

## DRAFT IMPERATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UBC is a place of engagement. UBC is a vital part of its communities in Vancouver, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada and the world.

UBC engages with communities to enhance research and learning and to contribute to a civil and sustainable society. UBC exists for the communities it serves: local, provincial, national and global. The university honours the time and commitment that goes into building respectful community relationships and embraces engagement as foundational to its academic mission.

In the past year, we have asked many people why they value community-university engagement and why it is important for UBC. The following statements are based on what we have heard to date.

- **Engagement enriches education.** Through community engagement, students become more aware and involved citizens, apply learning, gain valuable experience, and contribute to society.
- **Everyone brings knowledge and expertise.** All communities have valuable expertise and assets to share. Community-university connections help break down barriers and share diverse knowledge.
- **Together we can do more.** The combined experiences, expertise and knowledge from academic researchers and communities are needed to address the salient questions of our time.
- **UBC is a public institution.** As a public institution, it is UBC's responsibility to listen to, learn from and work with communities, and to use UBC's assets for the common good. CE is beneficial to UBC and builds the university's social capital.

## DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Many faculty, units and groups have established principles to guide their community-university engagement initiatives. Learning from what exists, there is an opportunity to build a common set of principles to guide the ways that UBC engages with communities. In the past year, we have asked many people to share what principles might guide community-university engagement at UBC, and found the following common themes:

**Reciprocity:** In a context of relationships and trust, engagement results in value for all. Value will be different depending on the community and relationship.

**Flexibility / Openness to learn:** Building relationships means listening, learning, and adapting approaches throughout. It is important to admit and address mistakes.

**Transparency:** Engagement involves a commitment to clear, honest conversations about process, ownership, access and motivation.

**Respect differences:** Engagement is built on respect for the different knowledges, experiences, and contexts of individuals and communities within and beyond UBC.