is committed to social justice and to building communities that are responsive and supportive, especially for people with limited access to power and opportunity.

We conduct and promote research that is community-driven, participatory, and action-oriented and that combines research with education and community involvement.

Our work builds on community strengths to create awareness, policies, and practices that advance equitable participation and inclusion of all community members.

Land Acknowledgment

CCBR is based on the University of Waterloo campus. With gratitude, we recognize that the land on which we work is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, who continue to live here among other Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who call Waterloo home.

We aspire to respect the original treaties of this land, namely the Two Row and Dish with One Spoon wampums. These treaties signify the responsibility non-Indigenous people have to act with peace, respect, and friendship, equitably sharing resources with Indigenous communities. We are continuously learning and unlearning individually, collectively, and with our research partners on the path towards reconciliation and decolonization. We work alongside and invite collaborations from Indigenous peoples and nations, supporting their priorities and initiatives.

A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Letter from the Executive Director & Board President

Welcome to our 2025-2026 Annual Report. As you read through the pages that follow, you'll see many stories and reports of what CCBR accomplished this past year. You'll also notice that these accomplishments relied on the leadership and participation of our many partners. It was these kinds of collaborative efforts that helped us to pursue our mission of "building more responsive and supportive communities, especially for those with limited power or opportunity."

There's one particular milestone that we'd like to highlight before you turn the page.

In 2023, we wrote a three-year Strategic Plan that has acted as our guide. This past year, we completed that plan. It outlined five strategic directions — building a sustainable CCBR, evaluating our own organization, advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), promoting greater visibility of CCBR, and mobilizing our learnings — which challenged and stretched us as an organization. These activities led to a more stable and visible organization that is now poised to imagine new ways to live out our mission.

We ended the year with a staff/board visioning retreat that has become the basis of our new 2026 Strategic Plan. This new plan leverages our organizational momentum and strong financial footing towards building a more sustainable and impactful organization. The plan outlines four strategic directions that will help us to better conduct, promote, and create community-based research, while maintaining a strong and stable organization.

You can read more about our new 2026 Strategic Plan at the back of this Annual Report.

At CCBR, we are a mission-driven non-profit that is collaboratively entrepreneurial. We thank all partners, funders, our Board, and staff who contributed to this shared mission this past year. We believe that by working together, we can build communities that are more responsive, supportive, and equitable.

Sincerely,



Hsiao d'Ailly
Hsiao d'Ailly,
President



Rich Janzen
Rich Janzen,
Executive Director

Certificate Program: Our Teaching & Learning Approaches

As instructors in the Certificate Program in Community-Based Research, our approach to teaching invites students to actively engage in the virtual classroom, question systems of power and inequity, and connect learning to the real world. By learning together through peer exchange, dialogue, and creativity, students increase their capacity to use research to collaboratively drive change and build more responsive, supportive, and equitable communities.

Collectively, our approach to teaching and learning strives to be:



Critical Disrupting systems of power, inequity, and social injustice to approach learning not as memorizing facts but to understand—and change—the world.



Experiential Learners actively engage in activities and then think critically about those experiences to apply learning to real-world contexts.



Participatory Actively involving students in the learning process and giving them a meaningful role in shaping what and how they learn.



Dialogical Learning happens through open, meaningful dialogue between students and instructors who collaboratively construct knowledge.



Equitable Ensuring all students have fair and equitable access to opportunities, resources, and support, based on their individual needs, so they can succeed.



Relational Learning occurs through meaningful peer exchange within a supportive environment, where students draw on their lived knowledge and experiences while engaging with and valuing others' perspectives, expertise, and worldviews.

