Activity Report

Office of Community-Based

June-October, 2008

Follow-up on Cuexpo2008

We have done a lot to follow-up with the many activities of CU-expo2008. Linkages have been made to the 34 video interviews done during the conference. Many keynote speeches and power point presentations have been posted to open source social networking sites. We have put the finishing touches on the CUexpo2008 web-site that will remain as an archival site for all those interested. We have finished the editing of the Proceedings of CUexpo2008, a remarkable arbook with over 300 pages of short articles edited by Dr. Clover and McGregor from the Faculty of Education. We have produced a brief highlights report which can be found on the CUexpo web site.

Summer Institute on Community-Based Research

With the leadership of the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Human and Social Development and the Faculty of Social Science and the administrative expertise of the Division of Continuing Studies, we organized the first Summer Institute on Community-Based Research in mid-July. The academic leadership was provided by Dr. Rajesh Tandon and Budd Hall. Keynote speakers included: Jo-Anne Lee, Sandrina de Finney, Fran Hunt-Jinouchi, Ross Kidd. Each of the sessions was lead by a team of university and community CBR leaders. It was a strong first effort with about 120 participants coming from both the community and the University.

Undergraduate and Graduate Courses in Community-Based Research

With the cooperation of the Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies in the Faculty of Education, we arranged for Dr. Rajesh Tandon to teach an undergraduate course on Community-Based Research that was linked to the Summer Institute.

Budd Hall taught a graduate course on the same topic with the cooperation of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Students from four different Faculties participated in the two courses.

Pan-Canadian Coalition for Community-Based Research

One of the outcomes of CUexpo2008 was the launch of the Pan-Canadian Coalition for Community-Based Research. The University of Victoria will serve as the Secretariat to the Coalition. The interim Chair is Dr. Katherine Graham, Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs, Carleton University. Co-Chair is Dr. Jean-Marc Fontan from UQAM. The intitial steering committee has representatives from the United Way of Canada, Memorial University, University of Saskatchewan, the Community-Based Research Networks of Toronto and Ottawa and others. Budd Hall has been asked to serve as Secretary to the Coalition.

An action plan has been developed with the assistant of Rupert Downing who is now working part-time with our OCBR as Coordinator, National and Global Networks.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place October 19th in St. John's Newfoundland.

Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Scholarship

A second outcome of CUexpo was the release of the statement on the Global Alliance for Community-Engaged Scholarship. With the support of IDRC, we had been able to bring representatives from many key CBR networks from around the world. An action plan has been developed and the first skype conference call meeting of the executive committee was held on October 4. The University of Victoria is one of three groups leading the development of the Global Alliance. Others include the Society for Participatory Research in Asia and the Living Knowledge Network based in Germany.

Budd Hall made visits in early September to Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Brighton and Sussex to learn about community-university partnership structures there, to share information on the Global Alliance and to get inputs for the proposed Impact Study of the OCBR.

Incorporation of the Knowledge Mobilization Unit

Since its inception, the OCBR has been working closely with the KM unit which is a pilot project between York University and the University of Victoria. Laura Milne is the Coordinator of Knowledge Mobilization. Following discussions with the Vice-President for Research, the Associate Dean of Research and the respective partners at York University, the KM unit became an organic part of the operations of

the OCBR. This will greatly facilitate collaboration and synergies going forward.

Support of Aboriginal CBR initiatives

The OCBR has been working closely with the Office of Indigenous Affairs with Ministry of Advanced Education funds to launch a study in support of the Indigenous Adult and Higher Education Association of transition from their network of 32 community and band-controlled centres of adult and higher education. The study is lead by members of the IALHA Steering Committee with support from a research team made up of Kerry Jothen and Sarah Cormode. Fran Hunt-Jinouchi and Budd Hall are also part of the Steering Committee.

The OCBR has participated in many of the consultations related to the advancement of the Aboriginal Languages Teacher Education BA and MA. These have been led by Dr. Lorna Williams, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Learning and Knowledge. The undergraduate degree will initially be based with Saanich First Nations communities and will focus on the teaching of the Sencothen language as a foundational piece in the development of the programme.

The OCBR has continued its relationship with the Halalt First Nations. Maeve Lydon, Sarah Dickie and Budd Hall visited Halalt in August and Sarah and Budd returned for discussions with the Chief, Bert Thomas and other members of the Band Council. Halalt FN is active in organic farming, marine acqua cultures and water quality issues.