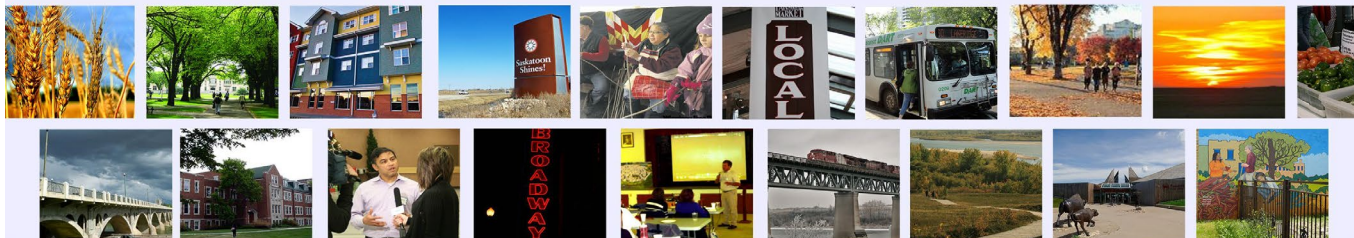




Community-University Institute for Social Research

Annual Report 2023-2024





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 was another busy year of staffing and board changes, research associate renewals and new appointments, strategic planning exercises, as well as significant project activity.

On September 19, 2023, we celebrated with a lunch and presentation the retirement of long-time Administrative Coordinator **Joanne Hritzuk**. Joanne started as a volunteer on Quality of Life in the early 2000s before formalizing her employment relationship with CUISR. Her loyalty and commitment were again on show when she agreed to work until her replacement was fully trained and comfortable with all systems. Our sincere thanks to Joanne for her remarkable career at CUISR and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

We were thrilled to welcome **Dr. Aruna Wickramarathna** as Research Administrative Coordinator and **Comfort (Remi) Kusimo** as Research Coordinator. When Remi left for a national research opportunity, we were delighted to welcome **Rosmary Martinez Rueda**—and then to welcome Remi back as postdoctoral fellow!



Dr. Isobel M. Findlay
Edwards School
of Business



Colleen Christopherson-Cote
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction
Partnership



Michael Kowalchuk
Planning and Development
City of Saskatoon



Message from the Co-Directors (cont'd)

We also lost to retirement **Len Usiskin**, long-time executive director of Quint Development Corporation, founding CUISR board member, and tireless advocate. While we all wish Len a happy retirement, we are delighted that he is a CUISR research associate and will continue as National Community Lead on our SSHRC-CMHC-funded **People, Places, Policies, Prospects**. A big welcome to Kristen Thoms, Quint ED, who has joined the Management Board.

Despite a major winter storm on February 26, we hosted a **Community Update** at Station 20 West on our Housing and Homelessness research, including a keynote on Strength-based approaches to youth homelessness by **Grace Tidmarsh** from the University of Birmingham, UK.

As well as ongoing strategic planning, we are currently finalizing the transfer of the successful research group **Pathways to Equity** to CUISR from Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives.

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the support of our committed board, researchers, staff, partners, and funders.

Dr. Isobel M. Findlay

Colleen Christopherson-Cote

Michael Kowalchuk



Happy retirement, Joanne!



On September 19, 2023 we celebrated Joanne's retirement but she actually kept working beyond year end! We appreciate all your support over the years, Joanne, and wish you all the very best for your retirement.





Pathways to Equity

- CUISR is taking over from Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASI) hosting and administration of Pathways to Equity, a research initiative that explores cross-agency and cross-disciplinary research in the areas of homelessness, social justice, education, and health across the province of Saskatchewan. The initiative includes funding for community-engaged research projects, workshops and events.
- CUISR has made these commitments:
 - To maintain Pathways to Equity's status as a Working Group
 - To submit an annual report to RASI prior to the release of the next instalment of funds.
 - To maintain Pathways branding.
- See [Pathways to Equity - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives - Office of the Vice-President Research | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)



