



The Community-University Exposition 2008

Held at the
University of Victoria

May 4 – 7, 2008

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

University-Community Partnerships:
Connecting for Change.

CUexpo08 Legacy Document

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Acknowledgments

Thank you to Heather Tufts and Bill Cowen for writing and editing.

Darin Steinkey: Editor; Jordan Clarke: Layout & Design
Aldridge Street Editing & Publishing Services
www.aldriggestreet.com



CUexpo08 Logo—Ken Josephson

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Overview of CUexpo08

Community-University Partnerships: Connecting for Change May 4 – 7, 2008

*An exposition to celebrate existing and explore new community-university research partnerships.
Cuexpo was held on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations.*

CUExpo Secretariat: The Office of Community Based Research (OCBR) in Victoria creates and supports research partnerships that enhance the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities. It is a focal point for university faculty and students who are doing or wish to do community-based research and an open door for community groups to access UVic research partners. It also makes evidence-based recommendations for new policies, programs and practices to meet community needs.



CUexpo08 Secretariat: L to R: Sarah Dickie (OCBR-UVic), Norbert Steinhous (Bonn Science Shop), Budd Hall (OCBR-UVic), Rupert Downing (OCBR-UVic), Rajesh Tandon (PRIA), Caspar deBok (Utrecht University), Martin Segger (UVic), Maeve Lydon (OCBR-UVic).

With many of the social, environmental, health and economic issues facing us today we need research that engages those who are working on the front lines. Issues in Victoria, such as homelessness or climate change, are best understood and acted upon when those working to find solutions are driving the research.

On behalf of the organizing committees, the sponsors and all of our collaborating organizations, we would like to thank all of those who came to Victoria to make CUexpo 2008 such a wonderful event.

We had about 500 registered participants from 13 countries attend! Together with another 100 volunteers and helpers CUexpo08 resulted in 600+ folks working together to make a difference in your communities, in your sectors or in your parts of the globe.

Thanks for making CUexpo 2008 such a big success! Please post your powerpoints, photos, video clips and blogs to the sites we have suggested Contact us if you would like to, or drop by!!!

Budd Hall,
Director of the OCBR and chair
of the working committee for CUexpo08



CUexpo08 Opening Comments

The opening ceremonies for CUexpo08 were held at the University Centre on Sunday May 4th and hosted by Dr. Howard Brunt (Vice-President for Research, University of Victoria). Following local protocol, a traditional opening prayer was offered by Tsartlip elder Marie Cooper who welcomed everyone to Coast Salish territory. The evening also included the vibrant cultural drumming and singing rhythms of Unity Drummers and Singers led by master drummer and carver Butch Dick from the Songhees First Nation. Their expression of participation and inclusion was an exciting prelude to a promising gathering of diversity, expression and exploration.

The Honourable Stephen Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, added his welcome and wisdom to the occasion by contributing some important words about research in aboriginal communities:



The Honourable Steven L. Point was sworn-in as British Columbia's 28th Lieutenant Governor on October 1, 2007. In 2005, he was appointed Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. His Honour served as an elected Chief of the Skowkale First Nation for 15 years. He also served as the tribal chair of the Stó:lo Nation Government, and he was honoured as Grand Chief by the Chiefs of the Stó:lo Tribal Council. His Honour was appointed a provincial court judge in February 1999. Stephen Point was a recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2000. He received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of British Columbia in 1985 and was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 1986.

"I think that traditionally research has tended to be driven by governments who were seeking answers to particular issues. Sometimes education institutions would define some issues of concern and seek out people to conduct specific research projects. Often this would involve going to groups inside particular communities with this research agenda and seeking co-operation, input, and participation. The research topic, methodology and objectives would have already been established beforehand. Once the research was complete, the academics would leave and so would the research findings and analysis – nothing would be left with the community and no follow up reporting would be done. This left communities out of the loop, feeling robbed of their knowledge, and used by the institutions who conducted the project.

The obvious benefit of this community-based approach is that communities become part of the project much sooner because they are designing the project objectives with the experts. The co-operation that sometimes has become problematic is now much more easily obtained because the community feels a part of the project, not apart from it.

The researchers get the much needed community support and the community gets the research results. The project becomes much more useful and relevant to communities, not just the institutions that instigate research.

I think the challenge, aside from maintaining objectivity perhaps, is raising expectations that things can change by doing research. Most major community problems, such as housing for the homeless, pollution in the drinking water and the need for friendlier infrastructure will cost money to implement. Government involvement and buy-in are essential to the end game or implementation stage of these projects. The other challenge I see is the question of consultation. Who represents the community? Is it the city council? The community council? The Elders' council? Should the youth be consulted? When is consultation broad enough so that the end product is truly relevant and reflective of the community? It is essential for any project to know the community well enough to avoid problems of credibility and implementation at the later stages of the research project.

I am no expert, but I can see that this approach will bring about an end product that is by far more relevant, more useful, has more buy-in, and is more likely to be implemented if the community is involved from beginning to the end."

The Honourable Stephen Point,
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Goals of CUexpo08

- To celebrate and create opportunities for new community-university partnerships.
- To support research that is collaborative, community-based and leads to positive change.
- To create a space for policy-makers and university and community representatives to take action on research, resource sharing and research ethics.
- To provide opportunities for networking across Canada and around the world.

Themes of CUexpo 2008

The nine thematic areas chosen for CUexpo 2008 provided an opportunity for community-based and university-based researchers to respond to these critical issues and discuss a collective and mutual responsibility to build a better world. The themes included:

- Community-university engagement, partnerships and ethics
- Climate change and sustainable community green economic development
- Life-long learning, popular education and community/green mapping
- Environmental and social justice
- Youth engagement, food security
- Community and green economic development
- Aboriginal perspectives and cultural diversity
- Women, poverty and social inclusion
- Homelessness, housing, health promotion and well-being

Keynote Address

Dancing to the Music of Now, Community-University Partnering

by Tim Brodhead,
President and CEO of the McConnell Family Foundation.

Below are some excerpts from Mr. Broadhead's speech. You can get the complete speech here:
<http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca>

"Universities have the task of uncovering new knowledge through research. Some research is driven by our need to understand things, how we got where we are—the origin of the universe, the nature of matter, and some is driven by the need to change things—to solve problems, to right injustices, to create a sustainable future. Janice Stein, who directs the Munk Centre at the

University of Toronto, distinguishes between different kinds of knowledge—the what and why questions to which academics seek answers, and the how questions which are more contextual and experiential. Universities can easily be caricatured as ivory towers, but even caricatures contain some truth, or we wouldn't recognize them.

The reality is that universities are complex and varied. The cliché about their detachment from society is only partly true. Land-grant colleges in the US never conformed to this stereotype (the University of Wisconsin is said to have referred to the walls

of the university being “the borders of the state”). In Canada too, there are many examples of engaged faculty, of community-university interaction, of universities actively fulfilling a mission of civic responsibility. UVic’s LE, NONET project to encourage aboriginal students to pursue higher education, and Nigel Livingston’s Can Assist program that works with people with disabilities are just two of many examples on this campus, while in the community there is complementary work being done by groups like CCEDNet, the Storytellers’ Foundation and others.

“At the start of this talk I emphasized why I think all of us need to be engaged in this ‘co-creation’ of knowledge to address pressing global challenges. The Earth has always been fragile—vulnerable to being hit by an errant meteor, or to being destroyed by nuclear war, for example. But an increasingly insistent message now, one we have all heard, comes from scientists and researchers: it says we may have passed thresholds of irreversible change. Of course, our ingenuity is far from exhausted and we can hope for salvation from nanotechnology, biogenetics, quantum computing, geo-engineering and breakthroughs in material science. We, in North America at least, have an abiding faith in the ‘technological fix’ to open new vistas and to get us out of jams.

