

*“Building Community
Together”*

CUISR—present and future

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY CO-DIRECTOR, KATE WAYGOOD

CUISR offers a unique approach to research initiatives. Together, community and academic participants consider community-posed research questions and share findings. While this work engages the community and university in immediately relevant research, it also deepens the understanding of true partnerships in such endeavours. This cross-fertilization of knowledge and understanding builds mutual respect and appreciation for each partner's special skills. CUISR communicates research results in creative ways, such as the Native Youth Theatre skits that presented major research findings at Community Policy Forum in 2002. CUISR aims to keep the information readily accessible and useful to the community, be it to strengthen arguments for positive change in policies and programs or to broaden funding support for needed services.

CUISR awards research grants under several different categories to appeal to a broad base of interests, be they community or campus. Research topics reflect diverse community concerns and issues, ranging from studies related to homelessness and affordable housing to the link between poverty and child development or exploring the economic benefits of a downtown farmers' market. Collectively, the studies unveil an incredible story of the depth of curiosity, resourcefulness, and determination of people in our community and university who work together to reach a common goal—understanding how to improve the overall quality of life for all.

CUISR strives to stimulate broader public debate on emergent community issues by sponsoring public policy forums, workshops, brown bag lunches, and partnering with *The StarPhoenix* to disseminate city-wide survey results on quality of life issues (Taking The Pulse, 2001). CUISR also co-hosted a regional affordable housing conference (Prairie Urban Congress II, 2001), an international conference highlighting community-university partnerships (CUEXPO 2003), and, in 2004, partnered with others to present “Saskatoon Children and Youth, A Series of Forums.” The series provides focused information on related topics that are important to the future of our children and their quality of life in our community.

CUISR's success to date as a grassroots, community-campus initiative has strengthened the will to continue this work together. We are currently undertaking a comprehensive evaluation to measure our vision and goals against reality. With this information, we hope to build on our accomplishments, reflect on lessons learned, and, by reaching out to more partners, ensure a strong future. CUISR is truly an institute that reflects the adage, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Waygood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY CO-DIRECTOR, NAZEEM MUHAJARINE


CUISR was launched in 1999 as an organization committed to producing useful knowledge that would be of benefit to the community. It declared that its mission was “to serve as a focal point for community-based research and to integrate the social research needs and experiential knowledge within the community with the technical expertise available at the University.” Less than five years later, we should ask, “How well has CUISR’s activities upheld its stated mission?”

In this report we hope to provide an answer. As this report highlights, CUISR has made important contributions to enhance the quality of life in our community, advance new knowledge, and build the capacity of researchers and citizens alike to produce and use new information of value to the community.

To date, we have funded, assisted, and facilitated over 80 community-based research projects. While the specific titles of these projects vary, the central purpose is to provide useful knowledge to decision-makers and citizens for community action and change. This work has thus far culminated in over 34 research reports. CUISR has also led innovative research that combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to better understand what determines, how to measure, and how to enhance quality of life in the community. We have partnered with over 42 community-based organizations of various sizes and capacities. Again, while the various names and specific focus of our partner organizations may differ, the central motivation for working together is a commitment to building healthy, sustainable communities.

We have had graduate students working with community organizations, researchers and staff from community organizations working with faculty in the university, and managers and decision-makers advising on the finer points of policy and practice relevance of the research conducted. We have generated insights and understandings about our community, helped to extend the immediate relevance of the university to the community, and along the way learned about the common aspirations that we hold for our community, regardless of whether we are constituents in the university or the community.

This report represents an important milestone in CUISR’s development. While it accounts for our activities and celebrates our accomplishments, it also marks a transition from old to new. In the coming months we need to renew both the leadership and resource base of CUISR so that the Institute remains a viable and strong community resource. We need new leaders and new voices. We need the help of all stakeholders in the CUISR enterprise to share in the ownership and help it move forward. In three years, CUISR has established itself as a strong and innovative arbiter for community relevant research in Saskatoon, and has quickly become a model for community-university partnership research not only in the prairies, but also across Canada. I invite you to be part of our work and help us solidify the Institute’s well-deserved place in our community.



Community University Institute for Social Research

Building healthy, sustainable communities through community-driven social, health, and economic research that is change-focused

Who are we?

The Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) is a collaborative initiative between the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) and community-based organizations (CBOs), government, and the private sector founded by a community-campus initiative, *Roundtable on Quality of Life Committee*, in 1998. Since its inception in early 2000, CUISR has worked to help advance an understanding of what helps build better, stronger, and safer communities, where all citizens have equal access to community quality of life. CUISR is configured in a manner that encourages development of a multidisciplinary, team-based, and flexible approach to research and training.

CUISR activities are currently oriented around three research modules —Assessing Quality of Life Indicators, Health Determinants and Health Policy, and Community Economic Development. CUISR anticipates that there will be a natural evolution in the specific questions and issues that it addresses. This is especially important for long-term planning to adapt to changes in the external environment (e.g. needs of the community, strategic research priorities within granting bodies and foundations) as well as the research interests of the faculty involved with CUISR. CUISR is a cross-discipline initiative working with the Colleges of Medicine, Arts and Science, Commerce, Agriculture, Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, Kinesiology, and Education.

Multi-source funding

In December 1999, the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) was awarded \$591,000 from the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) through their Community-University Research Alliances (SCURA) program*. In addition, *University of Saskatchewan* contributed over \$450,000 (cash and in kind) to CUISR. Community partners, including the *City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon District Health, Saskatchewan Research Council, The StarPhoenix, Quint Economic Development Corp and the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority*, contributed in-kind or staff support for a total grant of over 1.3 million dollars over a three year period. In 2002, CUISR was awarded a SSHRC-CURA completion grant for a total of \$400,000 over two years. Community partners continued to contribute matching funds, some at increased levels of support.

CUISR's mission is to:

“serve as the focal point for community-based research and to integrate the various social research needs and experiential knowledge within the community with the technical expertise available at the university.”

Guiding Principles for CUISR and CUISR Participants

1. Participants agree on the vision, mandate, goals and holistic approaches (of the Institute).
2. Participants are committed to making contributions in various forms, as necessary, to support the vision and goals.
3. Participants will engage in open communication, sharing knowledge, rationales and decisions, and actively listen to all diverse/divergent points of view.
4. Participants are committed to learning together and building knowledge together.
5. Participants recognize and have methods to resolve conflicts.
6. Participation is evolving and dynamic, open to new partnerships.
7. Participants will be responsive to community and university needs, concerns and pursuit of knowledge.
8. Participants recognize how each person contributes to making the Institute greater than the sum of its parts.
9. Participants will work cooperatively and are responsible to reach 'best' solutions through consensus decision-making. Where consensus cannot be reached, majority vote will be used as a decision making mechanism.
10. Participants will be open to multiple methods and approaches.

