Weaving collaborations for 20 years
the same time, Edmonton Public

Within the University, conversations

Meanwhile nonprofits like Edmonton

Next came the hard

Strong leadership among all

Eventually these complementary

Broadening the scope beyond

CUP moved towards a collaborative

This year’s annual report

because we have. But there is a

Dedication, leadership, luck, and

and Catholic school districts had

and Catholic school districts had

The idea of a purposeful relationship

The Genesis of CUP: We All Own 51%!

CUP’s Director, Karen Edwards,

This culture of perseverance and

partnership (with the University) of

Karen Edwards

DIRECTOR

CUP’s Director, Karen Edwards,

I look back at our history and

CUP champions and their affiliations
when CUP was created (L-R): Jeff

Bisanz, University of Alberta; Doug

McNally, Edmonton Police Service and

Edmonton Community Foundation;

Martin Garber-Conrad, Edmonton

City Centre Church Corporation;

Muriel Dunnigan, Edmonton Catholic

School District and Gloria Chalmers,

Edmonton Public School Board.

Dedication, leadership, luck, and

sheer grit were all factors in the

circuitous route that led to the

formation of the Community-

University Partnership for the Study

of Children, Youth, and Families

(CUP). Formally launched in July

2000, the work to get CUP off

the ground began years earlier. We

recently gathered five of the original

champions that pushed for the
development of CUP to discuss its

inception. Their stories weaved

through initial meetings, stories of

individual and institutional

champions committed to the

concept, and the challenges in

setting the foundation for CUP.

The idea of a purposeful relationship

between community organizations

and university researchers began

organically and at different tables.

Within the University, conversations

started when Dr. Sylvia Chard,

Director of the Child Study Centre,

began envisioning a program hub for

the early years that would include

champions committed to the

community and university.

Eventually these complementary

visions became clearer and more

closely aligned. The original idea of

focusing on the early years expanded

to include youth and families and to

using an interdisciplinary approach.

This culture of perseverance and

learning eventually resulted in a

path forward for CUP. In the end,

our partners’ common belief,

commitment, and dedication to

using research evidence to support

the well-being of children and

families led to the creation of CUP.

I look back at our history and

how connected the threads of

our current research are to our

past. Not that we haven’t changed,

but there is a consistency in how our

community and university partners

work side by side to advance our

understanding of the issues impacting

children and their families in Edmonton

and across the province. We push for

new forms of knowledge that can

inform front line practices through
to public policies. We look for the

connections in (or ways to weave

together) the evidence emerging

across projects, partnerships,

and even the sector. This report

will walk through high points of

our work over the years in major

areas such as early childhood
development, poverty, policy, and

capacity building. Regardless of

the focus of the research, it is

always grounded in open, trusting

relationships. These are some of the

values that will help CUP navigate

our journey in the years to come.

Weaving Collaborations for 20 Years

The Genesis of CUP: We All Own 51%!

Karen Edwards

Director

CUP’s Director, Karen Edwards,

speaks to how this annual report

reflects back on 20 years of

emergent research partnerships

and looks forward into the next 20 years.

This year’s annual report

acknowledges the many footsteps

that have been part of our journey

as an organization and honors

the values that still serve as our

foundation today. The values of

community-based research are

embedded throughout the story

of CUP’s inception. Even when the

path forward was obscure, there

was a shared passion and belief in

creating a broad research agenda

informed by many voices. New

relationships forged in trust and

common experience blossomed

into long-lasting partnerships.

Partners were engaged and willing

to try, fail, regroup, and try again.

This culture of perseverance and

learning eventually resulted in a

path forward for CUP. In the end,

our partners’ common belief,

commitment, and dedication to

using research evidence to support

the well-being of children and

families led to the creation of CUP.

I look back at our history and

how connected the threads of

our current research are to our

past. Not that we haven’t changed,

because we have. But there is a

consistency in how our community

and university partners work side by

side to advance our understanding

of the issues impacting children

and their families in Edmonton

and across the province. We push for

new forms of knowledge that can

inform front line practices through
to public policies. We look for the

connections in (or ways to weave

together) the evidence emerging

across projects, partnerships,

and even the sector. This report

will walk through high points of

our work over the years in major

areas such as early childhood
development, poverty, policy, and

capacity building. Regardless of

the focus of the research, it is

always grounded in open, trusting

relationships. These are some of the

values that will help CUP navigate

our journey in the years to come.

