Pan-Canadian Partners in Knowledge Mobilization (KMb)

ResearchImpact is a pan-Canadian network of universities in Canada working to better mobilize knowledge from Canadian institutions for broader use and impact since 2006. ResearchImpact has expanded to include unique community-university partnerships among university KMb units and local United Way/Centraide partners that is now just underway. Partnering universities to their respective United Way/Centraide produces a multi-directional flow of knowledge, focusing on Community well-being and social innovation within each community.

Building Knowledge Mobilization Capacity
Centering around a “knowledge broker” builds institutional capacity. A knowledge broker can successfully manage institutional barriers by moving among systems, identifying resources and facilitating creative solutions.

- KMb is more than a website or a brochure: It is people connecting, engaging, and working together to exchange and create information.
- KMb is not a “technology transfer” approach but a connected system of researchers, partners, research users, and citizens where knowledge flows.
- Combining “knowledge producer push” and “knowledge user pull” can lead to greater exchange and co-production of ideas and expertise (Lavis, et al., 2003).
- It takes resources (money and time) to build and maintain a network.

United Way of Guelph Wellington & The Research Shop

Community Partners in Well-Being
United Way of Guelph Wellington (GW) and the Institute for Community Engaged Scholarship/Research Shop are working to:

• BUILD local community and university investments in KMb services
• DEVELOP accessible inter-institutional KMb structures and processes
• SHARE tools and best practices to BUILD CAPACITY among faculty, graduate students and community agencies

With the support of the ResearchImpact pan-Canadian network, this local partnership’s focus is to increase the impact of research on social innovation and community well-being, ultimately benefiting our community and its residents. Working together at a local level will help bring a better understanding of our community’s expertise and needs to the University and vice versa. It also broadens local, regional and national connections for United Way and ICES/the Research Shop.

For over 30 years, the United Way of GW has acted as a social planning body for our community. Partnering with ResearchImpact and locally with the University of Guelph nurtures existing collaborations in the community, increases understanding about community and university engagement, as well as developing new pathways for knowledge translation and KMb strategies. This ultimately strengthens the United Way’s ability to respond effectively to local needs and improve the well-being of community members.

The United Way of GW has built a strong relationship with the Research Shop (University of Guelph)

- The GW United Way has helped train and develop graduate student interns from the Research Shop, providing opportunities to use their research skills to contribute to a variety of projects
- The GW United Way plays a crucial role in the development and ongoing governance of the Research Shop
- The GW United Way are partners in a new community initiative committing to research and engagement activities to nurture sustainable partnerships among social service agencies, funders, and existing networks already collaborating in our communities (Lead Partners include the GW United Way, the City of Guelph, Family & Children’s Services, the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination, the Research Shop with many more)

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