PATHWAYS TO EQUITY



Research Funding

- We gratefully acknowledge our 2023-2024 funders:
 - City of Saskatoon
 - City of Saskatoon Community Services Department
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
 - Saskatoon Police Service
 - Métis Nation—Saskatchewan
 - Elmwood Residences Inc.
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Office of the President
 - Edwards School of Business
 - College of Nursing



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Canada



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
NURSING.USASK.CA



CUISR Management Board



Professor Sarah Buhler
College of Law



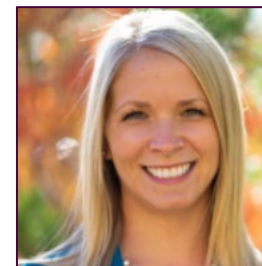
Jasmine Calix
Local Immigration
Partnership Saskatoon



Kayla DeMong
Prairie Harm
Reduction



Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer
College of Medicine



Dr. Leah Ferguson
College of Kinesiology



Dr. Robert Henry
College of Arts and Science



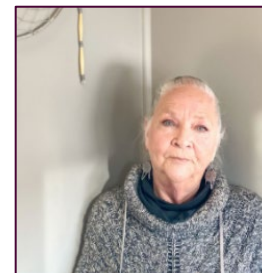
Dr. John Jansen
College of Arts and
Science



Dr. Marie Lovrod
College of Arts and Science



Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine
College of Medicine



Patti Tait
Elizabeth Fry
Society of SK



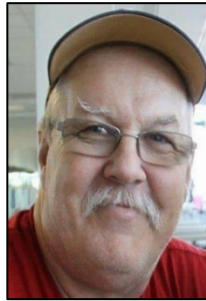
Kristen Thoms
Quint Development
Corporation



CUISR Staff



Colleen Hamilton
Researcher



Gary Hamilton
Researcher



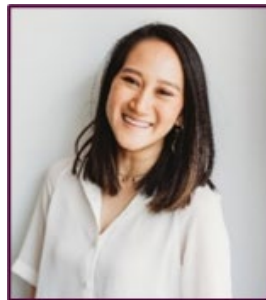
Shirmin Bintay
Kader
Researcher



Remi Kusimo
Research Coordinator
Theme Coordinator and
Postdoctoral Fellow



Rosmary Martinez Rueda
Research Coordinator



Anh Pham
Research Coordinator,
College of Nursing SROI



Carlos Villafuerte
Web master



Aruna Wickramaratna
Research Administrative
Coordinator



CUISR Student Researchers



Jerilyn
Alderman-Hansson



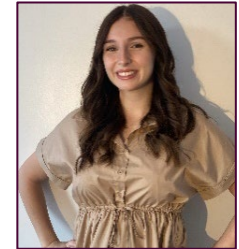
Yara Al Horoub



Kenechukwu
Christopher Aneke



Kavya Chandra



Alexis Cook



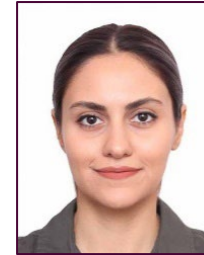
Nazanin Jannati



Caydence Marley



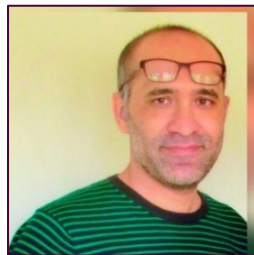
Kennedy Marley



Anousheh Marouzi



Haleh Mir Miri



Mannie Mirzaei



Fiona
Opoku-Mensah



Renee Penney



CUISR Research Associates



Vanessa Charles
Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition
Saskatoon Poverty Reduction
Partnership



Kathie Cram
Formerly Population and
Public Health
Saskatoon Health Region



Ruth Engele
SK Disability Income Support
Coalition



Judy Hannah
Formerly SK Association
for Community Living



Bill Holden
Former CUISR Community
Co-Director and
Senior Planner, City of Saskatoon



Roy Lavallee
Social Development Consultant
City of Saskatoon



Clifford Ray
Long-time president
Northern Saskatchewan Trappers
Association Co-operative



Gary Tinker
Founder, Gary Tinker Federation
for the Disabled, Inc.



