



Community-University Institute for Social Research

Annual Report 2015–2016





CUISR Mission and Principles

to facilitate partnerships between the university and larger community in order to engage in relevant social research that supports a deeper understanding of our communities that reveals opportunities for improving our quality of life

- CUISR is committed to collaborative research and to accurate, objective reporting of research results in the public domain, taking into account the needs for confidentiality in gathering, disseminating, and storing information.
- Research partners are committed to the vision, mandate, goals, and holistic approaches of the Institute.
- Authentic partnership—built upon trust and respect between community and university participants—is central and reflected in the composition of the board (50% community and 50% faculty representation) and Co-directors for the Institute.



Message from the Co-Directors



Dr. Isobel M. Findlay
Edwards School
of Business



Bill Holden
City of Saskatoon

This year has been a busy year of community-based research, the highlight of which was engaging community members in community fora and the design and implementation of the 2015 Point-in-Time Homelessness Count and garnering significant radio, television, and print media coverage.

Eighty volunteers committed to three hours of training in ethical research practices and to four-hour shifts on June 22, 2015, gathering data in an outside street enumeration or in an indoor enumeration in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and detox centres. Aiming to give a comprehensive and multi-faceted picture of housing and homelessness in Saskatoon, for the first time we surveyed 710 members of the public who agreed to participate on their perceptions of and attitudes to homelessness.

We have welcomed to our Management Board Beulah Gana, director of the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies, helping us to connect better with an important set of community stakeholders.

Thanks to generous funding by Mosaic, we continue to profit from our partnership with the Saskatoon Food Council in helping work



Message from the Co-Directors (cont'd)

toward a sustainable, accessible, and dynamic food system that can support community food security. Promoting research and collaboration across the food system, we are building links with key players including Food Secure Saskatchewan and Food Secure Canada.

Consolidating relations with Community Engagement and Outreach, we presented CUISR research at the University's Engaged Scholar Day, April 30, 2015, published an article in the inaugural issue of the *Engaged Scholar Journal*, and co-edited (Nazeem Muhajarine and Isobel M. Findlay) the second special issue that built on our 2014 conference, *Quality of Life: Towards Sustainable Community Futures*.

The year also saw the publication of four more reports and three ongoing research projects (two funded by SSHRC)—none of which we could have accomplished without a committed board, researchers, and staff and the support of our funders for our strategic research.

Dr. Isobel M. Findlay

Bill Holden



Research Funding

- Our research record has resulted in SSHRC grants worth \$9.15 million, 1999-2016.
- We gratefully acknowledge our 2014-2015 funders:
 - City of Saskatoon Community Services Department
 - Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Designated Communities and Aboriginal Funding Streams
 - Mosaic
 - Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership and Community Advisory Board on Homelessness
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
 - Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network Prairie Regional Research Centre
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Community Engagement and Outreach
 - Office of the President



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada



UAKN | rcau
Urban Aboriginal
Knowledge Network | Réseau de connaissances des
Autochtones en milieu urbain
Prairie Research Centre





CUISR Management Board



Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer
Community Health &
Epidemiology



Dr. Joe Garcea
Political Studies



Dr. Michael Gertler
Sociology



Dr. Marie Lovrod
English and WGST



Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine
Community Health &
Epidemiology



Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan
Sociology



Dr. Beulah Gana
SK Association of
Immigrant Settlement
and Integration Agencies



Sue Delanoy
Elizabeth Fry
Society of SK



Judy Hannah
SACL



Darlene Lanceley



Rachel Loewen Walker
OUT Saskatoon



Len Usiskin
Quint Development
Corporation



CUISR Staff and Student Researchers



Jethro Cheng, Strategic Research Coordinator
and Joanne Hritzuk,
Administrative Coordinator