Karen Edwards

Director

CUP’s Director, Karen Edwards,

speaks to how this annual report

reflects back on 20 years of

emergent research partnerships

and looks forward into the next 20 years.

This year’s annual report

acknowledges the many footsteps

that have been part of our journey

as an organization and honors

the values that still serve as our

foundation today. The values of

community-based research are

embedded throughout the story

of CUP’s inception. Even when the

path forward was obscure, there

was a shared passion and belief in

creating a broad research agenda

informed by many voices. New

relationships forged in trust and

common experience blossomed

into long-lasting partnerships.

Partners were engaged and willing

to try, fail, regroup, and try again.

This culture of perseverance and

learning eventually resulted in a

path forward for CUP. In the end,

our partners’ common belief,

commitment, and dedication to

using research evidence to support

the well-being of children and

families led to the creation of CUP.

I look back at our history and

how connected the threads of

our current research are to our

past. Not that we haven’t changed,
**Community Priority**

Weaving Collaborations for 20 Years

**Early Childhood Development**

BACKGROUND: Early Childhood Development (ECD) has been a foundation of CUP’s work and one that came from a strong community need to find and use ECD measurement tools to identify how to support children and families. The need for community-based and culturally relevant understanding of ECD and evaluation drove much of CUP’s work in the beginning (2000-2005). The goal of high-quality, affordable, and accessible early learning and care, especially for those most vulnerable, is also an area of research under this umbrella.

**Early Childhood Measurement and Evaluation Resource Centre (2006-2008)** The Early Childhood Measurement and Evaluation Resource Centre was established in 2006 as a CUP response to the needs of those in the early childhood field (school boards, not-for-profit, early learning and child care centres) for research, resources, and tools appropriate to their context. After consulting with community groups to determine needs, CUP offered opportunities to learn about ECD screening and assessment tools through reviews and access to research. This culminated in a Research Showcase on ECD measurement in 2008, hosted at the University of Alberta, which included the late Dr. Clyde Hertzman from the University of British Columbia and ECD researchers.

**Early Childhood Mapping Project (ECMap; 2009-2015)** Shortly after the Research Showcase and after years of CUP establishing itself as a source of quality information and research in ECD, CUP responded to a request for proposals from the Government of Alberta (Ministry of Education) to analyse and map ECD in Alberta. CUP’s proposal was successful. Then began the development of a province-wide collaboration to use the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to gather baseline ECD data across Alberta. Critical to the Alberta process was the creation of ECD coalitions in each community to mobilize the findings from the EDI. One hundred and one coalitions were formed and responded to the evidence of local child development gained through the EDI over a five year period. The evidence and learning gathered from over 80,000 children continues to be used in community and policy decision making today.

**First Nations Child Development (FNCD; 2009-2015)** As ECMap was unfolding, a number of First Nations approached CUP with an interest to use and learn from the EDI as well. Yet, the EDI was not designed to capture important aspects of childhood development important to First Nations. In partnership with four First Nations communities and the Yellowhead Tribal Council and College, two additional surveys, reflecting healthy development from a First Nations perspective, were created. There were also unique learning opportunities for students from the College to engage in the collection and analysis of data. These surveys were collected across the communities over a three year period and results are still used to guide programs and policies in these communities.

**Multicultural Early Childhood Assessment and Learning (MECAL; 2007-2019)** Immigrant and refugee serving organizations were also expressing a need to understand and support families with information and resources about healthy childhood development. In partnership with the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, CUP collated learnings from past child development projects with a multicultural lens into handbooks and resources for newly settled families and ECD practitioners to use at home, in schools, and in early learning and care centres. With a focus on building intercultural competence in the early years, a video and handbook were developed, with complementary training, for use by early learning and care practitioners and researchers.