“When we think of the existential challenges that we have, we take comfort in our view of ourselves as rational beings, uniquely able to consider the future consequences of our actions or inaction. But examples abound of civilizations which drove themselves to extinction by irrational behaviour. In his book ‘Collapse’, Jared Diamond gives several examples of self-destructive behaviour and bad choices, often leading to environmental collapse; on Easter Island, for example, the felling of trees intensified even after it had created severe soil erosion and drought, as the islanders endeavoured to propitiate the gods by erecting yet more gigantic statues.

What might be a contemporary version of such self-destructive behaviour? How about the fact that according to Lester Brown the cost of additional funding to restore the Earth (planting trees to reduce flooding and sequester carbon, restoring fisheries, protecting biodiversity, stabilizing water tables, and so on) is some US\$113 billion. A large sum, to be sure, but it pales in comparison beside the scale of the world’s military budgets, which totaled US\$1.2 trillion in 2006 (half of that for the US alone).

“I am not at the point where I believe our problems are insoluble or the future irretrievably in question. Humans are uniquely able to think about the future, and to plan and to act to create the world they want for themselves and their children. But that world is very different, to my mind, from the one we presently have—more peaceful, more just, more sustainable. To get to that world from here requires that we move out of our comfort zones, that we collaborate with those who differ from us, that we build bridges across languages, specializations and ideologies.”

Tim Brodhead.

Challenges to constructive collaboration:

- Getting key stakeholders to the table,
- including “strangers”
- Defining the research issue or problem in an inclusive way
- Overcoming professional blind spots; not allowing “specialists” to dominate
- Knowledge hierarchy favours quantitative and deductive disciplines over qualitative and inductive disciplines
- In academe, theory trumps practice; in the community, practice trumps theory
- Time, costs, and culture may be incompatible
- Trusting relationships are key

What you find when there is real collaboration

1. Collaboration not competition
2. Listening not talking
3. Sharing not hoarding
4. Facilitating not directing
5. Allowing not judging
6. Making mistakes not being perfect
7. Being uncertain rather than being the expert
8. Doing, not just thinking

Additional Funding Needed to Restore the Earth:

Activity Funding (Billions \$USD)

Planting trees to reduce flooding and conserve oil	6
Planting trees to sequester carbon	20
Protecting topsoil on cropland	24
Restoring rangelands	9
Restoring fisheries	13
Protecting biodiversity	31
Stabilizing water tables	10
Total	113

World Military Budgets 2006

Country Budget (Billions \$USD):

US	560
UK	59
China	50
Russia	35
All other	397
World Military Expenditure	1,235

Lester Brown, Plan B. 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, Earth Policy Institute, 2008

CUexpo08

Excerpts from Proceedings

The theme (University-Community Partnerships: Connecting for Change) suggests that important, complex and often inter-connected questions are being asked.

The following were overarching questions which CUexpo and the summary documents explored:

1. What kind of world do we want and how do we get there?
2. What contemporary roles should universities play in general in the local communities in which they are situated, the nation state or internationally?
3. What needs and concerns do communities have and how can research make a difference? What types of research are most effective?
4. What challenges or obstacles do university-community partnerships in research face as they attempt collaboratively to explore solutions to local or global problems and bring about paradigm shifts?
5. Should universities remain as “pure” preservers of culturally revered forms of knowledge or should they become more active agents of social change and development?
6. What is the role of knowledge in our society and whose knowledge counts?
7. How are the skills and experiences of communities valued and respected in the research process?
8. What do “true” university-community research partnerships look like?
9. What are key ethical dilemmas or considerations in university-community research?
10. What is the value added – socio-political advantage – of collective critical and constructive research and analysis?

Globalization and neo-conservatism have made considerable changes to the world as a whole over the past three decades and universities need to be at the forefront of any response. While some sectors of humanity currently experience unprecedented health, wealth and well-being, major challenges have arisen for many others.

Indigenous peoples have expressed a number of concerns about research into their lives, particularly regarding control of, and participation in, the research process. The

kind of research that has warranted scrutiny has included historical, archeological, and anthropological research (Rose, 1986).

Conventional research methods have perpetuated unequal power relationships between researcher and those researched, and have contributed to the “commodification” of indigenous knowledge that perpetuate past harms and reproduce research relations that do not have ultimate benefits for Aboriginal communities themselves (Battiste & Youngblood, 2000).

We propose that there exists a politics and ethics of academic-community partnership approaches that draw attention to the importance of power sharing in the research process and the respect for the cultural heritage and ways of knowing of Aboriginal people in Canada.

For reasons of social justice, and in an effort to critically examine and construct ethical practices in community-based research in an historical and contemporary context, there is a need to take account of past harms experienced in research and the more general concerns in the literature about research into the lives of Indigenous peoples.

For the full and detailed description of the CUexpo08 Proceedings you may go to the CUexpo web sight at:

<http://www.cuexpo08.ca/> and download the entire report.

Bringing the resources, dreams, assets and issues of our communities and our post-secondary institutions together is a movement that is building across Canada. The University of Victoria has joined hands with the United Way of Greater Victoria and many other groups in the area to plan a series of events and activities that are designed to strengthen campus-community partnerships for action towards the kinds of communities we want and need. Community-engaged scholarship, knowledge exchange for making a difference in areas of sustainability, poverty, housing and homelessness, healthy living, climate change, community economic development, social economy, food security, arts-based activism, and Aboriginal leadership in research are but a few of the areas to be touched.

**Steering Committee Co-chairs of Cuexpo08—
Peter Keller, University of Victoria, Ted Riecken,
University of Victoria, Brian LeFurgey, United
Way of Greater Victoria**

CUexpo08 Plenary Sessions

Marlene Brant Castellano

Inclusion, Partnership, Transformation-Response to Diversity in Community- University Relations



Marlene Brant Castellano

Through the power of her example and effort, Dr. Marlene Brant Castellano has increased the presence of Aboriginal curriculum, knowledge, and students on campuses in the United States and Canada. Her Mohawk heritage made her the first Aboriginal professor in a Canadian university when she joined the Faculty of Native Studies at Trent University in 1971 and she received her Ph.D. in Educational Theory from the University of Toronto in 1981. She served as Chairman of the Department of Native Studies at Trent University from 1978 to 1980 and in 1992 began work as Co-Director of Research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Her expertise in First Nations family and mental health, social services, Aboriginal women's perspectives, and indigenous knowledge is sought by universities, professional bodies, and community organizations in Canada and around the world. She received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in Education for her dedication to the development of Aboriginal curriculum and filling Canadian campuses with an Aboriginal presence.

"It is a real joy for me to be here at a gathering of community-based researchers, educators and development workers from around the world, sharing stories with people I first worked with thirty years ago through the International Council for Adult Education. I was reminded not too long ago of the distance we have come in those thirty years.

"The change that has occurred in Aboriginal-University relations has been nothing short of a revolution that is not confined to Indigenous Studies. In Canada, Aboriginal peoples and particularly Aboriginal students have been in the forefront of advocating for change in the methods of creating knowledge through research and modes of transmitting knowledge through education.

"I speak this morning from my experience in the development of Indigenous Studies in Canada. I don't suppose that my experience will necessarily match with yours, but the points of congruence may have value to enlarge our community understanding. There was a stage before Inclusions, a time when Aboriginal students were unknown on university and college campuses, and our peoples were objects of study, the quintessential Others whose exotic customs were explored through the lens of anthropologists. Some have described this as subjecting Indigenous societies to a western gaze, which underlines the order and sophistication of western culture and distorts the representation of Indigenous reality.

"Some years ago I was at the University of British Columbia as part of a team evaluating First Nations education at that university. Outside of First Nation specific courses students told us that: 'When we try to raise cultural issues in the classroom we are told to save it for home.' The message they receive here is 'You are here to learn useful things and your culture has nothing to contribute.' Culture and empirical knowledge are seen to be disconnected. So even if students have learned at home about their history and traditions, they have no way of responding when they are told that what they know from that informal source does not matter.