**Step into
our virtual
classroom,
and learn
hands-on**



- ▶ Develop a community-based research proposal in the Essentials of Community-Based Research course
- ▶ Create a cell-philm (short videos captured on a cellphone in response to a prompt) in the Arts-Based Methods for Collective Action course
- ▶ Design an evaluation framework in the Community-Based Evaluation course
- ▶ Trial creative engagement strategies through “Design Labs” in the Principles and Strategies for Community Engagement course
- ▶ Work through ethical problems and applications in the Research Ethics in Community Settings course
- ▶ Navigate the range of method options in A Menu of Community-Based Research Methods course

Celebrating One Year of Our Certificate Program in Community-Based Research

We are celebrating one year of successfully running the Certificate Program in Community-Based Research! The program is designed to be a leading resource for learning how to use research to collaboratively drive change and build more responsive, supportive, and equitable communities. It offers a range of practical, skill-building mini-courses which reach community leaders, staff within non-profit organizations, students and faculty in the social sciences, and humanities and government employees.

The Year in Numbers

- 114 registrants enrolled in 9 courses
- 34 bursary spots were granted
- 1 person received the Basic Certificate of Community-Based Research
- 84% rated the courses as useful
- 95% reported the courses were engaging
- 61% reported the courses **exceeded** their expectations

Thank you to the Evaluation Capacity Network for supporting the Certificate Program through a six-month grant, which helped increase promotion efforts, add more bursary spots, and offer honoraria to guest speakers.

Testimonials

The range and depth of the course, while packed into 14 or so hours, was impressive. It gave attendees a lot to think about, and to practise, culminating in a sense of awe about the work and its resonance with community.

— An anonymous participant in the Arts-Based Methods for Collective Action course

I am always seeking to build on my current skills and knowledge, and the CBE course has allowed me to learn from and build skills with like-minded professionals in the field of CBR. Throughout the course, I have learned about engaging stakeholders, phases of evaluation, and practical strategies for engaging in CBR work within the community. Following the course, I feel more inspired to continue to do the work we are doing in the community.

— Sarah, a participant in the Community-Based Evaluation course



Course Offerings

- Essentials of Community-Based Research
- Principles and Strategies for Community Engagement
- Community-Based Evaluation
- A Menu of Community-Based Research Methods
- Research Ethics in Community Settings
- Arts-Based Methods for Collective Action



Spotlight on a Community-Based Research Resource



Participatory Visual Methods in Action: “Let Me Just Share My Screen”

The Centre for Community Based Research collaborated with Elizabeth Mansfield and Kristina Fuentes-Aiello of the Arts-Informed Methods team at Trillium Health Partners, as well as a wider team, to understand how participatory visual methods practitioners are using methods like photovoice, cellphilmimg, or digital storytelling in virtual and hybrid environments.

Definition: Participatory Visual Methods (PVM) invite participants (or co-researchers) to take photos or make videos to collaboratively identify, discuss, and analyze issues of importance. They are carefully facilitated via workshops, and are often done in group settings, but not always. PVMs are used for research, evaluation, and advocacy.

In May 2025, we launched the podcast “Let Me Just Share My Screen.” Each episode is packed with fresh ideas, practical tips, and ethical considerations to help listeners plan, create, and exhibit arts-based projects. This podcast is inspired by a CIHR-funded research project that gathered experiences of health researchers conducting photovoice and digital storytelling projects online with diverse communities.

The podcast is part of a broader suite of resources, including an infographic series, a video, and a webpage. These tools are designed to support researchers, practitioners, and community organizations in learning about and applying participatory visual methods in their own work.

We invite you to:

- Listen on [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), or [YouTube Music](#)
- Share on social media, in your organizations, and courses
- Download the infographics, and learn more about the project [on this webpage](#)

To complement these resources, CCBR offered free coaching sessions to organizations, municipalities, and emerging researchers to support those interested in developing their own online visual methods projects. These sessions provided tailored guidance on topics such as project design, accessibility and equity, research ethics, and sharing visual outputs, helping communities move from ideas to implementation.

This work also contributes to academic conversations, including a co-authored article, “[From Research to Creation: The ‘Behind the Scenes’ Steps of Participatory Podcasting for Knowledge Dissemination](#)” in the *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, as well as other articles by the larger team.

Together, these activities demonstrate how CCBR supports creative, collaborative, and community-driven research and knowledge sharing in a changing digital landscape.



