

Building Reconciliation at the U of S

Office of the Vice President Research

Community Engagement at Station 20 West

DEFINITION



"Reconciliation is translated into the Cree word "miyôwâhkôhtowin," meaning "having good relations,"
- **Chief Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**

"Community Engagement describes collaboration between higher education institutions and their larger communities (local, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity."
- **Carnegie Foundation**

CONTACT

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PURPOSE

The work of the CE Office helps to extend the mission of the U of S at a local level—bridging Saskatoon's Core Neighbourhoods and the main campus of the U of S.

We have particular strengths in collaboration, and honouring and integrating diverse ways of knowing and knowledge. We strive to be

friendly and accessible, directly connecting discovery, teaching, and outreach with community identified priorities. We incubate exceptional community engaged teaching, learning and discovery involving the complex intersections of inequities, the social determinants of health, reconciliation and knowledge politics.



IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARTNERS

"From a community engagement perspective, having the U of S Community Engagement Office located at Station 20 West is ideal, as it provides opportunities for mutually beneficial community-university partnerships and collaborations. Over the past few years, these opportunities have often extended to United Way and enabled us to participate in community conversations with a wide range of stakeholders."

-**Judy Shum, Director, Community Impact, United Way of Saskatoon and Area**

"Social environments and conditions are the foundation for a healthy society, and building a strong foundation requires institutions and communities to work together. The University of Saskatchewan's Community Engagement Office at Station 20 West lives this and actively seeks out these opportunities. They have been an essential partner in efforts to reduce poverty, build food security and sovereignty, and to learn and act on Reconciliation. The value they place on having research and knowledge locally accessible and applied has helped to build bridges and partnerships that otherwise might not have existed, and they have accessed resources (such as researchers, research networks, and grant funding) in support of understanding and documenting progress and outcomes.

-**Dr. Julie Kryzanowski and Tanya Dunn-Pierce, Saskatoon Health Region, Health Promotion Department**

"The partnership between BHE [Building Health Equity] and the CE Office is one that has provided our community with more culturally appropriate services as a result of the networks we've been invited to from the CE Office, although the contribution has already borne significant results, we feel that we've only begun to scratch the surface of what we could do to benefit the health of our community. We look forward to continuing to foster the relationship between our two respective sectors."

-**Neal Kewistep, Manager, Building Health Equity, Population and Public Health, Saskatoon Health Region**

RECONCILIATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We bridge campus and community capacity related to Indigenization and we are actively involved with **reconciliation** initiatives and conversations in Saskatoon. Specifically, we:

- animated non-traditional student stories through the collaborative production of two videos for wide dissemination: <http://www.usask.ca/engagement/station-20-west/the-animation-project.php>
- provided support for the Wicahitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference and ensured CE scholars and students had access to the conference recognizing the inseparability of Aboriginal engagement and our work in the inner city,
- prioritize relationship development with key organizations and their staff who are deeply engaged with local reconciliation efforts,
- are active members of Reconciliation Saskatoon and serve on a subcommittee exploring impact and metrics,
- partner on cultural awareness, competency and safety education and training, and
- are well positioned to continue to animate Universities Canada's principles on Indigenous education and the actions to which university leaders have committed.

<http://www.univcan.ca/media-room/media-releases/universities-canada-principles-on-indigenous-education>



www.usask.ca/engagement

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