"Efforts to promote inclusion of Aboriginal people in institutions of higher learning have had some effect since the 1970s. The 1960s and 1970s were times of social ferment around the globe that saw the dismantling of colonial empires, the civil rights movement in the United States, and the articulation of human rights in the international sphere. Particularly in nation states with a British colonial connection, Indigenous peoples sought redress for neglect and violation of historic treaties. In parallel with political movements there were inter-connected intellectual developments.

"Studies of Indigenous cultures and communities, Indigenous ways of knowing embedded in Indigenous languages, and applications of such knowledge in the practice of law, education, medicine and social work, among others, now have a place in almost every university in Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada publishes statistics that cite student support going to some twenty-thousand First Nations students annually engaged in post-secondary courses of study. When Aboriginal students enroll in sufficient numbers they have a collective impact on the culture of the university.

"The goal of self-determination for Indigenous peoples, although endorsed in 2006 by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, remains visionary. The essential work of articulating and conserving Indigenous knowledge and applying it to contemporary challenges requires autonomy of effort which is still constrained by the requirements of institutional funding protocols. The further evolution of Indigenous research will undoubtedly continue, motivated by pressing needs within communities, shaped by social and political developments nationally and internationally enabled by the agency of a growing body of researchers committed to transforming the relationship between communities and universities."

Marlene Brant Castellano

Dr Rajesh Tandon

Community-University Partnerships: The Challenge of Human & Social Development.



Dr. Rajesh Tandon

“The world is witnessing a complex duality of ever-increasing wealth and misery, freedom and restrictions, opportunities and constraints. Rapid growth and improvements in standards of living are simultaneously creating disparities, divides and environmental unsustainabilities. Human knowledge and its social organization are being chal-

lenged to respond in a manner that is ethical, equitable, just and sustainable. This creates new possibilities of developing meaningful partnerships between the world of academia and the world of community practice. Many experiments around the world are beginning to demonstrate the desirability and feasibility of such partnerships yet practical challenges remain.”

Dr. Rajesh Tandon

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, an honorary doctorate at the University of Victoria, is one of the pioneers of Participatory Research and he has given new meaning to academic research by redefining the relationship between researcher and researched subjects. As the founder of PRIA (Society for Participatory Research in Asia) and by emphasizing “Knowledge is Power” he has built an extensive network of relationships, associations and institutions enabling capacity building and strengthening initiatives. Under his leadership PRIA and thousands of Civil Society Organizations across India have redefined relationships between haves and have-nots. Dr Tandon spearheaded campaigns for Participation Policies of Governments and Multilaterals. He was one of the first to call for convergence of participation of the marginalized with respect to power. At PRIA, his initiatives have enabled the marginalized to assert their role in governance and demand their rights. He has brought forth the importance of each citizen’s role in governance. His contribution over the years has transcended from issue to issue including a safe workplace, the right to know, control over natural resources, gender mainstreaming, citizen leadership, accountability, local self governance, global solidarity and responsive Civil Society in India, South Asia and beyond, building alliances and partnerships.

Main points from Dr. Tandon’s plenary speech

Dilemmas for Humanity

- Prosperity and Poverty
- Plenty and Scarcity
- Growth and Degradation
- Power and Insecurity
- Democracy and Exclusion

Strategy for Change

- Visions of shared Futures
- Global Citizenships
- Thick Connectivity
- Human Rights for All
- Accountable Institutions

Roles for Community-University partnerships?

- Confronting Knowledge Politics
- Questioning TINAs—Sacred Cows
- Demonstrating Practical Alternatives
- Empowering Citizens’Voices
- Educating Humble Leaders

Hurdles in Partnering

- Asymmetrical Power Relations
- Competing Purposes—Findings or Action?
- Contesting Epistemologies—Instrumental Rationality?
- Conflicting Pedagogies

Reconfiguring Mutuality

- Knowledge, not Research—Co-Production?
- Education, not Teaching
- Service, not Extension—Co-Creation
- Accountability of States & Markets
- Location in Civil Society

“The late seventies witnessed serious critiques of ideology and approach, both nationally and internationally. Grass-roots’ realities across much of the developing world including India revealed that governments were unable to deliver relevant or sustainable development programs. Local level initiatives were successful in raising awareness and mobilizing community to participate in different aspects of their own development.”

(Society for Participatory Research in Asia;
PRIA: <http://www.pria.org/>)

Summary of CUexpo08 Sessions

CUexpo08 featured workshops, roundtables, posters, videos, films and plays. The following are excerpts from some of the sessions

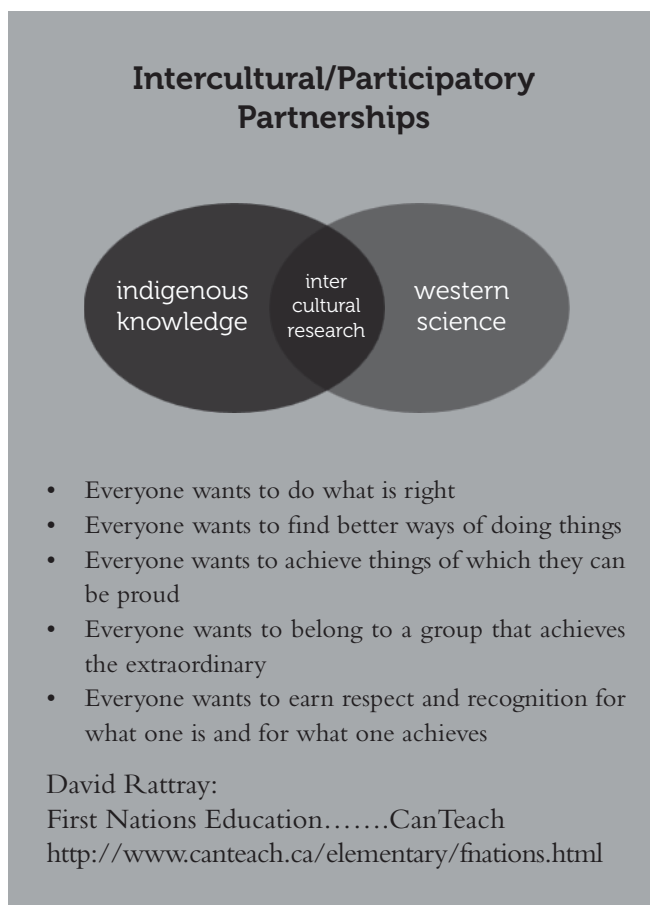
a) Aboriginal Perspectives and Issues of Cultural Diversity

Learning to form partnerships with First Nations has included pathways to many successful aboriginal initiatives which were presented at CUexpo08. First Nations communities have often cited reasons for lack of engagement due to omissions of protocol around research and misunderstandings about the usage and purposes of knowledge sharing and data collection. However, successful partnerships are formed when mutually agreeable terms are communicated. Living stories mobilize rich knowledge when the wisdom of the community itself is a shared partnership model.

The ethics of appropriate research was addressed on a number of occasions, including in Dr Jessica Ball's presentation on research with indigenous communities. She stressed the importance of memoranda of agreements between community and university partners ensuring mutual benefits from research. Indigenous research ethics are highly recommended with inclusion and egalitarian practices developed to build strong relationships.

One such project is the reciprocal partnership model in nursing education piloted by Tsawout First Nation in collaboration with the University of Victoria. Learners and students have participated in workshops, an information community fair, as well as experiential and traditional training including a cultural immersion at the Tsawout long house. This model of nursing training is acknowledged by Tsawout First Nation as an avenue for training nurses to acquire a better understanding of indigenous communities but also as a venue for First Nations people to become interested in health professional careers. Thus elements that are mutually beneficial are included and this was discussed at CUexpo08 as a working example of a successful partnership model.