[Access these resources](#)



[Read our recent article](#)

Sample Educational Resources

Along with our partners, CCBR co-developed 23 educational resources to build community-based research capacity this year. Here are some samples:

[Exploring Participatory Visual Methods Online: Podcast and Infographics](#)



[Pedagogies of Community Engagement Practice Website](#)



[Sparking Conversations: What Helps and Hinders Employment for Persons Experiencing Disability](#)



Sample Research Reports

CCBR has written 23 community-based research reports this year. Here are some samples:

[Researching Barriers to Gender-Based Violence Services for Canadian Muslims through Community-Driven Knowledge Mobilisation \(Part 1 & Part 2\)](#)



[Harm Reduction Community Care Project Evaluation](#)



Sample Co-Authored Academic Articles

Switzer, S., Sadati, S. M. H., Martin, J., Burkholder, C., Fuentes, K., Ibáñez-Carrasco, F., & Mansfield, E. (2026). From Research to Creation: The 'Behind the Scenes' Steps of Participatory Podcasting for Knowledge Dissemination. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.35844/001c.162088>

Gaztambide-Fernández, R., & Switzer, S. (2025). Pushing against, reaching towards: Commitments, contingencies, and contestations in community-engaged research and practice. In S. Poyntz, K. Grain, & A. Johal (Eds.), *Critical futures: Community-engaged research in a time of crisis and social transformation*. University of Toronto Press. <https://doi.org/10.3138/9781487565909>

Summary of 2025-2026 Projects

Since our start in 1982, we've completed over 500 projects. On average, we work on 15 to 20 projects at a time. Below are the 36 projects we worked on during the 2025-2026 fiscal year (with funders in brackets). *This project also involved promoting community-based research or evaluation.

Conducting Community-Based Research	Promoting Community-Based Research
Continuing Projects from Previous Years	Continuing Projects from Previous Year
Pedagogies of Community Engagement (Spencer Foundation via The Governing Council of the University of Toronto)	Certificate in Program Evaluation as Organizational Development Wilfrid Laurier University (Wilfrid Laurier University Continuing Education)
Adapting Participatory Visual Methods to Online and Hybrid Settings with Diverse Communities (Canadian Institute for Health Research via Trillium Health Partners and the Evaluation Capacity Network) *	Evaluation Capacity Network: Collaborating for Community-Driven and Culturally Relevant Early Childhood Practices, Programs, and Policies (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada via University of Alberta)
Researching Barriers to Gender-Based Violence Services for Canadian Muslims through Community-Driven Knowledge Mobilisation (Women and Gender Equality Canada via Muslim Advisory Council of Canada)	Coaching and Consultation for Positive Actions: Breaking HIV Stigma (Public Health Agency of Canada via REACH Nexus)
Evaluation and Coaching for the Inner City Family Health Team Substance Use Hub in Toronto (Substance Use and Addictions Program, Health Canada via Inner City Family Health Team) *	Supports for Youth Substance Use Prevention Program: Building Capacity for Community-Based Research and Evaluation (Public Health Agency of Canada via the Knowledge Development and Exchange Hub)
Community Plan and Evaluation Framework Development (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council)	The Certificate Program in Community-Based Research (Course Registrants and the Evaluation Capacity Network)
Family and Children Services of the Waterloo Region Community-Led Needs and Resources Assessment (Family and Children Services of the Waterloo Region)	
Toronto Newcomer Strategy Evaluation (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via Toronto Newcomer Office, City of Toronto)	
Co-Designing with the CHAMPP4KIDS Study: Creating Community-Tailored Resources to Promote Positive Parenting and Health Equity for Communities (Public Health Agency of Canada via McMaster University) *	
Arab Women's Employment in Waterloo Region and Guelph (Women and Gender Equality Canada via the Canadian Arab Women's Association)	
Dialogue for Shared Futures Pilot (Conrad Grebel University College)	
The Art of Wellness: Engaging Youth and Young Women in Youth-Led Arts-Based STBBI Prevention (Canadian Institutes for Health Research via Dalhousie University) *	
Evaluation of New Brunswick's Rural Settlement Network (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via the New Brunswick Multicultural Council)	
Community Alliance for Accessible Treatment Rainbow Resilience Evaluation (Women and Gender Equality via Community Alliance for Accessible Treatment) *	
Evaluation of Pre-Arrival Settlement Services (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via JVS Toronto)	
New Projects	New Projects
Regenerative Cities in Southern Africa: Sustainable adaptations to rapidly intensifying cyclones (The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Connection Grants)	In-depth Interview & Ethnography Training Workshops (University of Toronto, Mississauga)
Evaluating an Immunization Project with Low German Mennonites in Rural Woolwich, Wilmot, and Wellesley Townships (Public Health Agency of Canada via Woolwich Community Health Centre)	Building Successful Research Partnerships in the Health and Aging Sector (McMaster Collaborative for Health and Aging)
Understanding the Impact of Accessibility throughout the Employment Journey for Job Seekers and Employees Experiencing Disability (Canadian Association for Supported Employment)	Canadian Christians Views on Global Poverty: A Kentro/ Graf-Martin Research Project Coached by the Centre for Community Based Research (Graf-Martin Communications Inc.)
360 Degree Performance Assessment Services (York University)	
Walking with People in Poverty Program Review (Mennonite Central Committee Ontario)	
Centers for Huntington Disease Care Needs Assessment (Huntington Society of Canada)	
Cellphilming with South Asian Youth in Science (University of Toronto) *	
Brantford Local Immigration Partnership Community Plan 2026-2028 (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via the municipality of Brantford)	
Harm Reduction Community Care Project Evaluation (Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network)	
Evaluation of Strategic Priorities for the Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership (Chatham-Kent Local Immigration Partnership)	
Settlement Workers in Schools Evaluation for the New Brunswick Multicultural Council (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via New Brunswick Multicultural Council)	
Wading through the Weeds Community Forum (Ontario Cannabis Store via McMaster School of Social Work)	
Mennonite Central Committee Peacebuilding Program Review (Mennonite Central Committee Canada)	
Durham Local Immigration Partnership 2025-2030 Community and Inclusion Plan Evaluation Framework (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada via the regional municipality of Durham)	

