



**UBC Community Engagement
Community Conversations - Public Policy
Thursday, September 22, 2011**

OVERVIEW

A Community Conversation is a public forum to address discrete elements of Community Engagement.

Where possible, Community Conversations will focus on applying the four over-arching, "What do you think" questions outlined in the Discussion paper to a specific topic or area of study. Additional, topic-specific questions and issues will also be discussed.

Feedback from each of the six sessions will be considered in the creation of the Community Engagement Strategic Plan. Feedback from each session will be available at www.communityengagement.ubc.ca.

TOPIC-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND CONVERSATIONS

- The Public views the university as "untouchable" and unwilling to change
- Most of the relations with the external community are between individuals, not the institutions, organizations or agencies they represent
- There is lots of work being done across campus that is not being recognized. There needs to be a way to tell the community (university and external) about the work being done
- The method for collecting community engagement data needs to be built into an existing system eg an additional field in an annual report
- Prior to the 1970s, students rarely sat on committees. Perhaps a way to increase awareness of university Community Engagements, committees need to consider having a community representations as well.
- Mentors are valuable resources for students, and in most cases are not compensated for their time. Reimbursement of expenses (ie transportation costs) is one way to recognize their contribution and it is greatly appreciated. These partnerships are often funded (even minimally) for a few years but then it's up to the department or faculty to fund them and their loss is always strongly felt. Often the reimburses expenses aren't large, but the impact to overall budget is significant.



- The university needs a designation for community partners - something like a "Friend of UBC" or "Supporter of UBC" This recognition not only thanks the partner but gives them something they can use In the marketing and public relations activities, on letterhead etc
- Donors' (monetary) contributions are acknowledged by the university with public thank yous, receptions, dinners etc. Donations of time need to be equally recognized
- Recognition should be extended to the organization, not just the individuals who were contacts/worked directly with the project
- There is currently not enough recognition of community engagement when professors go up for tenure and promotion. There is an expectation of faculty "doing more" rather than recognizing what is already being done
- Community Engagement is not for all faculty members, but it should be recognized for those who choose to do it.
- Graduate Students engaging in Community Engagement often get credit as part of their course work, but the professor facilitating it doesn't get recognized. Most Community Engagement program work requires more effort than teaching and takes additional time developing