

**PASCAL International Observatory and the
Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and
Training, University of British Columbia**

are extending an invitation to participate in an

**International conference on
Community Engagement and Service:
The Third Mission of Universities**

**To be held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver
May 18 to 20, 2009**

This conference, which is co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE), will bring together academic researchers, teachers and administrators as well as practitioners, professionals, policy analysts and makers in order to explore and showcase research and practice of what in North America is called 'Service to the Community'. Although newly discovered by some universities, service to the community has a long tradition in others and, in many cases, is recognized as an explicit mandate in the university charter. Service is understood to be the third mission of universities, alongside Teaching and Research. Service and community engagement takes many different forms. Examples are community-based research and learning, assistance in regional development, continuing and community education, technology transfer, and other forms of knowledge sharing and cooperation.

The conference will discuss all forms of service to the community. Presentations are invited, especially on one of the three sub themes:

- Universities and Regional Regeneration and Development
- Higher Education and Sustainable Development
- Universities and Major Local and Regional Events (such as the Olympic Games, the Soccer World Cup, or the World Exposition)

Under the first theme, studies that will be of particular interest are those that focus on the impact of collaboration by, and active linkages between universities and regions, and the local and regional developments that have resulted from this collaboration.

For the second theme, papers and other presentations are invited to address the topic of sustainable local and regional development in all its forms and the role universities and community colleges play in it. The third theme addresses forms of collaboration between higher education and the various actors, especially cities and regions, who are involved in organizing and staging these mega events in a way that these events leave a positive legacy that benefits the population of their respective city or region. This theme is particularly topical as Vancouver and Whistler will host the Olympic Winter Games in February 2010.

Who should attend?

The conference will be of interest to the research and academic community working in these fields but will also be of significant interest to practitioners in these areas particularly from cities and regional development agencies, local and national government agencies and organizations working in the field.

Participation is not confined to the actual members of the PASCAL Observatory, but open to all those who are interested in these themes and have experience to showcase and compare with that of others.

Format of the conference

The particular mix of participants at PASCAL conferences provides for an informed dialogue between academics, regional and local leaders, and professionals. In addition to keynote addresses, panels and individual papers, demonstration projects will illustrate successful practice, and roundtable discussions will allow for debate and discussion on a range of topics associated with the central themes of the conference.

The conference venue

Vancouver is one of the world's most livable and beautiful cities. That reputation is not only owed to the spectacular physical setting with its beaches and mountain but also to the multi-cultural composition of its population. Vancouver is home to the arts and culture, theatre and music, and to the sciences, with four universities and several colleges and institutes serving the region. Three years ago, Vancouver has been designated as a 'Learning City'. In 1986, the city was played host to the World Exposition, and in 2010 Vancouver will host the Winter Olympics.

The organizers

The PASCAL International Observatory, created in 2002 as a non-for-profit organization by a number of universities and regional authorities, is an international research and policy development alliance which aims to develop, discuss and communicate new concepts and emerging ideas about place management, social capital and learning regions. PASCAL undertakes research and development projects related to place management, social capital and learning regions, utilizing a growing network of partners and associates, and animates dialogue and discussion among members and other interested organizations.

The Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training (CHET), established in 1984 as the Centre for Policy Studies in Education, has been in existence for 25 years. Its mandate is to conduct and disseminate policy-oriented research on post-secondary education and to facilitate the debate of ideas between policy makers, researchers, teachers, administrators and leaders of business and industry.

The University of British Columbia is the oldest, largest and internationally best-known university of the province and one of the top universities in Canada. Its campus is home to some 2000 researchers and more than 40,000 students.

Proposals for papers (up to 400 words), panels (up to 800 words) or poster sessions are invited **until February 15, 2009** to the following address: chet.educ@ubc.ca .
For further information about this conference, please consult:
<http://www.chet.educ.ubc.ca/Conferences1.html> and <http://www.obs-pascal.com/>