

Canadian Knowledge Commons

AN INVITATION TO EXPLORE THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE IN SOCIETY

There is a growing recognition that knowledge is not a monopoly of academics. It is created, co-created and shared in:

- Community classrooms where First Nations' indigenous languages and cultures are being sustained and revitalized;
- Businesses working on green economic alternatives;
- University engineering departments working on adaptive technologies for children with special needs;
- Financial institutions' exploring innovative new ways to create affordable housing;
- And so much more, including collaborative partnerships between academics and their colleagues in private, public and community sectors.

However, the fact remains that there are many long-standing challenges to thinking about and acting on knowledge in ways that are broad, inclusive, integrated and applied.

In support of emerging efforts to address such challenges, you are invited to participate in a national conversation on the collaborative development of a Canadian Knowledge Commons.

A *knowledge commons* refers to conceptual spaces where the boundaries between diverse locations of knowledge creation, forms of knowledge and uses of knowledge are diminished. In such a commons, we are better able to address complex economic, social and environmental issues that confront us locally, nationally and around the world. Our proposition is that lowering the barriers that separate knowledge is desirable and necessary.

There are currently 3 ways you can participate in this emerging initiative.

1. Advancing A Canadian Knowledge Commons | A National Summit

A National Summit will be held on June 2, 2010 in Montreal (coincident with the 2010 Congress of the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences). Dialogues and practices of a knowledge commons have recently attracted increased interest and visibility in academic, government, not-for-profit, philanthropic and private sector settings. Leaders, such as yourself, from within these sectors and practices are invited to attend and participate in a day focused upon deepening this conversation, developing a working strategy document, and a five year plan for activities. This event is organized by Community-Based Research Canada, the Canadian Alliance for Community Service-Learning, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, and Social Innovation Generation at the University of Waterloo, on behalf of numerous engaged universities, colleges, private and not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies across Canada.

The Summit on June 2, 2010 will catalyze conversation, connection and strategy development for action. It will include a panel address, presentations by two outstanding examples of high impact initiatives, themed round table discussions on potential areas for action, and opportunities to contribute to a strategic action plan.

Who should attend? The Summit aims to draw a diverse group of participants from not-for-profit organizations, post-secondary institutions, business, government and philanthropy who are interested in shaping a Canadian Knowledge Commons and moving it forward.

See the agenda below, check out the [website](#) for more details or [click here to RSVP](#)

2. The Ning!

There is an online social networking site (or Ning) dedicated to the Knowledge Commons. It's a great place where you can share ideas, find more information and resources, participate in the on-going conversation and help shape the future of the Knowledge Commons. www.knowledgecommons.ning.com

3. Online Survey

We are collecting information about innovative ways that knowledge is being created, shared or applied. You have the opportunity to submit examples. To do so, you can either join the ning (www.knowledgecommons.ning.com) or complete an anonymous survey ([click here](#)).

We sincerely hope that you will be able to participate whether in person on June 2nd, at future events and on an on-going basis via the website.



Katherine Graham
Chair,
Community Based Research Canada



Todd Barr
Chair,
Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning



Jean-Marc Fontan
Vice-Chair,
Community Based Research Canada



Executive Director,
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Cheryl Rose

Cheryl Rose
Director,
Social Innovation Generation at the University Waterloo

| ADVANCING A CANADIAN KNOWLEDGE COMMONS – NATIONAL SUMMIT JUNE 2, 2010 UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL | |
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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Welcome/Opening Remarks on the DIALOGUE TO DATE Jean Marc Fontan, UQAM, Katherine Graham, Carleton University |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | Cross-Sector Panel Address: WHAT DOES A KNOWLEDGE COMMONS MEAN TO ME? |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <i>Break</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | KNOWLEDGE COMMONS AT WORK! l'Économie Sociale au Québec: Nancy Neamtam, President/Executive Director of the Chantier de l'Économie Sociale . Highlighting lessons learned over the past 10-15 years of pursuing a social economy agenda; achievements, challenges remaining. |
| 11:40 – 12:25 | KNOWLEDGE COMMONS AT WORK! Indigenous Language Retention and Revitalization: Lorna Williams, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning . Outlining the dramatic nature of the challenge and the ways in which a knowledge commons approach could preserve and integrate First Nations' cultures within Canada. |
| 12:25 – 13:15 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13:15 – 15:00 | Round Table Themes/Strategies Sessions 1) Post-secondary Change: overcoming institutional barriers to an effective knowledge commons – e.g. the recognition and reward project being led by University of Guelph and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health 2) Community Engagement and Leadership for Change: identifying and integrating community priorities for a knowledge commons e.g. community-initiated and led research, community capacity building 3) Network-Building: development of the Canadian Knowledge Commons network – e.g. articulating principles, supporting diverse efforts, identifying barriers and opportunities 4) Cross-cutting Strategies: proactive initiatives that cut across sectoral boundaries for higher impact – e.g. Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council's proposed new granting policies 5) Other?..... Open to suggestions from participants of additional themes |
| 15:00– 15:15 | <i>Break</i> |
| 15:15 – 16:00 | Next Steps for a Canadian Knowledge Commons |
| 16:00 – 16:15 | Closing Remarks |