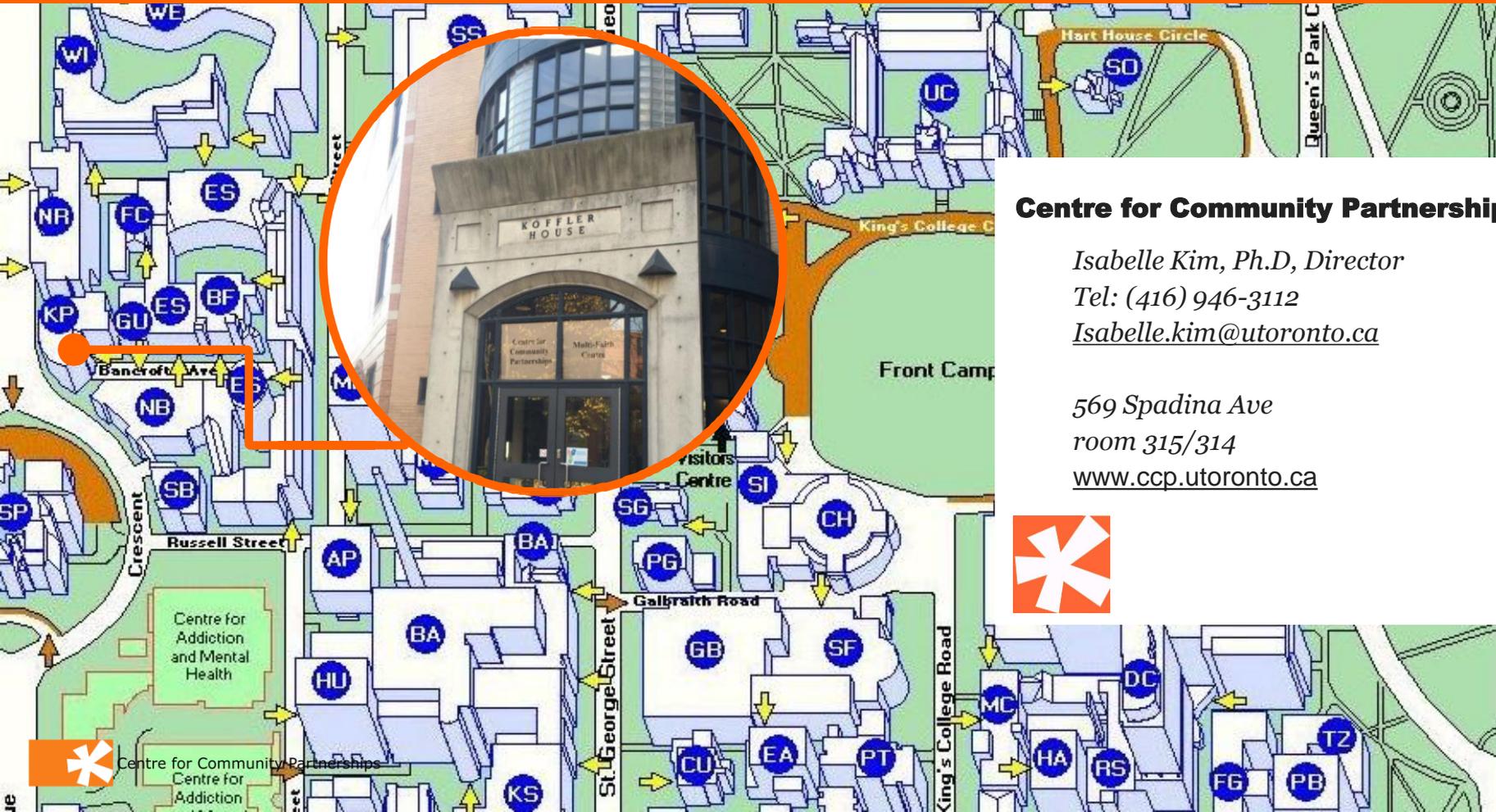# CFICE Webinar: September 18, 2018.

