

CUP supported 28 projects and 5 additional projects in partnership with the Women and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI).

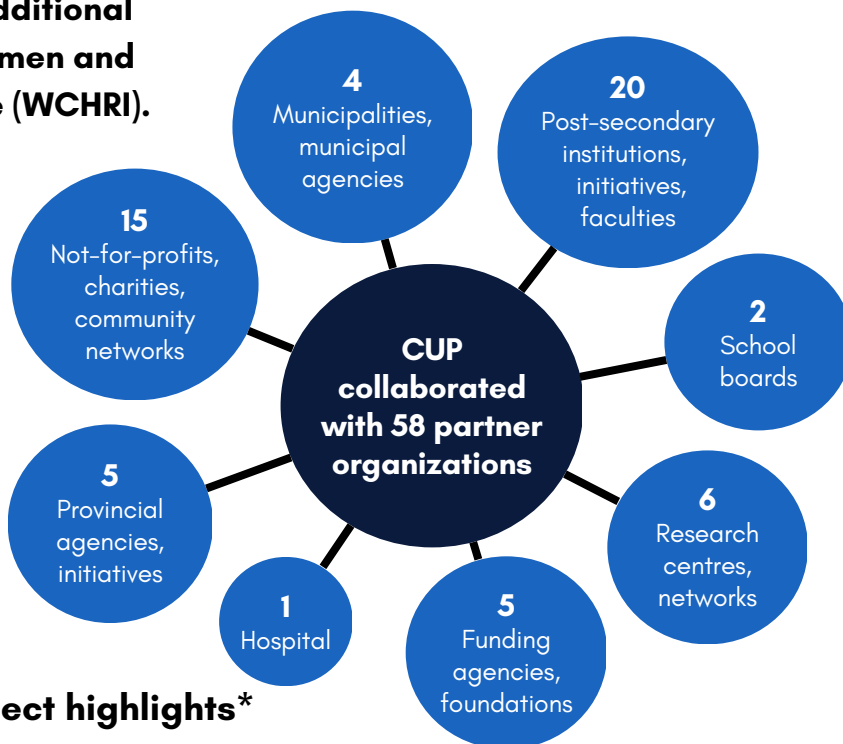
From our partners:

"As a primarily volunteer-run organization, [our] partnership with CUP is invaluable in providing the enhanced capacity for effective research into issues impacting the early learning and care sector."

"CUP is truly collaborative to understand the context of the community where it is engaged and brings a high level of expertise and competence to a project."

"We have adopted new approaches to education, re-designed our program structure, and introduced new learning aids in the classroom because of this project with CUP."

"Evidence obtained from our projects has informed our decisions to improve our service and organizational culture."



Project highlights*

ABC Head Start are using evaluation learnings to inform program decision-making. The adoption of new approaches and practices has enhanced the inclusion of pre-school children, especially those with autism and those who are non-verbal.

The **Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta (AECEA)** is raising the profile of early childhood educator (ECE) wages and compensation as an issue in Alberta. Working with CUP, the AECEA presented wage grid recommendations to Children's Services in September 2022.

CUP researchers are working with **EndPovertyEdmonton** to create a strategic learning framework to capture systems change in their inclusive economy development work.

CUP researchers are working closely with **Drayton Valley** in municipal planning. In addition to our involvement with the *Zero-fee Education program*, CUP is supporting council in developing an overarching vision for education in the town.

*Select projects

Informing policy

CUP brings an explicit policy focus to our projects with an aim to inform policy decision-making at all levels.

"We have been collaborating with the Alberta Leaders Caucus on policy recommendations to the government. [CUP] has also helped us shape future work projects with this situated at the core." - Partner

"The research provided through [our] CUP partnership provides rational for policy recommendations." - Partner

"We were struggling to address certain grounds of exclusion, and the learning we've achieved through this partnership with CUP has helped us include children who were previously being excluded based on disability and neurodivergence." – Partner

"The project is specifically focused on Indigenous populations, using community-based participatory methods, led by an Indigenous community member, and incorporating Indigenous worldview and methods in the data collection, analysis, and dissemination." – Partner

Committing to equity, diversity, inclusion, and Indigeneity (EDII)

CUP is working to incorporate an EDII lens into our projects, partnerships, governance, administrative processes, and knowledge mobilization activities. We aim to encourage action at all levels of our work to support inclusive outcomes.

Building student capacity

36 students were involved in CUP and WCHRI/CUP projects in 2022. Students brought over 11,000 hours of research and evaluation capacity to CUP projects.

Bachelors	Masters	PhD
18	11	7

"...prior to starting here, I felt very lost and had little understanding of what I wanted to do in terms of work. Being part of this lab has helped me realize that I love working in research and would like to make a career out of this, in whatever capacity possible." – Student

"[I feel better prepared for] engaging with the community and having [a] community-engaged practice rather than researcher-directed" – Student

E-Eval: Collaborative, flexible, hands-on evaluation learning opportunity offered in collaboration with the Alberta Mentoring Partnership.

- 3 mentoring organizations participated over four months in 2022.
- *Pre-Eval*, a webinar launched in 2021, drew 82 live attendees. Recordings were also made available.

SPH 504/631: University program evaluation courses through the School of Public Health.

- 40 students currently enrolled.
- Course supports 11 organizations through the development of co-created evaluation frameworks.

UEval: One-week evaluation institute that explores evaluation theory and principles within a community context.

- 41 learners and 9 community case studies participated in the Spring 2022 session.

Building evaluation capacity

The Evaluation Capacity Network (ECN) delivered an array of training and educational opportunities to build capacity among student learners and community organizations.

EvalLab: Workshop for non-profit leaders to collaboratively deepen understandings of evaluation, reflective practice, and critical learning.

- 12 participants from 10 non-profit organizations participated in 2022.

2022 ECN Lunch and Learn series:

- *Practicing Culturally Responsive and Equitable Evaluation* (webinar) had 254 participants.
- *Community-Driven Evaluation and Capacity Building* (webinar) had 101 participants.

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