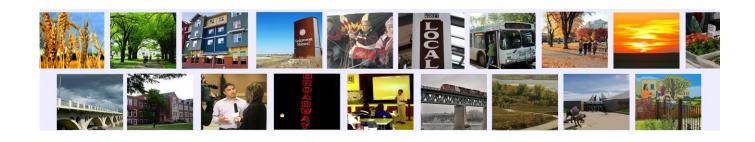




Community-University Institute for Social Research

Annual Report 2024–2025





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.



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

This was another busy year completing and implementing strategic planning and taking over Pathways to Equity working group from USask's Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (see separate report), as well as submitting funding applications, adding to Board membership and the research associate cohort, and continuing a high level of research activity, .

On February 26, we hosted a **Community Conversation on Advocating for Housing Rights** at Station 20 West, designed and facilitated by our Lived Expert Advisory Council, showcasing our SSHRC-CMHC-funded research and engaging 90 registrants in small group discussions.

Participants gave strong feedback including requests for training for advocacy for housing rights which we have been busy putting together along with an Advocacy Guide and Toolkit.

We have also been working with the Lived Expert Advisory Council and research assistants on presentations, poster, and a roundtable accepted for C2UExpo in Edmonton in early May.

Message from the Co-Directors (cont'd)

In late fall 2024 we submitted to SSHRC-CMHC a three-year renewal application (along with PI Catherine Leviten-Reid at CBU and Jackie Kennelly at Carleton) designed to build on our five-year Partnership grant **People, Places, Policies, Prospects: Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need**.

We welcomed to the CUISR Management Board Iris Akbar, Support Services Manager and Leadership Team member, OUTSaskatoon, renewing a longstanding relationship. We also welcomed to the research associate cohort Professor Khrisha Alphonsus, Director of the Epidemiology Program, School of Public Health.

As well as ongoing planning for leadership renewal with Marie Lovrod shadowing Isobel Findlay as University Co-Director, we have been busy with multiple research projects detailed in the report as well as contributing to the Communities and Sustainability Signature Area.

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

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J. Savalchuk



Research Funding

- We gratefully acknowledge our 2024-2025 funders:
 - City of Saskatoon
 - City of Saskatoon Community Services Department
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
 - Métis Nation—Saskatchewan
 - Elmwood Residences Inc.
 - Saskatoon Community Foundation
 - Saskatoon Police Service
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Office of the President
 - Edwards School of Business



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada





















CUISR Management Board



Iris Akbar OutSaskatoon



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. 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



David Fineday Lived Expert/ Community Researcher



Remi Kusimo Research Officer Theme 1 Coordinator and Postdoctoral Fellow



Rosmary Martinez Rueda Research Coordinator



Nadia Sedaghat Research Assistant



Carlos Villafuerte Web master



Aruna Wickramarathna Research Administrative Coordinator



CUISR Student Researchers



Heath Adamcryck



Jerilyn Alderman-Hansson



Kenechukwu Christopher Aneke



Shirmin Bintay Kader



Kavya Chandra



Alexis Cook



Hailey Dmytrow



Chinwendu Ikwuegbu



Jacqueline Morris



Niloofar Nili



Fiona Opoku-Mensah



Wambui Thuita



Anu Yadav



CUISR Research Associates



Kathie Cram
Formerly Population and
Public Health
Saskatoon Health Region



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



Dr. Khrisha B Alphonsus School of Public Health



Valery Chirkov College of Arts and Science



Dr. Keith Da Silva Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University



Dr. Barb Fornssler School of Public Health



Dr. Carol Henry College of Pharmacy and Nutrition



Dr. John Jansen College of Arts and Science



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



Pathways to Equity



- This year has been productive since taking over the Pathways to Equity Working Group hosting and administration from Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASI).
 We continue the cross-agency and cross-disciplinary research in the areas of homelessness, social justice, education, and health across the province of Saskatchewan while renewing the Working Group:
- New members (James Dixon as co-chair, James Woodcock, Daniel Dickson) replacing retiring ones (June Anonson, Brenda Mishak)
- Terms of reference updated
- Co-chair position roles and responsibilities developed
- Notice on CUISR website and link to RASI Pathways site
- See <u>Pathways to Equity Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives Office of the Vice-President</u> <u>Research | University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)</u>
- A very successful community engagement workshop with 90 registrants hosted on March 26, 2025 at Station 20 West. The workshop was also a branded event of the Communities and Sustainability Signature Area.



