Community-University Institute for Social Research

Annual Report 2016–2017
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

This year has been a busy year of organizing conferences, consolidating national networks, and conducting community-based research.

In May 2016, CUISR hosted a national conference (Isobel Findlay, Chair) on the governance of cultural policy for the diversity of cultural expression. Funded by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Canada Council for the Arts, the Quebec Secretariat of Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Humanities Research Unit, U of S, the conference facilitated constructive dialogue among the academic, cultural, and governmental communities and helped develop intercultural, interprovincial, and interdisciplinary collaborations (see separate story).

Partners in the SSHRC-funded Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE), we hosted the final gathering of the Poverty Reduction Hub here at the University and at Station 20 West (see separate story). We convened to evaluate Phase 1 initiatives and to strategize on the next stages of national collaborations. We committed to a book highlighting project achievements, to Phase 2 working groups, and to a January 2017 symposium in Ottawa where Isobel Findlay and Colleen Christopherson-Cote presented on community-campus engagement in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

We have welcomed new CUISR research associate Professor Nancy Van Styvendale, English Department. Winner of the 2014 Award for Distinction in
Message from the Co-Directors (cont’d)

Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship, she promises to add to CUISR strengths.

Thanks to generous funding by Mosaic, we continue to profit from our partnership with the Saskatoon Food Council in promoting research and collaboration toward a sustainable, accessible, and dynamic food system that can support community food security.

The year also saw us complete the sixth iteration of quality of life research together with three ongoing research projects (two funded by SSHRC). If there were some disappointing grant application results, we also celebrated the provincial government implementation of self-directed funding options for individuals with intellectual disabilities (a policy to which three CUISR research reports contributed) and the success of the CIHR 5-year $2 million grant, MUSE: Multisectoral Urban Systems for Health and Equity in Canadian Cities (co-PI Nazeem Muhajarine) on which CUISR is a partner.

We could not have accomplished as much without a committed board, researchers, and staff and the support of our funders for our strategic research. Special thanks and good wishes to Strategic Research Coordinator Jethro Cheng who has returned to family and professional opportunity in Ontario.

Dr. Isobel M. Findlay

Bill Holden
Research Funding

- Our research record has resulted in SSHRC grants worth $9.15 million, 1999-2017.
- We gratefully acknowledge our 2016-2017 funders:
  - City of Saskatoon Community Services Department
  - Mosaic
  - 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
CUISR Management Board

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Community Health & Epidemiology

Dr. Joe Garcea
Political Studies

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Sociology

Dr. Marie Lovrod
English and WGST

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Community Health & Epidemiology

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Rachel Loewen Walker
OUT Saskatoon

Len Usiskin
Quint Development Corporation
CUISR Staff and Student Researchers

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Sugandhi del Canto
Srijita Sarkar
Jania Chilima
Ryan Jimmy
Jebunnessa Chapola
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Research Associates

Vanessa Charles  
Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition  
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Population and Public Health  
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Pam Woodsworth  
Boxcar Café  
Station 20 West
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Community Health & Epidemiology

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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 Women’s and Gender Studies

Dr. Ulrich Teucher
Psychology

Dr. Nancy Van Styvendale
English
Policy Development
- Co-chair, Urban Agriculture Policy Committee with City of Saskatoon Planning Department – Development of Small Scale Commercial Food Production in Saskatoon
- Co-Chair, Food Security Action Team of Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership

Research, Resources Development, Advocacy
- With College of Nursing, developed Food By Ward resource to educate citizens on distribution of food assets in Saskatoon. Collaboration with Aden Bowman to train students to visit each ward in Saskatoon and interview residents on food security

Food Hub Development
- Implemented Local Food Trail in partnership with RM of Corman Park, SREDA, town of Osler, and area farmers
Promotion

• Collaboration with CHEP, Riversdale BID, Drift Café, and local gardeners to promote urban agriculture through weekly presence at Saskatoon Farmers’ Market
• Collaboration with U of S College of Nursing to survey Saskatoon residents on support for urban agriculture.