**Evaluation Capacity Network (ECN; 2012-present)** A common thread across these projects was the community need for various forms of evidence to support decision making. CUP’s partners continually identified the desire across the ECD sector to build their own evaluation capacity to generate evidence to inform strategic decision making. This inspired the development of ECN. Local and provincial conversations across the ECD sector resulted in unique capacity building opportunities and eventually led to a nationwide network of academic, organizational, and community partners aimed at supporting assessment and evaluation of ECD programs for a range of audiences. The ECN was launched in 2014 and has been growing its network and resources with long term funding from a partnership grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

**Early Learning and Care (ELC; 2017-present)** The resounding voice of community partners around issues of concern for early childhood led to one of CUP’s most recent projects. EndPovertyEdmonton identified access to high-quality, affordable, early learning and care (ELC) as a key component in eliminating poverty and supporting the engagement of low-income families in the labour market. CUP is a member of the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care (ECELC), whose mandate is to ensure that high-quality early learning and care is accessible and affordable across the city. CUP supports knowledge generation for the Council and has developed several research reports and briefs about the state of ELC. Most recently CUP and the ECELC have documented changes in ELC because of COVID-19 and have proposed policy solutions that would support access to high-quality and affordable early learning and care, especially for Edmonton’s most vulnerable families.
BACKGROUND: CUP’s expertise is grounded in community-based participatory research (CBPR). Early on, the Steering Committee identified the university community’s understanding of CBPR as an important area of investment. From this directive, CUP developed and offered a CBPR and evaluation (CBRE) workshop series. In addition to formal workshops, capacity building was also developed through specific initiatives. CUP’s partnership with the Women and Children’s Health Research Institute (WCHRI) was developed to support medical researchers with CBPR and qualitative methods. Further, the Evaluation Capacity Network is creating a variety of opportunities to learn about CBRE.

Mobilizing Knowledge About Development (MKAD; 2007-2014)
In the spring of 2007, CUP delivered the first CBRE workshop supporting researchers and students. University attendance at this session exceeded expectations and expanded to include community members and government. This overwhelming reception reinforced the need for this capacity building opportunity. This initial response also led to the development of five additional CBPR workshops. By the spring of 2009, what was initially planned as three workshops delivered over three years evolved into a six-part workshop series. These workshops led to a graduate level course, which in turn became the foundation for the first graduate embedded certificate offered by the University of Alberta. CUP delivered the final MKAD workshop in the winter of 2014, five years longer than the original grant proposed.

The graduate embedded certificate continues to be offered and has been completed by 32 students since it was first developed in 2009.

Women and Children’s Health Research Institute (WCHRI) Partnership (2008-present)
When the partnership between WCHRI and CUP began in 2008, both Directors, Jeff Bisanz (CUP) and Thierry Lacaze (WCHRI) had a mutual goal to build capacity in CBPR and qualitative methods in women’s and children’s health research. CUP had established expertise in qualitative inquiry and a reputation for CBPR, along with extensive networks in the local non-profit community. WCHRI was developing a range of research supports to strengthen research capacity among its members. Despite different epistemological approaches, partners’ commitment to collaboration, mutual respect, flexibility and a desire to enhance the impact of women and children’s health research helped identify the path forward. Three support platforms were developed: CBPR (currently, Patient and Community Engagement Platform), Qualitative Research, and Knowledge Translation. Over the years, supports from this partnership have expanded, resulting in Patient and Community Engagement Training for graduate students; a lunch and learn series titled “Engaging social actors in health research”; and the CRISP grant opportunity that has a strong focus on stakeholder engagement (patients, caregivers, clinicians, community organizations) and knowledge translation. WCHRI has evolved into one of the leading national health institutes for women’s and children’s health, and, thanks to this partnership, has developed a strong commitment to stakeholder participation in their organizational activities and processes.

Evaluation Capacity Network (2012-present)
The CUP Steering Committee continued over the years to articulate a growing need for evaluation training and support across the social sector. CUP responded by developing training opportunities for nonprofits, students, and the refugee serving sector.

With the increase of refugee serving organizations across Canada, Evaluating Refugee Programs was an initiative developed to build community-based evaluation capacity in the refugee settlement sector. Workshops, webinars, live events, and an outcomes inventory were developed in partnership with the Centre for Community Based Research. In 2019 and 2020, CUP delivered these workshops in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Vancouver, and Waterloo.

