

# COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH: GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY

## What is Community-Based Research?

Community-based research is a dynamic process where research questions emerge from a diverse array of community groups and organizations, such as local municipalities, social service agencies, conservation authorities, and community interest groups.

Community-based research brings together the knowledge and research needs of the community with the research expertise of Trent University faculty and students.



## Trent Community Research Centre and U-Links

The Trent Community Research Centre and the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research (Haliburton County)

facilitate research projects for students and faculty with local government, non-profit organizations, charities, and conservation agencies across Central and Eastern Ontario. For more than 25 years, the Trent Community Research Centre has facilitated meaningful and purposeful community-based research projects in Peterborough City and County, City of Kawartha Lakes, Durham Region, and Northumberland County.



Recognizing the need for local knowledge and delivery organizations that are responsive to the varying needs of different communities in the region, U-Links has worked as the bridge between Trent University and the rural communities of Haliburton County since 1999, connecting local organizations that have research questions with students who are interested in community-based research. U-Links plays a key role within Haliburton County in relation to community development, assisting organizations in defining research needs, supporting organizations in developing collaborative relationships and in accessing funding.



"The Ayalik Fund is extremely grateful to the TCRC for providing the opportunity to have an undergraduate student conduct a preliminary research project to lay the groundwork for a more advanced assessment of our initiative's impact on Inuit youth. [The student] did a superlative job, a great credit to herself and TCRC. Thank you."

LAURIE AND DAVID PELLY,  
Ayalik Fund



Scan for more  
information

## Why Work with TCRC/U-Links

Collaborating with the Trent Community Research Centre (TCRC) through a Community-Based Research (CBR) project is a transformative opportunity for local organizations seeking to make a positive impact. Here's why your community organization should consider proposing a project:



### Address Real-World Challenges:

CBR projects focus on addressing real issues faced by the community. By proposing a project, your organization can actively contribute to finding practical solutions and driving positive change.



### Access Research Expertise:

Leverage the research expertise of Trent University faculty and students. Collaborating with academic professionals ensures that your project benefits from a depth of knowledge and innovative approaches.



### Amplify Community Voices:

CBR amplifies the voices of the community. Proposing a project enables your organization to actively shape the research agenda, ensuring that it aligns with the unique needs and perspectives of the local community.



### Enhance Organizational Capacity:

Engaging in a CBR project enhances the capacity of your organization. Benefit from the support of TCRC staff and faculty who work alongside your team, guiding the project towards successful outcomes.



### Foster Sustainable Solutions:

CBR projects aim for sustainability. Your proposed project can contribute to the development of long-lasting solutions, creating a positive legacy for your organization and the community it serves.



### Expand Collaborative Networks:

Proposing a project with TCRC opens doors to collaborative networks. Connect with students, faculty, and other community organizations, fostering relationships that extend beyond the project timeline.



### Showcase Impact:

Participating in a CBR project allows your organization to showcase its impact. Be involved in the public dissemination of research findings, providing an opportunity to highlight your organization's contributions to the community.

## How to Engage with TCRC/U-Links

If you're eager to delve into community-based research, the TCRC and its counterpart, the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research (Haliburton County), offer opportunities for collaboration with local government, non-profit organizations, charities, and conservation agencies. Here's how you can get involved:



### Explore Available Projects:

Visit the TCRC website to discover ongoing and upcoming projects. These initiatives showcase the diversity of research topics and approaches employed in community-based research.



### Attend Information Sessions:

TCRC hosts informative sessions and workshops to introduce the principles of community-based research. Attend these sessions to understand the process, benefits, and how you can actively contribute.



### Meet with a TCRC Project Coordinator:

Discuss your ideas and explore what is possible through community-based research in a one-on-one meeting with a TCRC Project Coordinator.



## Project Timeline

### Proposal Development & Promotion:

- TCRC works with community organizations to identify partnership opportunities, and support development of a Research Proposal.
- Organizations complete Research Proposal in consultation with a TCRC Project Coordinator.
- Organization submits finalized Research Proposal, along with Pre-Placement Due Diligence Checklist, to TCRC.
- TCRC actively promotes the project to students and faculty.

### Student Matching:

- TCRC identifies potential students for each project.
- Student applications are sent to the host organization.
- Host selects a student through a short interview process.
- Meeting held to map out a project agreement, outlining expectations and deadlines.
- Host organizations complete a WSIB declaration form.

### Supervising the Research:

- Once students begin work on their projects, Hosts are asked to actively consult throughout the research process, ensuring that students continue to prioritize the Host's needs.
- Hosts should expect to meet with students approximately once per month while the project is underway, and should be prepared to provide feedback on student work to ensure relevance and accuracy.
- Hosts may assist the students in their research by offering access to professional or organization networks or knowledge, when necessary.

### Final Presentation & Report:

- Students create a research poster and report summarizing the results of their work. Posters and reports should be shared with Hosts for review prior to publication.
- Each year, TCRC hosts a Celebration of Community-Based Research, showcasing the research results among students, faculty, and community members.
- Final research reports are shared publicly through TCRC website and permanently through Trent University's Digital Archive Collection.
- Hosts are encouraged to share research posters, reports, and general findings widely, with citation of the student(s).

## Role of Community Organization



### Proposal Development:

- Completion of Research Proposal Form: Provide detailed information about the project scope and intent using the TCRC research proposal form.
- Collaborative Framework: Work with TCRC to outline a collaborative framework that aligns with the community's needs.

- Support Ethics Approval: Work closely with the student researcher, faculty supervisor, and department to secure any necessary research ethics approval.
- Maintain Open Communication: Foster open channels of communication among all parties, ensuring a transparent and collaborative research process.



### Project Agreement:

- Participation in Student Matching: Engage in a short interview process with a student researcher, considering their skills and expertise.
- Collaborate on Project Agreement: Participate in discussions to map out a project agreement, clarifying expectations and deadlines.



### Final Presentation & Report:

- Contribution to Public Dissemination: Actively participate in the 'Celebration of Research' by reviewing and providing input on research posters.
- Review and Input on Reports: Provide valuable insights during the review process of draft and final research reports.



### Supervising the Research:

- Collaborate on Project Approach: Consult and provide feedback on the research approach, methodologies, key timelines, and deliverables with the student researcher.



"WDB valued the opportunity to work with TCRC and the staff as the engagement enabled our organization to expand the scope of the primary research we conduct. WDB was very pleased to be able to provide an experiential learning opportunity to the talented student we had the pleasure of working with throughout the project. The recommendations provided in the student's final report will help to inspire future projects to develop responsive workforce development solutions that help to grow our local economy."

JENNIFER LAMANTIA,  
Workforce Development Board



"...The research conducted into food justice-oriented organizations on Trent's campus helped us at the Trent Vegetable Gardens to increase our communication and ultimately build solidarity with like-minded groups. [The student] produced a polished report and presentation that beautifully situated our humble project within the larger campus and Canada at large. [Their] thoughtful analysis, which identified local groups' shared struggles, successfully reframed these obstacles as opportunities for collaboration and innovation."

EMMA MACDONALD,  
Trent Vegetable Gardens