An evolving competitive advantage

In many respects, CUISR has been the first and most visible example of a recent trend at the University of Saskatchewan to engage in community-based research funded by Tri-Council granting agencies. Since its establishment, other noteworthy examples of community-university partnerships include "In Motion" project (Karen Chad in Kinesiology); the "Bridges and Foundations" urban Aboriginal housing project (Alan Anderson in Sociology); the "Social Cohesion and Co-operatives" project (Brett Fairbairn in Centre for the Study of Co-operatives); and the "Community Population Health Research Training" program (Ron Labonte or Nazeem Muhajarine with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit). Personnel in many of these initiatives are interlocking in that they are involved to a greater or lesser extent in several of these initiatives.

However, it is important to realize that these initiatives are vital in their own right. They also point to a niche or "competitive advantage" in research and training that the University of Saskatchewan appears to have over other institutions in Canada, which is to critically examine the processes and products of community-based research and the nature and characteristics of community-university collaboration.

Working to build a strong community-based research institute

By working together, CUISR strives to build the capacity of researchers, community-based organizations and citizenry to enhance community quality of life. To this end, the CUISR governance model reflects the commitment to a true partnership between the community and the university. The Management Board, comprised of two Co-Directors, one from the University and one from the community, works alongside six Co-leaders representing each of CUISR's three research modules: Community Economic Development, Community Health Determinants and Health Policy, and Quality of Life Indicators.

(please see **Appendix II, CUISR Administrative Structure**)

The Management Board and the community developed CUISR founding documents to articulate CUISR's mission, goals, objectives, and guiding principles. By 2001, University Council approved CUISR as a formal institute at the University of Saskatchewan. In order to keep all partners informed and aware of CUISR activities, an Advisory Council comprised of representatives from the university and the community assists CUISR Board members in overall policy direction, while community advisory committees provide timely reflection and advice for each research module. CUISR staff include a full-time Administrative Assistant (winter, 2000), and a Community Research Liaison Officer (winter, 2001). To better reflect CUISR's efforts to straddle the worlds of the university and the community, the Administrative Assistant resides in the on campus office, while the Community Research Liaison office is strategically located in the community.

CUISR. . . Making a difference

“The CUISR process is one that is respectful of the community and addresses our research needs in a consistent, organized, reliable, and fair way. For the first time people who are living in poverty are making important linkages with the university community and are learning that universities can be socially responsible.”

—Kathie Cram, Co-Chair
Working Group on Child
Poverty, Saskatoon
Communities for Children.

Who supports us

National Research Grant Awards

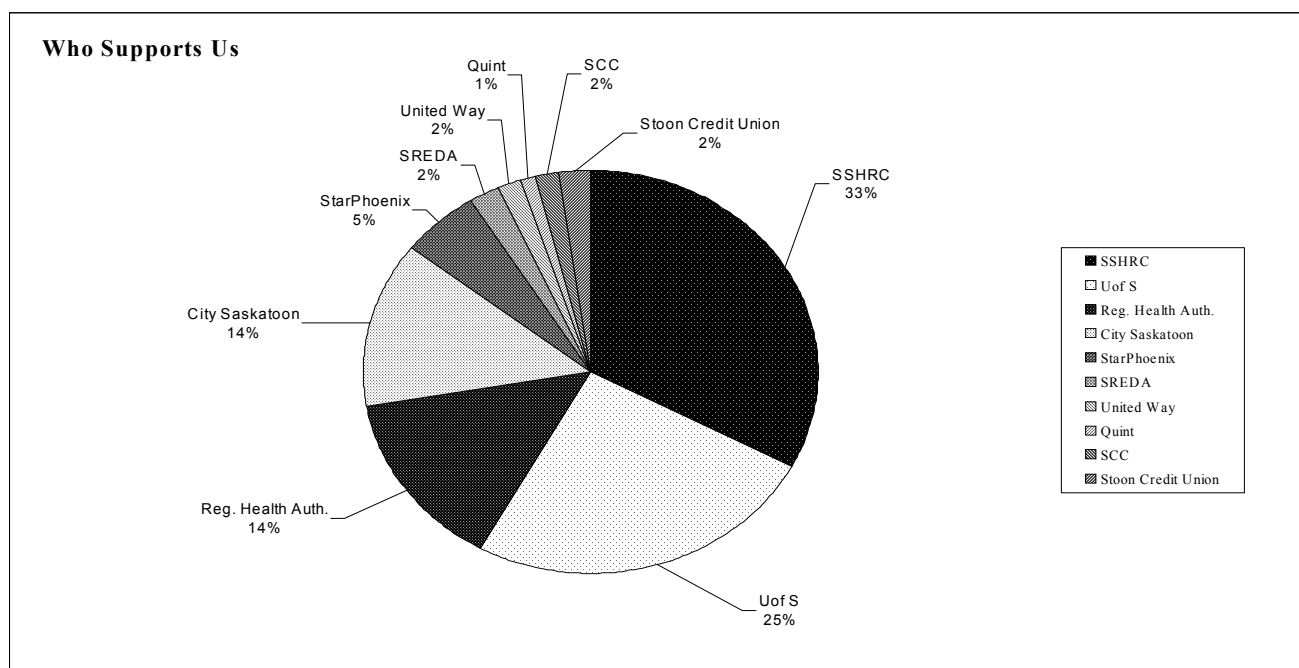
In addition to facilitating and partnering with the aforementioned centres (In Motion; Bridges and Foundations; Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre; Social Cohesion for Co-operatives; and Community and Population Health Research Training), CUISR researchers, as individual academics, have achieved national recognition for their work. Dr. Allison Williams received a four year salary support grant from CIHR (2001) and Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine is a National Health Research Scholar supported through a salary award by CIHR/NHRDP. As well, Dr. Lou Hammond-Ketilson is a key academic participant in the Social Cohesion for Co-operatives national study. Faculty associated with CUISR as mentors or supervisors for student scholars or interns also benefit from their association with CUISR. CUISR has brought significant support to the University of Saskatchewan via Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grants (1999/2002) and matching community contributions. CUISR also acted as a facilitator for other research initiatives which were awarded independent national funding.

CUISR continues to work with others within the University of Saskatchewan to develop a centre for community-based research or a community-based research commons that will bring together academics engaged in community-based initiatives to better serve the community and create synergy and cost-savings that would result from co-location.

Other funding support

Western Economic Diversification Canada awarded \$42,000 to CUISR (2001) to develop a Housing and Development Collection, which includes information and resources on social research related to quality of life, economic development, and healthy communities. The CUISR Resource Centre also houses materials useful to community-university researchers, including CUISR publications, a research series stemming from CUISR research initiatives, and other relevant newsletters, articles, and books. The centre is open daily to the general public and campus.

CUISR community partners contribute to research funding resources via staff time, cash, office space, and infrastructure. For example, the City of Saskatoon contributes about \$12,000 a year to support the Quality of Life research project, as well as a senior planner’s time as the Co-Lead of the Quality of Life Module. Saskatoon Health Region also contributes considerable staff support through the office of the Medical Health Officer, as well as salary support for the Community Co-Director and the community office at St. Paul’s Hospital. The local newspaper, *The StarPhoenix*, is a consistent supporter in staff time, and contributes financially to public dissemination initiatives related to Quality of Life reporting.



