

Prepared by the Carleton University Committee on Community Engaged Pedagogy (CCEP)

Connecting classroom and community: Exploring urban planning issues for campus-community engagement (May 5, 2021)



This event invited Carleton students, faculty/instructors, and staff to connect with local community members to identify concrete, meaningful opportunities for collaboration around two urban planning topics (People's Official Plan, 15-Minute Neighbourhoods).

Panelists: Paul Johanis (Greenspace Alliance, People's Official Plan for Ottawa's Climate Emergency), Cheryl Randall (Ecology Ottawa), Christopher Stoney (School of Public Policy and Administration), Ozayr Saloojee (Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism)

Summary

The Carleton Committee on Community Engaged Pedagogy (CCEP; see [Appendix A](#) to learn more about the Committee) hosted an online event *Connecting classroom and community: Exploring urban planning issues for campus-community engagement* on May 5, 2021, 2:30-4:00pm. The event welcomed 52 participants from Carleton and the wider Ottawa community (see [Appendix B](#) for a summary of attendees).

The session opened with short presentations by four panelists (Paul Johanis, Christopher Stoney, Ozayr Saloojee, Cheryl Randall), followed by two breakout room discussions focused on two topics (People's Official Plan; 15-Minute Neighbourhoods; see [Appendix C](#) for summary notes). Throughout the event, participants were encouraged to identify specific, concrete opportunities for potential campus-community collaboration.

Purpose of Report

This report summarizes the key connections that stemmed from the event and offers resources to help participants take next steps toward getting their campus-community projects off the ground.

[Section 1](#) of this report includes a detailed breakdown of the specific issues and research questions that were raised at the event and promising campus-community connections that may address them.

[Section 2](#) includes a series of practical resources to support campus-community projects.

[Section 3](#) provides a tentative outline of a series of potential future events organized by the CCEP aimed at supporting community-engaged teaching and learning at Carleton.

This report will be sent to event participants and be publicly available on the [CCEP website](#).

Section 1. Promising Campus-Community Connections

There were several promising areas of research identified by campus and community members in both breakout rooms. *Table 1* below lists each area and emerging research questions alongside potential community organizations and Carleton departments/units that may be well-positioned to collaborate to address them.

In line with the core aim of this event, participants are encouraged to follow up with one another to take action on the research needs relevant to you/your organization. See [Appendix B](#) for a list of the event attendees' Carleton department/unit or community organization/s.

For support with next steps toward establishing productive campus-community partnerships, please see the resources provided in [Section 2](#) of this report. These resources are part of a larger ongoing effort to support community engaged learning at Carleton (see [Section 3](#) for potential future activities and resources).

Table 1. *Research Areas and Potential Carleton Connections for Campus-Community Collaboration (From Both Breakout Rooms)*

Research Area <i>Sample Research Questions</i> Community Organization/s in Attendance	Potential Carleton Connection/s (Department/Unit)
<p>Defining 15-minute neighbourhoods demographically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What data-driven methods can be used to trace who lives in a given 15-minute neighbourhood, over time? ● How do demographics impact what makes a 15-minute neighbourhood “complete” (e.g., seniors vs. younger generations)? <p>Community Organization/s: CAFES; Ecology Ottawa; Friends of James and Bay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geography and Environmental Studies ● Sociology and Anthropology
<p>Defining 15-minute neighbourhoods visually, spatially, and temporally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What does a 15-minute neighbourhood look like, visually? ● How can a 15-minute neighbourhood be defined (what it includes/not) and mapped, including as it changes over time (“nature of place”)? ● What tensions exist between the defined neighbourhood and one’s neighbourhood in practice? ● What are ideal target proportions for the naturalisation of parks? <p>Community Organization/s: Ecology Ottawa; Greenspace Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism ● Geography and Environmental Studies ● Sociology and Anthropology

Defining 15-minute neighbourhoods economically

- What businesses and services can/cannot operate at the scale of the neighbourhood (i.e., economic thresholds of businesses)?
- How can we shift from the culture of “big box” and online shopping to local, “everyday living” shopping?
- What are examples of successful policies that have been used to combat urban sprawl and have there been any adverse economic consequences (e.g., localized rise in housing prices)?