Len Usiskin
Former Executive Director
Quint Development Corporation



Pam Woodsworth
Formerly Saskatoon Health Region
Boxcar Café, Station 20 West



CUISR Research Associates



Dr. Jacob Alhassan
College of Medicine



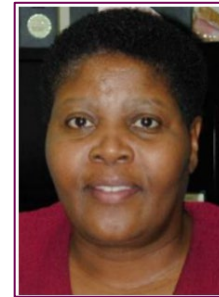
Valery Chirkov
College of Arts and Science



Dr. Keith Da Silva
College of Dentistry



Dr. Barb Fornssler
School of Public Health



Dr. Carol Henry
College of
Pharmacy and
Nutrition



Dr. Suresh Kalagnanam
Edwards School of
Business



Dr. Rachel Loewen
Walker
College of
Arts and Science



Dr. Wanda Martin
College of Nursing



David Mykota
College of Education



Dr. Charles Plante
Saskatchewan Health
Authority



Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan
College of Arts and Science



Dr. Ulrich Teucher
College of Arts and Science



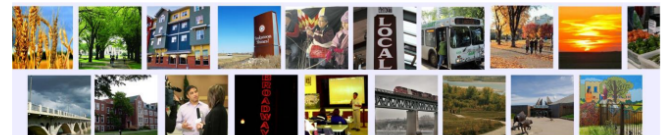
Completed Projects

- We gratefully acknowledge funding from the College of Nursing.
- We also acknowledge the generosity of all who agreed to participate in this study. The report is the richer for your contribution.



College of Nursing Distributed
Education: A Social Return on
Investment Analysis

Anh Pham, Anousheh Marouzi, Isobel M. Findlay,
and Suresh S. Kalagnanam





New Project

- **MMIWG2S+ Family Experience of Police Interaction: A Literature Review and Environmental Scan**
- **Funding:** Saskatoon Police Service
- **Study objectives:** The research aims to develop a literature review and environmental scan as well as a survey/interview framework and identify funding opportunities to support an in-depth study of the police interactions experienced by families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ community.
- **Research Team:**



Isobel Findlay



Fiona Opoku-Mensah



Jerilyn Alderman-Hansson



New Project

- **MMIWG₂S+ Family Experience of Police Interaction** inspired by *Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik* (Women Walking Together)



Darlene Rose Okemaysim

Admin All-star contributor · May 29, 2023 · 🌐

our Support Analysis Discussion team with Saskatoon City Police Services - Left to Right: Lorraine Pura of Iskwewuk E, Char Jenkins of Iskwewuk E, Helen Smith McIntyre of Iskwewuk E, Isobel Findlay of CUISR, Police Chief Troy Cooper, Myrna LaPlante of Iskwewuk E (me - Darlene) and SPS Superintendant Pat Nogier - our 3rd meeting
— feeling hopeful.



New Project

- **City of Saskatoon Housing Needs Assessment**
- **Funding:** City of Saskatoon
- **Study Objectives:** To complete a housing needs assessment and community engagement for the City of Saskatoon as part of the overall housing strategy project.
 - Updating existing City quantitative data
 - Hosting community engagement activities
 - Completing literature review and environmental scan
 - Interviewing and conducting focus groups with key stakeholders
 - Completing data analysis and drafting findings
- **Research Team:**



Isobel Findlay



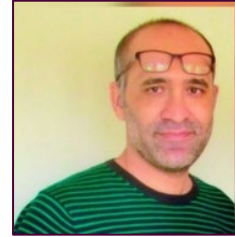
Michael Kowalchuk



Sarah King



Sarah Adair



Mannie Mirzaei



Kavya Chandra



Shirmin Bintay
Kader



New Project

- **2024 Point in Time Count of Homelessness in Saskatoon, SK**
- **Funding:** City of Saskatoon (on behalf of Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy), in partnership with Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and CUISR
- **Study Objectives:**
 - An enumeration, or count, of people experiencing absolute homelessness in shelters (emergency shelters, Violence Against Women shelters, correctional facilities, juvenile detention centres, hospitals, detox centres, and transitional centres) and on the streets.
 - A survey of the homeless population on demographics and service needs.
 - A survey of all encountered on Count Day (housed and unhoused) to gather data about perceptions of homelessness in Saskatoon.
- **Research Team:**