CCBR by the Numbers 2025-2026

Total Projects

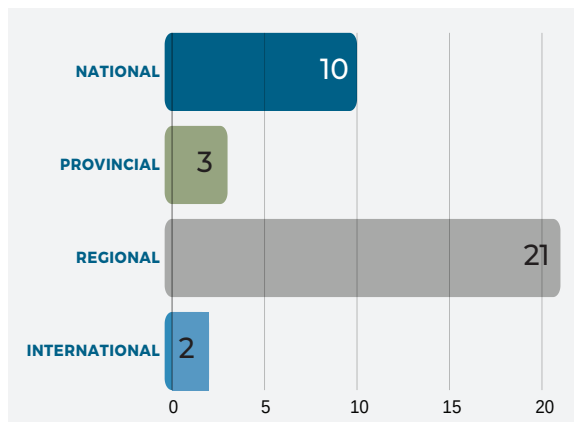
NEW PROJECTS
THIS YEAR

17

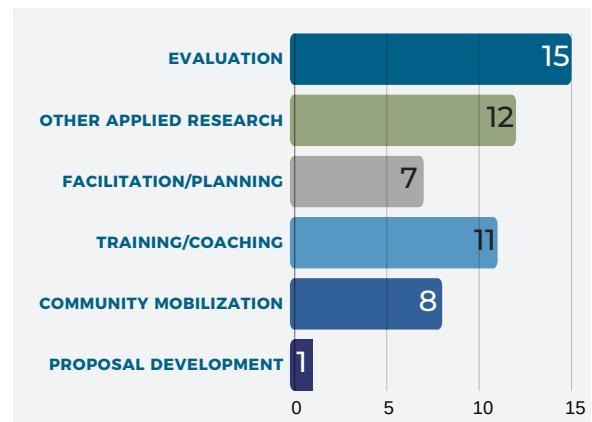
CONTINUING
PROJECTS FROM
PREVIOUS YEARS

19

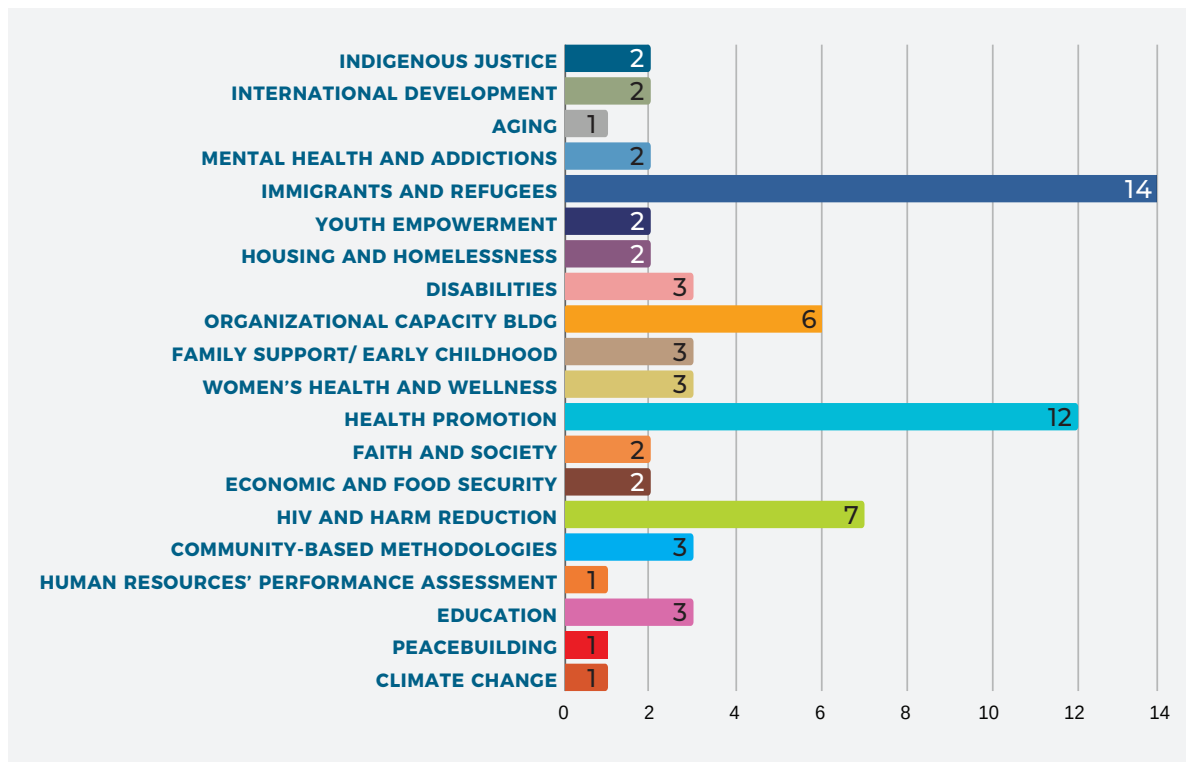
Geographic Scope



Service Area



Theme Areas



Our Finances

CCBR continues to show strong financial health. Our accumulated reserves are significant.

For complete audited financial statements, please visit:

<https://www.communitybasedresearch.ca/our-finances>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A heartfelt thank you to our board members, staff, students, and funding partners for your invaluable support. Your dedication has been essential to our achievements. We are truly grateful for your contributions.

BOARD MEMBERS

Hsiao d'Ailly – President

Daniela Seskar-Hencic – Vice-President/
Secretary

Robert G. Rosehart – Treasurer

John Neufeld – Board Member

Jessica Deming – Board Member

Anita Taylor – Board Member

John Head – Board Member

STAFF MEMBERS

Rich Janzen – Executive Director

Sarah Switzer – Senior Researcher

Janna Martin – Senior Researcher

Lisa Schincariol McMurtry – Senior
Researcher

Dayan De Souza – Centre Researcher

Rashmi Narkhede – Centre Researcher

Katie MacEntee – Senior Researcher

Hani Sadati – Senior Researcher

Sohaila Isaqzai – Researcher

Areej Al Shammiry – Researcher

Jean de Dieu Basabose – Researcher

Rawhia Jandali – Administrative
Coordinator

STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

Kendyll Cassels

Hayley Clin

Amanda Brotman

Anthony Maocheia-Ricci

Farah Jurdi

Lianne Heikurinen

Carise Thompson

Leela Sylvester

OUR FUNDERS

Wilfrid Laurier University
Continuing Education

Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada via
the Evaluation Capacity Network,
University of Alberta

