



**UBC Community Engagement
Community Conversations - Staff Engagement
Thursday, September 29, 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

- Not all staff have the opportunity to interact with faculty and students and therefore don't get to see or have the opportunity to participate in community engagement work faculty and students are doing.
- Unless they are directly involved in a program/project related to Community Engagement, staff are having difficulty determining how the Community Engagement strategy applies to them.
- One opportunity for staff to participate in community engagement is the [Leave For Change](#) program. Many staff members do not know it exists
- The staff and faculty orientation offers some great team building, but when the day -long orientation is finished, there is no lasting connection and no suggestion or means for a longer connection is suggested by the orientation leaders
- The Learning Exchange Reading Week program is another opportunity for staff, but it is a huge time commitment: 6 or 7 days away from work during reading week and 2-3 days in preparation for orientations and trading. It is suggested that this time should be time off from work, not vacation time
- Staff have to be supported within their units if they are going to participate in community engagement. Unfortunately support for these activities varies across the units.



- Story-telling is important - even Deans are unaware of the community engagement happening in their own units.
- There is not enough public social space for employees - they need somewhere to interact with other staff in other units