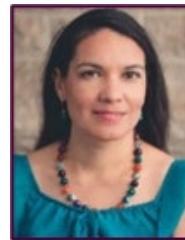
Isobel Findlay



Michael Kowalchuk



Sarah King



Rosmary
Martinez Rueda



Madison Zablock



Niloofar Nili



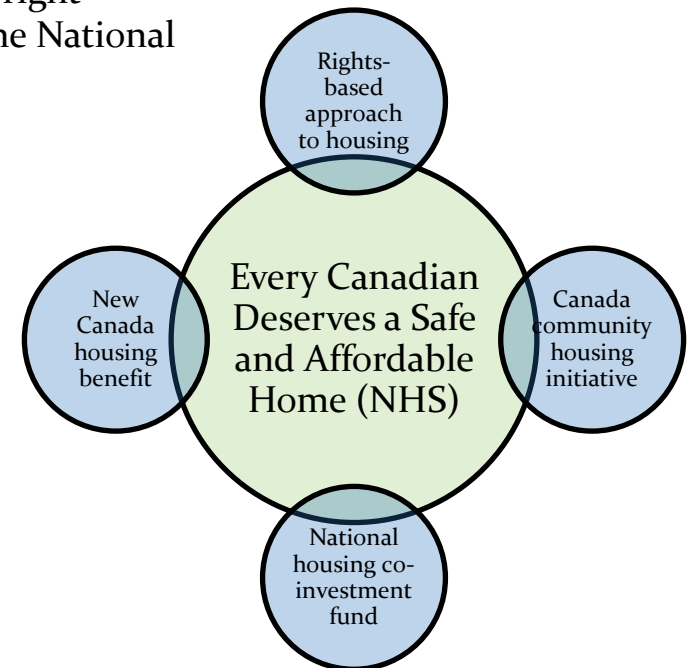
Ongoing Projects



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sciences humaines du Canada

- **A Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home: A Multi-disciplinary Longitudinal Outcomes Analysis of the National Housing Strategy**
- **Funding:** 5-year CMHC-SSHRC Partnership grant (PIs O'Brien & Kennelly, Carleton U) 2023-2028
- **Study objectives:**
 - Housing as a human right became law in 2019
 - Assess effectiveness of approaches to housing as a human right
 - Investigate the three major funding vehicles outlined in the National Housing Strategy (NHS)
- **Six project themes:**
 1. Health, social and economic outcomes (USask leads)
 2. Climate impacts and mitigation
 3. Indigenous housing
 4. Northern housing
 5. Alternative housing solutions
 6. Housing financing





Ongoing Projects



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

- **A Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home: A Multi-disciplinary Longitudinal Outcomes Analysis of the National Housing Strategy**
- **Research partners:**
 - City of Saskatoon
 - CLASSIC
 - Cress Housing Corporation
 - Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
 - Haven Family Connections
 - National Affordable Housing Corporation
 - Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
 - Office of Residential Tenancies Saskatchewan
- **Research team:**



Sarah Buhler



Isobel Findlay



Nazeem Muhajarine



Remi Kusimo



Nazanin Jannati



Ongoing Projects



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

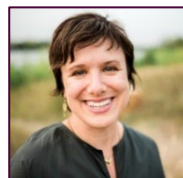
- **People, Places, Policies, and Prospects: Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need**
- **Funding:** 5-year SSHRC-CMHC Partnership Grant (2020-2025)
- **Study objectives/ Research questions:**
 - How do programs designed to make housing more affordable make a difference in the lives of participating low-income households?
 - To what extent programs achieve intended positive social and economic benefits?
 - In what ways different programs may result in distinct shelter (affordability, security, quality) and non-shelter (safety, health and well-being, social capital, access to amenities and employment) outcomes?
 - How do programs have differential impacts on diverse individuals?
- **Research team:**



