A smart nation learns from the past, embraces the future and looks to the world with confidence and respect, while a caring nation recognizes that the measure of any society’s success lies in its ability to help others, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized among us. – His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada
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ABOUT C2UEXPO 2017

The C2UExpo conference is hosted every two years and is designed to celebrate and showcase the growth and range of community-campus partnerships in addressing social, health, environmental and community issues.

In 2017, Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation, C2UExpo was hosted by Simon Fraser University [SFU; www.sfu.ca], in BC, Canada.

The conference was held the week of May 1-5, with the first two days dedicated to the C2UExpo Community Jam. This year’s C2UExpo engaged Canadian and international leaders from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Portugal, Uganda, United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

For more information about the overall conference, please refer to the “C2UExpo 2017: For the Common Good Final Report” or the website www.c2uexpo.ca.
COMMUNITY JAM

C2UExpo 2017 Community Jam was an innovative two-day learning exchange that focused on furthering the development of smart, caring and engaged communities across Canada. It was co-hosted by Simon Fraser University, Community Foundations of Canada, joined by Vancouver Foundation and Surrey Cares, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Vancity and the City of Surrey, believing that meaningful change can only be achieved when we start collaborating across sectors.

“A smart nation learns from the past, embraces the future and looks to the world with confidence and respect, while a caring nation recognizes that the measure of any society’s success lies in its ability to help others, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized among us.”

– His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada

WASAN ISLAND, AUGUST 2016

The C2UExpo 2017 Community Jam was designed by over 20 higher education leaders, community organizations, private entities, and government representatives during a retreat on Wasan Island, Ontario in August 2016. The group wanted to determine whether investing in the grassroots relationships between our campuses and communities could ultimately shift the social infrastructure of Canada and spur significant and meaningful collaborations, partnerships and programming.

VISION

The overarching vision was to create a conference, or rather “unconference,” that would allow attendees to delve into and tackle our most pressing social issues through the combination of doing, sharing and learning, grounded in 10,000 years of Indigenous traditions. By design, the Community Jam would provide a space in which attendees could engage in conversations about their work and interests and also partake in rich peer learning. In sum, the goal was for Community Jam to act as a catalyst to strengthen existing partnerships, forge new ones, and form a campus-community networks.
PARTNERS

FOUNDING PARTNERS

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY** has become Canada’s leading comprehensive university with vibrant campuses in British Columbia’s largest municipalities and deep roots in partner communities throughout the province and around the world.

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA** is the national network for Canada’s 191 community foundations which help Canadians invest in building strong and resilient places to live, work and play. **THE VANCOUVER FOUNDATION**, one of Canada’s largest Community Foundations, is a lead partner and joins **SURREYCARES** Community Foundation in hosting the Community Jam in Surrey.

**THE J.W. MCCONNELL FAMILY FOUNDATION** is a private foundation that works in Canada on systemic social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges. Through granting and investing, and co-creation with grantees, partners and the public. The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation supports social innovation initiatives aligned with their mission.

**THE CITY OF SURREY** is the second largest city in British Columbia, with a population of over 500,000. Our population continues to grow as people from around the world move to one of the youngest and most culturally diverse cities in Canada.

**VANCITY** is a values-based financial co-operative serving the needs of its more than 519,000 member-owners and their communities in the Coast Salish and Kwakwaka’wakw territories, with 59 branches in Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Victoria, Squamish and Alert Bay.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Anita Cheng
Vancity Credit Union

Nav Chima
Simon Fraser University Surrey

Krista Funes
Vancity Credit Union

Grace Lee
Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue

Chad Lubelsky
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

Melody McClean
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Aileen Murphy
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Community Foundations of Canada

Jake Wildman-Sisk
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

Shauna Sylvester
Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue

Lindsay Wu
Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue
DELEGATIONS & FREE RADICALS

Community Jam reached out to various types of institutions and organizations who are in cross-sector partnerships and invited them to the Community Jam to share their stories, be inspired by new ideas and join an emerging global network of social innovators and changemakers. These attending partnerships, referred to as "delegations", consisted of groups of three or more people representing a post-secondary institution, a community organization and a philanthropic partner. We also welcomed individual attendees whom we called "free radicals."