Cara Spence Gress



Sana Rachel Sunny



Dana Carrière



Jania Chilima



Tamara Chambers-Richards



William Rowluck



Sugandhi del Canto



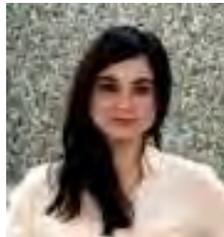
Ryan Jimmy



Omeasoo Wâhpâsiw



Srijita Sarkar



Danielle Jeancart



Caitlin Olason



Ranjan Datta



Jebunnessa Chapola



Peter Boateng Opoku



Research Associates



Vanessa Charles
Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership



Kathie Cram
Population and Public Health
Saskatoon Health Region



Pam Woodsworth
Boxcar Café
Station 20 West



Research Associates



Dr. Alan Anderson
Sociology



Dr. Lori Hanson
Community Health
& Epidemiology



Dr. David Mykota
Educational Psychology
& Special Education



Dr. Lee Swanson
Edwards School
of Business



Dr. Chelsea Willness
Edwards School
of Business



Dr. Louise Clarke
Edwards School
of Business



Dr. Suresh Kalagnanam
Edwards School
of Business



Dr. Priscilla Settee
Indigenous Studies



Dr. Ulrich Teucher
Psychology



Saskatoon Food Council

- **Policy Development**

- Co-chair, Urban Agriculture Policy Committee with City of Saskatoon Planning Department (Vacant Lot Adaptive Re-use policy to promote gardening on vacant lots)
- Co-chair, Food Security Action Team of Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Partnership
- Food system meetings to promote Saskatoon collaboration
- Co-ordinated meeting with Mayor Atchison re food policy and the work of the Food Council

- **Research, Resources Development and Advocacy**

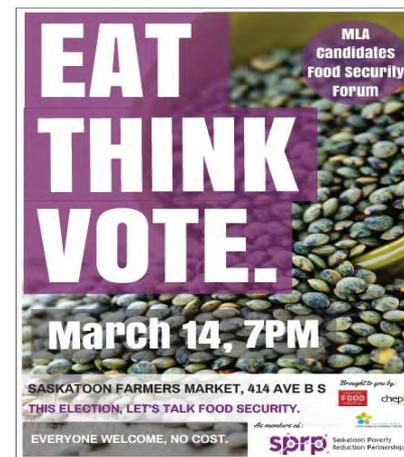
- With College of Nursing researching and developing an Urban Agriculture Plan for the City
- PBSC project in partnership with College of Law on compilation of municipal, provincial, federal legislation and policy relevant to urban agriculture in Saskatoon
- Meetings with Drs. David Natcher and Maurice Moloney on potential to collaborate with Global Institute for Food Security

- **Food Hub Development**

- Osler Food Hub in collaboration with RM of Corman Park, town of Osler, and Tourism Saskatchewan



Executive Director Gordon Enns





Saskatoon Food Council

- **Promotion**
 - Riversdale Urban Agriculture Committee participation
 - Collaboration with CHEP to develop the 2016 summer Askiy Urban Agriculture internship
- **Media, Speaking, Community Events**
 - CFCR radio interview, presentations to Osler Mennonite and Nutana Park Church
 - Presentations to Community Health class and Next-up Saskatoon
 - Participation in Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre Community Greenhouse sessions
 - Score on the Door—Food safety and inspection meeting with City of Saskatoon and Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Michael Schwandt
- **Food Secure Saskatchewan/ Food Secure Canada**
 - Ongoing collaboration, conference calls



Askiy, July 2015



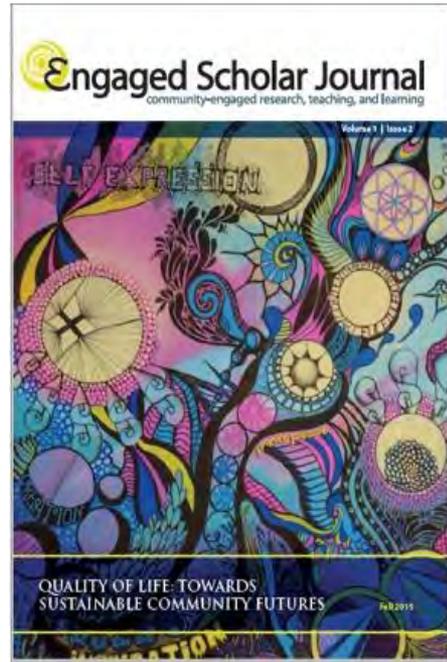
CUISR Researchers in Engaged Scholar Journal



Building Critical Community Engagement through Scholarship: Three Case Studies

Isobel M. Findlay, Marie Levesé, Elizabeth Quinlan, Ulrich Teuchies, Alexander K Snyk, Stephanie Burrmann, Darlene Demchuk

ABSTRACT Drawing on a shared recognition that community is defined, understood, constructed and reconstructed through contextually inflected relationships, collaborating authors use these interdisciplinary case studies to argue that rigorous community-engaged scholarship advances capacities for critical pursuit of cognitive and social justice. Whether through participatory-action projects undertaken with youth in government care networks, cross-cultural explorations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous science and culture as resources for food security or facilitated dramatizations of community relations impacted by neo-liberal ideologies, contributors affirm welcoming co-learning environments that engage multiple forms of knowledge expression and mobilization. The respectful space held in these community-researcher collaborations enable new dances beyond hegemonic knowledge development institutionalized through colonialist histories. This essay offers a prospect for building transformative community through scholarship, citing practical examples of the principles and practices that foster or frustrate sustainable communities. It explores the institutional arrangement and power dynamics between and among actors, asking who gets included and excluded, and what boundaries are created and crossed around complex, complex actors, and contested notions of "community?"