Nancy Bourey of Camosun College in Nanaimo BC wanted to address the need for employment training for First Nations students who were unable to access college training programs for a variety of reasons. There was a realization that campuses can be intimidating places and so the option of offering training programs at locations where students could feel at home was considered. Col-



laborative discussions resulted in entry-level courses in Food, Customer Service and Gardening being offered at the Saanich Adult Education Centre and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. In Alert Bay, school and work transitions are approached from another perspective where demographic, social and economic changes have had a significant impact on the community. Collaborative research findings with the Nam'gis band and community members in Alert Bay have resulted in several initiatives with youth, adults and elders to support the goal of providing a healthy life and an educational and work foundation for children and youth.

Ron Elliott described another innovation called the Arctic Bay Community-based On-line Atlas Project. This partnership with the Nunavut Arctic College and Carlton University is documenting culturally significant locations that have been researched by local youth. They are dis-

seminating digitally captured information on the Internet which relays historically conceptualized community identity in relation to space, time, land and spiritual force. In Quebec, research partnerships with First Nations have evolved into training for museology and the creation of an exhibition which reflects the community's definition of culture. Enhanced cultural pride through reflection groups, discussions, demonstrations and specific skill trainings to reinforce individual creative capacity was a tangible outcome in the community. A stronger relationship and increased mutual understanding developed as a result of community participatory methodology.

Michael Optis of the Institute of Integrated Energy Systems presented a research model engaged to create a housing design partnership with the Haisla First Nations. The purpose of the investigation was to study on-reserve housing with the goal of developing culturally appropriate, environmentally responsive and energy efficient housing that might be implemented in future plans on the reserve. The researchers examined the predominance of unhealthy mould in many houses but concluded that a successful process was reached whereby improved understanding of practical ways to mitigate and prevent mould risks in community housing could be taught.

Heather Schmidt also addressed community capacity building through inclusive research and surveys where

When I first got here (Victoria) I met a lot of people who were living and sleeping outside. I met one man in particular who told me that it was illegal for him to fall asleep. This was an eye-opener for me as I was accustomed to always having a safe place to fall asleep and had never thought about sleep as a basic human right:

Andrew Ainsley (Documentary Filmmaker.)

band members in six selected First Nations communities evaluated areas of community success and community health. Holistic community well-being was discussed with ways that First Nations can embrace social capital, governance, culture, health and environment as ongoing systems of research, collaboration and solution building practices. Community development worker Ellen Tornø, from the Skeetchestn Indian Band, directed a round table which culminated in the ideas and concepts of these initiatives. She explored how local grassroots can develop community cohesiveness and social development within the collective by exploring their immediate environment for solutions to developing healthier communities.

Participatory self-determination and empowerment can result from local capacity building and inclusion.

There were many other outstanding presentations of First Nations initiatives and partnerships at CUexpo08 including topics such as language revival, aboriginal ways of knowing in education, traditional ethno botany, indigenous health and environmental stewardship. These interactive sessions successfully illustrated that removing barriers from the academic research knowledge model and introducing respectful community-based collaboration is a mutually beneficial experience that can promote positive community change and enhance relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. CUexpo08 provided a forum for sharing these ideas, discussing the needs and challenges and recounting the successes.

b) Homelessness, Housing, Poverty and Food Security

Globalization and neo-conservative policies have created an urgent need to address issues of inequality and social injustice. International and local community-university partnerships are emerging through global and regional networks to address some of these critical questions and are engaging in action focused and solution orientated research initiatives. Civic engagement requires universities to become more proactive in community economic and social development programs and capacity building; a recurring theme at CUexpo08.



CUexpo Participant

CUexpo08 was privileged to host many innovative sessions such as the initiative in Uganda of the Poverty Reduction through Computer Literacy Project presented by Janat Kagoya. She described a study which involved four rural communities in central Uganda where the objective was to ascertain links between computer literacy and the spread of poverty. Their primary goal was to find intentional pathways to reduce poverty in those areas. The survey methodology they used involved questionnaires, interviews and observation, as well as discussions and workshops. The findings revealed great levels of illiteracy which linked to poverty, especially in women even though they are the primary agricultural labour force.

The study team recommended introducing a Computer Bureau which could be used as a mechanism to market their agricultural products, improve literacy and generate additional income to reduce poverty. The ultimate success of such a program in Uganda depends on hardware availability and donor support.

Locally, homelessness and poverty are also challenging and critical issues and research in this area often raises ethical concerns. Homeless counts, which aim to capture information from a marginalized and vulnerable population, have been used to generate policy alternatives and encourage program development. The ethics of these research strategies was the essence of a presentation by Bernie Pauly from the University of Victoria. She stressed the importance of constructive analysis focusing on links to social or cultural conditions that are the underlying causes. She also emphasized that this needs to be the contextual framework for creating insights into ethical research practices and action based solution building. Following this model, the Housing Standards Advocacy Project in Thunder Bay, Ontario has developed a strategy to identify and stipulate housing by-law practices, single-out sub-standard housing and implement appropriate regulations that tenants and landlords can agree on. The research, as described by Dr. Douglas West from Lakehead University, established that improved housing standards can provide a catalyst for positive neighbourhood development, with the elimination of barriers to tenant/citizen advocacy for improved housing, increased civic engagement, and local control of housing standards. Under these conditions a community can thrive as a participatory and self-determined democracy within a sustainable vision of community economic and social development.

Many researchers and community partnerships explore the root causes of homelessness and substandard housing. A local group that is actively engaged in this issue is the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPRG). The research coordinator, Bruce Wallace, spoke about a dramatic policy shift from the British Columbia provincial government in 2002. The number of people who are now eligible to collect welfare has dropped as a result of changes to the eligibility rules and the application process. A major finding of their report, which resulted from personal interviews and Freedom of Information documents, concluded that the application system is fraught with delays and denials to people who genuinely need help. Mr. Wallace contends that their report would be an effective tool for advocacy groups and policy makers if the ideas were integrated into the conventional wisdom surrounding poverty and homelessness. Another study shows that homelessness amongst women is particularly prevalent so the University of Calgary partnered with the Downtown Community Initiative

to determine the meaning of “home” in order to gather data that could inform recommendations for women-only transitional housing. They collected data through participatory story telling, interviews, creative writing and digital media. “Home” was often characterized as a place of comfort, autonomy and refuge, with family as a paramount concern as well as the need for personal belongings and cultural representation. These priorities could have an impact on future planning.

The disturbing reality of mental health patients who are discharged from psychiatric facilities to “no fixed address” was the topic of a study done at the University of Western Ontario/Lawson Health Institute and led by Dr. Cheryl Forchuk. The study revealed that there were more than 194 discharges to shelters or the street made annually in their community without provision of support services and thus potentially escalating an already fragile health condition. Dr. Forchuk and her team developed an intervention where random participants were offered shelter and social support, including initial financial assistance. The project showed that all the participants who received the intervention attained and maintained housing, whereas the non-participants remained homeless for the six-month study period. The results were so dramatic that randomized control groups have been replaced by a process that will routinely implement the intervention. Dr. Forchuk’s presentation was a powerful example of examining one of the root causes of homelessness and making the provisions for an immediate solution.

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a process where the community and research team work together to “develop goals and methods, participate in the gathering and analysis of data, and implement the results in a way that will raise critical consciousness and promote change in the lives of those involved.” Research is grounded in local priorities with invaluable opportunities for service learning. Linking these theories and practices to the improvement of local food security was an important collaboration between a University of Victoria student and the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiative. Paula Hesje and Linda Geggie forged a working partnership which resulted in the establishment of a Food Policy Council. They also described the potential for working with other local agencies such as the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). Since food security is a critical global issue and there was an absence of projects addressing this theme at CUexpo08, this might be an exemplary model to explore. If a vacuum exists in collaborative partnerships concerning global and local food security then we are challenged to fill the void.

