

Knowledge Mobilization at York University

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



From research to impact

Knowledge Mobilization at York University

This year was a great one for Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) at York. Consistently proving how important KMb is to ensuring impactful research results, the KMb Unit's partnership work was highlighted through the \$2M partnership between the Regent Park School of Music and the Carswell Family Foundation; their support for social innovation highlighted through their work on CommunityBUILD, a hackathon focused on solving community issues; and their emphasis on creating meaningful research opportunities for graduate students highlighted through an internship funded by the Academic Innovation Fund, that paired graduate students with community organizations to explore and solve relevant research questions.

This year was also an exciting one for Innovation York where our internationally renowned unit formally joined a strong and dynamic team of service providers across the innovation spectrum. From partnerships with community organizations to training workshops to graduate student internships to assessment of research impact, the KMb Unit is a wonderful compliment to the existing services provided by the Innovation York office. The entire Innovation York team, including the KMb Unit has worked exceptionally hard over the past year to ensure mutual understanding and that we are working together in a meaningful way. It is with much excitement as part of Innovation York that we continue to focus on providing new value added opportunities to York University faculty members, students, industry, and community members.

Table of Contents	
Services	3
KMb Activities	4
Website and Social Media Analytics	4
Success Story	5
Partner Spotlight	6
Student Profile	7
KMb Outreach and Engagement	8
KMb and Innovation York	9
Research Impact Canada	10
Acknowledgements and Thanks	11

Services

Brokering Services

We seek to connect York University researchers (faculty and graduate students) with community organizations, business and industry leaders, and policy professionals in all levels of government. Our staff help support researchers to build a mutually beneficial relationship with prospective non-academic partners.

Grant Support

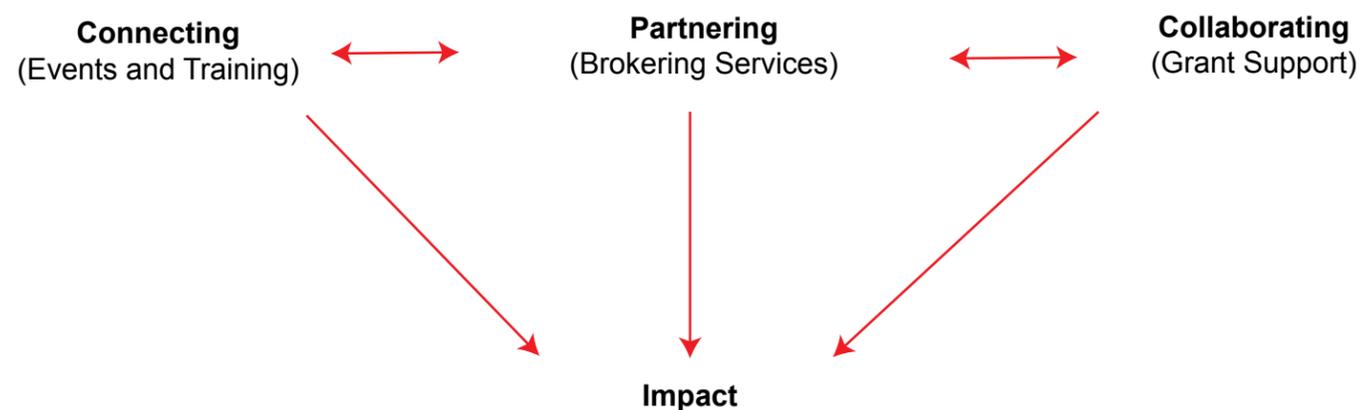
Staff within the Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York are trained to provide assistance for researchers and their project team in the development of a tailored KMb or knowledge transfer plan. We provide training and support, and in some cases, in-kind service support for projects. We also review and provide feedback on all KMb plans prior to their submission.

Events

The Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York has tools to support research teams in developing and delivering events for researchers and collaborators that will produce positive results. We can also provide access to technological tools to strengthen these events and outreach capacity.

Training

The Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York provides learning opportunities for York researchers, staff, graduate students and external partners to help make research relevant to professional practice and policy development. We also deliver customized learning sessions to research teams to provide information, skills and experience in knowledge mobilization.



KMb Unit Activities

Brokering Services	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Collaborative Opportunities	54	30	32
KMb Projects	7	3	8
KMb Activities	18	9	7
Partnership Organizations	36	25	33
Faculty Engaged in KMb	15	18	43
Grad Students Engaged in KMb	25	48	80
Grant Support	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Faculty Grant Team Support	22	17	33
Contract Funding	\$25K	\$300K	\$3M
Federal Research Funding	\$6.6M	\$1.35M	\$3.55M
Total KMb Funding	\$6.6M	\$4.6M	\$6.55M
Capacity Building	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
On-Campus Sessions	32	34	26
Off-Campus Sessions	48	36	33
Research Summaries	12	21	24

