Aggregated Findings and Recommendations from SFU Community Engagement Consultation Initiatives
Data Sources

- SFU’s Strategic Community Engagement Plan stakeholder engagement process
- SFU thought exchange: “Community Engagement at SFU: What’s working well and what isn’t?”
- Community-Engaged Learning and Teaching research project
- Engagement with Indigenous Governments, Communities and Organizations report
- The Canadian Pilot Cohort of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification
- SFU’s Partnership Hub Pilot Project
• **SFU vision, mission and brand** (cited in 5 of the 6 studies)
• **The challenge of defining “community engagement”** (cited in 4 of the 6 studies)
• **Community engagement as a method of enriching teaching, learning, research and creative activity** (cited in 2 of the 6 studies)
• **The value of partnership, reciprocity and doing “with” not “for”** (cited in 5 of the 6 studies)
• **The importance of enhancing EDI and Reconciliation work** (cited in 4 of the 6 studies)
• A need to address barriers to participation in community engagement (cited in 6 of the 6 studies)
• SFU’s model and structure: distributed versus a center approach (cited in 4 of the 6 studies)
• A need for adaptation in infrastructure (cited in 6 of 6 of the studies)
• A need for better evaluation and measurement of “community engagement” (cited in 2 of the 6 studies)
• An interest in improving campus spaces (cited in 1 of the 6 studies)
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Increase communication, information sharing, dialogue, engagement, connection and collaboration between community-engaged practitioners and professionals at SFU

  1. Create and host a series of dialogues and appreciative inquiry events specifically designed to bring together community engagement practitioners and professionals from across SFU.

  2. Implement a new community engagement organizational structure at SFU, designed to bring community engagement practitioners and professionals from SFU’s VPER, VPA, VPRI, VPAAE and VPPEI portfolios together with community partners in structured dialogues of reflection and insight, and to encourage collaboration and resource sharing/building to make improvement to SFU community-engaged practice.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Co-create, adopt and socialize, across the SFU community, an SFU definition of community engagement

• Embed community engagement into SFU’s culture as a method of teaching, research and creative activity

• Consider developing conceptual clarity about the distinguishing aspects of community-engaged learning and teaching

• Consider developing conceptual clarity about the distinguishing aspects of community-based research
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Strengthen opportunities for partnership and relationship development with community
• Broaden and deepen actions and partnerships to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion
• Broaden and deepen engagement with Indigenous communities
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Adapt policies that impede or fail to support community engagement

• Strategically allocate new and existing resources to support, increase and strengthen community engagement

• Strengthen SFU’s community engagement infrastructure

• Strengthen frameworks that support community-engaged scholarship: learning, teaching and research

• Recognize faculty for community engagement, including modifications to tenure and promotion criteria

• Strengthen measurement and evaluation of community engagement