Community Organization/s: Ecology Ottawa; Federation of Citizens' Associations; Glebe Community Association

- Economics
- Sprott School of Business
- Political Economy

Designing navigable 15-minute neighbourhoods

- What are the key transportation infrastructure considerations in walkable neighbourhoods (neighbourhood needs vs. thoroughfares; public transit; parking; bike paths; sidewalks and their maintenance)?
- What types of infrastructure are needed to maintain connectivity within the city across different pockets of 15-minute neighbourhoods, and where should these be built?
- What design solutions are there to ease traffic congestion in a neighbourhood?
- What design challenges exist to ensure people can safely and freely navigate their 15-minute neighbourhood, including in different weather conditions (e.g., snow cleared from sidewalks and bike paths, pedestrian-first streets)?

Community Organization/s: Walkable Ottawa

- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Sociology and Anthropology

Negotiating competing priorities when developing communities (e.g., greenspace vs. densification vs. social justice vs. economic growth)

- How can the City's Official Plan and/or urban planning more broadly more effectively and creatively negotiate seemingly competing priorities (e.g., greenspace versus densification versus business activities versus infrastructure)?
- How to promote densification that does not compromise inclusivity (social justice, affordability vs. densification)?
- What are current zoning restrictions impacting the development of 15-minute neighbourhoods? What opportunities are there for multi-purpose zoning in terms of flexible neighbourhood design?

Community Organization/s: C3; CAFES; Old Ottawa South Community Association

- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Environmental Science
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Economy
- Political Science
- Sociology and Anthropology

Leveraging collective efforts in planning neighbourhoods

- How can local residents and community organizations become more central (empowered) in the City's decision-making through participatory neighbourhood planning, design, and implementation?
- How can the City promote walkable neighbourhoods with the collective input of urban ecologists, climate modelers, landscape architects, etc.?
- What gaps in 15-minute neighbourhoods can be addressed through local collective cultural / attitudinal shifts (e.g., buy local, shared backyards)?

Community Organization/s: All

- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Sociology and Anthropology

Rethinking energy-efficiency and climate change

- How can not only buildings but also building processes be made more energy-efficient (e.g., reduce construction waste) when developing walkable neighbourhoods?
- How can different types of housing support energy-efficient walkable communities (e.g., detached houses vs. multi-use residential buildings)? How can these be made more desirable (attitudinal shift)?
- What would it take from a land use planning change perspective to meet climate targets at the speed and scale required by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)? I.e., how effective is fighting urban sprawl as a climate measure, relative to other options?

Community Organization/s: Ecology Ottawa

- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Sociology and Anthropology

Establishing promising practices for campus-community collaboration

- How can campus research and teaching be leveraged to give credibility and momentum to community-driven projects?
- Given the duration of a standard university course (1 term = 12-13 weeks), what are the key considerations for building and maintaining campus-community partnerships throughout the life cycle of a project?
- What are good practices for course-integrated projects, including communication between all stakeholders and feedback and assessment of and for learning (students)?

Community Organization/s: All

- Teaching and Learning Services
- All

Section 2. Resources for Campus-Community Partnerships

Ready for next steps? The following resources developed at Carleton and other universities are intended to support new and ongoing campus-community projects. For faculty/instructors seeking further support with classroom-based community engagement projects, please reach out to [Nina Doré](#) (Educational Development Facilitator, Teaching and Learning Services, Carleton University).