*Community Impacts: metrics & methods
from the perspectives of:
i) Ontario Higher Education Policy, and
ii) the Community development sector*

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OUR MISSION
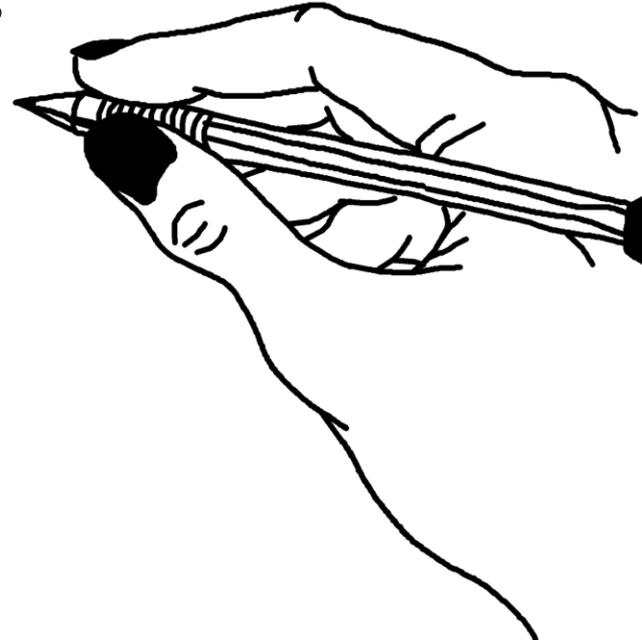
We work in partnership with students, staff, faculty, communities, and non-profit and public organizations to catalyze and sustain socially-responsive community-engaged learning and research initiatives.

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ONTARIO HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Ontario's funding formula (2017) determined that outcomes-linked funding will be part of Strategic Management Agreements (SMAs):

- SMA 3 five priority areas - Section 5 is "Innovation, Economic Development & Community Engagement"

Council of Ontario Universities (COU) currently in exploratory phase of working with Ontario universities to develop system-wide metrics, institution specific metrics and mechanisms to link metrics to funding:

- Looking at EDGE and Carnegie Foundation tools for possible inspiration

- Focus to date is on measuring engagement vs impact (impact difficult to measure)

Should we measure engagement or impact?

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POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Select principles for developing metrics:

- Measurable

- Incent positive behaviour

- Avoid incentives that cause unintended/undesirable results

- Derive from high-quality, objective data

- Predictable, stable

- Transparent and simple

- Cost-efficient

Do/would you apply these criteria to impact evaluation?

Are there others you would add?

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Community Development Sector Perspectives

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PERSPECTIVES

Developmental Evaluation

- For situations of innovation, complexity and uncertainty, where path and destination are evolving

- Evaluation is <u>part</u> of the work of innovation and evaluator is part of the team

- Questioning and learning happens simultaneously with action

- Methods include interviews, focus groups, surveys, e-mail questions and observation, group analysis and interpretation

Principles-Focused Evaluation

- Principles provide a simple organizing construct for evaluation and strategy

- Helps to navigate uncertainties, turbulence, and challenges in dynamic environments

- Examines:

    1) whether principles are clear, meaningful, and actionable

    2) whether they are being followed

    3) whether they are leading to desired results

COMMUNITY

Theory of Change

- Detailed description of how and why a change is expected to happen in a particular context
- Identifies long-term goals, works backward to identify conditions needed for goals to occur
- Outcomes framework identifies activities and preconditions for success
- Links activities to detailed understanding of how change happens

Collective Impact

- To address deeply entrenched and complex social problems, fosters cross-sectoral collaboration
- Structured collaboration - individual efforts become part of a larger process of change
- Five core conditions:
  - develop a common agenda
  - use shared measurement to understand progress
  - build on mutually reinforcing activities
  - engage in continuous communications
  - provide a backbone to move the work forward

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