CFICE is a participatory action-research project that studies how communities and academics work together to achieve community goals. We want to answer the question: How can community-campus partnerships be designed and implemented to maximize the value created for non-profit, community-based organizations?

For CFICE, being community first means equitably prioritizing community and academic needs when conducting research and creating plans to address community issues.

What does CFICE do?
Through community-driven projects, we test different ways of being community first to build reciprocal, more democratic, and longer-lasting community-campus relationships.

CFICE’s objectives is to strengthen Canadian communities through partnerships between community and academics that put communities first.

Project work is divided into two phases:

Phase I (2012 – 2015)
Working in and studying partnerships in these sector-specific areas:
- Poverty Reduction
- Community Food Security/Food Sovereignty
- Community Environmental Sustainability
- Violence Against Women
- Knowledge Mobilization

Phase II (2016 – 2019)
Sharing research to improve partnerships through these working groups:
- Aligning Institutions for Community Impacts
- Tools for Community-First Community Campus Partnerships
- Community-Campus Engagement Brokering
- Student Pathways for Community Impact
- Evaluation and Analysis

CFICE’S Partners

Lakehead University
SFU
Simon Fraser University
Trent University
Université de Montréal
Unversity of Alberta
CITIZEN Eco-TALENT NETWORK:
- Carleton Poverty Reduction Partnership
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
- Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning