

June 9, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my commitment, and the commitment of our institution as a whole, to collaboratively explore and contribute to a proposed vision for the role of *Canadian Carnegie Host (CCH)* of the inaugural Canadian Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (CCCEC).

McMaster University has a deep and long-standing history of civic and community engagement with our community partners. Ranging from local partnerships in Hamilton, Ontario—the city McMaster has called home for the past 88 years—to regional and national partnerships, to those that span the globe, McMaster is committed to working together with our partners to create a brighter world.

While McMaster has a long history of engagement, our desire to deepen our capacity to foster mutually-beneficial community-campus partnerships is reinforced within our vision—*Impact, Ambition and Transformation through Excellence, Inclusion and Community: Advancing Human and Societal Health and Well-being*. More specifically, one of five key institutional priorities in pursuit of this vision is to engage local, national, Indigenous, and global communities with the goal of further developing and expanding our network of longstanding and respectful partnerships with communities, partners, research collaborators, and supporters for the benefit of all.

In pursuit of this commitment, the University has made significant investments in infrastructure to support principled community-campus partnerships. In 2016, McMaster co-developed the University's first community engagement strategy alongside our community partners, and created the Office of Community Engagement to support the pursuit of our shared goals. Since then, the Office of Community Engagement has worked to limit duplication of efforts, identify synergies, and develop an understanding of McMaster's shared expertise and interests in community engagement. The result of this work has led to the adoption and integration of community-engaged research, education, and service initiatives across our entire campus and with a range of community partners from local to global.

As McMaster reflects on both our current institutional priorities and the success of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification Canadian Pilot Cohort (CPC), we are keen to explore with colleagues from across the country the potential for a collaborative approach to forming a Canadian Carnegie Host. Our goal will be to carry forward this work, building on the values, principles, and relationships fostered by the CPC over the past 4 years.

Given the issues we are facing within our communities, as a country, and as members of the global community, the importance of fostering collective capacity at a systems level for community-engaged approaches to problem solving is clear. With our commitment to creating a brighter world, McMaster is keen to explore how we can play a part in this important endeavour going forward.

Our desire to participate in the next phase of this collaborative effort comes from a desire to align our existing efforts with those of our colleagues and partners across the country. Building on our active participation in the CPC and in various national networks such as Community-Based Research Canada, Research Impact Canada, and Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE), we see this as an opportunity to further develop the foundation of collaboration and knowledge sharing across the country. This process will continue to help us to collectively understand our strengths, our weaknesses,

and how we can improve our shared capacity to foster principled and mutually beneficial community campus partnerships in ways that serve the greater good.

Given the importance of contributing to this effort at a national level, we see the opportunity to host the Canadian Carnegie Community Engagement Classification as a means to share knowledge we have developed in building our own institutional and community capacity for community engagement with others across the country, while also learning collaboratively with other colleagues. This will enable us to continue developing a shared sense of purpose within our institution and with our community partners.

As we explore concepts around a Canadian Carnegie Host in the coming months, any questions or requests for conversation can be directed to Dave Heidebrecht, Advisor on Special Projects, Office of the Vice-Provost (Faculty), at [dheide@mcmaster.ca](mailto:dheide@mcmaster.ca). Dave can also be reached at 905 525 9140 ext 24672.

Please also feel free to contact me if you have any further questions about our interest in this pilot. Thank you to the selection committee for considering McMaster University in this important and timely effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DFR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. David Farrar  
President and Vice-Chancellor