UEval is a one week intensive course for students and community organizations to work together and develop evaluation plans for real time evaluation needs. The course is offered in the Spring through the University of Alberta, and was recently converted to on-line delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Community organizations and nonprofits have seen an increase of evaluation requirements from funders who desire to see benefit from programs. Eval Lab explores how nonprofits can integrate evaluative thinking for improved learning and decision making. Learning sessions held over a six month period create a co-learning space for nonprofit leaders to explore, test, and adapt evaluation-based concepts in ‘real-life’ settings. Through conversations and critical reflection, evaluative thinking is developed in participants, thereby enhancing evaluation capacity across the sector.
BACKGROUND: Poverty-focused research at CUP began, as many of CUP’s projects do, through an emergent need in the community. While the path was unclear in the beginning, we initiated relationships and sought funding to build a foundation for the research that still exists today. While academia had not yet embraced community-based participatory research (CBPR) approaches in the early 2000’s, CUP’s genesis derived directly from an appreciation of this form of research and the value it can bring in addressing systemic issues, including poverty. The Families First Edmonton (FFE) project was the beginning of CUP’s poverty work. The evidence generated from FFE supported city-wide dialogue which bolstered the evolution of poverty work in Edmonton across several sectors. FFE is still referred to as a valuable source of information used to plan and take action to the reduction of poverty in Edmonton.

Families First Edmonton (2005-2012) It all started with a citizen group called the Quality of Life Commission who gathered to respond to the massive public sector cuts from the Klein government. In 2001, they held one of their first meetings with the City of Edmonton and CUP. The City was interested in a promising model for addressing poverty out of Guelph, ON and wanted to develop something similar. The proposed project would examine four service delivery models for low income families and determine which families had the best access to services for the least cost. Interest was generated from governments, funders, and community-based organizations and the partnership grew. After five years, research funding was in place, a project charter was developed, a pilot was completed, and 1200 families were recruited. In the end, all models revealed similar access to services. However, the richness of data collected allowed numerous other questions to be answered to support families living in poverty. Partners gained an appetite for general research and evidence upon which to make decisions. 

EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE, 2014 - present) In 2014, Mayor Don Iveson established the Mayor’s Task Force to Eliminate Poverty and the evolution of EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) began. Early on, CUP was invited to join the Task Force and to analyze existing Families First Edmonton datasets to offer new insights into families’ experiences living in poverty. EPE partners from the business sector, academia, faith communities, social services, health care, and government grappled to create common goals and new ways of working together to significantly impact poverty. CUP continues to offer CBPR and evaluation expertise, evidence for decision making, and ongoing partnerships to EPE working groups.

Communities United (2017-present) This initiative started as “1000 Families” and was conceptualized as a neighbourhood based initiative to support families in finding sustainable pathways out of poverty. FFE data were used to identify key local neighbourhoods where there were existing community strengths and potential for significant impacts for underserved families. 1000 Families is significantly different today thanks to engaged individuals who reshaped the initiative into ‘Communities United’. Today Communities United is focused on facilitating collaborations that build on strengths and address gaps, issues, and/or goals of importance to the community. CUP has been a partner to Communities United over the past five years and is guiding an evaluation team to support ongoing strategic learning.

Grocery Run (2013-present) The Grocery Run began with ENRICH, a large research project focused on supporting the health of migrant women during pregnancy and postpartum in Edmonton. Through this project, food insecurity became the most urgent issue and improving immediate access to food was required. The Grocery Run was developed in partnership with the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB) as a way to meet immediate food needs by rerouting and collecting rescued food from local grocers and offering it to those who lacked “same-day” food. Since 2013, Grocery Run has been operating at MCHB to offer weekly rerouted food to low-income migrant families.