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From the Guest Editors

"Meeting of Minds and Heart": Quality of Life Research and Community-Engaged Scholarship

Nazeem Muhajirine and Isobel M. Findlay



Isobel M. Findlay
(Photo: Larry Ruck)

The complexities and the paradoxes of modern life abound as we move further into the 21st century. At no time in the history of humans have we been able to connect with other humans anywhere in the planet so conveniently, yet increasingly many of us feel disconnected from our neighbours living next door or down the road from us. Modern conveniences at one time promised to offer us ample leisure time, yet today our lives are busier than they have ever been. We are exposed to constant streams of information, every minute of every day, without necessarily achieving greater understanding or insight from this information. In some parts of the world, while people who were once in deep poverty have been lifted up, in other parts, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. In the most telling observation of

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Quality of Life of Immigrants: Integration Experiences among Asian Immigrants in Saskatoon

Pei Hua Lu, Sagandhi del Canto, Nazeem Muhajirine, Peter Kirchen, Bruce Newbold, James Randall, Allan Williams, and Kathi Wilson

ABSTRACT Saskatoon, one of Canada's fastest growing cities, has attracted and retained a great number of Asian immigrants in recent years, a trend particularly notable because of the city's historically low immigration retention and absence of ethnic enclaves. Committed to engaged scholarship, the Community-University Institute for Social Research and the Open Door Society, a non-profit settlement agency in Saskatoon, collaborated on this qualitative study, working together to learn from immigrants and document what they identify as barriers and facilitators of their Quality of Life (QoL) in the city. In particular, in their discussion of QoL, immigrants determine, recent and established first generation Asian immigrants in Saskatoon presented in this study related their perceptions of quality of life to neighbourhood

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Quality of Life Research in Saskatoon, Canada: Fifteen years of co-creating knowledge and action in the community

Bill Holden and Nazeem Muhajirine

The Community-University Institute of Social Research (CIUSR) has conducted a research program focusing on quality of life in Saskatoon over a 15 year period. The research started in 2000 and the mixed-methods approach has been repeated five times on a 3-year cycle. The program evolved over time through a "quality of life consortium," a forum that united a group of academic, community leaders, and practitioners to bring their expertise and passion to enhance quality of life in Saskatoon through research. The group recognized the need for generating new knowledge, with a research vision, whether it be policy program, or advocacy, and considered that the ideal model will include, in equal measure, university researchers and community practitioners and policies.

This group formed the core of the membership for a successful application to the three co-creating learning program, Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The application detailed an interdisciplinary research project in which researchers would be shared equally among university researchers and community practitioners and which would be open