The road from theory to practice in attaining sustainable solutions to poverty, homelessness and food security is often a long one with difficult hurdles that seem

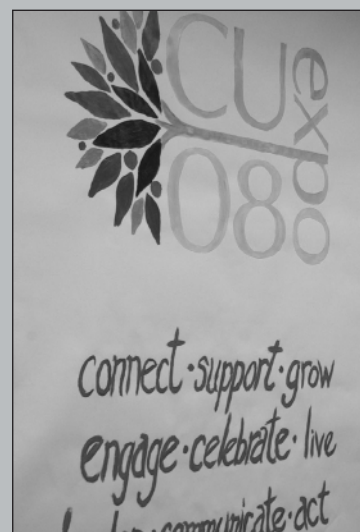
insurmountable. University-community partnerships that engage in honest, egalitarian and respectful dialogues can contribute a pragmatic expertise and perspective to these increasingly global issues. Many studies show that the gap in quality of life experience between rich and poor has widened in terms of health, perceptions of safety, housing and neighbourhood conditions and, of course, income. CUexpo08 was able to tackle some of these critical issues by bringing together community experts and researchers who have already shown success and have insight into this crisis. Projects are emerging that could impact policy at a national and international level.

c) Community-University Engagement, Partnerships and Ethics

Achieving community-academic partnerships as a vehicle for social change provides opportunities for activism, advocacy and policy alternatives. This strategy for active participation has gained momentum and has produced a myriad of authentic partnerships that were evidenced at CUexpo08. The collective wisdom that can be harnessed from such collaborations has already produced some amazing project initiatives. Many presentations examined the ethics framework of effective research and designed strategies that would be inclusive and relevant.

Several opportunities for brainstorming and discussing collaborative research pedagogy were available at CUexpo08, including Creating a Research Agenda on Community-University Partnerships, facilitated by Dr. Sherril Gelmon from Portland State University. The conveners represented three national/international membership associations with autonomous responsibilities for advancing the study of partnerships. Their mandate is to assist members to develop, sustain and improve mutually beneficial and reciprocal community-university partnerships that respond to collective and individual goals. This discussion format allowed for the exchange of research ideas coupled with the pragmatism of exploring potential funding opportunities and building networks. "While there is a growing set of resources on managing partnerships, there is little research of high quality that studies partnerships on a broad scale." (Excerpt from the workshop abstract). This participatory workshop seeded ideas for new projects and participants explored a research agenda that could strengthen those partnerships.

At the University of Nebraska in Omaha, graduate students have learned how to engage in participatory research and the pedagogy design of Research Partner-



The Community Economic Security Project looks at how provincial policies affect the economic wellbeing of British Columbians, in particular vulnerable populations. It focuses in the areas of social assistance, employment standards and community-based health.

(Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.)
<http://www.policyalternatives.ca>

ship has assisted students to overcome their reluctance to engage in community based-research. Through service learning, which enhances motivation and incremental learning opportunities, they have developed an effective model of connecting social work graduates to community agencies.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, directed in British Columbia by Seth Klein, has engaged in a five-year study with Simon Fraser University in Vancouver on economic security. One of their objectives is to bring together interdisciplinary academic resources and community-based experience to document and analyze how the economic security of vulnerable populations is being affected by governmental policy reforms. The Economic Security Project, presented at CUexpo08, was created because the scope of provincial policy changes since 2001 has national and international relevance, and makes British Columbia an example for the study of social policy reform and the redefinition of public services. These changes have involved three interrelated processes: a reduction in the size and scope of government in the provision of social programs and regulation of labour standards; changes in the institutions responsible for delivering public services (as the provincial government's role in the direct management of programs is reduced); and changes in the rules

and practices by which social programs are delivered and through which government is held accountable to the public. Collaborative models for governance and the delivery of public programs are developed into recommendations for community organizations, policy-makers, academics and the general public and findings are released to the media to stimulate public discussion.

In the 21st century, social work has much to offer in debates about major global changes and international issues. Social work needs to be attached to international activities such as those related to social welfare, population, immigration, urbanization, poverty, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, health and mental health, inequalities and social injustices, violence and socio-economic and political issues. Dr Julie Drolet of Thompson Rivers University highlighted some of these issues in her presentation on Connecting the Global to the Local in Community-University Partnerships. The Centre for International Social Work (CISW) aims to “promote cross-cultural learning that enhances knowledge, skills and research ensuring professional social work theories are relevant to major global events and local practice through multilateral, collaborative international partnerships. [They] value equity, social justice, human rights, peace and diversity leading to global leadership as agents of social change.” A strategic planning conference brought together researchers, community members and specialists with indigenous non-governmental organizations and identified an urgent need to collaborate on research.

The University of New Mexico, the Centre for Health and Disease Prevention, and a Navajo community formed a partnership to address the root cause of violence exposure, chronic trauma and community trauma in an effort to promote improved mental health of Native American To’Hajilee families in the region. The goal is to analyze the effects of 500 years of oppression and genocide and build a community-wide effort to address and heal historical trauma. Lance Freeland, from the Centre for Health and Disease Prevention, displayed a fascinating and detailed poster presentation and visually explained the premise of strengthening family relationships through reconnection to traditional culture, integration of traditional healing modalities, equine-assisted activities and culturally appropriate parenting skills. Using a multi-faceted design, this aboriginal led project hopes that participants will have decreased historical loss symptoms and move from depression and despair into an increased sense of empowerment and quality of life. This unique program of accounting for historical traumas and their effects on families and communities is an example of proactive collaboration with specific improvement goals.

A wealth of community-university collaborations were described at CUexpo08, including Project Healthy

Schools, that aims to prevent childhood obesity; the role of “Critical Friend”; collaborative play in the CHILD project to co-construct the knowledge of early child development; translating theory into media; “Bearing Witness”, imprints of the sex trade and action research; engagement of ethno-linguistic communities in mental health research; an alliance to prevent injuries in children and youth; and the development of collaboration with both domestic and international health care systems, to mention only a few. The multitude of excellent projects presented at CUexpo08 illustrated the countless lessons learned from experience, research-based intervention, action models, initiatives launched and challenges addressed while building long term alliances through capacity, cohesion and strategic community partners. The possibilities are limitless.

“We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders”

Maya Angelou

d) Women, Social Change, Equity and Inclusion

The lives of women and minorities have specific relevance to research projects that aim to invoke positive social change both domestically and internationally. Community action teams can help bring the voices of people in vulnerable circumstances into an inclusive movement that potentially promotes transformation. The criteria of CBR matches this action and many inspiring and innovative collaborations on this theme were presented at CUexpo08.

In the spirit of these goals a research project conducted by the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in collaboration with the local university posed the research question, “Is participation having an impact?” The project engaged in a series of discussions with leaders of eight community organizations primarily serving women and children in Winnipeg’s inner city, one of the poorest communities in Canada. Anxious to define definitions of success (distinct from the narrowly defined governmental outcomes) they began to explore how participants viewed a successful result. They found that important indicators evolved in a new direction when participants themselves are engaged in identifying what is important to them. This example of community-based research, which integrated community participation in all aspects of hiring, analysis, training and design, is a power-

ful tool used for greater social inclusion and community transformation.

In the Philippines, a partnership study involving women inmates aimed to determine the social conditions prior to incarceration and the coping mechanisms and psycho-social orientation of the women in jail. The study revealed that domesticity, family background and lack of education were inherent disadvantages in the lives of women but that poverty was the most significant contributor to criminal behaviours. The incarcerated women often demonstrated well-developed coping mechanisms although withdrawal and aggression were measured as recurring reactions. Dr. Norietta Tansio presented the study that found that optimism was more tangible after the establishment of education programs for male inmates. They are recommending that similar programs be adopted immediately for the women.