[Community Engaged Pedagogy \(CEP\) Resources](#) (Carleton University)

Includes: Teaching tips; Sample forms; Links to external websites and resources; Sample books and journals

[Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement \(CFICE\) Tools and Resources](#)

(Carleton University; site not maintained past 2019)

Includes: News; Reports and working papers; Multimedia; Presentation; Tools and techniques (manuals, models, etc.); Policy; Academic publications

[Incorporating Community-Engaged Education into Courses: A Guidebook](#) (McMaster University)

Includes: Definitions and rationale for community-engaged education; Developing a community-engaged course; Building relationships with the community; Best practices

Section 3. Potential Future Directions

To continue to support campus-community connections, the CCEP organizing committee is preparing to design and deliver a new series of activities and resources. Below are some of the ideas under consideration:

- Regular campus-community connections events for networking
- Searchable contact list of potential campus and community partners
- Workshops and panel discussions
- Showcase of successful campus-community partnership projects
- Demos (software, toolkits, etc.) and Q&A sessions
- Working groups (e.g., resource development)
- Reading group (non-/academic literature)
- Journal club for instructors conducting campus-community partnership research
- Resource bank for Carleton faculty/instructors (templates, rubrics, etc.)

Do you have other ideas? Do you have questions, concerns, or comments about the event or campus-community engagement in general? Please reach out to the [CCEP co-chairs](#).

Appendix A. About the Carleton University Committee on Community Engaged Pedagogy (CCEP)

About the CCEP

The Carleton Committee on Community Engaged Pedagogy (CCEP) comprises a group of faculty/instructors, professional staff, and community-minded individuals who share an interest in promoting student learning and engagement through a variety of means that connect students and their community.

The goal of community engaged pedagogy is to encourage students to participate in service in order to create linkages between academic study and larger public life, and to better understand their roles as global citizens. Many of Carleton's faculty/instructors have embedded community-based learning in their coursework and the university continuously explores opportunities to work with community partners on a number of initiatives.

Contact Us

If you want to know more about the work of the committee or get involved, please contact the co-chairs:

- Danette Nearing-Guibord: danette.nearingguibord@carleton.ca
- Deborah Conners: deborah.conners@carleton.ca

If you are a Carleton faculty/instructor looking for support with integrating community engagement into your courses, please contact Nina Doré at nina.dore@carleton.ca.

Appendix B. Summary of Attendees

In Numbers

There were total of 52 attendees at the event, including:

- 19 community members;
- 19 Carleton faculty/instructors;
- 11 Carleton staff members; and
- 3 current and former Carleton students.

Table 2 provides a more detailed summary of attendees by breakout room.

Table 2. *Detailed Summary of Attendees, by Breakout Room**

Topic 1 <i>Clash Over Space: The People's Official Plan vs. the City of Ottawa Official Plan</i>	Topic 2 <i>Design Challenges of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood</i>
Community members: 3	Community members: 12
Faculty/instructors: 8	Faculty/instructors: 10
Staff members: 2	Staff members: 6
Students: 0	Students: 2
Total: 13	Total: 30

*Note: Attendance fluctuated throughout the duration of the breakout rooms

Affiliations

The lists below include the Carleton departments/units and the community organizations with which the event's participants were affiliated (organized alphabetically).

Campus Departments/Units

- Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Criminology
- Earth Sciences
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Geography and Environmental Studies
- Health Sciences
- Political Science
- Public Policy and Administration
- School for Studies in Art and Culture
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Sprott School of Business
- Carleton University Student Association Food Centre
- Facilities Management and Planning
- Library
- Media Studies
- Office of the University Secretariat
- Student Experience Office
- Teaching and Learning Services

Community Organizations

- Centretown Community Association
- Champlain Park Community Association
- Citizen Climate Counsel (C3)
- Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)

-
- Ecology Ottawa
 - Federation of Citizens' Associations
 - Friends of James and Bay
 - Glebe Community Association
 - Greenspace Alliance
 - Lowertown Community Association Heritage Committee
 - Old Ottawa East Community Association
 - Old Ottawa South Community Association
 - OneWorldArts - One World Film Festival
 - Ottawa Eco-Talent Network
 - People's Official Plan for Ottawa's Climate Emergency
 - Somerset West Community Health Centre
 - Walkable Ottawa

Appendix C. Summary Notes from Breakout Rooms

Topic 1: Clash over space: The People's Official Plan vs. the City of Ottawa Official Plan