All in For Youth (AIFY; 2016-present) All in For Youth is an EPE roadmap action designed to support high school graduation through a wraparound approach in six local high schools. Each school offers AIFY services to meet students’ and families’ individualized needs. Since 2016 CUP has been engaged in capturing the student, family, and school impacts of AIFY and working with partners to mobilize the learnings.
Evidence Informed Policy Development

BACKGROUND: CUP’s mission demonstrates how informing policy has always been a desired outcome for CUP’s research partnerships. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods naturally facilitate this process as we work alongside partners that can use research findings in their everyday practice and programs. Deciding on which scale of policy to target (organizational or public policy) or which methods to use to inform that policy shift is often shaped by the issue, the needs, the opportunities, and the partners.

Early Policy Impacts Since 2000, CUP has engaged in numerous research partnerships that have influenced small and large policy shifts. A few examples include the Early Childhood Development Mapping Project which developed 101 provincial Early Childhood Coalitions to engage in reviewing and interpreting EDI data. These coalitions became strong community voices that advocated for municipalities to make significant changes to everything from designing parks to creating child friendly businesses. Also, the Terra Brentwood Project, an evaluation of supportive housing for teen families, resulted in changes to internal organizational policies that decreased barriers to service access for teens. Finally, the outcomes and tools produced by projects intended to inform and shape future conversations about early learning and care in Edmonton and Alberta.

Intentional Policy Focus
(2014–present) Although CUP’s policy contributions were significant in the beginning, in 2014 CUP decided to assess the public policy impacts of its work through a triage of recently completed large scale projects. From this review and reflection, CUP concluded the public policy outcomes from the projects could have been more significant and decided as an organization to be more intentional with a policy focus and approach in our partnerships. Since this time, CUP has worked to enhance its ability to generate and mobilize evidence to (1) frame policy discussions, (2) influence policy dialogue, and (3) evaluate policies.

Stories Plant Seeds of Impact (2015) Just as the triage of CUP projects was occurring, the City of Edmonton inquired how Families First Edmonton (FFE) datasets might help them understand the experiences of different kinds of families when accessing services. Using real stories of poverty collected from FFE, a document was developed that pointed out gaps in services and policies that hold families back from achieving what they deemed important. This document was shared with the City for program and policy development. Using research to inform action in such a direct way is often not the norm in research, and was deeply satisfying to the affiliated researchers.

Grocery Run (2013–present) Another poverty-related project with policy impact is the Grocery Run. The Grocery Run started as an emergency response to the food insecurity facing local migrant communities. Beyond providing emergency food, we recognize food insecurity as a symptom of much larger structural issues and have made efforts to address the root causes of poverty through partnerships that influence systems change. Grocery Run partnerships include EndPovertyEdmonton, Leftovers, Fresh Routes, Edmonton Community Development Company, C5, and other organizations that support brokering and advocating for policy changes. In partnership, the Grocery Run works to use food as an anchor for social and economic well-being.

Policy Library (2020) CUP has recently developed a Policy Library for both internal and external capacity building support. As internal and external conversations were being held, and as CUP waded deeper into the literature and existing resources, the need for this library emerged. To bolster understanding of policy and to offer practical tips and documents to support a student or a frontline at a non-profit. The library is set up to walk someone through the stages of policy development, offering its audience to choose resources based on immediate need.

Building Capacity in Edmonton’s Early Childhood Sector (2017–present) With guidance from the Steering Committee and targeted community funding, CUP hired two full-time staff (one in 2017 and a second in 2020) to help develop the policy capacity of CUP and CUP’s partners, with a focus on the area of early childhood development. In 2016, when EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) named affordable and quality childcare as a game changer for eliminating poverty, the origins of the Edmonton Council of Early Learning and Care (ECELC) were established—and a wonderful opportunity for CUP emerged. Since that time, CUP has been an active member in the ECELC, collaborating on research and analysis projects, including (most recently) writing policy briefs in response to COVID-19 restrictions. Recently the ECELC developed a website to make its work more widely available, and CUP is currently in the midst of several collaborative research projects intended to inform and shape future conversations about early learning and care in Edmonton and Alberta.
A Palette of Partners

CUP has the privilege of working with partners that range from nonprofits to government agencies to university. Our goal in working together is to bring new forms of knowledge, collaboration, capacity, or resources to issues that impact the well-being of children, youth and families. Each year we reach out to our partners to understand how our partnerships are impacting their personal and organizational work. Below are quotes from our partners that capture some of these themes.