CUISR's accomplishments

Extensive research conducted in the Quality of Life Indicators module during the first three year grant indicates that there are three themes of significance in our community: the growing gap between rich and poor, challenges related to social inclusion, and taking responsibility for social change. CUISR, in partnership with *The StarPhoenix*, published a report on quality of life in our community, "Taking the Pulse," in January 2001. This was distributed to over 76,000 households as a special report in the newspaper. In October 2001, the CUISR Quality of Life Indicators Module hosted the Community Policy Forum. This brought together politicians, senior provincial officers, representatives from the federal Human Resources Development department, at least two senior judges, the city manager and other civic bureaucrats, and many representatives from business, social and community groups. As *The StarPhoenix* noted in its editorial on October 24, 2001: "We can either accept the inevitable decline as provincial and federal governments focus on a few pet programs such as health care and the new economy to the detriment of other social needs, or we can look for new ways to identify and address problems. Saskatoon is lucky that it has one of the country's only groups (CUISR) determined to do the latter." *The StarPhoenix* editors concluded by saying: "The rest of the country, which is increasingly picking up on the work being done in Saskatoon, is lucky to have a city that still has some of its pioneer spirit." Quality of Life researchers are tracking the trends in public perception of quality of life and public socio-economic policy changes over time. The Quality of Life research compiles and synthesizes information on long-term strategic plans of major community-based organizations in Saskatoon.

CUISR... Making a difference

"As a provincial organization representing community based NGOs, with limited resources particular to activities related to evaluation and research, we are most grateful for the fact that CUISR exists and that it has expertise and resources so readily accessible for our use."

—Carol Glazer, Provincial Coordinator, Early Childhood Intervention Program Saskatchewan Inc.

CUISR. . . Making a difference

“The results of this multi-faceted research project [Closer to Home: Child and Family Poverty Saskatoon] are now being used by community organizations to inform coordinated action plans for reducing child poverty in our community.”

—Joan Champ, Coordinator,
Saskatoon Communities for
Children.

The **Quality of Life** module worked throughout 2003 to develop a methodology and vehicle to support community action planning: The Comprehensive Community Action Plan. This plan builds the momentum developed at the third Quality of Life Forum in order to respond to the challenges and opportunities in the community. The Quality of Life module, made up of the co-leads, steering committee, and action researcher, analyzed existing community action plan documents and created a list of action plan priorities.

The work with a Steering Committee, drawn from community organizations, began by developing a methodology for analyzing existing community action plans. This methodology was then applied to a sample of action plans that were examined via content analysis. This analysis allowed the generalization of actions outlined in individual community action plans to arrive at some overall conclusions about what the community is focused on accomplishing in its efforts to improve the quality of life of city residents. In addition, a directory was created of community-based organizations focused on enhancing quality of life and catalogue of quality of life action statements, as well as a list of community priorities that require ongoing effort from community policy and program agencies.

The Comprehensive Community Action Plan summarizes the effort the quality of life module has expended on its action focus. The importance of the action plan is its ability to highlight the results and directions that are evolving from the work of community organizations. The Comprehensive Community Action Plan will provide a tool for improving quality of life by crossing sector boundaries and giving a broader scope for action quality of life community. We unveiled this Action Plan at the Fourth Community Forum on June 1st, 2004.

A successful SSHRC grant provides ongoing support for the work of the module, which includes the resources needed to fund a third iteration of data collection. We are now completing the data collection for the second iteration, with the telephone survey and focus group data already collected. Interview data is currently being analyzed. The results of this second data collection will be compared to the first to document change in quality of life in Saskatoon. Results will be highlighted in a presentation to the community at the Fifth Forum, planned for March 2005.

Research initiatives associated with the **Community Economic Development** module contribute to a better understanding of the strong linkages between social well-being and local economic change.

The Community Economic Development module continues to maintain a broad focus, approving research projects both in the city of Saskatoon and beyond, including the province’s north. In the past year, three more academics, two from the College of Commerce (Management and Marketing) and one from the College of Arts and Science (Sociology), have become directly involved in research related to this module. Previously, academics from Management and Marketing and Industrial Relations and Organizational Behaviour were involved.

We have also formed an advisory group comprised of a diverse group of affiliated academics and community partners. The advisory group met in September to plan research priorities for the coming year.

Identified priorities include:

Marginalized communities in inner city neighborhoods:

Community Economic Development has worked with a number of inner city Community Based Organizations over the past four years on a variety of research projects. The primary focus has been poverty reduction, housing, and food security. Partnerships with the Saskatoon Farmers' Market, Quint Development Corporation, and the Child Hunger and Education Program have resulted in innovative research. A recent project examined the link between housing security and improved nutrition.

Aboriginal Community Economic Development:

With the addition of new expertise in this area, the module is able to move forward with a number of research initiatives. Notable is the community sabbatical funded with the Flying Dust First Nation in northern Saskatchewan to support research entitled, "Identifying Strengths of Indigenous Communities." Members of the Community Economic Development module have agreed to become the University Oversight Committee for a larger project in which Flying Dust is involved. The project, funded by SSHRC, is lead by researchers at York University.

Collaboration with Quality of Life module –second iteration of survey:

The academic and community co-leads of the Community Economic Development module are co-investigators on the most recent successful SSHRC application, "Tracking Quality of Life." The module will participate in the second and third iteration of this survey.



**CUISR Quality of Life Action Forum,
June 1, 2004**

CUISR. . . Making a difference

"The importance of collaborative efforts between CBO's and the academic world cannot be underestimated. The CUISR model of collaborative research in partnership with community based agencies can only enhance the knowledge we hold as a community in order to create a healthier, more vibrant society for all. In partnership with CUISR, we at the YWCA have completed a research project as part of our overall strategic plan. The research was "to listen to the voices of women" who use the YWCA shelter so that we could better serve women and their families.

continued on page 7...



CUISR. . . Making a difference

“...The research is a snapshot that has bolstered our resolve to work to eliminate injustice and call for improved social housing, affordable childcare and as well provide a safe and secure environment for women and their families who come to the YWCA.”

—Anne E. Campbell,
Executive Director, YWCA
Saskatoon

A goal of the **Community Health Determinants and Health Policy** (HDHP) module is to provide needed information to assist communities in identifying and addressing key determinants of community health. To date, Health Determinants and Health Policy has sponsored and assisted 32 projects in total, all of which originated from our community partners. While each project under this module has had a specific focus, collectively they have focused on understanding the impact of social determinants of health in our communities and assessing how the community has responded to changing negative effects on health. A few notable themes have emerged from research conducted to date. First, studies have identified the pressing needs of children in our community, and how these needs are sometimes inadequately addressed by unresponsive services and systems. For example, “The Report Card on Child Poverty in Saskatoon” (2002) has increased public awareness and sparked public debate about poverty in our community. A study on parenting in a low-income context has produced important insights from the perspectives of low-income mothers themselves. The report from this project has been very well received and widely cited in different sectors in the community, and has been used as an instructional tool in academic classes in the province and elsewhere. Another study developed a universal disabilities assessment tool to assist children with disabilities and their families with accessing services. This new Common Functional Assessment Tool (2001) is an improvement on current assessment tools, which focus only on the medical diagnosis, not the needs of the child and family, and collect information in an uncoordinated way across the service system. This new tool could change these practices and improve health of children and families.

