



## 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). The working group is now focused on growing a Canadian CCE network and community of practice (COP) called: **Community Campus Engage Canada (CCEC)**.

### 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 nationwide, positive social change and impact.

### How does CCEC currently work?

Currently, CCEC works through CFICE (AICI) 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, provincial and municipal government staff, and practitioners and scholars from universities and colleges.

### Upcoming Roundtables:

This Spring 2018, 7 **Regional Roundtables** are being planned for Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Halifax, Brandon, Haliburton County (ON) and more.

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.



# CCEC Research, Development and Current Priorities

## (Update June 15, 2018)

### 1. Network Platform and Development

*Create a collaborative and connecting space by supporting regional, national and global meetings and events, and by developing a networking platform for CCE practitioners focused on fostering collaboration and innovation.*

#### Progress to Date:

**Research:** Conducted a scan of national and global CCE academic and non-profit websites/ platforms to determine functionality and design for a new CCEC site – led by RA Antonella Pucci.

**Development:** Convened a CCE National Networking Workshop at C2UEXPO 2017 attended by 35 national and global practitioners and networks. Conducted a post C2UEXPO survey with key national networks and CCE leads. Created a new website space for CCE practitioners on CFICE website. Connected with CCE global leaders—Campus Engage Ireland, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (UK) and Living Knowledge Network (EU)—to share best practices, policy and engagement strategies.

#### Current Priorities:

- Further develop the CCE Practitioner Site and invite NGOs, Universities and Colleges.
- Build a mapping and search function into the site building on best practices.
- Post profiles of individual practitioners involved in CCE (from Canada and beyond).

### 2. Community of Practice and Capacity Building

*Develop a national community of practice focused on sharing best practices, learning and training opportunities for students and practitioners, building community-campus relationships and partnerships and regional-national-global projects for the public good.*

#### Progress to Date:

**Research:** Completed a National Inventory of past studies and current Canadian university and college CCE offices and funding profiles led by RA David Monk (currently being updated for public use). Compiling research findings to inform CCE priorities based on Roundtable proceedings.

**Development:** Worked with CFICE team, partners and CCEC Working Group to design and deliver three National Roundtables in Ottawa (June and October 2017 and February 2018) and 7 Regional Roundtables (Brandon, Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, Haliburton County and St John's) engaging key national CCE, academic, NGO, policy and funding bodies. Engaged approximately 185 participants and documented their values, visions and priorities for building CCE in Canada.

#### Current Priorities:

- Complete final CFICE-CCEC Roundtable Report.
- Analyze and incorporate Roundtable findings into development of the CCE COP.



- Work with regional and national partners to design an ongoing, multi-faceted regional and national CCE training and development program for Canada co-designed and supported by campuses and community partners.
- Build on best practices from other CCE national and global networks and compliment existing national initiatives (e.g. CBRC, Research Impact Canada).
- Explore with CFICE and CCEC partners how best to support place-based and sector-based initiatives (e.g. Food Security, Housing, Indigenous Community Development, Student Engagement)

### 3. Funding and Policy Development

*Mobilize and create new funding and policy tools, resources and collaboration through a Canadian vision of multi-sector community-campus engagement. Focus on democratizing knowledge production, supporting student experiential and community engaged learning, supporting community and indigenous-led research and project priorities, and increasing higher education's responsiveness to societal needs.*

#### Progress to Date:

**Research:** Continued CCE Funding research. Created **CCE Funding and Policy: Challenges Ahead** discussion paper. Drafted a research-based brief for SSHRC on 'Community First' Funding for Community-Campus Partnerships (SSHRC staff will provide feedback). Conducting research on policy and practice with community foundations/ non-academic funders.

**Development:** Co-developed and launched a National Vision for CCE at closing plenary of C2UExpo 2017 signed by Research Impact Canada, CBR Canada, UNESCO Chair for CBR and SR in HE, Canadian Assn for Community Service Learning, CFICE and the Living Knowledge Network. Engaged policy and funding leaders into National Roundtables and provincial government HE policy leads and discussions into Toronto Roundtable. Created CCEC Innovation Fund development proposal with Mitacs.

#### Current Priorities:

- Build a **Community Higher Education Roundtable** as a foundation for regional and national CCEC policy and funding research, development and advocacy work.
- Continue development of CCEC Innovation Fund with Mitacs and invite community, regional and national philanthropic funders to participate in its development.

### 4. Impact Framework/Classification Systems

*Enable meaningful assessment of our work by building a Canadian CCE collective impact and classification system to grow, identify campus capacity for, and commitment to, CCE ethics and practice.*

#### Progress to Date:

**Research:** Completed **Embedding an Ethic of Community Engagement in PSI's**- 31 page Lit Review, led by RA Katalin Koller analyzing current US, UK and Irish models and options for a community-led Canadian system. Draft literature review prepared by RA Magda Goemans on Community Impact of Community-Campus Engagement. CFICE academics are co-editing a special issue of Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning on Community Impact (Fall 2019).



**Development:** Conducted 5 public workshops to explore Canadian CCE classification / metric systems and held key informant interviews with national and global leads (Including the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (UK) and Campus Engage Ireland).

**Current Priorities:**

- Host a webinar on Impacts of Community Engagement in Fall 2018.
- Create a development team with NGO, philanthropic and academic leaders through CCEC to further the conversation on impact systems and frameworks and classification systems.
- Publish a discussion paper on Community Impact to inform institutional and provincial policies.
- When timing is right, develop a CCE classification framework with appropriate national partners.

## 5. Organizational Development

*Develop CCEC as a sustainable Canadian CCE organization, network and community of practice.*

**Development:** Transformed and reconstituted the CCEC Working Group and Leadership Team from 2017-2018 (formerly Aligning Institutions for Community Impact) to focus on long-term movement building, mobilizing people, engagement (via Roundtables) and building relationships. Met with CBR Canada and Research Impact Canada to identify areas for collaboration.

**Current Priorities:**

- Develop a strategic and business plan in Fall 2018 building on 1, 3 and 10 year goals and visions.
- Research and analyze other national NGO networks, CCE systems and structures to create an appropriate innovative system and infrastructure for CCEC.
- Reach out to new university, college and policy/ NGO partners.
- Reach out to Indigenous organizations [e.g. Dechinta - indigenous postsecondary and, Circle Foundation, Students, Colleges, Polytechnics, and Health organizations (e.g. NCCPH)]
- Create a diverse funding base for CCEC building on in-kind resources, membership fees, programming and project funding.
- Complete partnership agreements with key national CCE Networks, NGO CFICE-CCEC partners, and global networks and Mitacs.