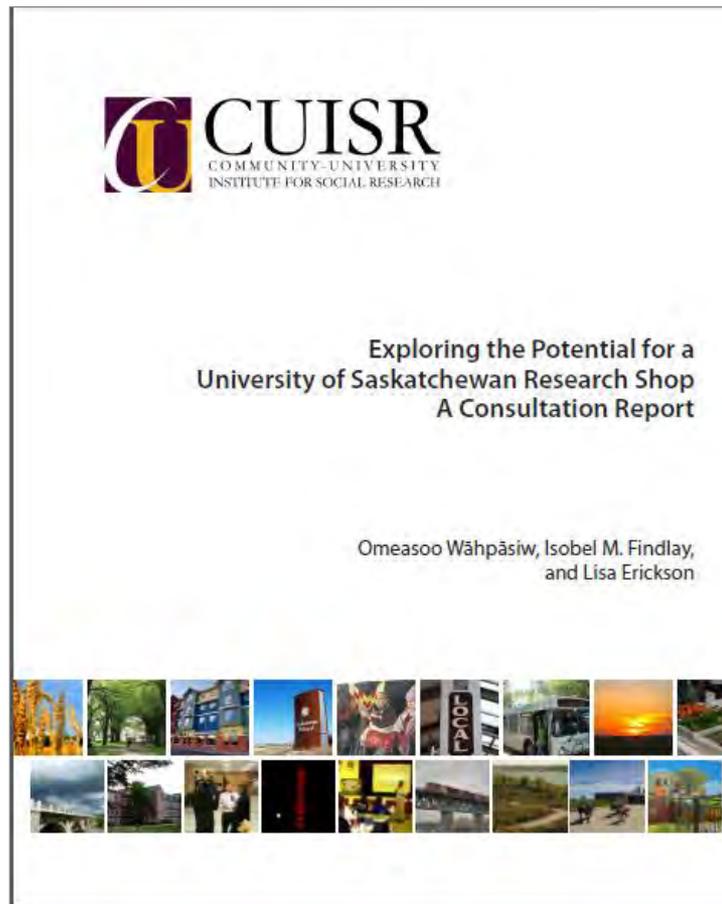


Completed Projects

<http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/publications>

We gratefully acknowledge the input of the **Advisory Group:**

- Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership (SPRP)
- Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA)
- University Advancement and Community Engagement (ACE)
- Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR)
- Office of the Vice-President Research and Undergraduate Research Initiative
- Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL)
- U of S Students' Union (USSU)

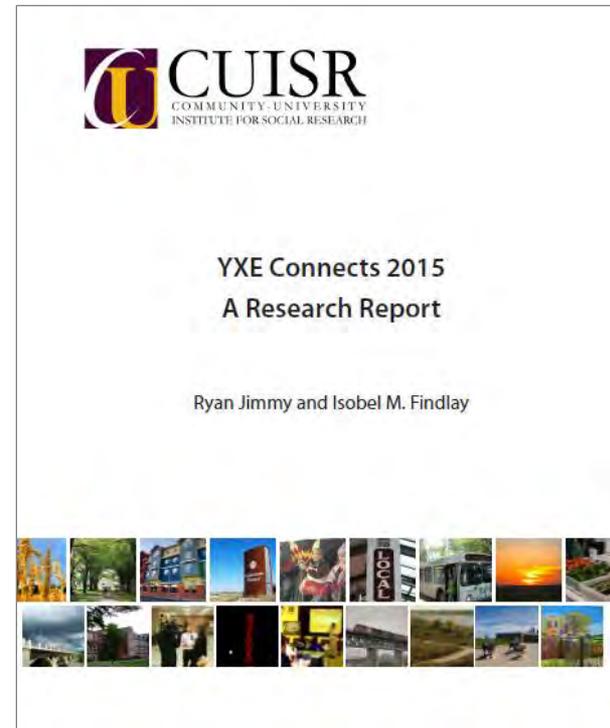




Completed Projects

<http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/publications>

- Saskatoon's first YXE Connects event, May 4, 2015, was a one-stop shop for vulnerable community members to access services in one place and one day.
- We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the 98 participants who helped us better understand the issues they face, the services they access, and what would make their lives better.



YXE Connects, May 4, 2015



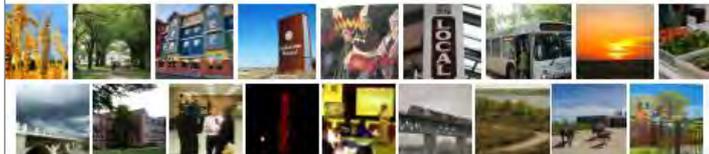
Completed Projects

<http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/publications>



2015 Point-In-Time Homelessness Count Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

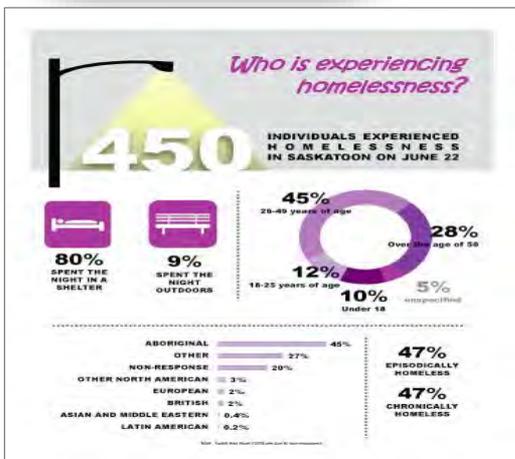
Cara Spence Gress, Isobel M. Findlay,
Bill Holden, Stephen Wormith, Pamela Brotzel,
Sana Rachel Sunny, and Hannah Holden