Second, several studies conducted under the Health Determinants and Health Policy module have focused on understanding the particular needs and consequences of being part of a minority or marginalized group in our community. For example, one study estimated the economic impact of homophobia and the consequences of being discriminated against based on sexual orientation. Several other studies have focused on immigrants, Aboriginal women, and youth.

Third, several Health Determinants and Health Policy studies have evaluated the impact of programs and services to targeted clientele. These have included programs offered to women during pregnancy or the early postpartum period, programs to alleviate food insecurity issues, or mentorship programs directed at youth. Fourth and finally, the Health Determinants and Health Policy module has supported the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Community Information System and the Saskatoon Quality of Life Surveys that are invaluable resources in the community.

Communication and dissemination of knowledge

CUISR works with many others to share new information and knowledge gained through its various initiatives. As well as community forums and workshops, CUISR co-hosted the Mayor's Civic Forum in 2001, "Business and Quality of Life: A Report on Community Capital." The guest speaker, Dr. Trevor Hancock, and panelists from the community presented information on how the four capitals—economic, social, human, and environmental—must work together for a balanced and healthy community. In June 2001, CUISR worked with others to host the second Prairie Urban Congress (PUC 2) to share ideas and solutions to affordable housing in Western cities. Proceedings from this conference are posted on CUISR's website, <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/publications/publications.html>. A steering committee worked throughout 2002 to prepare for the CUExpo International (Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy and Progress) in May 2003. A hard working committee comprised of individuals from across campus, including the Centre of the Studies of Co-operative, College of Commerce, Geography, Community Health and Epidemiology, Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, Saskatchewan Regional Economic Development Authority, and Saskatoon Tourism, with assistance from students and The Saskatoon Credit Union among others, collectively planned the first major Canadian community-university partnerships forum. It was by all accounts an overwhelming success. Funding support for the conference included governments (Saskatchewan Health Foundation \$5,000, and Western Economic Diversification \$3,000) and national funding partners (SSHRC \$10,000 and CIHR \$10,000), as well as the private sector and non-profit organizations. Proceedings of the conference are available via CUISR's website, <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/seminars/cuexpo.html>. Participants included academics, students, community-based organizations, staff and board members, and interested citizens from across Canada, the United States, and beyond. CUISR research results were presented at several workshops during the three-day conference. The success of this first, Canadian international community-university partnerships conference facilitated renewed national and international links with other research initiatives focused on improving community-university relationships. Based on the experiences of the first CUExpo conference, a second one is being planned for the University of Winnipeg in 2005. In May 2004, CUISR was invited to join the *Centre for Urban Health Initiatives* based at University of Toronto. This link gives CUISR the opportunity to network with other community-university partnership organizations from across Canada on a regular basis.

CUISR has contributed to several publications and conferences with articles and papers. *See Appendix I for peer reviewed papers and conference papers*

CUISR . . . Making a difference

"CUISR brings together the needs of the community with the expertise of the University by forging a partnership that is of great benefit to all. The Community-Based Organization (CBO) benefits by having access to the research that may otherwise be difficult to acquire. The community at large has access to better resources and programs in the CBOs. The University has reached far more people than would generally be within its sphere of influence."

—Judith Heminger, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan.

CUISR. . . Making a difference

“With CUISR’s help, we have been able to initiate a study that aims to assess the social and economic importance of the Farmers’ Market to Saskatoon. This study has enabled us to establish lasting links with research professionals at the U of S, with other CBOs, with the City, and with the community at large. In turn, these links have assisted us in raising the profile of our organization (which is of limited financial means) and have opened many doors as we seek to overcome the obstacles we currently face.”

—Ramesh Mahabir, President,
Saskatoon Farmers’ Market.

Capacity building

CUISR awards research grants to community-based organizations that work to better understand how to improve health status and community well-being. Grants to the community include internships, scholarships, and community sabbaticals. Research results are published on the website, in monographs located in our resource centre, and presented to the public at our Brown Bag Lunches (twenty two have been held to date). CUISR has published eight newsletters, developed a comprehensive website, and set up offices on campus and in the community to ensure constant contact with its respective partners.

There are over eighty community-based research initiatives underway or completed. Many students are employed as researchers, which affords them an opportunity to work hands-on with community-based organizations. Students have later found employment in our community as a result of this work experience. Several students have used their research knowledge and experience gained as interns to enter graduate studies, at both the Masters and PhD level. We have supported fifty graduate students to work directly with community-based organizations/local government through internships and student scholarships.

In 2004, preliminary discussions were initiated to link medical and healthcare students more directly with community-based organizations to enhance their understanding of the role of health professionals in social accountability. CUISR was asked to develop the mechanism for this new curriculum initiative. CUISR research also attracted the attention of the Saskatchewan Regional Intersectoral Committee. The seven provincial human services departments involved in this committee are interested in linking with CUISR as a regional research centre. The idea is to reduce duplication of effort for planning within large departments and institutions, and to share data and knowledge more readily for more effective and efficient program and service planning and delivery. Recently, CUISR joined an ad hoc research team to facilitate a study of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The team is comprised of university researchers (Psychology, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Medicine) along with physicians, healthcare providers in nutrition, in the Aboriginal community, and community researchers from CUISR. This initiative received a combination of funding support from the University of Saskatchewan, Office of the Co-ordinator of Health Research (\$5,000), and from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (\$30,000). Again, the links established by CUISR and the cumulative understanding that is building on campus and within the community regarding community capacity and community empowerment is key to the success of this initiative.

CUISR supported twenty community-based organizations practitioners with Community sabbaticals to prepare grants, take research methods courses, or conduct needs assessments or program evaluations. We also funded seven Time Release Stipends (TRS) for faculty to work on CUISR-related projects.

What people are saying about CUISR

“CUISR takes research out of the ivory tower into the community where it is more meaningful and useful to the community,” The Star Phoenix (2002).

From the Community...

“The results of this multi-faceted research project (Closer to Home: Child and Family Poverty in Saskatoon) are now being used by community organizations to inform coordinated action plans for reducing child poverty in our community.” Joan Champ, Coordinator, Saskatoon Communities for Children.

“The CFA (Common Functional Assessment Tool to Improve Access to 24 Hour Services for Children with Disabilities and Their Families) tool has great potential to provide more seamless access to services to children with disabilities and to open doors to services based on function and need rather than one a single diagnostic criterion.” Joan Champ, Saskatoon Communities for Children.

“The funding from CUISR has allowed us to conduct locally-based research aimed at documenting the reality of child poverty. The research is tied to our overall strategic plan to assist in the development of sound public policy that contributes to the reduction of child poverty in Saskatoon. The CUISR process is one that is respectful of the community and addresses our research needs in a consistent, organized, reliable, and fair way. For the first time people who are living in poverty are making important linkages with the university community and are learning that universities can be socially responsible. We have learned this process of engaging community and university together in research is a very complex, demanding and long-term endeavour” Kathie Cram; Co-chair Working Group on Child Poverty, Saskatoon Communities for Children.

“CUISR has held numerous community information and dialogue sessions, which we have found to be invaluable.” Sue Delanoy, Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association.

