



Community Based Research in the Classroom and Beyond

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Overview

- Discuss 2 community based research projects from multiple perspectives
 - Instructors
 - Community partners
 - Students
 - Government
- Round table discussion



Co-Presenters



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Community and Regional Planning and Development

- Introduces students to a range of community and regional planning and development theories, techniques and approaches. Of interest to senior students of human geography and related fields, to community and regional development professionals and to students interested in careers in planning and development



CBR Overview: Beyond the Document

- Partnership between Regional Council, Kittiwake EDC, IBRD, ACOA, and Memorial University
- Objectives:
 - to identify success factors and barriers in moving from planning to plan implementation,
 - to recommend steps to maximize benefits and minimize challenges associated with these processes
 - to share lessons on effective community and multi-community socio-economic planning processes regionally and provincially.



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Central West Land Use Planning

- Partnership between Regional Council, Memorial University, and MNL
- Objectives
 - Identify, discuss and prioritize potential solutions for current land use planning issues
 - Use innovative community engagement techniques to engage residents on land use planning
- Student worked with region to develop case study reports



Instructor Perspective

- A pedagogical shift?
- Value for students
 - Opportunity to gain practical skills, apply theory (active learning)
 - Publication and presentation skills for students
 - Build capacities and skills sets in community-based research



Community Perspective

Value of community representatives being involved:

- Identify and bring attention to an important issue
- Assist in defining scope of research
- Provide regional and local knowledge
- Broker between researchers and community
- Mobilize community to participate
- Motivate the harder to reach public



Community Perspective

Why Regional Councils get involved:

- Help define, mobilize and address community issues
- Broaden Council's knowledge
- Validate recommendations and ideas
- Motivate Council members
- Increase public engagement
- Increase creditability - regional stakeholders & government
- Can access resources to do CBR



Community Perspective

How Regional Councils benefit from CBR?

- Leads to creditable advice/ supports advice giving process
- Catches the attention of Government departments & stakeholders
- Develops a respected role in research and taken more seriously
- Expands opportunities for CBR



Student Perspective

- “Term project was a great opportunity to learn more about regional planning and development. I enjoyed it.”
- Making learning “real”
- Developing relationships
- Understanding of NL regional and rural context



Government Perspective

- Cost effective way to broaden research
- Enhanced community, government and academic communications
- Increased capacity for research on provincial topics



Value of Engagement in Curriculum

For Faculty

- Integration of research, teaching and service
- Meaningful research relationships and outputs

For Partners

- Expertise, assistance, voice, inspiration

For Students

- Learning that “sticks”, application of and critical engagement with taught principles and content
- Career relevant skills, knowledge, publications
- Relationships
- Opportunities for further study



Lessons Learned from Engagement in Classroom Experience @ MUN

For Students

- Requires a genuine commitment to make the most of the experience
- Requires flexibility, acceptance of a degree of ambiguity, scheduling

For Partners

- Time to develop and implement, variability in outputs, some \$ still required, understanding of university environment

For Faculty

- Requires a significant investment of time prior to, during and after semester
- Research outputs and investments may not be recognized in P&T
- Space, technology

✓ **Rewards greater than risks**
✓ **Increasing supports**



Round Table Discussion



Group Discussions

1. Have you been involved in CBR?
2. What hesitations do stakeholders have towards CBR?
3. How can the CBR experience be enhanced for all partners?



Reporting Back

- Two highlights from each table discussion



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A copy of the presentation is available at
www.ruralresilience.ca