

### OCBR News

Here at OCBR we have had a very busy fall with plenty of changes. In the office, we missed Charlotte Charlie and Pamela Spalding, our Administrative and Communications coordinators who each did an amazing job over the past two years. A new combined position was created and Emily Little has joined us and is working on creating new OCBR systems and doing a great job. John Lutz, Acting Director since July 1, 2010 can stop acting now, as Leslie Brown, currently the Acting Dean of Human and Social Development and former Chair of the School of Social Work at UVic steps into the Acting role on January 1. Maeve Lydon continues as Associate Director. Budd Hall, OCBR's Founding Director, will represent OCBR and UVic on the CBR Canada Executive/Steering Committee and as the Global Alliance for Community Engaged Research (GACER) liaison (see <http://communityresearchcanada.ca/>). John Lutz, will continue to represent OCBR as convenor of the Community Mapping Collaboratory. The OCBR Community-University Steering Committee has been very active supporting the work of OCBR, the UVic Strategic Planning process and various related Task Force items including Civic Engagement, and Knowledge Mobilization. Particular thanks to our OCBR co-chairs Linda Hughes, CEO of the United Way of Greater Victoria, Sandra Richardson, CEO of the Victoria Foundation, and Ken Kelly from the Downtown Victoria Business Association, for making extra time for the Working Group on Community Engaged Research Services. Maureen Duncan, who stepped down as steering committee chair in June, is co-chairing the Working Group and will continue on until 2013 as the OCBR Community Fellow focused on Strategic Planning and Initiatives.

#### **Community Partnerships**

*City of Victoria-UVic-OCBR Partnership.* A "Protocol of Collaboration" was signed by Vice President Research Howard Brunt and City of Victoria Manager Gail Stephens on November 14th which outlines areas of mutual interest and an agreement to connect university student and academic research, teaching and service projects to city sustainability priorities. Annual forums and specific project work focused on storm water management, community mapping, food security, housing and infrastructure planning were included in the agreement. OCBR is working with our Knowledge Mobilization Office to keep the connections growing.

*The United Way Community Tables: Engaging Neighbours Project* got off the ground in September 2011 with five OCBR graduate student interns working on a United Way project with three regional neighbourhoods and the Capital Regional District on supporting citizen-led innovation working for healthy neighbourhoods. Jim Diers, author of Neighbour Power and former Director of Neighbourhoods for Seattle, led a launch workshop in October focused on asset-based community development. This project continues into 2012-2013. For detailed info see [www.uwgv.ca](http://www.uwgv.ca)

The Vancouver Island Local Food Production Project, was launched at a Gala celebration on November 29th at a public food and education event at the Atrium attended by over 150 people.

## 2012 Looking Ahead! OCBR

looks forward to an exciting 2012. Besides the ongoing activities from the Fall, OCBR will continue on with the Caneuel – CBR with Aboriginal Communities Series, a Local-Global CBR Workshop during UVic's Research week, attending and supporting the European Research-Science Shop Summer School and Living Knowledge Network meeting May 8-12 in Bonn, and VICRA's Summer Institute in June 2012.

## 2012-13 Changes Ahead!

As part of the University Strategic Planning Process, a working group on Community Based Research Services is reviewing the way the university delivers services to community based research and researchers on and off campus. The new OCBR director, Leslie Brown, has a mandate to take those recommendations and propose a plan to better serve the university and wider community in the area of community-based research. Stay tuned for some changes in 2012-2013!

This eighteen month research and outreach project was coordinated by the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance (all five island campuses), led by Linda Geggie, project coordinator and Aleck Ostry, Principal Investigator and Professor of Geography at UVic. 13 community and food organizations, 48 students and 18 researchers collaborated to make this project possible. Special thanks to the Peter Keller, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for his extensive support. See <http://www.mapping.uvic.ca/vicra/welcome> for more information and to sign the Local Food Pledge. The Launch event also raised over \$3000 for the LifeCycles Project Society. VICRA will continue to grow this work!

*Community Mapping Collaboratory.* The OCBR led an application to the SSHRC Partnership Development fund to create a "Collaboratory" which will bring university faculty, students, staff and resources into a joint effort to support "Community mapping" in the region and beyond. Bringing together the international Green Maps organization, the World Fisheries Trust, with local government (Capital Regional District and City of Victoria), First Nations (First Nations Technology Council, Wsanec School Board) Not for Profits (United Way, Sea Change Marine Environmental Society, BC Healthy Communities) and the UVic Library and Departments of Geography, Computing Science, History, Anthropology and Environmental Studies, the collaboratory will provide training, resources, technical support and innovation, and matching students and faculty to community mapping projects. It will also be the hub of a regional Common Ground Mapping Network, a Canadian hub for Green Maps, and a support for the Aboriginal Mapping network. See <http://mapping.uvic.ca/> for more information.

## Provincial

*Pacific Housing Research Network.* OCBR worked with the UVic Faculty of Human and Social Development (Bernie Pauly, Leslie Brown and Dean Mary Ellen Purkis) Margo Matwychuk from UVic Anthropology, Cecile Lacompte and with UBC Planning School, MITACS, CMHC, the BC Non-Profit Housing Association and BC Housing to launch this network. The PHRN builds on the three BC Affordable Housing Research Roundtables held in Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna. A new communications and research support service will be co-coordinated by UBC Planning and OCBR and BC-wide housing, funding bodies, government, First Nations and housing bodies will attend a Launch event on January 23rd at UBC

## National

*Community Based Research Canada (CBRC)*

The OCBR shares the secretariat duty for CBRC with the Centre for Community Based Research (CCBR) in Kitchener-Waterloo. CBRC is in the process of formalizing membership and governance. The OCBR supported the application led by CCBR to the SSHRC Partnership Fund to work on the challenge of supporting non-academic organizations to effectively partner with Universities in research and to increase national capacity for community based research.