Sharing Knowledge
“In general, hearing from the different stakeholders/SC members - their opinions, suggestions, and updates - reminds me that my organization is just one of many in this city, and that really listening is often the most valuable contribution I can make. It helps keep me focused on our goal of supporting vulnerable people, increasing social inclusion, and providing service through an equity lens.”

Embracing Complexity
“CUP has become an essential service to our agency and to our community, they inspire confidence when we are dealing with complex issues and they are objective and they listen and build a good morale and incorporate many perspectives-complex issues.”

Research Expertise
“CUP has been outstanding in supporting partner organizations in developing their research capacity - from appreciating the role of research in implementing programs and services. As a next phase, CUP can help organizations understand the role of community in research and how a community based participatory research can make a difference in making their work more effective.”

Decision Making
“Currently we are managing through a funding cut and one of the CUP evaluations that we are involved with has provided data to help us decide where we can align our work and where we can mitigate the impact on families and how to best manage and select the programs we will change as a result of the funding reality.”

Weaving New Patterns

Students are an integral part of CUP’s ability to respond to our social sector partners. They engage in real life issues in the sector and build their skills as the next generation of academic and non-profit leaders. We asked former students what values they gained at CUP that they apply in their current work.

“I gained a lot of values while working with CUP, but the ones that I apply to my work are the importance of mentor-ship, team work, and creating partnerships. I especially apply the team-work value to my everyday work, as I rely on my team to support me through tough days we face. My staff relies on my leadership and each member brings different strengths to the team. If there are areas where we are lacking we pull together to strengthen one another. I also rely on my partnerships with other agencies to collectively confront some very challenging situations.”

Garett T. Strawberry, Indigenous Housing, Property Manager | Homeward Trust

“Through the rich experiential learning embedded in my graduate training at CUP, I learned what it meant to enact the values of collaboration, meaningful community participation in research, and social action. The importance of conducting research that is prioritized by those most affected by the issues was also emphasized. These are values that I have threaded through all of my research, teaching, and service activities as a new academic.”

Dr. Melissa Tremblay
Assistant Professor | University of Alberta

“My CUP experiences taught me many valuable things in life. Through CUP funded workshops [e.g., advanced longitudinal modeling], I gained the confidence to always explore new technology. Through many community presentations, I learned the art of connecting unfamiliar scientific knowledge with familiar daily experiences audiences can resonate with. These values continue to benefit my current career, as I bring new technology into education, and translate them in languages everyone can relate to.”

Dr. Qi Guo
Research Psychometrician | Medical Council of Canada

“I had the privilege to work on a number of community-based projects during my time at CUP through which, it instilled in me the importance of true collaboration and developing authentic relationships with stakeholders. All of the individuals I worked with during my MSc showed me the value of strategic thinking, consistent and compassionate leadership, and having an open door where relationships and trust can develop between peers. In my career I also hope to support those around me grow in the same way I was afforded at CUP.”

Tristan Robinson
Manager, Prevention and Early Intervention Children’s Services
Looking Forward

As we look back over 20 years at CUP we are also looking forward and considering how CUP will evolve and maintain its principles as portfolios and areas of work inevitably evolve. We asked CUP Steering Committee members “how can CUP apply its values and lessons learned from the past 20 years into the future?”

“As CUP looks towards the next 20 years, there’s an opportunity to infuse CUP values and lessons learned more broadly within the University of Alberta by developing new organizational partnerships. Using the WCHRI-CUP partnership as an example, we’ve seen how the values and lessons from one academic unit can impact and influence the other. Many of the programs and strategic initiatives embraced at WCHRI would never have been possible without a concerted effort to bring CUP-like thinking to our institute!”

Dr. Sandra T. Davidge, PhD, FCAHS
Executive Director, WCHRI | Distinguished University Professor, U of A

“CUP has been a unique and wonderful partnership bridging researchers, practitioners, policy makers, service organizations and institutions with a common goal to improve the lives of child, youth and families in Edmonton and Alberta. With CUP joining the U of A’s School of Public Health, it is very well positioned to continue for the next 20 years what CUP had done best: connect research expertise with local community experience, build evaluative capacity of service sector, and mobilize community research evidence for practice and policy development.”