“The money from CURA, directed through our local community-university partnership (CUISR) is providing opportunities for community members to voice their opinions on their own health, social and economic needs. This has been a wonderful asset for the community-based organizations such as the Community Clinic.” Margaret Shearer, President, Board of Directors, Community Health Services Association.

CUISR. . .

Making a difference

“[Our first CUISR] project assessed the processes and utility of the Working Group to Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children. This evaluation enabled the Working Group to gain further funding to expand their capacity and also served as a spring-board for action planning for the next 3 years. The project allowed the researcher to hire youth to interview other youth, and as a result, youth gained useful experiences and two have since secured other work.”

—Sue Delanoy, Coordinator, Saskatoon Communities for Children.

From Government and Institutions...

“The project I was part of, as a Health District employee and community worker, enabled a highly skilled university researcher to work over a period of time with a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women and their children. They explored together the community conditions necessary for healthy development of pre-school aged children. This moving piece of research will inform the District Health Board in its planning for this critical age group. It will also be useful to many children-serving agencies, as well as provide a model for other researchers. It certainly had an impact on the women who contributed to the work -they feel validated and able to articulate their concerns about the well-being of their families.”

Georgia Bell-Woodard, Community Development Team, Saskatoon Health Region.

“Through this funding, the City of Saskatoon has benefited by a major survey on the quality of life and lifestyles in the City. As well, the funding, in part, allowed for the exchange of ideas between our business community and interested parties on key social issues affecting our City (referring to the Mayor’s Civic Forum, 2001).” Phil Richards, City Manager, City of Saskatoon.

And from the Media...

“Compared to 174 million dollar price tag for the Synchrotron, the \$591,000 federal grant to University of Saskatchewan for research in social sciences and humanities areas may well return more value dollar for dollar to the average citizen.” Verne Clemence, Saskatoon Sunday Sun, April 9, 2000.

“Federal granting agencies such as SSHRC are increasingly putting money into projects that spawn connections between academic institutions and the communities they serve. The U of S is at the forefront of these endeavours, including the establishment of the Community-University Institute for Social Research, an organization that landed a large SSHRC grant a couple of years ago and which was one of the partners in the recent Star Phoenix study into the quality of life in Saskatoon. This is an institute which also has a number of community partners and is charting a new course when it comes to determining what policies are necessary to improve all aspects of life in Canada. That the U of S has been able to land two of the larger projects connecting it with the community speaks to the commitment shown by its academics to that portion of the university’s mission to serve Saskatchewan. In a climate where governments increasingly view investments in innovations as a need to enhance hard sciences for economic gain, it’s notable that there’s still a lot to be done—and a lot to be gained—by investing in social innovations that help to improve all our lives.” The StarPhoenix Editorial, Feb 7, 2001.



CUISR Quality of Life
Action Forum, June 1,
2004

Increasing community university opportunities

Over the past 4 years, the number of research applications for CUISR research grants and awards has increased dramatically. There is a growing recognition that CUISR is an important and critical link between academic research and understanding and the experiential knowledge and comprehension of the community. In the first competition, CUISR awarded 8 grants to community-university researchers. This rose to 13 in 2001, 15 in February 2002, 13 in 2003, and 10 in 2004. In addition to these awards, each module has undertaken specific research projects under the direction of academics which have employed graduate students.

The future

CUISR aspires to:

- continue to offer grants that support community-based research needs via internships, scholarships, teaching releases, and community-based sabbaticals;
- continue to link with new partners to increase the depth of understanding of what makes communities healthy and more inclusive;
- remain well-positioned for strategic alliances when new opportunities present themselves;
- track evidence of changing attitudes and understanding in the community of what constitutes effective, sustainable, and long-term well-being of individuals and communities;
- secure long-term base funding for the Institute and continue its success in national grant competitions to sustain research initiatives that link community and university researchers; and
- increase and expand diverse, community-based and government investment in CUISR.

CUISR. . . Making a difference

“CUI SR has been an invaluable partner in our very first research project. They worked jointly with us every step of the way, problem-solving as needed, ensuring that we had a successful experience and that our research would be of the best possible benefit to the community.”

—Sheri Hillestad Smith, Coordinator,
Volunteer Saskatoon

Appendix I:

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Dunning, H., Janzen, B., **Abonyi, S., Williams, A.M.,** Jeffery, B., and Randall, J.E. (In Review). A gender analysis of quality of life in Saskatoon. *The Canadian Geographer*.
- Forbes, D.A., Stewart, N., Morgan, D., Anderson, M., Parent, K., and Janzen, B.L. (2003). Individual determinants of home-care nursing and housework assistance. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 35(4).
- Muhajarine, N., Labonte, R., Williams, A.M.,** and Randall, J.E. (2003). Person, perception and place: What matters to health and quality of life? *Social Science & Medicine*. (submitted)
- Randall, J.E. and **Williams, A.M.** (2001). Urban quality of life: an overview. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 10(2).
- Randall, J.E., **Williams, A.M., Holden, B.,** and **Waygood, K.** (in press). *A model for collaborative research: Building a Community-University Institute for Social Research*. World Minds.
- Williams, A.M., Labonte, R.,** Randall, J.E., **Muhajarine, N.,** and **Holden, B.** (2004). Establishing and Sustaining Community-University Partnerships: A Case Study of Quality of Life Research. Submitted to *Critical Public Health*.
- Williams, A.M.,** Randall, J.E., **Holden, B., Labonte, R., Muhajarine, N., Abonyi, S.,** Klein, G., and Carr, T. (2001). Quality of life in Saskatoon: Achieving a healthy, sustainable community. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 10(2).
- Williams, A.M.,** Starchenko, O., Randall, J., and **Holden, B.** (2004). An Analysis of Neighborhoods by Socioeconomic Status: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada 1986-1996. Submitted to *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- Clarke, L., **Gertler, M.,** Archibald, K., and **Usiskin, L.** (2003). *Both Sides Now: Insider Perspectives on Community-University Research Collaboration in CED*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8 – 10.
- Cram, K., Rogers, C. and MacDermott, W. (2003). *Building Cross Cultural Relations: community and university*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8 – 10.
- Dunning, H., **Williams, A.M., Abonyi, S.,** Jeffery, B., and Janzen, B. (2002). *A gender analysis of quality of life in Saskatoon*. Canadian Association of Geographers 51st Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, May 28-June 1.
- Elliott, A. and MacDermott, W. (2003). *One project, many perceptions*. (2003). CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Engler-Stringer, R., Berenbaum, S., Archibald, K., Armstrong-Monohan, C., Keenan, T.A., and Phillips, J. (2003). *Collective Kitchens in Saskatoon: A student's experience doing research with community members and organizations*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Findlay, I.** (2003). *Understanding Communities: Communicating Cultures/Inter-disciplinary Diversity*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Findlay, I.,** Clarke, L. and **Weir, W.** (2003). *Values Added: Charting the Course for Aboriginal Community Economic Development*.