Local women in Nepal have taken the lead role in the management and livelihood of forest programs across the country. They primarily follow indigenous practices which incorporate the priorities of the relationship between natural resources and the survival of local communities. There are vast numbers of rare species and animals which are inherently valued and Nepal's forestry plays a key role in the life of people in rural communities. Community forestry embodies conservation practices, and partnership systems that engage local people have developed successfully as a model for other countries to emulate. These practices are deeply rooted in Nepal's value system where the women have been empowered to shoulder much of the responsibility for conservation initiatives. International dependency on women's labour in agriculture is well documented and an unusual study in Haiti has explored the issue of geophagia (deliberate soil ingestion) of Haitian women in the fields. Research based determinants of the socio-cultural environment of Haiti targeted women's own perceptions of this cultural practice in the hope of expanding their knowledge about health and nutrition. They have been documenting any concerns expressed by the community as a potential spring board for future work. Both of these participatory studies with international partners inspire new avenues of explorative study with the goal of improving the lives of women and communities through self-determined positive change. These presentations, which highlighted some of the international relationships and gender concerns, evoked stimulating dialogue at CUexpo08.

The Canadian experience involves many examples of barriers to women's health, social isolation, stress and depression, with particular reference to women living in poverty. One presenter reminded us that social inequities are often shaped by traditionally dominant power relations that need to be challenged prior to heralding inclusion as



CUexpo Participants

the assumptive solution. However, the voices of marginalized women from several communities were integrated into policy discussion in one community-based research initiative led by Cecily Nicholson of U.B.C. Researchers held focus groups with First Nations groups in Vancouver, immigrant and refugee women in Calgary and women with disabilities in Winnipeg. They sought the input of women on social assistance into policy and women highlighted contradictions and inadequacies in federal and provincial social policies that lead to dangerous and unhealthy conditions for themselves and other low-income women. Another research project led by Barbara Whittington at the University of Victoria focused on grandparents raising children. From the study a maze of policies and lack of relevant services to support these families became evident. Social workers and legal advocates were equally baffled by the lack of services. The British Columbia legislature eventually hosted a group of grandparents, service provid-



CUexpo Participants

ers and researchers who acquired the listening ear of one of the ministers. Researchers therefore have the capacity to provide a forum for community voices and influence policy when healthy community partnerships are forged.

The Moms Mentoring Moms Project provides support to high-risk women for whom addiction is a barrier to parenting. This initiative of the Victoria FASD Community Circle has employed a collaborative approach to health education, offering one-on-one health counselling complemented by resources and sessions that promote self-advocacy in health care. Quantitative and qualitative research strategies exploring women's perceptions of the health care system were established through a series of interviews, and health-perspective surveys. Initial surveys indicated that women desire a better understanding of their own bodies and suggest that education can improve patient-doctor care practices. The perspectives and needs of high-risk women will be communicated to social services and health care professionals in the hope that understanding might contribute towards improvement and change. "Participants of this project hope to give a voice to women," explained Harvard graduate presenter Ashley Morrison, "who, though commonly disregarded, hold valuable and informative perspectives." The voices of women and/or marginalized groups in society are an outstanding resource of insight, knowledge and life experience that can impact policy when they are included in the repertoire of decision makers.

Community transformation occurs when participation is encouraged by inclusive models of determining needs and ideas. Grounded theory that honestly and ethically investigates the lives of women or minorities by including and honouring their perceptions has implications for social policy and is inherent in the CBR approach. Many social development partnerships were presented at CUexpo08 with the exciting promise of progress through inclusion. Barriers to inclusion have also been identified so that existing processes can be subject to challenge and evolution. The knowledge of civil society through individual, family and community experiences is powerfully relevant to the creation of inclusive and healthy communities with particular emphasis given to marginalized groups who have been disempowered by authoritative and exclusive systems.

e) Health Promotion and Well-being

The promotion of health and well-being is a growing necessity and an important challenge for community researchers. Epidemic numbers of people facing heart dis-

"As I see it, every day you do one of two things: build health or produce disease in yourself."

Adelle Davis

ease, diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, as well as stress related illnesses are well documented. Growing numbers of the population wish to feel empowered by personal knowledge and the provision of adequate health care services. The potential of community-based research contributing knowledge that could improve services while challenging inadequate policies is illustrated by many ongoing partnerships that are developing as works in progress across the globe.

The focus of Ankara University's project called Est-ce à ou de, presented at CUexpo08 by Professor Aysegul Yarpuzi, is to link networks for positive change in circles of health. The project embraces actual stories about health from media outlets with the purpose of creating a space for university and community partners to take action on research and resource sharing for the improvement of health, both locally and globally. Emerging networks are gleaned support from the Health Sciences Communications Association (HeSCA) and are sharing research ethics and best practices for the betterment of lives of people located world-wide.

In Nanaimo, British Columbia, two speech pathologists expanded their services by offering teaching and mentoring in collaboration with other agencies that have specific interests in early childhood development. The research, which evolved in 2006, was aimed at documenting how each of the agencies was contributing effective support and how they were effecting change and capacity. Researchers interviewed practitioners and parents while developing a conceptual framework to illustrate the stages of intervention and determine the continuity and effectiveness of services. By visualizing a holistic approach, speech pathologists created a framework to restructure the physical and social environments in service agencies. Co-author of the project, Dr. Jennifer Mullett from the University of Victoria, presented this program entitled, Can We Talk? It involved building community capacity to create language rich environments and described how service providers had evolved with more effective practices.

"Health is not simply the absence of sickness."

Hannah Green

Early childhood development factors are significant to health and well-being; therefore, the quality and capacity of parenting is a key component. Juliana McCaig, in association with the University of Victoria, held a presentation on community-wide intervention to enhance practitioners' and parents' skills. The research was concerned with intervention techniques and services that sometimes go awry. The intention was to document "critical incidents" with practitioners in order to determine the effectiveness of community-wide interventions. The purpose is to empower and support parents through the increased multi-disciplinary, community collaboration. Data collected has been provided to health professionals to inform them of the suggested stages of practical implementation and new ideas are now incorporated in professional development training. Significant changes in practice have resulted from this collaboration. Parents who have more access to services and feel more supported are encouraged by the program and this was seen as the most positive outcome. A parents' support service framework has been created in the hope that this model might be used in other communities.

The University of Washington uses community-based research methods and participatory outreach to involve the community in training and research, and increase health literacy "through the Native looking glass." They are utilizing promising approaches that include visuals and story telling, and the Native Art for Cancer Project engages indigenous artists to help raise awareness about cancer prevention and care. Participants are trained in the development of short personal narratives to increase cancer literacy and clinical trials are evaluated. Brenda Manuelito from the Center for Clinical and Epidemiological Research explained this novel approach at CUexpo08. They have also developed curricula for grades 7 to 12 that combines culturally appropriate material with the use of visuals and indigenous story telling to promote health and well-being. The Native People for Cancer Control is enhancing relationships and building bridges of understanding within the cancer care continuum for indigenous people in many locations across the United States, including Alaska.

The complex and misunderstood issue of the effects of grief and loss in adults with developmental disabilities has been the challenge of the University Of Atlanta School Of Nursing in collaboration with the L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community. The death of a parent who had been the primary support giver leaves an individual in a state of chronic grief when the role of care-giver is abruptly transferred to strangers or professionals. Very few grief-related programs have addressed the specific needs of such specialized cognitive abilities and/or emotional and spiritual maturity, creating a vacuum in program assistance and support. Research recommendations resulted

from a two year live in study at the L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community with proposals around modified language and presentation to create a more relevant framework for these unique grief support circumstances. The underlying belief that socially responsible research arises when the researcher has an intimate knowledge of vulnerable populations in the community was quite evident in this project. Experiential research of this nature helps to bridge the gulf between academia and community action and leads to positive, realistic and effective change.