Delegations:

- CityStudio Vancouver
- Living Knowledge Network
- C2UExpo 2017 Ambassadors Committee
- Community-Based Research Canada
- Surrey Changemakers Hub
- Coady International Institute
- Community-University Partnership
- Feeding 9 Billion
- Community Academic Reciprocal Engagement
- Youth Recreational Partnership
- Moose Hide Campaign
- Partnerships in Brandon, Manitoba
- Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement
- Productive Margins
- Women in Civic Leadership Class
- Immigrant Advisory Roundtable
- Newfoundland and Labrador’s Vital Signs
- Edmonton Shift Lab
- Registered Disability Savings Plan Action Group
- Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee
- Community Scholars Initiative

*See Storybook for details on these partnerships

Some of the challenges in recruitment came from realizing that the partnerships did not exist in as clearly defined structures as our definition of a delegation. Travel funding was also limited as we tried to tap into sectors that do not normally prioritize their funding towards attending conferences. Despite the challenges, there were a great amount of enthusiasm and interest in the importance of this movement to work across sectors. At the end, we brought together 21 delegation groups from across the country and internationally and 160+ free radicals that reflected many ways of knowing in Canada.

STORYBOOK

A collection of stories, learnings, strengths, challenges [contributed by the members of the 21 delegations plus the organizing committee] compiled into a book that was distributed throughout the 5 days of the C2UExpo 2017 Conference to highlight the diverse forms and topics of community-campus partnerships. View the Storybook here: https://goo.gl/qkFu2M
REGISTRATION OVERVIEW

250 individual registrations for the Community Jam, of which 163 registered for the full conference. 60% of the registration was of a non-academic affiliation.

Thank you for being an inclusive conference that represented people and groups from different parts of the world, areas of work, small and big organizations. Thank you for creating a space that allowed for small organizations to be taken seriously and allowed to be recognized of our role within the community.

–Anonymous
STUDENTS AND AMBASSADORS

COMMUNITY JAM STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM

Inspired by the RECODE network program, the Community Jam convened 12 engaged students from across Canada that volunteered for the conference as part of the Community Jam Student Leaders Program. These students researched and connected with our delegations leading up to the conference to learn about the unique work they do in their communities. They also actively participated in the Community Jam as delegate hosts.

"As a university student it was really empowering to see so many people from around the world and in such diverse organizations working towards building caring communities that are diverse and inclusive."

–Nida Valiani, Student, Kwantlan Polytechnic University

AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The Ambassadors Program hired 30+ individuals who face barriers to traditional means of employment through community agencies to work throughout the C2UExpo 2017 conference. The program was spearheaded by the C2UExpo 2017 Ambassadors Committee. Ambassadors worked in various positions including conference photographers, delegate hosts, registration table leads, engagement table leads, social media and more. They developed professional and interpersonal skills, worked with people from different organizations and backgrounds and had access to networking opportunities (which led to successful employment for some after the conference). Attendees echoed the importance of continuing the ambassadors program.
Simon Fraser University’s Surrey campus is a vibrant community hub located above a mall complex and in the heart of one of Canada’s fastest-growing cities. Since its launch, SFU Surrey has played a significant role in the transformation of one of the youngest and most culturally diverse cities in Canada. Surrey is the perfect host location for the Community Jam because it reflects both the challenges and opportunities of many growing municipalities and houses some of the most exciting and innovative approaches to creating a smart and caring community.

Surrey is amazingly forward-thinking, embracing diversity, and has a bright future. Hosting the Community Jam in Surrey was a powerful choice.

–Anonymous
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

The Community Jam avoided the rigidness commonly found in traditional conference programming when designing the Community Jam. Instead, it laid out basic parameters and goals for each session and then left the space and discussions for the delegates to shape according to what they wanted to get out of the sessions. The flexible and fluid nature of the Community Jam design allowed the conversations and outcomes of the conference to be authentic, organic, free-flowing and modified to each delegate’s needs. This ultimately created a very innovative and refreshing conference experience.