Facilitators: Jesse McClintock (Lead), Brian Tansey (contributor/backup facilitator), Isla Jordan (note-taker)

Speakers: Paul Johanis (People's Official Plan); Christopher Stoney (Public Administration and Policy Management, Carleton University)

Notes

- Guiding question: Does Ottawa's Official Plan (OOP) constitute a strategic roadmap for sustainable growth or an opportunistic 'land grab' during a global pandemic?
- OOP is not sustainable, rather it is a political choice. Something in the culture makes it a given that there has to be expansion, regardless of where. We need to understand why.
- An issue that is systemic is that Councillors prefer to support an evidence-based expansion of the urban boundary rather than deal with the impacts in their own ward of not expanding the boundary e.g., a Westboro Councillor was turfed (partly because?) people don't like infill and increased height. But now they're going to get both.
- We need a different way of living, e.g. smaller homes.
- The 2019 Development Report of the City reported urban intensification was 51.4% in 2019. So the city has already reached its target of 51% for the next 25 years. Yet the OOP has spent a huge amount of its focus on intensification and regeneration. They don't seem serious.

-
- The model is for mixed housing, including detached homes. It is simpler to put detached homes in the outer urban areas where we could build doubles or two singles on single detached lots. Tiny homes are not being considered and the city (OOP?) doesn't count them as single detached homes. Needed are ways of dealing with growth and still meet demand without changing a whole lifestyle ecology.
 - OOP was done in a rush during a pandemic. One community association made the point that public input was scheduled over a holiday period.
 - The period the OOP covers is 2016-2046, so delaying the plan is not the end of the world. All the assumptions on which the plan is based have, essentially, been changed by the pandemic. These assumptions include: rise in population, increase in household employment, areas where the expansion will take place (urban greenfield, etc.), the definition of affordable housing (at or below income deciles*, or market affordable). But skyrocketing house prices have changed impacts, etc. In summary, we're not sure of population growth, immigration, demographics (people are moving out of the urban core), demand for downtown office space (government is vacating buildings), car parking space which is currently 30% of downtown core space. Assumptions about available land have also changed.
 - Also important are parks and areas where people can socialize. The plan must be balanced and not just looking at houses.
 - The city starts land developments with houses, then catches up with schools and social structure. Does the city get enough from developers to pay for infrastructure, or are the older parts of the city subsidizing schools, recreation centres, and hockey rinks in the newer areas?
 - The debate about where the resources come from happens in later years, rather than earlier in land developments.
 - With increased height and density downtown comes a need for green space. But that kind of greening has unintended consequences leading to displacement and gentrification.

-
- The Ottawa Official Plan doesn't constitute strategic planning. The corporation of Ottawa is a land development corporation which delivers 1.2 hectares per day for development. The land use plans occur in that context. There is no social master plan. The Transportation Master Plan has about 500 road expansions in the appendix. The Ottawa Official Plan has no metric. We are not connected to a big park like Algonquin or Gatineau, rather, we are connected to land development.
 - Some green space is happening. A central greening zone leads to gentrification, but a diversified greening brings more equity. What are the policy tools to ensure that if we follow intensification, [there will be diversified greening?]. See the podcast interview: <https://www.ecopoliticspodcast.ca/episode-2-14-global-cities-environmental-politics-and-low-carbon-transition/>
 - Over the last few years, more equity-seeking groups have joined the People's Official Plan. We need to build on existing space. How do we bring more affordable housing? The policy tools on deep affordability are in the city's hands, then there's market affordability. The biggest gap in the current draft plan is that there is no planning for how to make affordable 15-min neighbourhoods. We need the next level of planning, how to plan at the neighbourhood level that brings in community etc.

