# Building Healthy Sustainable Communities

"A trusted entry point to the university" (Fontan et al., 2011)

- Community-Based Research
- Intellectual and Collaborative Organizing Hub
  - Public policy
- Knowledge mobilization (KM)
  - Brown Bag Lunches
- Community Fora & Conferences
- Student (Paid) Internships, Service Learning, and Training
- Faculty Outreach and Engagement
  - 110 published reports
- Numerous academic publications
- Website (275,890 visits, 2014-2015)









#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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**

Dr. Isobel M. Findlay Tel: (306) 966-2385 E-mail: findlay@edwards.usask.ca

### Community Co-Director

Bill Holden Tel: (306) 975-2687 E-mail: bill.holden@saskatoon.ca

#### **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

Administrative Coordinator: Joanne Hritzuk

Phone: (306) 966-2121
Facsimile: (306) 966-2122
E-Mail: cuisr.oncampus@usask.ca
Website: http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/



@cuisr





## **Facilitating Partnerships**

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





# CUISR Strategic Research

Focuses on developing knowledge that helps to improve the local quality of life through studies in these areas:

- Community sustainability
- Social economy
- Rural-urban community links
- Cross-cultural and Indigenous community development
- Community-university partnerships

CUISR infrastructure and mechanisms have been tried, tested, and improved to produce community-relevant research.



- CUISR's unique governance, innovative methods, and award-winning researchers have secured \$9.1 million in SSHRC grants, 1999-2015
- Diversified funding (Tri-Council, CBOs, municipal, provincial, federal) for sustainability
- Published five iterations of Quality of Life research at the municipal neighbourhood level—one of the most developed longitudinal studies in Canada
- Participated in local, provincial, national policy tables
- Managed Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and point-in-time homeless counts, 2008, 2012, and 2015
- Hosted Saskatoon Food Council (funded by Mosaic) and built links with Food Secure Canada, McConnell Family Foundation, Heifer International, and Canadian food policy councils including Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver
- Published key policy research on self-directed funding for people with disabilities
- Developed new evaluation tools and national partnerships (Social Return on Investment Canada, Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network, Metropolis)
- Hosted community fora, published 110 report, journal articles, Journeys in Community-based Research, ed. Jeffery, Findlay, Martz, and Clarke (U of Regina Press, 2014)

CUISR "an economic growth agent for community based organizations" represents "significant capital for the university" (Fontan et al., 2011)

#### **COMMUNITY**

Building on early strong relationships with the Saskatoon Health Region and the City of Saskatoon, CUISR continues to expand its broad base of community partners who may serve on the management board and co-lead strategic research. Local, provincial, and national governments, foundations, large provincial and community-based organizations, Aboriginal organizations, and citizenry contribute financially and through in-kind support on a range of projects and KM activities:

- Evaluations and consultations
- Policy analysis
- Data for (funding) proposals
- Research and KM capacity
- Measurement toolkits

#### **UNIVERSITY**

CUISR provides many opportunities for faculty and students to bring theory to life in socially relevant and rigorous research.

- Faculty can participate as supervisors (on internships), on the management board, as co-leads of strategic research, or as the University Co-Director
- Students from diverse departments engage with community agencies and faculty in ways otherwise unavailable to them. Students gain training and experience in research design and ethics, interviewing, data analysis, and diverse dissemination strategies—in a rich learning environment