“My greatest learning from the Community Jam was seeing the concrete examples of First Nations culture—importance of ceremony for culture & well-being.”

—Anonymous

* The event was kicked off with the drumming of a South Asian Arts fusion performance team who led the participants from the mezzanine area into the theatre
CHEERS WITH PEERS

Two social gatherings were hosted the evening before the conference, in Vancouver and in Surrey. It allowed out-of-town delegates to come enjoy local food, drinks and meet their fellow delegates and conference organizers.

KWANTLEN FIRST NATION WELCOME CEREMONY

Chief Marilyn Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation, her husband (Kevin Kelly) and son (Michael Gabriel-Kelly) were an integral part of the opening of the Community Jam. To an audience of over 200 people, no only did they provide welcome remarks and a tradition blessing with songs and drumming, but they also blanketed three Indigenous youth from Surrey and called on a number of the conference delegates to be witnesses. The comments and ceremony were powerful and engaging. It was a reminder of the value of traditional knowledge, ways of knowing oneself and others, respect and creating community.

• “The power of a strong Indigenous focus and presence was my greatest learning”
• “I was totally moved by the Kwantlen First Nation opening and witnessing, it was deeply moving. Thank you Chief Marilyn Gabriel, Kevin, & Michael”
• “I am honored to be here at C2UExpo 2017 to have experienced the “heart-first” message this morning led by First Nations. No matter what else happens that’s the foundation for this national movement to really flourish.”
• ““Lets be great ancestors!” - wasn’t my quote but I loved it!”
BASE CAMPS

Delegations and Free Radicals were divided into small groups and assigned a facilitator and a “Base Camp” room, where they discussed what they hoped to learn from the Community Jam as well as what they had to share with others. The Base Camps were designed to share stories and bring to light common experiences, successful collaborative practices, nagging questions, challenge and issues with a group of people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. The groups explored the idea of what constitutes a smart and caring community and shared their own stories about how they are working towards shaping and creating engaged communities. In total, there were 11 Base Camp rooms with 1 or 2 delegation groups and 5 to 10 free radicals in each room.

“Smart and caring communities for me is breaking down barriers of FEAR.”
- Anna Migicovsky, Potluck Cafe Society

OPEN SPACES

Open Space Sessions were designed to highlight the experiences, insights and stories of our delegates so that delegates may learn from one another the steps, components and best practices for innovative community-campus work. In two unique styles of Open Space sessions, delegations had the chance to either lead a workshop or to pose a challenge. In conducting a workshop, delegations gave to others, who may be doing or aspire to do similar work in their respective communities, through sharing their learnings and discoveries gained from experience. Each of the rooms were facilitated with a unique design from the delegations themselves which ranged from a dialogue format to a group participated workshops. In posing a question or a challenge, delegations had the chance to learn from their fellow delegates as well as a panel of experts.

One of goals of the Community Jam was to create a shared knowledge within a network of social innovators. Participants used Open Space Sessions to share their work, discuss challenges and envision next steps. It also allowed people to witness different forms of partnerships to get ideas and new perspectives.
• “More Open Spaces!”
• “Learning about shared challenges and insightful perspectives was my key highlight”
• “There is a lot of important learning happening outside of the academic process”
• “The range of work being done was eye-opening, the extent of community engagement initiatives”
• “The richness embedded in the participants - despite the lack of “expert” presenters. So much goodwill and collaboration & generosity has been shared over the last 2 days.”
• “Witnessing the number of people who are working in different projects and organizations to foster communities and help people to thrive was the best part of my experience”

COMMUNITY JOURNEY

For many, the Community Journey (a series of community site visits) was an immersive and experiential experience that allowed participants to develop their understanding of a number of interconnected social issues facing growing urban communities across Canada and around the world.

