



Backgrounder—Getting to know CFICE and Community Campus Engage Canada (CCEC)

What is CFICE?

Community-First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE) is a seven-year [SSHRC](#)-funded pan-Canadian participatory action research project. We investigate how community-campus partnerships can be **designed and implemented to maximize the value created for non-profit, community-based organizations**. Our aim is to support community-first relationships between community organizations and their student and academic partners as part of building a strong community-campus engagement movement in Canada.

How does CFICE work?

CFICE tests different methods, models, and approaches to building reciprocal and sustainable community-campus relationships.

- **Phase 1 (2012-2015)** focused on working in CCE partnerships to gather research and change policy in four key sector-specific hubs: poverty reduction, community food security, community environmental sustainability and violence against women.
- **Phase 2 (2016-2019)** is focused on mobilizing Phase 1 findings to create more effective and valuable community-campus partnerships with the aim of changing the policies and practices of non-profits, post-secondary institutions (PSIs), and funders. This work is currently being undertaken by five policy-oriented working groups.

AICI Working Group

The Aligning Institutions for Community Impacts (AICI) is one of the five policy-oriented working group created by CFICE in 2016. AICI addresses the barriers of effective community-campus engagement (CCE) at post-secondary institutions (PSIs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and funding agencies (including governmental bodies and private foundations).

This working group has been re-branded to **Community Campus Engage Canada (CCEC)** which focuses on growing a Canadian CCE network and community of practice (COP).

What is CCEC?

Community-Campus Engage Canada (CCEC) is the legacy of the CFICE project. It is a **national, emerging community engagement practitioner network and community of practice** that works to foster collaboration amongst communities, post-secondary institutions (PSI's) and other networks to promote and sustain nation-wide, positive social change and impact.

How does CCEC currently work?

Currently, CCEC works through CFICE to convene **national roundtables** to collaborate with grassroots partners, engagement practitioners, post-secondary institutions (PSIs), policy makers and funders with the objective of **finding a common goal that shapes and funds this initiative as a sustainable community of practice for community-campus engagement (CCE) in Canada**.

What are CCEC's goals?

1. **Establish a Canadian CCE network and community of practice** to connect community engagement practitioners and campus engagement initiatives across Canada to share and develop CCE best practices, research, and resources
2. Convene high-level discussions among funders and university partners to **advocate for funding policies and practices** that better support and reward Community-First CCE
3. Develop and pilot, in coordination with community partners and PSI demonstration sites, a **Community-First self-assessment/classification system and impact framework for the Canadian context**



Backgrounder—What are CCEC Roundtables Anyway?

What is CCEC?

Community-Campus Engage Canada (CCEC) is the legacy of the seven-year SSHRC-funded CFICE (Community-First: Impacts of Community Engagement) project dedicated to establishing a **sustainable community of practice for community-campus engagement (CCE) in Canada**.



CCEC's Connection to Roundtables:

CCEC currently works (through the CFICE project) by convening **National/Regional Roundtables** to collaborate with grassroots partners, students, engagement practitioners, post-secondary institutions (PSIs), policy makers and funders to shape and fund the future of CCE in Canada for nation-wide, positive social change.

The Goals of Roundtables:

1. **Connect** multi-sector partners who share similar goals of engaging with PSIs to advance stronger, more equitable communities and to increase community-based student learning and research opportunities
2. **Explore** the current community-campus engagement landscape across Canadian regions, with a focus on the policy contexts and existing assets and opportunities, including networks, interests, and funding mechanisms
3. **Contribute** ideas and recommendations to government bodies, funders and higher education PSI's about improving the policies and funding mechanisms for community-campus engagement to have a greater positive impact on societal well being
4. **Grow** the impact of community-campus engagement in Canada and globally through development of capacity building and funding programs, multi-sectoral collaboration, and network development

Previous National CCEC Roundtables:

So far, CFICE on behalf on the CCEC initiative, has hosted **three National Roundtables** in Ottawa, ON: June 2017, October 2017, and February 2018. Roundtable participants included CFICE project leaders, community partners, CCE networks, funders, provincial and municipal government staff, and practitioners and scholars from universities and colleges.

Upcoming Roundtables:

This Spring 2018, seven **Regional Roundtables** are being planned for Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Halifax, Brandon, Haliburton County (ON).

The next **National Roundtable** is in Ottawa on June 20, 2018 and will focus on long-term action, desired impacts, funding opportunities and the vision for the CCE work in Canada.



Picture taken at CCEC's last National Roundtable in Ottawa on February 14, 2018.