Pathways to Equity



PATHWAYS to EQUITY 2025 Workshop

Housing Security and Neighbourhood Safety

March 26, 2025 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Station 20 West, 1120 20th Street W, Saskatoon No cost to attend! Lunch & refreshments provided



Interactive Break-Out Sessions, Networking Breaks, Panel discussions





USASK SIGNATURE AREAS -

COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABILITY







Pathways to Equity Workshop, March 26, 2025















Completed Project

 We gratefully acknowledge funding from Research Junction

- We also acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of all who participated in survey, focus groups, and interviews.
- Special thanks to Community
 Advisory Committee members
 who guided research design
 and recruitment efforts.



Toward a Community of Safety and Care: Exploring Public Safety in Downtown Saskatoon

Isobel M. Findlay, Renée Penney, Kate Loseth, Daniel Owusu Nkrumah, John Hansen, Elisabeth Miller, Michael Kowalchuk, Jonathon Mercredi, and Jade Creelman





- 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



2024 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness in Saskatoon, SK Volunteer training







Monday, September 23, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m./ 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 24, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m./ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m./ 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 3, 2024: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m./ 2:00-3:00 p.m.*

Station 20 West-Multipurpose Room

*Optional supplementary session



SASKATOON'S 2024 PIT COUNT

Saskatoon's Count Day:

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Surveyed Hours:

11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Weather Conditions:



High of 22° C and sunny during the day



Overnight low of 3° C



Volunteers

Counted and surveyed individuals experiencing homelessness.



Outreach Teams

Teams who covered quadrants of Saskatoon to collect outreach and encampment data.



Facilities & Programs

Collected administrative and systems data for sheltered individuals experiencing homelessness.



Stationary Locations



Study Areas

Covering 24 of 65 neighbourhoods

All volunteers participated in a mandatory training session prior to the count.

- 7 different training sessions were offered to accommodate various schedules.
- 1 additional optional supplementary training session was available for those seeking extra practice in administering the survey.



- 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



- 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



Kavya Chandra



Shirmin Bintay Kader







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
- 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









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



Kavya Chandra



Aneke

Kenechukwu Christopher



Chinwendu Ikwuegbu



Community Conversation: Advocating for Housing Rights, February 26, 2025



COMMUNITY

CONVERSATION

ADVOCATING FOR HOUSING RIGHTS



https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/cuisi

Contact us

cuisr.research@usask.ca Phone: 306-966-2136



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



Topics:

Canadians' rights to housing Barriers to housing in our communities Impact of homelessness on community wellness

Caring for others in our communities Relevance of housing research to the

Making our voices count as housing advocates















Community Conversation: Advocating for Housing Rights, February 26, 2025









Community Conversation: Advocating for Housing Rights, February 26, 2025



Forum explores what ordinary folks can do about housing right	
folks can do abou	discrete of our experience and begg pro-
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Media coverage **The Star Phoenix**



Completed report—Community Conversation: Advocating for Housing Rights



Community Conversation: Advocating for Housing Rights in Saskatoon

Lived Expert Advisory Council & CUISR Research Team

February 26, 2025









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)- Extended for 3 yrs.
- 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



Kavya Chandra



Kenechukwu Christopher Aneke



Chinwendu Ikwuegbu







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
- 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)



Completed Publications





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





Article

Rental Housing Type and Self-Reported General Health and Mental Health Status: Evidence from the Canadian Housing Survey 2018–2019

Shirmin Bintay Kader ^{1,2}, Md Sabbir Ahmed ^{1,2}, Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk ³, Xavier Leloup ⁴, Laurence Simard ⁴, Catherine Leviten-Reid ⁵ and Nazeem Muhajarine ^{1,2,4}

- Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, 107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5, Canada; byp019@usask.ca (S.B.K.); sabbir.ahmed@usask.ca (M.S.A.)
- Yuggins Road, Saskatont, Sk. 57N 5E2, Canada; by pul veusask.ca (S.D.K.); Sabultatimedeusask.ca (M.S./ Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU), University of Saskatchewan, 107 Wiggins Road, Saskatoon, SK 57N 5E5, Canada
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- Centre Urbanisation Culture Société, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, 385 Sherbrooke E, Montréal, QC H2X 1E3, Canada; xavier.leloup@inrs.ca (X.L.); laurence.simard@inrs.ca (L.S.)
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 Community Economic Development, Community-University Housing Research Laboratory,
- Cape Brenton University, 1250 Grand Lake Road, Sydney, NS B1M 1A2, Canada; catherine_leviten-reid@cbu.ca