Spencer Foundation via the
Governing Council of the
University of Toronto

Canadian Institute for Health
Research via Trillium Health
Partners and the Evaluation
Capacity Network

Public Health Agency of Canada
via REACH Nexus

Women and Gender Equality
Canada via Muslim Advisory
Council of Canada

Substance Use and Addictions
Program, Health Canada via Inner
City Family Health Team

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via Hamilton
Immigration Partnership Council

Public Health Agency of Canada
via the Knowledge Development
and Exchange Hub

Family and Children Services of
the Waterloo Region

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via Toronto
Newcomer Office, City of Toronto

Public Health Agency of Canada
via McMaster University

Women and Gender Equality
Canada via the Canadian Arab
Women's Association

Conrad Grebel University College

Canadian Institutes for Health
Research via Dalhousie University

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via the New
Brunswick Multicultural Council

Women and Gender Equality via
Community Alliance for Accessible
Treatment

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via JVS
Toronto

The Social Sciences and
Humanities Research Council of
Canada via University of Waterloo

University of Toronto, Mississauga

Public Health Agency of Canada
via Woolwich Community Health
Centre

Canadian Association for
Supported Employment

University of Toronto, Mississauga

McMaster Collaborative for Health
and Aging

Graf-Martin Communications Inc.

York University

Mennonite Central Committee
Ontario

Huntington Society of Canada

University of Toronto

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via the
municipality of Brantford

Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support
Action Network

Chatham-Kent Local Immigration
Partnership

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via New
Brunswick Multicultural Council

Ontario Cannabis Store via
McMaster School of Social Work

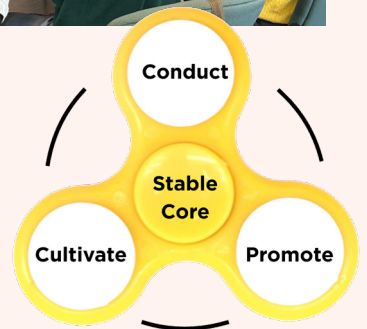
Mennonite Central Committee
Canada

Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada via the
regional municipality of Durham



Strategic Plan 2026

As we move into our 2026/2027 fiscal year, we will continue to collaborate with our partners in building responsive, supportive, and equitable communities. In doing so, we will be guided by our new strategic plan, which was developed in response to the staff and board visioning retreat held in April. It has four priority areas:



CONDUCT

We will conduct community-based research as we expand our theme areas, creative engagement, and research partnerships.

PROMOTE

We will promote community-based research as we build out our certificate program, pursue coaching, and deepen our capacity-building partnerships.

CULTIVATE

We will cultivate new opportunities for community-based research as we widen our marketing, explore strategic partnerships, identify new funding sources, and launch an innovation fund.

STABLE CORE

We will strengthen our organization as we develop responsive policy, invest in staff, and conduct internal evaluation.

THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY (IN THE KINDRED CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT) ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO CAMPUS. OUR STAFF LIVE IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS SOUTHERN ONTARIO.



**CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY
BASED RESEARCH**

**140 WESTMOUNT ROAD NORTH
WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA N2L 3G6**



[COMMUNITYBASEDRESEARCH.CA](https://communitybasedresearch.ca)



GENERAL@COMMUNITYBASEDRESEARCH.CA



[@CCBR82.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://twitter.com/CCBR82.BSKY.SOCIAL)



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**COME PARTNER WITH US.
COME LEARN WITH US.
COME DREAM WITH US.**