

## 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



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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).