The working model of health care in Cuba has provided a new level of synergy in academic-community partnerships by bringing participants into direct contact with the Cuban system. MEDICC (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba) has joined forces with the UCLA School of Public Health in Los Angeles to address community health concerns in South L.A. Three field trips to Cuba enabled researchers to embrace new ideas for community organizing and the relevance of the Cuban experience proved to be applicable to building sustainable health advances in the L.A. context. Underserved areas of the United States such as low-income communities exhibit many health problems. Co-presenter Janette Robinson Flint, with Black Women for Wellness, aspires to the need to achieve better health outcomes and believes that aspects of Cuba's health care system are worth emulating. Lessons from Cuba are leading to new, innovative ideas for change.

HIV/AIDS research has become a global necessity and adequate and appropriate medication adherence and safe sex behaviours are the challenges of HIV positive women domestically and internationally. A round table presentation at CUexpo08 tackled this important issue with facilitators from the School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia. They described a pilot study where participants, recruited from a large HIV out-patients clinic, were randomly assigned to either a control or an intervention group. In the control group, the sessions focused on nutrition, fitness, stress relief, and women's health. The intervention



CUexpo Participants

approach was geared towards medication adherence and safe sex behaviours. All participants were African American women who had been living with HIV for an average of ten years. The health promotion or control group resulted in higher condom use post-intervention but neither group achieved the appropriate level of medication adherence. Other cultural and economic factors which influenced the outcomes were acknowledged, but based on their results some revisions were made in the intervention stream to include more role play or experiential learning. The research collaboration highlighted both the multi-faceted dimensions of HIV/AIDS interventions and the need to promote self-efficacy and confidence in all areas of AIDS prevention and treatment. Participatory research in the area is a work in progress.

Countless other excellent university-community research partnerships that are exploring health related issues exist and many of them were presented at CUexpo08. Studies that examine STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) in youth, local community health projects, legalized marijuana, innovative alternatives to engaging youth in drug education through art, parents resisting alcohol use, health and fitness as a corporate challenge, faith-based innovations in the promotion of health and well-being, and the ElderSmile program were among the many informative sessions presented at Victoria's CUexpo. Although only a selected few can be highlighted here, it has been encouraging to learn about the myriad of positive and creative innovations in health related community-based research that was represented at this year's exposition.

f) Green Mapping, the Environment and/or Climate Change

The last few years have witnessed an explosion in the debate around global climate change and discussions have moved far beyond environmental groups into all corners of civil society. Governments can no longer ignore this issue, although international and domestic policies that reflect these urgent needs are still noticeably lacking. Green economic development, climate change solutions and environmental sustainability are linked inextricably to poverty reduction and academics, community partners, activists, civilians and politicians each

have an important voice in this crucial debate. Scientific research that promotes change within a framework of social justice is a positive step towards protecting Mother Earth for future generations.

Community green and asset mapping have become powerful tools in the planning of economic development, social programming, poverty reduction, environmental and climate change assessment, and diverse research projects. Cuba is amongst the countries that have aligned themselves to the global green mapping system and Liana Bidart Cisneros attended CUexpo08 to describe how this system has engaged citizens in community improvement projects. Her passion and enthusiasm has helped create a community-university partnership for the implementation of environmental, community health and education projects. Green

Map Americas co-coordinator Wendy Brawer joined the Cuban presenters in order to describe other applications and innovations including mapping technologies, asset-mapping for community engagement, campus planning and climate change projects for all ages. The green mapping system, which has been in existence for ten years, has seen the creation of over 400 maps in 50 countries with the participation of thousands of people from diverse ages, cul-

tures and backgrounds. Community approaches to green mapping are autonomously determined by the specific regional needs with both on-line and off-line techniques being implemented. The Cuban Mapa Verde resulted from a partnership with the Global Green Maps system.

A session entitled "Organizing Recycling Experiences from the Streets of San Paulo" described a working partnership between Canada and Brazil. Jutta Gutberlet, an associate professor from the University of Victoria, led a round table to discuss the ideas of resource recovery, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The featured research partnership in Brazil stemmed from a six year CIDA-AUCC project which aimed to find sustainable solutions to waste management, especially within the context of increasing poverty in many regions. The participatory-based project in Brazil aimed to build capacity and networks in the San Paulo area in order to promote and stimulate public policies for inclusive, integrated waste management, gender sensitivity, poverty alleviation and community education. A simultaneous study evolved in Victoria, BC as the project explored the socio-economic profile and livelihood determinants of Canadian recyclers. Results have determined that resource recovery contributes to poverty reduction

"There is no greater threat to human health than climate change. For those of us working as doctors, its imminent threat dwarfs any survival gains due to our daily health care activity."

Dr. Hugh Montgomery, the director of the Institute for Human Health and Performance at the University College London.

and environmental health. North and South perspectives on community recycling were shared and the debate is relevant to green economic development, academics, government officials and community activists.

At the University of Victoria, Dilumie Abeysirigunawardena has been studying the effects of climate change and climate variability on rising water levels on the south coast of British Columbia as her PhD thesis. In her presentation Ms. Abeysirigunawardena explained how sea level rises and land subsidence result from climate change, describing specifically how local coastal conditions are impacted by climate change and climate variability patterns. Statistical models indicate that extreme weather conditions on the west coast of British Columbia result from longer term relative sea rise. However, she indicated that there are also considerable fluctuations in the frequency of extreme weather event occurrences such as storm surges and wind storms resulting from shorter temporal scale climate variability. Results indicate that in order to withstand future, serious, climate change impacts, existing coastal management strategies need to be reexamined and redefined. Dilumie Abeysirigunawardena has worked with the BC Ministry of Environment as a Climate Impact Researcher since May 2007.

Reductions in funding for environmental stewardship programs have resulted in increased volunteer and community monitoring programs across Canada. The Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Network (CBEMN) has encouraged public participation in the Maritime Provinces as a consequence of the increasing importance of environmental management. CBEMN is housed at the St Mary's University campus and serves as a liaison with the community to advance scientific and social data related to the environment. They have the capacity to advise on monitoring techniques that measure the environmental quality of regional eco-systems and to promote improved understanding of their communities. CBEMN embraces over 50 environmental member organizations and is mandated to assist communities towards transformative knowledge and pragmatic actions. Dr. Catherine Conrad from St. Mary's University presented the CBEMN example at CUexpo and explained how this might serve as a useful model for other commu-

nity-university partnerships across Canada.

Frank Rose is a research associate with Men on the Move, an organization working predominantly with African American men in Pemiscot County, Missouri. Their initial community-academic partnership with St. Louis University focused on individual determinants of heart disease, which was the leading cause of death in the region. The study found that socio-economic factors contributed towards decreased consumption of fruits and vegetables and dietary concerns were significantly related to heart health. Mr. Rose presented the project in a session entitled "Development of Community Gardens as a way of Improving the Economic and Social Determinants of Health in a Community." The results of their study suggested that one practical way to improve access to fruits and vegetables was to develop skills and infrastructure for creating community sustainable agriculture. Their findings also indicated the importance of including region specific political and social environmental factors into a successful plan. They are working with local government, businesses, and agricultural mentors to expand their community gardens. The community-university partnership identified a broad range of issues related to heart disease, and the community gardens became an important component of the resulting action plan. Local produce distribution, affordability and accessibility have greatly increased.