- We gratefully acknowledge:
 - The **Advisory Group** of key stakeholders for oversight and input into research design and implementation
 - Eighty volunteer surveyors who gave of their time and talent
 - All those in the community who shared their experiences and perceptions



2015 PIT Homelessness Count

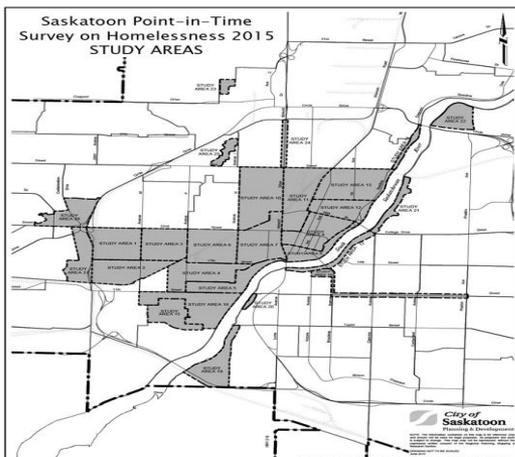


10% of Saskatoon's homeless population are children



By Wendy Winiewski
Anchor, Global News

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2174713/10-of-saskatoons-homeless-population-are-children/>



Community forum, May 2015



Completed Projects

<http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/publications>

- **Funder:** SSHRC Partnership grant Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN): Research for a Better Life administered by the Prairie Research Centre



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada





Ongoing Projects

- **Impacting Community Strength and Sustainability: Community-Campus Engagement at Station 20 West**
- **Funding:** SSHRC Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE) Poverty Reduction Hub co-led by Carleton University and Vibrant Communities Canada
- **Research team:** Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership; Isobel Findlay & Suresh Kalagnanam, CUISR; Len Usiskin, Quint & Station 20 West; Lisa Erickson, Outreach and Engagement, Station 20 West; Sana Rachel Sunny and Sugandhi del Canto, research assistants



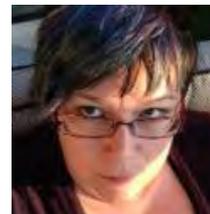
Len Usiskin



Sana Rachel Sunny and
Sugandhi del Canto



Suresh Kalagnanam



Colleen
Christopherson-
Cote



Lisa Erickson





Ongoing Projects

- **Impacting Community Strength and Sustainability: Community-Campus Engagement at Station 20 West**
- **Research questions:**
 - How well does community-campus engagement support **innovative capacity building** that can make our community more **inclusive, strong, and sustainable**?
 - How does co-location of partner organizations affect service, how do their different mandates affect outcomes, and how do **synergies** develop among them or not?
 - How does **university presence impact** the community enterprise model?
 - How can we best measure the **impacts and outcomes** of innovations for knowledge, frameworks, and tools that can be used in urban centres across Canada?
- **Outputs:** Case studies, workshops, presentations, policy briefs, indicators/measurement tool kits, archival exhibitions, arts-based dissemination, technical report, and journal articles





Ongoing Projects

- **President's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women Consultation Study**
- **Funding:** The Office of the President
- **Research team:** Drs. Isobel Findlay, Marie Lovrod, Elizabeth Quinlan (co-PIs, CUISR), Jebunnessa Chapola, Yuchen Gao, and Gary Beaudin, research assistants
- **Research Questions:**
 - What are the most promising structures and practices that support substantive intersectional gender justice at U of S and other research-intensive, "U of S-like" institutions?
 - What should be the form and function of PACSW within the most promising structures and practices at U of S?
- **Outputs:** Technical report, arts-based dissemination, public presentation, and journal article



Ongoing Projects

- **Urban Aboriginal Postsecondary Student Experience: Facilitators and Inhibitors of Learning Environments for Maximum Potential**
- **Funding:** SSHRC Partnership grant Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN): Research for a Better Life administered by the Prairie Research Centre of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network.
- **Research team:** Drs. Marie Battiste, Isobel Findlay, Joe Garcea (co-PIs, CUISR), Jania Chilima and Ryan Jimmy, research assistants
- **Advisory Committee:** Office of Treaty Commissioner, Indigenous Voices Program, Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, Indigenous Graduate Students' Council, U of S, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and First Nations University of Canada
- **Research Questions:**
 - How do urban Aboriginal postsecondary students rate their postsecondary educational experience?
 - What do urban Aboriginal postsecondary students consider major barriers to their educational success?
 - What do urban Aboriginal postsecondary students consider key factors that contribute to their educational success?
- **Outputs:** Technical report, conference and public presentations, and journal article



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