- Green, K. (2003). *Engaging Heart and Mind in Community-Based Participatory Action Research*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Holden, B., Williams, A.M.,** Sun, Y., Randall, J.E., and **Muhajarine, N.** (2002). *Mapping quality of life over time in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada*. Association of American Geographers annual meetings, April, Los Angeles, CA.
- Janzen, B.L., **Muhajarine, N.**, and Dreschler, C. (2003). *A content analysis of CUISR Community Health Determinants and Health Policy module reports*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
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- Muhajarine, N. and Waygood, K.** (2003). *Best Practices in Graduate Student Supervision Conference 2003: Intellectual Property and Knowledge Transfer*. Panelists, Saskatoon, SK, September.
- Muhajarine, N. and Waygood, K.** (2004). *Democratizing research: What can the Community-University Institute for Social Research teach us*. Canadian Public Health Association annual conference, St. John's, Newfoundland, June.
- Murphy, C., Chubb, D., **Muhajarine, N.**, and **Neudorf, C.** (2003). *The Comprehensive Community Information System: Building Partnerships and Community Capacity through* Polanyi, M., Kouri, D., Bell Woodard, G., Jeffery, B., **Muhajarine, N.** and Chubb, D. (2003). *Researching Research partnerships: A dialogue on Topics, Methods and Strategies*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Randall, J.E. and **Waygood, K.** (2001). *Community-university partnerships: Lessons learned in progress*. Canadian Regional Science Association conference, Montreal, PQ, June 2.
- Randall, J.E. and **Waygood, K.** (2001). *Fostering community-university partnerships: Establishment of the Community-University Institute for Social Research*. Invited presentation to faculty in planning and environmental sciences at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, April.
- Randall, J.E. and **Waygood, K.** (2001). *Fostering community-university partnerships: Establishment of the Community-University Institute for Social Research*. Invited lectures to (1) faculty in Population and Health and Policy at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB and (2) faculty in Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB.
- Randall, J.E. and **Waygood, K.** (2002). *The role of trust in establishing and maintaining community university research partnerships*. Association of American Geographers annual meetings, April, Los Angeles, CA.
- Randall, J.E. and **Waygood, K.** (2002). *Applying a model of community-university research partnerships: A comparison of the developed and developing worlds*. Geographical Conference of Central Asia and Mongolia, September 6–11, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Reed, M. and **Peters, E.** (2003). *Ecological Metaphors and Reflexive Research Practices*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.

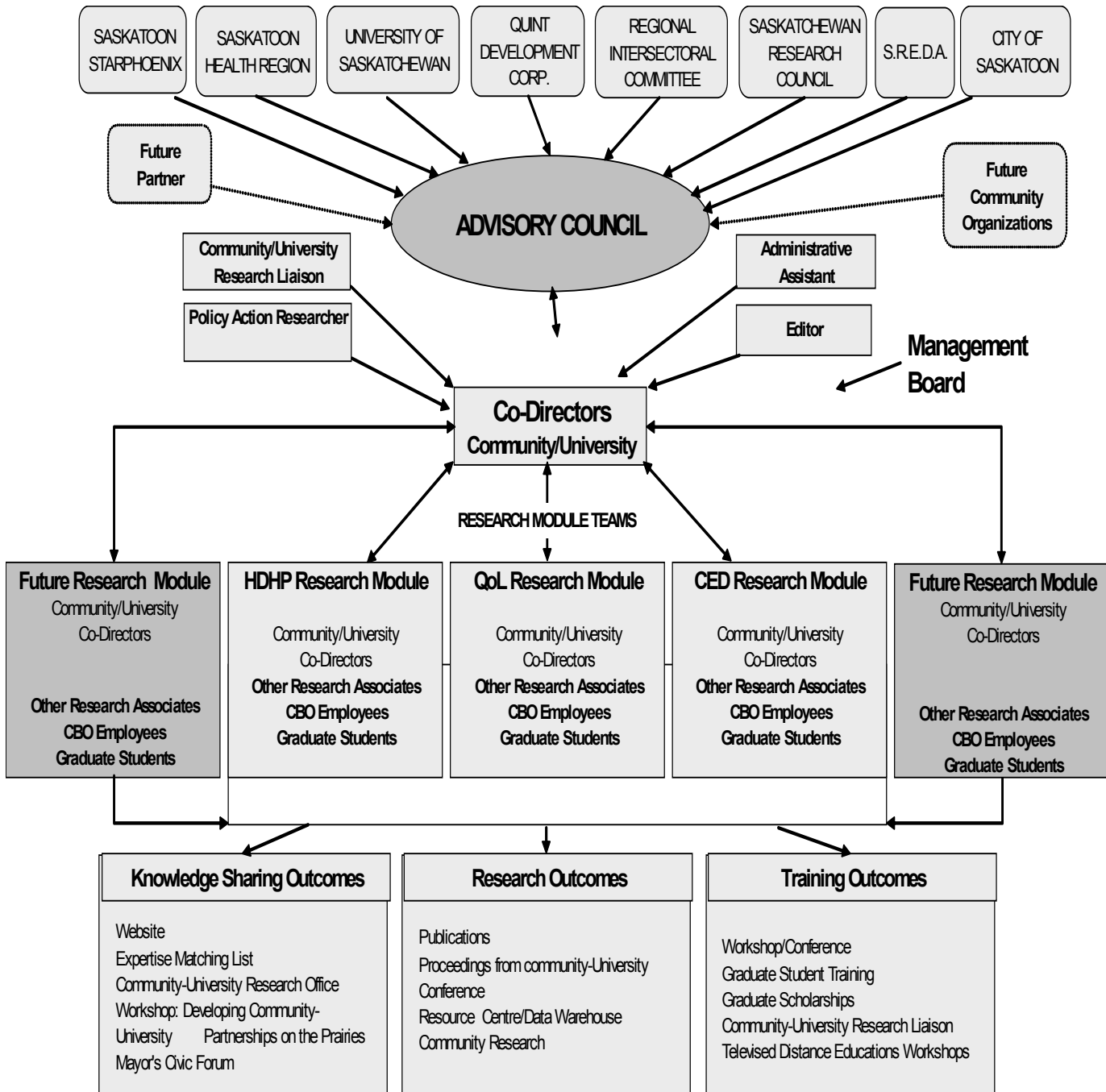
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- Williams, A.M.** (2001). *Quality of Life Summary Results*. Saskatoon District Health Board, City Hospital, Saskatoon, SK.
- Williams, A.M.** and **Holden, B.** (2002). *Quality of Life in Saskatoon: Achieving a Healthy, Sustainable Community*. Quality of Life Research: National Workshop (Health Canada), Halifax, NS.
- Williams, A.M.** and **Holden, B.** (2003). *Quality of Life in Saskatoon: Achieving a Healthy, Sustainable Community*. Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) Workshop on Quality of Life, Ottawa, ON, February.
- Williams, A.M.**, Randall, J.E., Labonte, R., **Muhajarine, N.**, **Abonyi, S.**, and **Holden, B.** (2003). *Quality of Life in Saskatoon: Achieving a Healthy, Sustainable Community*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Williams, A.M.**, Labonte, R., and **Holden, B.** (2003). *Establishing and Sustaining Community-University Partnerships: A Case Study of Quality of Life*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Williams, A.M.**, Labonte, R., **Holden, B.**, **Muhajarine, N.**, **Abonyi, S.**, Randall, J.E., and Klein, G. (2002). *Quality of Life Research in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*. Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and the Canadian Society for International Health Training Program in International Health, Saskatoon, SK, January.
- Williams, A.M.**, Randall, J.E., **Holden, B.**, **Labonte, R.**, **Muhajarine, N.**, **Abonyi, S.**, Klein, G. and Carr, T. (2001). *Stand up and Be Healthy! An Examination of the Relationship between Civic Participation and Health in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*. Caring for Health: Courageous Choices, Saskatoon, SK.
- Williams, A.M.**, **Holden, B.**, Randall, J.E., Labonte, R., **Muhajarine, N.**, and **Abonyi, S.** (2003). *Quality of Life in Saskatoon: Achieving a Healthy, Sustainable Community*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Williams, A.M.**, Randall, J.E., and **Waygood, K.** (2001). *Lessons Learned: A Community-University Institute for Social Research*. Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference, Saskatoon, SK, October 22.
- Willson, K., Martz, D., Sarauer, D., and Green, K. (2003). *Starting with Stories: Participatory Research on the Social Determinants of Women's Health*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Woods, F., **Whiting, S.J.**, Armstrong-Monahan, C., Gordon-Pringle, G., and Archibald, K., **Usiskin, L.** (2003). *Food-Buying Behaviour in a Central Neighbourhood in Saskatoon Indicates Problems with Access to Food*. CUexpo International: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress, Saskatoon, SK, May 8–10.
- Wright, J. and **Muhajarine, N.** (2003). *Housing, neighbourhood characteristics and respiratory illness among children 0–2 years*. Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Halifax, NS, June.

