# Haliburton, Ontario, Roundtable May 16, 2018

**Co-hosts:** Marie Gage & Sonja Addison, U-Links **Participants (25):** Academic administrator (2), Faculty (4), Student (2), Community leader/organization (10), Government (3), CCE broker/agent (4)

We respectfully acknowledge that this event took place on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg. We offer our gratitude to our First Nations for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.



# **Highlights of SOAR Activity**

**Strengths**: Support and recognition of the unique work that U-Links has sustained for 3 decades through their development and encouragement of cross sectoral and cross jurisdictional relationships, champions (in all sectors), and capacity building. Participants felt there was strong leadership, investment, and vision for community campus partnerships-both within the university and the community. There was also a sentiment that communication between stakeholders and partners is strong.

Within the partnerships, the community-driven principle of the research questions empowers the community with the resultant knowledge. People felt that the innovative model of CBR with individuals who are prepared to challenge conventional wisdom is important. And, finally, that students benefit from mentors in real life settings because of the willingness of organizations to provide the time it takes to support the students during the research process. The students gain meaning from doing research in a relevant context.

## **Opportunities:**

**Funding & Entrepreneurship:** In this region, there is potential to be creative about funding in order to engage in more research. The new experiential learning mandate set out by the provincial government which each University must meet, heightens the need for experiences and has potential for resources to follow. Universities can access funds that Community Based Organizations cannot typically access. There are opportunities to develop the relationship between U-Links and the Chamber of Commerce in order to make a connection with the business community. These connections could be leveraged for organizations to use U-Links for research functions that do not involve students on a fee-for-service basis.

**Reciprocal value:** Opportunities to engage in different kinds of research with student



researchers who are essentially unbiased "outsiders" (E.g., spread of technology, longitudinal research, bigger, long-term research, health research at a community level, and youth wellness.) Creation of additional partnerships with other campuses, and the creation of inter/trans disciplinary partnerships, hubs or networks. College students would bring different, more hands on, practical skills. Bringing community partners to the classroom would add value for the students. Introducing students to the community provides an opportunity to retain a 'sliver' of

them in the community.

People also noted that the evolution of the relationships will enhance communication. There will be enhanced awareness of non-technological means of communication, reconciliation, between groups, between government / constituents, First Nations / Settlers, humans / nature.

## **Aspirations**

**Centre of Excellence:** To be a reputational centre of excellence that other communities and universities look to for guidance. If the characteristics of CBR in Haliburton County could be dissected to determine which are transferable to other communities it would be possible to help other communities develop similar entities. There is a need to teach Universities / Colleges and their students, how to engage with the community themselves, ethics, multi-disciplinary.

**Sustainability:** There is a need for sustainable funding to enable the organization to reach full potential. Perhaps there could be a pooling of resources to create more capacity. Need for a sustainable volunteer population with recognition / celebration of the impact of their involvement. That the community and community leaders recognize and celebrate the uniqueness of the CBR relationships that currently exist. Improved accommodation (housing) for students.

**Structural/System Changes:** Perhaps a Haliburton CKL sub region planning table on issues related to vulnerable populations. Alteration of the University / College courses to facilitate involvement of students by providing multi-year courses, doubling the offering of CBR / CSL courses and involved departments, offering of more community-based courses such as Love Your Lake. To use research to solve community problems. Consideration of offering University courses for free to community members in order to enhance community capacity.

**Networks:** Development of strategies for more effective use of technology. Development of better communication strategies to link all partners and the community with widely disseminated results and development of tools to ensure knowledge and mobilization are passed on year to year. Development of a role for U-Links as a facilitator of inter-agency collaboration on big picture issues. Linkages to other communities are developed to enable learning about such things as reconciliation and climate change on a national level.

### **Results**

Long view: That municipalities and organizations use long range thinking and planning

using CCE to get there. The story of the long-term impact is told and that U-Links is better known both within and outside the community.

**Capacity building:** Students are job ready and successful in job search. The community gains capacity and feels empowered (enhanced knowledge). Evaluation tools are developed to demonstrate impact. Student recommendations are implemented. There is easier transportation between Peterborough and Haliburton County.

**Connection:** Increased involvement of faculty / students/ community members and organizations. Year-round balance (e.g., population 'explosion'

in summer). There is ongoing celebration of the relationships.

### **Challenges Identified:**

**Resources:** Shortage of resources such as staff, travel and transportation from Peterborough and tools to measure success.

**Relationship management:** Matching host needs to departments at University that are involved in CBR – Limited faculty interest. Accepting the wisdom of the community and becoming rooted in the community. Understanding that it is not free labour. There is a need for mentoring and facilitation that must be done by someone in the organization. It takes time.

**Communications:** Communication when issues arise given the number of people involved, the distance between Haliburton and Peterborough and sometimes the differences in vantage point. How to communicate the results to the principal in a meaningful way.