The conversations and perspectives were not only rich and diverse (which made both the hosts and delegates reflect on their own practices), but also thoughtful in helping the audience reflect on the opportunities for deeper engagement and creating positive outcomes in the communities they serve.

FIRST PEOPLES

“Engaging Surrey’s Indigenous Communities–Youth Matters”
Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association

“Authentic Engagements, Authentic Relationships”
Cst. Troy Derrick, Surrey’s First Nations RCMP Officer

PHILANTHROPY

“John Volken: The Story, Impact & Partnerships In Surrey”
The John Volken Academy, PricePro, and the Bio-Pod

HEALTH

“A Health Innovation Agenda: Innovation Boulevard Society”
Innovation Boulevard Society

“Healthier Community Partnerships–The Live5210 Healthy Living Framework”–Fraser Health

SOCIAL INCLUSION

“Coming Together: Welcoming & Engaging Newcomers To Our City”–Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable

“The Power of Grassroots Organizations: United as One”
Umoja

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

“Whalley Walking Tour of 135A Street”

“Let’s Talk Business & More! Coffee & Conversation with the CEO”–Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association

EDUCATION (K-12)

“Approaches To Engaging & Supporting Vulnerable Youth”
Surrey Schools

“...It was warm, friendly, caring and dealt with the real issues of community, respect and hope—not just by teaching, but by doing & creating it.”

–Ceri Davis, University of Brighton
PARTNER EVENTS

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Reception
The reception of Day 1 was hosted by and held at our partner Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey campus. It was a mix-and-mingle evening event comprised of various cultural foods, interactive performances and optional themed dialogue circles.

Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association Pancake Breakfast
The Pancake Breakfast was organized by the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association (DSBIA) and hosted at Surrey City Hall. It was open to the general public and allowed delegates to connect with the community in Surrey, including community members, businesses and government officials.

“Anchoring the jam in the community was great.”
—Anonymous
REFLECTION CIRCLES

Reflection circles held at the end of each day were an opportunity for the delegates to collectively gather, share and reflect on their experiences and personal learnings during each day. Delegates were forthcoming in wanting to talk about their ‘ah-ha’ moments, what surprised them and what changed them.

CLOSING

At the closing, participants reflected on their own values and beliefs, ask the question “so what, now what?” and as well as how best to leverage the resources in the community.

The Aboriginal youth witnesses that were blanketed at the start of the conference gave their closing thoughts and reflections on the Community Jam. Meanwhile, students from the Community Jam Student Leaders Program gave out hand-carved yellow cedar paddles produced by Wes Antone from the Kwantlen First Nation. The paddle is a symbol of peace and respectful engagement as we travel and meet others, which is a fitting embodiment and description of the Community Jam experience. One of the youth highlighted a powerful thought, stating that it is our—the current generation’s—responsibility to improve our society so that current and future generations do not have to face the same hardships and injustices that our ancestors did.

What an inspiration—a conference of care, of support & of kindness.
Power in the flexibility, power in the people—We need to model our education system on this.

–Heather Duncan, Brandon University
C2UExpo 2017 Community Jam, alongside with the Presidents’ Round Table hosted by SFU and The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation on May 3, was featured in the Georgia Straight, a local media source of the lower mainland of BC. Charlie Smith, the author of the article spoke about the need for post-secondary institutions to break out of the ivory tower and collaborate with local communities. The article highlights that the C2UExpo Community Jam is the first of its kind and that this conference is an experimental first step to see if, together, we can create a movement that shifts the social infrastructure of Canada.

We’re joining forces to say: can we build a movement?
Can we look at how to strengthen the social infrastructure as beacon institutions?

–Shauna Sylvester, SFU Centre for Dialogue

FEEDBACK

JAM REFERENCES FROM THE MAIN DIGITAL SURVEY

Responses suggest that the people and their commitment to engagement were the driving forces behind the successes of C2UExpo 2017. Once again, many respondents mentioned the value of highlighting community members and their perspectives. Many appreciated the efforts of the organizers to bring in unconventional conference elements and to build a sense of energizing openness. Responses suggest that the Community Jam was especially successful in this regard. Involving the arts and the Ambassadors Program were also highlighted as valuable elements to the C2UExpo 2017.

