



**Carleton
University**

Centre for
Community Engagement

Community is our founding story.

Carleton University was built by, for and with the community in 1942 to meet the needs of veterans returning from World War II. This deep connection to community continues to be an integral part of Carleton's story.

As a public institution, it's our responsibility to generate, preserve and share knowledge, understanding that knowledge is created by society as a whole. Our collective effort is critical to solving our challenges and uplifting everyone. **With this, Carleton is here to Serve Ottawa and Serve the World, a key strategic direction for the university.**

Over the past several years through a number of initiatives, we have been learning about the depth and breadth of community initiatives happening across the university. We also realized that we could improve our community efforts by investing in organizational infrastructure and staffing to help support, promote and measure these activities in a strategic way. **From this foundation, our new Centre for Community Engagement was formed, and we're developing the first Strategic Plan for Community Engagement or SP4CE.** We've started this process by consulting across the university to get a better sense of our own 'house' - where we think we're at in working with communities and areas we think we need to improve.

However, we need to go further now, and we can't develop this plan without recognizing, respecting and incorporating the valuable input of our broader community members, **people like you who have something to say about how we might move forward.**

A quick glimpse of 'what we heard' from people at Carleton...

What people talked about most!



It's important to leverage and improve the design of Carleton's services, programs, places, and spaces for community impact.

We need to support diverse groups in our engagement strategy.

It's imperative that we strengthen communication for community engagement.



Some tensions and pressures discussed...

We need more time, resources and recognition for community-based work.

What should the Centre do to strategically support community engagement?

We have different views on how to define 'community engagement', in other words, who and what counts in engagement.



Small but striking things...

We need to invest in measurement and evaluation to assess our engagement and impact with communities.

The way we work with communities and what we produce together can be innovative and creative.