



June 10, 2022

To the Selection Committee for the Canadian Host of the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification,

I would like to thank the Carnegie Foundation, the Carnegie Elective Classification Central Office at the American Council on Education and Simon Fraser University for the opportunity to participate in the multi-year pilot of the US-based classification in Canada. I am excited to express our institution's desire to continue to collaborate with Canadian post-secondary institutions toward a self-assessment framework that benefits from Carnegie's long history and expertise in assessing community engagement and reflects Canada's diverse communities and contexts.

This letter is to express my support for The University of British Columbia (UBC)'s application to be considered a host for the Carnegie Canadian Community Engagement Classification (CCCEC). UBC is particularly interested in exploring potential co-hosting opportunities with those post-secondary institutions and/or organizations who would consider a partnered approach.

We believe UBC is well-positioned to support the establishment of a long-term Canadian Carnegie Host (CCH). Specifically, we bring:

- **Commitment:** UBC leadership, faculty and staff are active members of the Canadian Pilot Cohort (CPC), and have been since its beginning. The Carnegie pilot was identified as part of our institution's strategic plan and the stated commitment to supporting community engagement. Also, the UBC community has supported our participation over the last three years as we assessed and considered how to translate the classification framework in the Canadian context.
- **Trust:** Committed members of UBC's VP External Relations and VP Academic offices have established trusting relationships with colleagues in the CPC and other institutions across Canada. We are ready to further develop these relationships and build a partnered approach as a co-host for the Canadian classification.
- **Relevant experience within the cohort:** Due to our close involvement on the CPC Consultation, Governance, and Community of Practice working groups, we're particularly well-positioned to contribute to field-testing and consulting on the framework, designing new governance structures for the CCH and programming national supports and resources for applicants.
- **Strong relationships with national partners and networks:** Securing a sustainable future for the CCH and CCCEC is critical in its first three years. UBC would bring strong connections to Universities Canada (where I am a Board member), Tri-Council Funding Agencies, the U15 Group of Universities (which I chair), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Research Universities Canada and the University Climate Change Coalition (which UBC currently leads), among others.
- **Size and impact:** As Canada's second largest research university, UBC has the sector recognition to lead national efforts that will see community-university engagement embraced as a



component of excellence in scholarship and core to the future of post-secondary institutions as partners in civic leadership.

Co-hosting the CCCEC advances UBC's values and strategic priorities as an institution. Prior to joining the CPC in 2019, UBC launched a new strategic plan, [Shaping UBC's Next Century](#), which centred engagement and collaboration in the university's mission. The opportunity for comprehensive self-assessment through the Carnegie pilot gave UBC a unique opportunity to understand where we stood in relation to our strategic commitments to engagement. With this knowledge, we have begun a long-term and intentional process to better align our resources and infrastructure to serve community priorities and societal issues.

As we look back on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and look ahead to the new realities of an emerging post-pandemic world, our institution is considering how UBC can continue and expand its relationships with communities across our region, Canada and the world. From these conversations four key priorities have emerged—reconciliation, climate action, anti-racism and academic excellence. These will guide the work of our faculty, staff and students and our collaboration with community partners. We have worked with on- and off-campus partners to set new goals for each of these areas, specifically through the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#), [Anti-Racism Task Force Report](#), [Climate Action Plan 2030](#) and [Academic Strategy](#). This process has reinforced awareness of how critical community engagement is for achieving the goals and recommendations we have set. Becoming a co-host for an important national classification and growing as a leader in the national dialogue on community-university engagement is a significant next step toward meeting and exceeding our institution's strategic priorities.

Collaboration and partnership are necessary to fully represent Canada's diverse institutional and community contexts and we believe a collaborative approach is critical to advance this initiative. As such, we believe future hosts should embody the values and principles set by the CPC and connect with the full breadth and depth of experience and perspective in Canadian institutional and community contexts. In particular, it will be critical for the oversight and administration of the CCCEC to reflect the diverse perspectives of Indigenous, francophone and BIPOC communities from across all regions in Canada. I am confident that, in both commitment and action, UBC embodies this approach.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our interest to host the CCCEC and to continue to work in partnership with other institutions on this important initiative. I am eager to see UBC stand alongside Canadian post-secondary institutions and Indigenous, government and local community partners to collaboratively establish and grow a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Santa J. Ono'.

Santa J. Ono
President and Vice-Chancellor

Contact Info for Principal Contact at UBC:

Ryan Brown, Advisor, Community Engagement (VP External Relations)
604-827-1770; ryan.brown@ubc.ca
302-6251 Cecil Green Park Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Institutional Website Address: <http://www.ubc.ca>