- “The design of the Jam was excellent. The manageable size was very helpful and the location allowed for focus.”
- “The Community Jam was a HUGE part of what made this such an amazing experience. It was an opportunity to share common experiences and then build community with each other through reflection and dialogue.”
- “Repeat the community jam. And maybe provide a toolkit for how to do it in our own communities - it was phenomenal and definitely the best part of the conference.”
- “The Community Jam was really what made the experience so wonderful for me. It was great to connect with people in a smaller, more intimate setting ahead of the main conference. I learned a lot and am excited to share my learning with colleagues as our institution moves forward.”
- “By being provided with access and participation in the Community Jam, we’ve heard from people and organizations we didn’t know would be interested in our project. Since we were approached about providing our program as a model in other community/organizations we will see opportunities for ways to improve our own project. Lots of business cards handed around!”
- “I don’t know if this is SFU or the C2UExpo, but the conference and Jam was really well indigenized and it seemed that the university and the Aboriginal communities had really engaged partnerships.”
LESSONS LEARNED

COMMUNITY JAM AS A CATALYST

The Community Jam was a catalyst that propelled the growth of Canada’s social infrastructure. The two-day immersive experience bridged the gap between what currently is to what potentially could be, as campus and community changemakers from all over the world came together to showcase their work and envision next-steps to move for moving forward. The Community Jam was the start of a cross-Canada network of campuses and community organizations that work to make a difference in their communities. In the 2 days of gathering, new partnerships were formed and involved members were already discussing the work that they would do after the conference. Meanwhile, existing partnerships were strengthened as the Community Jam urged them to consider opportunities and gaps, as well as fostered a space for self-reflection and honest conversation that enabled advancement.

REFLECTIONS

The Community Jam not only placed a spotlight on the role and value of authenticity and reciprocity in community-campus engagements and in creating smart, caring and engaged communities, but also highlighted that relationships matter and are the building-blocks for creating deep and meaningful community collaborations and partnerships.

For cities like Surrey, and similar growing urban communities, it’s important to be mindful and connected to ‘community-assets’ that already exist, grounded in the diversity of people, knowledge and expertise.

Regardless of one’s background, as community stakeholders, we need to create capacity [in its many forms] to support social inclusion and cultivate a ‘community of practice’ that learns and develops by innovating, doing and engaging.

“Universities can be sites of incredible inclusion—but they can be very isolating also—how can we continue to push the universities to be more inclusive and culturally sensitive?”

- Janet Webber, Executive Director, SFU Public Square
APPENDIX
QUALITATIVE SURVEY DATA (N=55)

MOST INFORMATIVE

MOST RELEVANT
Phone calls & emails during recruitment and after agreeing to participate gave helpful information.

Registration process was efficient and friendly.

Information on website was clear and contained relevant and useful information.

* It would be super helpful to have had more info about the format of our delegation’s participation i.e. what was the format of the delegation session.

* Need more information & agenda earlier.
Small group facilitator provided clear explanation, guidance, and support throughout the day.

Interactions with Local Ambassadors were helpful.

Interactions with Community Jam student volunteers were positive.
LEARNING

Q There was adequate opportunity for me to learn and to participate in Base Camp dialogues.

Q There was adequate opportunity for me to learn and participate in the Community Journey.

Q There was adequate opportunity for me to meet others and learn from them.

* Some more time for discussion—although there were lots!
* More Basecamp time to debrief.
* More time needed for the Open Space.
If you were part of a delegation, to what extent did being part of a delegation enhance your experience?

Meals and refreshments were satisfactory.

* Needed more information much earlier to help plan my schedule and understand my role & the value I could add.
* Found that I learned more from others from different contexts.
* Great opportunity for us to meet and learn from others.
* Great method to present, learn, engage without ego, power, stress, etc.
* Very helpful for a national movement thinking.
* Helped build connections & expand network