Isobel Findlay



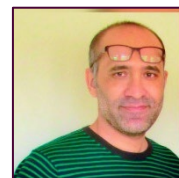
Nazeem Muhajarine



Sarah Buhler



Keith DaSilva



Mannie Mirzaei



Rosmary
Martinez Rueda



Kavya Chandra



Kenechukwu
Christopher
Aneke



Ongoing Projects



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sciences humaines du Canada

- **People, Places, Policies, and Prospects: Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need**
- **National studies**
 - **National Housing Survey** (Nazeem Muhajarine, Catherine Leviten-Reid, Xavier Leloup, Jasmine Calix, Michael Kowalchuk)
 - **Spatial Analysis of Public and Social Housing** (Catherine Leviten-Reid, Jackie Kennelly, Isobel Findlay)
- **Regional studies**
 - **COVID and the Housing Sector** (Isobel Findlay, Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Sydney Wouters)
 - **Epic Alliance Case Study** (Sarah Buhler, Chantelle Johnson)
 - **Evictions** (Sarah Buhler, Chantelle Johnson)
 - **Rental Development Program and Social Policy Change** (Isobel Findlay, Len Usiskin, Camponi, Alan Wallace, Michael Kowalchuk)
 - **System Transitions and the Housing System** (Isobel Findlay, Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Patti Tait, Dionne Miazdyck-Shield)



Community Update on Housing and Homelessness Research, February 26, 2024



Community Update on Housing and Homelessness Research

Dr. Grace Tidmarsh
University of Birmingham, UK
Keynote:

Strengths-based approaches to service delivery, evaluation, and policy in youth homelessness

Register

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/PTHGS9B>

Contact us

cuisr.research@usask.ca

Phone: 306-966-2136



February 26, 2024
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Multi-Purpose Room
Station 20 West, 1120 20th Street
Saskatoon, SK

FREE EVENT LUNCH INCLUDED

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Updates on:

Financialized landlords and evictions
Subsidized rental housing mapping project
Canada Housing Survey
Health Social and Economic Outcomes
Rental Development Program and social policy change



CUISR Community Update on housing and homelessness research

Digital art documenting the event by Nazanin Jannati



Ongoing Projects

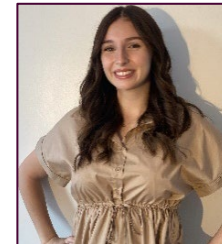
- **Manor Transition Initiative: Outcomes and Evaluation (Year 2)**
- **Funding:** Elmwood Residences Inc.
- **Study objectives:**
 - To examine the impact of living arrangements on people living with disabilities.
 - To examine the change in quality of life experienced by residents as a result of the move.
 - To understand the process by which the change in quality of life occurred.
 - To provide data that will help policy and program further improve the quality of life of people living with intellectual disabilities.
- **Research team:**



Isobel M. Findlay



Shirmin Bintay Kader



Alexis Cook



Grand Opening of Group Homes



Formal launch of Community-based Homes, April 26, 2024



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, presentations, journal article
- **Research team:**



Marie Lovrod



Elizabeth Quinlan



Isobel Findlay



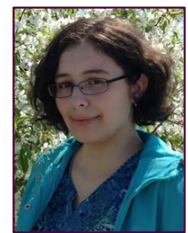
Jebunnessa Chapola



Yuchen (Nina) Gao



Erin Pillipow



Shaylyn White



Strategic Research Directions

In regular strategic planning, CUI SR has affirmed its mission and principles and adopted five interdisciplinary strategies in settings ranging from the local through regional and national to international levels.

- Community Sustainability
- Social Economy and Social Relations
- Rural-Urban Community Links
- Indigenous Community Development
- Community-University Partnerships

These strategic directions build on and extend our research on healthy, sustainable communities—quality of life indicators, community health determinants and health policy, and community economic development—that led to the formation of CUI SR to build capacity among researchers, CBOs, and citizenry.



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University Co-Director

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Tel: (306) 966-2120
E-mail: findlay@edwards.usask.ca

Community Co-Directors

Colleen Christopherson-Cote
Tel: (306) 401-8512
E-mail: sprpcoordinator@gmail.com

Michael Kowalchuk
Tel: (306) 986-3024
Email: michael.kowalchuk@saskatoon.ca

General Inquiries

Research Administrative Coordinator: Aruna Wickramarathna
Phone: (306) 966-2121
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