 * Correspondence: nazeem.muhajarine@usask.ca



Housing Studies



ISSN: 0267-3037 (Print) 1466-1810 (Online) Journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/chos20

Rental housing types and economic wellbeing in Canada

Xavier Leloup, Catherine Leviten-Reid, Nazeem Muhajarine, Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk & Laurence Simard

To cite this article: Xavier Leloup, Catherine Leviten-Reid, Nazeem Muhajarine, Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk & Laurence Simard (03 Sep 2024): Rental housing types and economic wellbeing in Canada, Housing Studies, DOI: 10.1080/02673037.2024.2393661

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2024.2393661



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Published online: 03 Sep 2024



- Manor Transition Initiative: Outcomes and Evaluation (Years 2-3)
- 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:



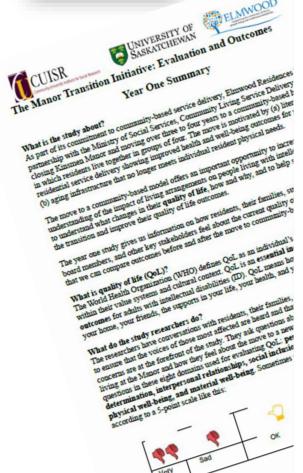
Isobel M. Findlay



Alexis Cook



Manor Transition Initiative: Outcomes and Evaluation (Year 1) **Publications**





Manor Transition Initiative: Outcomes

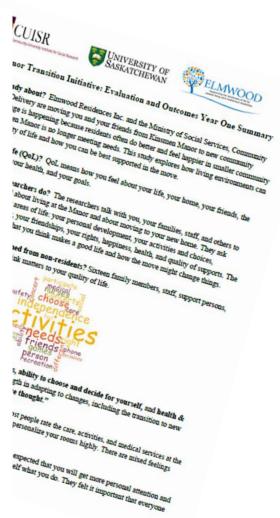
and Evaluation Year One

Shirmin Bintay Kader, Alexis Cook, and

Isobel M. Findlay



1 | Page





Grand Opening of Group Home, 3204 Mountbatten











- Vital Signs 2025
- Funding: Saskatoon Community Foundation
- Research Objective:
- To create Vital Signs for Saskatoon, a snapshot of the wellbeing indicators for Saskatoon.
- To describe important social and structural determinants of community wellbeing and health drawing on local community-generated data and government systems data (qualitative and quantitative) to paint a picture of Saskatoon's community vitality
- Outputs: Vital signs indicators, technical report, dissemination presentations
- Research team:



Jacob Alhassan



Colleen Christopherson-Cote



Anu Yadav



- Mutual Flourishing through University Stakeholder Budgetary Justice
- Funding: University of Saskatchewan
- Study Objectives: How can institutions work to identify imperialist structures within their accounting and budgeting systems and plan for changes that reinforce mutual flourishing across peoples, places, species?
- What kinds of indicators of both tangible and intangible outcomes would be required to evaluate substantive progress in the direction of decolonization, equity, inclusion and support for human and biodiversity?
- What kinds of mathematical research and modeling would enable more accurate analysis of these kinds of budgetary justice outcomes?
- Research Team:



Marie Lovrod



Suresh Kalagnanam



Wambui Thuita



Jacqueline Morris



Heath Adamcryck



Hailey Dimytrow



- 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

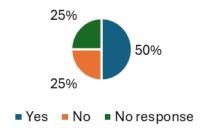


Shaylyn White

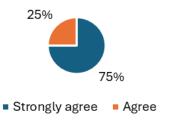


Research Assistants' Feedback

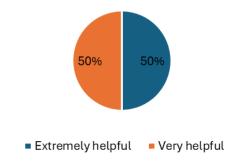
Was the training that you received to develop the research project sufficient to meet your needs?



The level of collaboration between the research team and the community partners met expectations



Participating in this study enhanced your academic and professional skills.



100% of the research assistants consider the research aligned with the needs of the community and the results were relevant to community.

100% of the RAs would be interested in further RA work at CUISR.

Suggestions to enhance research assistants' experience:

- Organizing training workshops to update data collection and analysis skills aligned with CUISR initiatives.
- Designated spaces to work.
- In person meetings would be best to outline clear expectations and work structure for first timers.



Strategic Research Directions

In regular strategic planning, CUISR 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 CUISR to build capacity among researchers, CBOs, and citizenry.







Community-University Institute for Social Research University of Saskatchewan R.J.D. Williams Building 432 – 221 Cumberland Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7N 1M3

University Co-Director

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Michael Kowalchuk

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