Centre for Community Based Research

- 30 years of social innovation in Canada
- Over 350 community based research projects
- Balancing academic excellence with community relevance
- Based on an entrepreneurial spirit in collaboration with its many partners to initiate new projects

“The power of knowledge to impact change” - Since 1982
Complex research projects that involve large number of people with different histories, cultures and relative power require organized yet flexible structures.

The heart of the structure is the opportunity for meaningful and equitable participation among partners.

Community based research is a growing orientation to research promoting co-creation of knowledge

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
Community Based Research

Community based research is research that strives to be:

- **Community situated** - begins with a research topic of practical relevance to the community (as opposed to individual scholars) and is carried out in community settings.

- **Participatory** - community members and researchers equitably share control of the research agenda through active and reciprocal involvement in the research design, implementation and dissemination.

- **Action-oriented** - the process and results are useful to community members in making positive social change and to promote social equity.

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
Functions of Community Based Research

Knowledge production

Knowledge mobilization

Community mobilization

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
Mobilizing Knowledge and Communities

Communicate research findings in ways that speak to people and can be used to transform society.

Use research to inspire and build relationships among people who, in turn, use the knowledge they jointly produce to guide their collective social action.

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
Creative Tensions in CBR

- Differing assumptions about what constitutes good research.
- Differing expectations between participation (process-oriented) and action (outcome-oriented).
- Differing cultural norms between community, government officials, and academic contexts.

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
If such partnerships are successfully carried out, the synergy they create holds promise in stimulating social innovation and enhancing social justice.
If the partnership is successfully carries out the synergy partners create holds promise from
“PAR is a research approach that involves active participation of stakeholders, those whose lives are affected by the issue being studied, in all phases of research for the purpose of producing useful results to make positive changes” (Nelson, Ochocka, Griffin & Lord, 1998, p.12)

- “Research with,” not “research on” people
- Training and mentoring
- Opportunity of meaningful involvement
- Valuing experiential knowledge
- Data for advocacy
- Value-driven approach

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
PAR Values

- Empowerment
- Supportive relationships
- Action and social change
- Learning as ongoing process
- Respect for diversity

(Ochocka & Janzen, 2007)
Stressing the importance of both...

- **Excellence** means the strict adherence to a series of research rules that maintain standards of quality.

And

- **Relevance** to decision-making is the ability of research to take on problems that require a solution.

(Frenk, 1992)

“The power of knowledge to impact change” – Since 1982
Enhancing Community Based Research in Canada: A partnership to better engage communities in co-creating knowledge
Project Activities

Developing Understanding

- Building Theory
  - Generic & domain-specific Principles and Standards of CBR Practice

Developing Capacity-Building

- CBR training and CBR journal plan

Implementing and Evaluating Practice

- Implementing CBR Projects within Domain Areas
  - Poverty
  - Immigrants
  - Indigenous
  - Youth
  - Others

- Evaluating Principles and Standards of CBR Practice
  - Revised Principles & Standards within and across domain areas

- Implementing Training and Journal
  - Capacity-building for generic/domain & academic/community audiences

- Evaluating Capacity-Building
  - Modified CBR training and enhanced CBR journal

Knowledge Exchange

- Listserv/Social Media Forums
- Online tools
- Manuals/handbooks
- Artistic performances
- Others

- Website
- ResearchImpact
- Academic & popular articles
- Conference presentations
- Edited book

Mobilization Events

- CUEXpo 2013
- National Forum 2014
- CUEXpo 2015
- National Forum 2016
- CUEXpo 2017
- National Forum 2018

Events throughout grant period: Ongoing Regional Institutes...Philanthropic Network Events...Federal/Provincial/Policy Synergy Sessions

Partnership Group Meetings (Video/Teleconferences) including clarifying partner communications/governance