Kourch Chan, RSW
Chief Strategy Officer, e4c

“CUP can continue to play an important role in the training of young and new researchers. As leaders in community engaged research, CUP can serve as an important bridge between faculty, community organizations, and the next generation of community engaged scholars who are attentive and responsive to the needs of diverse communities. CUP can support the capacity of emerging community organizations and groups to evaluate their programs and develop mechanisms to influence policy change.”

Dr. Sophie Yohani, Ph.D. RPsych.
Associate Professor, 1 Department of Educational Psychology, U of A

As a long-time member of the CUP Steering Committee, I have been privileged to be part of CUP’s contribution to understanding the importance of community involvement in academic research and evaluation. More importantly, over this time I have observed and experienced the benefits of this work in everyday practice within organizations that serve children and families. Going forward, CUP’s credibility and capacity will continue to influence policy and practice in building and sustaining a strong and vibrant community.”

Wendy Yewman
Community Member and Past Chair of Terra Centre

Financials

Over the years CUP has been fortunate to receive funding to support core operations from a variety of university, community, government and funding agency sources. CUP core funding has been able to provide a core staff responsible for the complex task of project development, management, brokering, administration, and coordination roles required to maintain our current projects; to explore new partnership opportunities; and to secure new funding. Without the support of our funders, this work would not be possible. CUP’s core and project funding also works to mobilize knowledge that can influence policy development.

CUP also receives funding specifically to conduct collaborative research and evaluation projects with our partners. This funding enables us to develop strong research teams inclusive of coordinators, assistants, and graduate students who work collaboratively with community partners on these projects. We have been privileged over the past 12 years that the University of Alberta (Faculty of Extension) has funded the physical space we call home as well as our 2 faculty members who provide leadership for CUP’s projects. This year CUP managed approximately $1.8 million in operational and project funding from agencies, levels of government, community partners, and the University of Alberta. These forms of fiscal collaboration make CUP possible.

We would like to thank all of our partners this past year for supporting CUP’s work.
Publications

(PUBLICATIONS, ABSTRACTS, REFEREED PUBLICATIONS, BOOK CHAPTERS)


Conferences, Presentations, Guest Lectures

(LOCAL, NATIONAL /INTERNATIONAL, WORKSHOPS, PANELS, CONFERENCES, KEYNOTE, INVITED)


Buschmann, R. Guest lectures (2019-20) in MACE 501, PSYCO 423, and INT 304D at the University of Alberta, and a guest lecture in race and ethnicity to students in the University of Texas Medical Branch’s Preventive Medicine and Population Health program.


Mayan, M. (April 2019). Building a multi-sector network to address food waste and food insecurity in Edmonton: How an emergency food program grew into a city-wide food rescue system operating at multiple levels. Faculty of Extension Research Seminar, Edmonton, Alberta.


Community-University Partnership

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2019-20

Jeffrey Bisanz (Co-Chair)
Department of Psychology
University of Alberta

Vera Caine
Faculty of Nursing
University of Alberta

Gloria Chalmers
Community Member

Kourch Chan
e4c

Yvonne Chiu
Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op

Xinjie Cui
PolicyWise for Children and Families

Bill Howe
Edmonton Public Schools

Beth Hunter
Citizen Services
City of Edmonton

Elaine Hyshka
School of Public Health
University of Alberta

Susan Lynch
Community Member

Maria Mayan
Faculty of Extension
University of Alberta

Christina Nsaliwa
Edmonton Immigrant Services Association

Marni Pearce
Alberta Education

Michael Phair
University of Alberta

Christina Rinaldi
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Alberta

Christopher Smith
Muttart Foundation

Jane Springett
School of Public Health
University of Alberta

Melissa Tremblay
Educational Psychology
University of Alberta

Jelle Van Ens
Boyle Street Community Services

Tanya Voth
WCHRI
University of Alberta

Dori Wearmouth
Alberta Health

Deanna Williamson
Department of Human Ecology
University of Alberta

Wendy Yewman
Community Member

Sophie Yohani
Department of Educational Psychology