Food Secure Saskatchewan, Food Secure Canada

• Collaboration with Saskatoon and Regina Qu’Appelle Health Regions to participate in Nourish – the Future of Food in Healthcare. Sponsored by McConnell Foundation and Food Secure Canada.
• Participation/presentation at Food Fair - Food Secure Saskatchewan conference
Governance of Cultural Policy for the Diversity of Cultural Expression, May 12, 2016

- The May 12, 2016, Saskatchewan conference hosted by CUISR (Isobel M. Findlay, Chair) was the eighth edition of the cross-Canada series on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression initiated by the Coalition for Cultural Diversity.
- Canada was the first country to ratify the Convention, now endorsed by 142 countries plus the European Union.
- 29 presenters and an audience of 80 from the cultural sector, academia, and government discussed participatory governance, policies and programs, trade agreements and copyright legislation, institutional mechanisms, barriers and opportunities.
- Videos https://www.youtube.com/user/Usask/videos
Governance of Cultural Policy for the Diversity of Cultural Expression, May 12, 2016

Left to right: Deborah Lee, Aboriginal Engagement Librarian, U of S; Tasha Hubbard, filmmaker and professor; Carol Greyeyes, actor, writer, professor, and coordinator, WÎCHÊHTOWIN-Aboriginal Theatre Program; and Dorothy Myo, President, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre

Left to right: Charles Vallerand, Executive Director, Canadian Coalition for Cultural Diversity; Adrian Stimson, interdisciplinary artist, curator, and educator; and Jen Budney, doctoral candidate, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Left to right: Zoey Roy, poet, hip-hop artist, and activist; Alexis Normand, musician and member, Conseil culturel fransaksois and Folk Music Canada; and Jessica Generoux, puppet performer and library assistant, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre
CUISR hosted the concluding workshops for the SSHRC Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE) conference, June 16-17, 2016.

Workshop sites were Diefenbaker Building, U of S; Station 20 West; and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Outcomes included a proposed book on the Poverty Hub research to be published by Carleton University.
National CFICE Poverty Reduction Hub Workshops, June 16-17, 2016
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; Lisa Erickson, Outreach and Engagement, Station 20 West; Isobel Findlay & Suresh Kalagnanam, CUISR; Yvonne Hanson, CHEP & Station 20 West; Len Usiskin, Quint & Station 20 West; Sana Rachel Sunny and Sugandhi del Canto, research assistants
Impacting Community Strength & Sustainability: CCE 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, conference presentations, policy brief, indicators/measurement tool kits archival exhibitions, arts-based dissemination, technical report, book chapter, and journal articles

- Lisa Erickson and Isobel Findlay are participating in the Aligning Institutions for Community Impact (AICI) CFICE Working Group and Canadian Community-Campus Engagement Roundtable, while Colleen Christopherson-Cote has become Community Chair of the Evaluation Working Group, 2016-2019.
Ongoing Projects: Quality of Life

- A collaboration between CUISR, the City of Saskatoon and community-based organizations
- The CUISR QOL research program is a unique program that measures perceptions of QOL and evaluates the elements that contribute to QOL
Quality of Life

- Research identifies pressing urban issues and areas of focus for improving community quality of life

- QOL results can act as evidence in issue evaluation, policy formation, and program development for community, government, and community organizations
Ongoing Projects

- **President’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women Consultation Study**
- **Funding:** The Office of the President
- **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
- **Research team:** Drs. Isobel Findlay, Marie Lovrod, Elizabeth Quinlan (co-PIs, CUISR), Jebunnessa Chapola and Yuchen (Nina) Gao, research assistants
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.

- **Advisory Committee:** Office of Treaty Commissioner; Indigenous Voices Program; Indigenous Graduate Students’ Council, U of S; Rita Bouvier; Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies; Saskatchewan Polytechnic; 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

- **Research team:** Drs. Marie Battiste, Isobel Findlay, Joe Garcea (co-PIs), Jania Chilima and Ryan Jimmy
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