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- Banks, C. (2002). *The economic cost of homophobia*. Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), University of Saskatchewan. (500 copies of the report distributed).
- Community-University Institute for Social Research. (2002). *Partnerships for a healthy, sustainable community: CUISR – present and future*. Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), University of Saskatchewan.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (2003). *Falling Behind: Our Growing Income Gap*. November. (<http://www.fcm.ca/english/communications/nov262003.htm>).
- Green, K.L. et al. (2001). *Telling it like it is: Realities of parenting in poverty*. Saskatoon: Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence.
- Green, K.L. (2001). "We did it together": *Low-income mothers working towards a healthier community – final report*. Winnipeg: Prairies Women's Health Centre of Excellence.
- Green, K.L. (2001). "We did it together": *Low-income mothers in Saskatoon*. Research Bulletin 2, 2, Fall. Ottawa: Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.
- Grosso, P. (2002). *Uprooting poverty and planting seeds for social change: The Roots of Poverty Project*, Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition, May.
- Jackson, M. and MacDermott, W. (2002). *Report card on child poverty in Saskatoon, 2000-2001*. Saskatoon Communities for Children (5,500 copies of this 4 pp. information pamphlet published and distributed)
- Martz, D., Quinton, S., Billo, D., Brueckner, I., and Waldal, R. (2002). *Sustainable community planning in the Crescent Creek Watershed*. Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment, St. Peter's College, Muenster, SK.
- Martz, D., Quinton, S., Billo, D., Brueckner, I., Waldal, R. (2002). *Sustainable community planning in the Good Spirit Lake Watershed*. Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment, St. Peter's College, Muenster, SK.
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- Randall, J.E. (2002). *Proceedings of the Prairie Urban Congress 2001*. Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), University of Saskatchewan.
- Reed, M. (2003). *Situating indicators of social well-being in rural communities of Saskatchewan*. Urban Nexus No. 13: Urban Quality of Life and Community Well-being Indicators, CPRN, December. (<http://www.cprn.org/en/nexus-list.cfm>)
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- Williams, A.M.**, Topolinski, K., Cram, K., MacDermott, W., **Abonyi, S.**, Dunning, H., Carr, T., **Holden, B.**, **Labonte, R.**, **Muhajarine, N.**, and Randall, J.E. (2001). *Building a Caring Community: Quality of Life in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*, Briefing Paper.
- Woods, F., **Whiting, S.**, **Usiskin, L.**, Archibald, K., Gordon, G., and Armstrong Monahan, C. (2002). *Access to food in Saskatoon's core neighbourhood: A community study*. Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), University of Saskatchewan.

Appendix II:

Administrative Structure and Outcomes: Community-University Institute for Social Research



Appendix III:

CUISR MONOGRAPHS

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODULE

- Dyck, Carmen. (2004). *“Off Welfare...Now What?”: A Literature Review on the Impact of Provincial Welfare to Work Training Programs in Saskatchewan*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Fernandes, Neville. (2003). *Saskatchewan’s Regional Economic Development Authorities: A Background Document*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Li, Song. (2004). *Direct Care Personnel Recruitment, Retention and Orientation*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Reed, Maureen. (2003). *Situating Indicators of Social Well-Being in Rural Saskatchewan Communities*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Tupone, Juliano. (2003). *The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op: A Review and Long-Term Strategy*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Woods, Florence. (2003). *Access To Food In Saskatoon’s Core Neighborhood*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.

HEALTH DETERMINANTS HEALTH POLICY MODULE

- Avis, Kyla and Angela Bowen. (2004). *Postpartum Depression Support Program Evaluation*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Banks, Christopher. (2003). *The Cost of Homophobia: Literature Review on the Human Impact of Homophobia On Canada*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Banks, Christopher. (2004). *The Co\$ of Homophobia: Literature Review on the Economic Impact of Homophobia On Canada*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Bowen, Angela. (2004). *Healthy Mother Healthy Baby: Program Logic Model and Evaluability Assessment*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Drechsler, Coralee. (2003). *Influencing Poverty Reduction Policy: Data Analysis*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Dressler, Mary Pat (2004). *Aboriginal Women Share Their Stories in an Outreach Diabetes Education Program*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Gold, Jenny. (2004). *Profile of an Inter-Sectoral Issue: Children Not In School*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Harlinton, Leora. (2004). *Saskatoon Charging and Disposition Patterns Under Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Jackson, Maureen. (2004). *Closer to Home: Child and Family Poverty in Saskatoon*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- MacDermott, Wendy. (2003). *Child Poverty in Canada, Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon: A Literature Review and the Voices of the People*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- MacDermott, Wendy. (2004). *Common Functional Assessment and Disability-Related Agencies and Departments in Saskatoon*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.

- MacDermott, Wendy. (2004). *Evaluation of the Activities of the Working Group to Stop the Sexual Exploitation of Children*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Wohlgemuth, Nicole R. (2004). *School Fees in Saskatoon*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Wright, Judith and Muhajarine, Nazeem. (2003). *Respiratory Illness in Saskatoon Infants: The Impact of Housing and Neighbourhood Characteristics*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.

QUALITY OF LIFE MODULE

- Amankwah, Dinah. (2003). *Integrative Wraparound(IWRAP) Process Training*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Dunning, Heather. (2004). *A Mixed Method Approach to Quality of Life in Saskatoon*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Janzen, Bonnie. (2003). *An Evaluation Of The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Reporting System*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Kelsey, Melissa V. (2004). *Determining Saskatoon's Value Profile*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Lisoway, Amanda. (2004). *211 Saskatchewan Situational Analysis*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Ofosuhene, Maxwell. (2003). *Saskatchewan River Basin-Wide Survey of Residents' Attitudes Towards Water Resources and the Environment*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Olfert, Sandi. (2003). *Quality of Life Leisure Indicators*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Soles, Kama. (2003). *Affordable, Accessible Housing Needs Assessment at the North Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.