Topic 2: Design Challenges of the 15-Minute Neighbourhood (15MN)

Facilitators: John Milton (Lead), Mary Hegen (contributor/backup facilitator), Nina Doré (note-taker)

Speakers: Cheryl Randall (Ecology Ottawa); Ozayr Saloojee (Carleton's Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, Carleton University)

Notes

- Example of intensification of Centretown - need to consider how demographics affects what a 15-minute neighbourhood (15MN) means - e.g., needs of senior citizens vs. 30-year olds (parks, recreation centres, etc.)
- Challenge of mapping 15MNs - someone tried mapping them and gave up because such a vague definition
 - Gap: Data! What's there, not there, etc. to make it a 15MN
- Neighbourhoods change, sometimes drastically
 - Gap: A nuanced parsing of who's living there, to inform more robust responses (zoning, etc.)
- Need to talk to people (especially business owners) in 15MNs about viability of small businesses and culture of buying local
 - Shopping local, not online or "big box"
 - Shopping for "everyday living" (e.g., groceries for 1-2 days at a time)
 - Shopping in several small shops, not all-in-one stores
- How to navigate a more challenging climate? Becomes a design challenge
 - e.g., clearing sidewalks, protected bike lanes... Need to ensure people can move about freely, efficiently
- Competing priorities in 15MNs - e.g., trees and green space vs density
 - Zoning - how to support mixed housing *and* demographics *and* equity *and* energy efficient developments?
 - Not mutually exclusive - need collective input of urban studies, as well as urban ecologists, climate modelers, landscape architects, etc.
- Helped to have a visual impression (model) of a 15MN, to see more examples of what densification *looks* like
- How can urban design deliver on a 15MN while preserving the urban forest - e.g., hardscaping at odds with maintaining healthy urban forest & all of the proven

benefits of them (health, crime, economic)... but that seems to be the direction the city is going.

- Battle with property lines, where buildings risk damaging large root systems (and vice versa) - but new bylaw about trees being protected during infill = much better... some positive directions!
- How to leverage community energy when the City is overwhelmed - e.g., providing accessibility to research & facilities, interest in engaging with motivated individuals who want to make a difference...
- What's *in* a 15MN? What do you want/need to purchase/do/see/experience?
 - Example of London: <https://www.dezeen.com/2020/12/10/social-housing-peter-barber-architects-greenwich-london/>
- Construction waste - need to consider more efficient buildings as well as building process
- Need to consider the scale of 15MN - not just a unit, a single 15MN, but as connected to ecologies of other units
- Re-thinking private and public spaces - e.g., take down fences around backyards and making one giant backyard (big culture shift)
- Importance of long-term relationships with students/faculty, i.e., that exceeds a single term... It can be done!
- Wrap up: if you had to identify one partnership need, what would it be?
 - Research on community needs and gaps - what do communities want for livability?
 - Good mapping of community characteristics for 15MNs - sidewalks, trees, greenspace, community services, access to shops, access to parks and recreation, etc.
 - Pedestrian-first main streets in communities
 - Long term collaborations with community groups/not-for-profits to develop outcomes that has social and environmental impact

-
- Bringing in the City for these talks! They haven't participated enough to see the level of interest in the community (i.e., City as collaborators)
 - What types of infrastructure are needed and where they should be built to maintain connectivity within the city across different pockets of 15MNs?
 - Desirable/family-oriented/oriented multi-unit residential buildings/condos (i.e., fewer detached houses)
 - How do changes to transportation infrastructure (or other parts of the urban system) influence travel behaviour in the context of 15MNs?
 - Studies providing evidence for induced demand - i.e., development of roads does nothing to ease congestion; if we're on a road diet, can we reduce congestion?
 - What would it take from a land use planning change perspective to meet climate targets at the speed and scale required by the IPCC? Another way of asking this is: how effective is fighting sprawl as a climate measure, relative to other options on the table?
 - Are there examples of jurisdictions that have made measurable advances in fighting urban sprawl? What are the policies they have used and have there been any adverse consequences (e.g., localized rise in housing prices)?
 - Planning studies to identify the threshold of density needed for local shops to survive/succeed
 - Naturalisation targets for parks, including data on which proportions dedicated to naturalisation (needs analysis)