Universities are in a unique position to show leadership on a number of environmental-based and climate change initiatives. They have the capacity to serve as community role models on regional and national, social and environmental concerns and are potential leaders of community action and effective policy change. Green mapping is one of the tools that can facilitate civic engagement, but participatory research, dialogue and community projects such as were presented at CUexpo08 are also exemplary examples of transformative initiatives that are attempting to address the urgent needs of climate change and environmental sustainability.

"No one can afford to assume that someone else will solve their problems. Every individual has a responsibility to help guide our global family in the right direction. Good wishes are not sufficient; we must become actively engaged." Dalai Lama

CUexpo08 Closing Ceremonies

"The exciting three day exposition/conference concluded after many ideas had been shared, success stories relayed and challenges discussed within the productive and positive framework of participant engagement. The conference stressed that researchers work in collaboration with community partners and that this kind of collaboration is fundamental to respectful and productive civic engagement. This means a paradigm shift from academics wielding authority over intellectual and theoretical principals and moving out of the ivory tower into the human experience.

Dr. Andrew Petter, Dean of Law at the University of Victoria, offered thought provoking final words. Dr. Petter acknowledged the eloquent speakers of CUexpo who had demonstrated how universities can build social capital and harness capacity to address a multitude of challenges. The university is also challenged as an institution to make civic engagement a core university objective and thus enhance the quality and purpose of research.

Civic Engagement: Challenges and Opportunities Dr. Andre Petter, Dean of Faculty of UVic Law School (Summary of Speech)

A collaborative approach to community-based research requires academics to critically examine and transform their approach to research by forgoing their authority stance in exchange for partnership. Such unease can translate into potential benefits for the community.

Dr. Petter cited one of the most compelling critiques of academic research with the plea of 19th century German philosopher Freidrich Schelling:

"First and above all, an explanation must do justice to the thing that is to be explained...The question is not 'At what view of the phenomenon must we arrive in order to explain it in accordance with one or another philosophy?' but precisely the reverse: 'What philosophy is requisite if we are to live up to the subject, be on a level with it?' The question is not how the phenomenon must be turned, twisted, narrowed, crippled so as to be explicable, at all costs, upon principles that we have once and for all resolved not to go beyond. The question is: 'To what point must we enlarge our thought so that it shall be in proportion to the phenomenon.'"

Community-based research demands that we enlarge our thought to be on the same level with the phenomenon we wish to research. Civic engagement requires universities to shift from a culture of "doing this better" to a culture of

Civic engagement requires universities to shift from a culture of doing things better, to a culture of making things better."

Dr. Andrew Petter at CUexpo08



Dr. Andrew Petter at CUexpo08

"making things better." Universities traditionally measure the value of their research and their teachings by intrinsic rather than extrinsic standards. The value of research is therefore assessed to its inherent quality and not to its impact on society. Knowledge in this model is valued more than the capacity they gain to become engaged citizens.

This paradigm shift is additionally challenging because it requires universities to acknowledge greater and more direct responsibility for community well-being and to be more explicit about their social values. Universities should welcome the opportunity to contribute to a society that is more egalitarian and that better reflects values of social justice, environmental sustainability and democratic accountability.

The role of universities would become fundamentally different where traditional styles of the social and political elites are balanced with new accountability to communities, especially in consideration of those who

possess limited social means and little political influence. A greater commitment to civic engagement ensures that the benefits that publicly funded universities can provide to communities and the disadvantaged represent a modest offset to the economic rewards that business and other established interests derive from access to the research and an educated labour force that universities provide.

Dr Petter concluded that the best arguments for overcoming intellectual and institutional barriers have been illustrated in the success stories of community-based research, engaged learning and civic engagement that were brought to the conference.

Communities who look to universities as potential allies and students who understand the possibilities of engagement are both supporters and beneficiaries of these research practices. Researchers and teachers who yearn for the opportunity to connect their work to the needs of the communities and the aspirations of their students understand the potential of community-based research.

CUexpo08 Participant Comments

The number of delegates exceeded expectations with many regions of Canada and the USA represented at the exposition. An impressive international presence brought people from as far as Nepal, Sweden, Norway, Brazil, Cuba, the Philippines, India, South Africa, Uganda and Senegal. A significant number of First Nations delegates and presenters also attended from Mohawk territory, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Thompson River in BC, Alert Bay, local Coast Salish from Saanich and Lekwamen as well as Diné (Navajo) from New Mexico.

The knowledge that I have gained here is a world view, is applicable to research and takes you out of the box.

**Lance Freeland, Program Specialist
with the Navajo Nation at the
University of New Mexico**

One of the difficulties of Community Based Research is language. There needs to be a development of language that is common to community groups so that we can communicate. I have been excited by the conference especially around the discussion of cooperatives.

Vivian McCormick, BC Institute of Cooperative Studies.

What this Cuexpo has taught me is that there is a much bigger world out there and the more exposure we get as youth and adults the more experiences we can have. Research needs to stem from the community and the university partnership can support it but not the other way around.

**Barbara Crammer, Project Researcher at the Umista
Cultural Society in Alert Bay: Health and Culture Project.**

Here are some tasters from comments made by delegates about their experiences at CUexpo08 in short video clips ("streeters") that may be viewed on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/video/?id=11420523317>

I really enjoyed coming here and I met nice people. I am from the Philippines and we are working with women inmates, doing an outreach program. Seeing the faces of the families of these inmates when they obtain a diploma makes them happy and fulfilled. I'd like to thank the organizers of Cuexpo.

Dr. Norietta Tansio, University of Perpetual Help, Las Pinas City, Philippines.

What struck me most at CUexpo was the diversity of participants from around the world, and the desire to connect more deeply around shared goals in ways that would last far beyond the conference. Two concrete examples were the formation of a Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research and a Pan-Canadian Coalition on Community Based Research, both announced during the closing session of the conference.

Sarena Seifer of CCPH

I am most impressed with the level of diversity among the participants, presenters, and community members. We often give 'lip service' to diversity in the U.S., but Canadians have opened my eyes to true diversity and acceptance of fellow people.

Dr. Eric Gass, Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

I am from a group called Men on the Move and I am teaching African American men life skills, goal setting and time management to help them step back into being more positive role models in the community. CUexpo has been a wonderful experience and I have learned that there is no alternative to doing what we do.

Frank Rose, Community Research Technician at St. Louis University.

The major challenge is bringing together two worlds, the research culture and the community culture that have a different language. The relevance of "capacity building" or even the research question is not always relevant so we need to be mindful of this. The challenge is how you mediate that space so that we can really work together in collaboration.

Winnie Chow, Community University Partnerships at the University of Alberta.

CUexpo 2008: Resources

Proceedings of the Third International Community-University Exposition (CUexpo 2008)

CUexpo Summary Document : http://cuexpo08.ca/program/CUexpo_summary.pdf

Proceedings Compilation : http://web.uvic.ca/ocbr/assets/pdfs/CUexpo2008_proceedings.pdf

CUexpo08 Presenters : <http://www.cuexpo08.ca/program/Presenters.html>

Speakers

Dancing to the Music of Now, Community-University Partnering
by Tim Brodhead, President and CEO of the McConnell Family Foundation.

http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/utilisateur/documents/EN/President's%20corner/Dancing_to_the_Music_of_Now.pdf

Civic Engagement: Challenges and Opportunities

Speaking Notes for Andrew Petter, May 7, 2008

http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/utilisateur/documents/EN/President's%20corner/Dancing_to_the_Music_of_Now.pdf

Participation & Feedback

Video excerpts from participants : <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=524897086096>

The Official CUexpo08 weblog : *weblog*: <http://cuexpo2008.wordpress.com/>

Partnerships

Community-Based Research Canada /

Global Alliance on Community Engaged Research: <http://www.communityresearchcanada.ca>

(Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA): <http://www.pria.org/>

First Nations Education:CanTeach : <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/fnations.html>

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca>

Office of Community-Based Research: <http://www.uvic.ca/ocbr>

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