CUISR MANDATE

- Berntson, Ron. (2003). *Peer Victimization Experiences in High School*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Bowditch, Joanne. (2003). *Inventory of Hunger Programs In Saskatoon*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Grosso, Paula. (2003). *Uprooting Poverty and Planting Seeds for Social Change: The Roots of Poverty Project*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Grosso, Paula and Jodi Crewe. (2004). *Project Greenhorn: Community Gardening*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.
- Kynoch, Bev. (2003). *The Brightwater Environmental and Science Project: Respecting Traditional Ecological Knowledge—The Soul of a Tribal People*. Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research.

Appendix IV:

CUISR Brown Bag Community Luncheons (selected)

January 22, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XV:

Lessons Learned: Applying for a CUISR Research Grant

CUISR will be holding a series of seminars on “lessons learned” throughout the research experience. This first seminar started with the proposal writing process. CUISR invited a panel of community members, experienced with the CUISR process, who spoke on their experience in writing a CUISR proposal. The seminar covered the following issues:

- 1-Reasons for applying to a CUISR Research Grant
- 2-Challenges faced in writing the proposal (if any)
- 3-Did the research reach their expectations?
 - Expected and unexpected outcomes
 - Challenges

February 13, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XVI:

Project: The Experiences of Aboriginal Women in an Outreach Diabetes Education Program

Guest Speaker: Mary Patricia Dressler

This internship studied the community-level health intervention focusing on broad determinants of health (e.g. physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) in the social, cultural, and economic environment. Diabetes Morning is a health intervention program using cooking together as a venue to relay information about meal planning and caring for diabetes. The program operates out of Westside Community Clinic and has a core membership of approximately 30 Aboriginal women. The research will determine the impact of Diabetes Morning on the health and well-being of the participants and develop outcome indicators based on the experiences of the participants.

March 12, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XVII:

Project: Assessing the Impact of the Good Food Box Program

Guest Speakers: Marilyn Brownlee (Community Research Sabbaticant) and Allison Cammer (Student Intern).

The Good Food Box (GFB) program provides an alternative to the mainstream food system with a focus on local food distribution, food accessibility, and health. Phase one of the current project explores the successes and the challenges of the GFB program concerning affordability and health. This project contains two aspects: a) six months pilot project with members of Quint’s affordable housing to determine how to promote and enhance the Good Food Box to better meet the needs of low income families, and b) exploring perceptions of the Good Food Box with key stakeholders. The GFB program may be the most hopeful mechanism for intervening in a food system that is skewed to promote less healthy foods. Phase two explores the impact of the GFB in meeting CHEP’s goals of “improving access to food” and “promoting healthy eating.”

May 13, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XVIII:

Project: (re)Writing our Futures: Improving Health Through Literacy Activities.

Guest Speakers: Lynne Townsend (Student Intern) and Sherryl Harrow from READ Saskatoon (CBO). The goals of this project were to research, study and report the self-identified health benefits that may be achieved through senior’s literacy activities, and to also develop a methodology for evaluating literacy programming. The research objective was to discover if literacy activity levels are related to mental acuity, self esteem, short-term memory transfer, long term memory recall, physical dexterity, listening and speaking skills and reading and writing. The outcomes of this project and directions for future research were discussed.

June 24, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XIX:

Project: Program Logic Model and Evaluability Assessment

Guest Speakers: Angela Bowen

Healthy Mother Healthy Baby is a program that has been in place since 1983. It has provided services to approximately 480 women per year. This project provides a program evaluation framework to guide the Healthy Mother Healthy Baby (HMHB) in the method and outcomes for evaluation. It includes a review of similar programs across Canada and of the relevant literature. This project explores whether the HMHB program is relevant to the needs of the clients it serves; designed and delivered effectively and contributing to the attainment of program objectives, and whether there are other more effective and efficient methods for achieving the objective outlined in the HMHB program. The final report includes options for the type of evaluation that HMHB determine most appropriately fits their needs.

July 15, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XX:

Project: Integrative Wraparound (IWRAP) Process Training

Guest Speakers: Dinah Amankwah

The Saskatchewan Rural Wraparound Project emerged as an alternative response to working with families with complex needs. The Wraparound Process (WP) is a way of bringing together all of the supports and services, informal community-based and formal agency-based, into a team that will create one support plan. In the spring of 2001, training in the Integrative-Wraparound Process (I-WRAP) became available through a provincial initiative of the Human Integration Service Forum, and the Saskatchewan Rural Wraparound Project is one of the groups selected to provide such training. An evaluation of the training component of the project was undertaken, and the results will be discussed.

September 16, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XXI:

Project: YWCA Shelter Evaluation

Guests Speakers: Julia Bidonde and Ben Daniels

The YWCA is committed to promoting community wide anti-violence programs and services. Part of this commitment is to provide a safe and secure shelter, with a primary purpose of assisting women and children in particular needs at a unique and difficult point in their lives. Currently, the YWCA is engaged in an organizational wide strategic planning process. A program review of the current YWCA shelter is being undertaken to understand and provide the best possible resources and services to women and children, and youth at risk.

Earlier this year, an internship involving two graduate students was organised to assist with the YWCA's program review process. The objectives of the internship were to complete an Assessment of the YWCA Shelter program and identify key aspects of the shelter's performance model, which need to be improved. The outcome of the internship was to produce a document that will outline an Evaluation Action Plan or recommend areas that can be addressed in order to enhance the shelter's performance.

October 21, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XXII:

Project: Mentorship in Saskatoon

Guests Speakers: Derek Tannis

Volunteer Saskatoon, in its role as a centralized place for information and resources for voluntary sector organizations, has initiated a research project is to look at resources, inputs and outputs of mentoring organizations to review and assess community need and capacity with regards to mentoring programming. The purpose of this presentation was to develop recommendations as a group and discuss the needs and common areas of interest within the mentoring community. In that sense, it was not a typical Brown Bag Luncheon, but rather a "work-in-progress," an integral part of the research methodology (which is to bring together these groups into a common goal and nurture a dialogue within the community)

November 18, 2004 - Brown Bag Luncheon XXIII:

Project: Collective Kitchen in Three Canadian Cities: Impact on the Lives of Participants

Guests Speakers: Rachel Engler-Stringler

Collective Kitchens are defined as small groups of people who meet to plan, shop for and cook meals in large quantities. There are as many as two thousand collective kitchen groups across Canada. The purpose of this study was to explore the health promotion and food security experiences of collective kitchen members, during and away from collective kitchen meetings. The study used qualitative methods, including semi-participant observation and in-depth interviews to study twenty collective kitchen groups in Saskatoon, Toronto and Montreal. To the researcher's knowledge, this is the only study that has been conducted on collective kitchens, in multiple cities, in multiple provinces, in Canada. Important themes that emerged are related to social support, nutrition and food skills learning, community building and food security, among others.

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