Research Impact Canada Website and Social Media Analytics

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Blog Posts	93	50	40
Blog Views	31,275	11,000	17,000
Website Visits	5,000	2,000	1,000
Tweets	2,300	2,000	1,000
Twitter Followers	6,300	7,100	8,000
YouTube Views	498	800	100
SlideShare Views	7,382	7,400	9,100
LinkedIn Group Members	400	530	588

Success Story

A Co-Produced Approach to Evaluating Family Violence Services

Service delivery for clients of domestic violence is challenging when people are made to recount their experiences over and over to diverse service providers. With this challenge deeply rooted, domestic violence service providers in York Region were involved in a leadership capacity within the Ontario Collaborative Response to Family Violence (OCRFV). This project was supported by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and work began in 2015 with an overarching question of how to best evaluate domestic violence hub models for service quality and outcomes in Ontario. The Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York facilitated a relationship with a researcher earlier to support program evaluation needs for the York Region Centre for Community Safety.

The opportunity which OCRFV provided allowed for other communities in Ontario who were delivering family violence services and exploring a hub model for service provision to meet and explore the efficacy of this service model. Through the ongoing engagement of the York researcher, who maintained engagement in this capacity, along with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the project sought to co-create the indicators for successful service provision in areas of family violence. Policy leaders from MCSS and other Ministries, seven geographic jurisdictions in Ontario, including key delivery agency leads and organizational stakeholders – over 100 organizational representatives – along with the researcher team, convened to co-create an evaluation framework which would support the diverse needs of all stakeholders.

A common evaluation framework was immediately adopted by MCSS. Agencies were more easily able to track data, support clients and tell their own stories of organizational success. A model for hub services also allowed for a dramatic increase in service provision and created significant efficiencies for clients and organizations alike.

The researchers were skilled in allowing all stakeholders ownership in the development of this process and the results demonstrate positive impacts – specific to partnerships, policy implementation, client satisfaction, and a service model which places the needs of the client first. While it reflects a strong alignment of political will and organizational capacity, the researchers were skilled in engaging in a co-production model which gave all involved greater ownership and engagement in its successful implementation.

The organization has seen increases in client satisfaction, client use and partnerships with stakeholders and these are directly attributed to the efforts resulting from OCRFV.

As an aside, York's KMb Unit piloted an impact case study framework through this project and wishes to thank the researchers and organizational leaders for their time and sharing the details of the project and the attribution of success back to the research and the processes for stakeholder engagement.

Partner Spotlight

Regent Park School of Music

From an exploratory conversation in 2014 came a series of meetings with key faculty members who are exceptional engaged scholars. Added to this leadership from Advancement and the ongoing support of York's Knowledge Mobilization Unit and the Regent Park School of Music found itself a key player in a long-term partnership which has the potential to positively impact hundreds of youth in Jane-Finch and Regent Park.

Regent Park School of Music (RPSM) and York University are collaborating on a special project aimed at researching and bolstering community music in the Jane & Finch neighbourhood and beyond. Over the next 3 years, RPSM will grow to reach at least 400 kids annually in Jane-Finch.

RPSM provides subsidized music education to over 200 students (ages 3 to 18) now from the Jane & Finch community. Based out of 6 locations RPSM is providing access to private, group and ensemble music lessons, the choice of a wide range of faculty, instruments and genres from piano lessons and choir to steel pan and new technology.

This long-term partnership with York University, under the Helen Carswell Fellow in Community Engaged Research in the Arts will help:

- Strengthen programming at RPSM through interdisciplinary, evidence based research
- Increase the number of children reached by RPSM while improving the impact it has on children from marginalized neighbourhoods.



- Conduct rigorous academic research exploring the many benefits of community-music programs and the links between music and learning
- Significantly benefit children from high-risk neighbourhoods and fortify community music programs globally by informing their programming through publications, conferences and other forms of knowledge mobilization

RPSM will work side by side with York University, the Helen Carswell Fellow in Community Engaged Research in the Arts, members of the research advisory committee and York's Knowledge Mobilization team to encourage multi-disciplinary research projects that will inform RPSM's curriculum and programming to ensure that we help the kids from Jane-Finch succeed.

Student Profile

Rebecca Giblon



My name is Rebecca Giblon. I'm a 3rd year student at York double majoring in History and Finance with an interest in economic history. I've been working with KMb for the past two and a half years. Given my interest in interdisciplinary and innovative research, KMb has been a wonderful place for me to work. We focus on making research accessible to a broader audience and in non-traditional contexts.

My main role has been the creation of research snapshots, or 600 word laymans' summaries in plain language of research articles. I have also created guidelines to aid future students in creating their own snapshots. The research snapshots are meant to provide policy-oriented summaries that can be used to briefly inform practitioners in various non-academic fields of new research findings.

My favourite part of the job has been the dissemination of information. Unfortunately, academic research can be filled with jargon or inaccessible to a broader audience. Our research snapshots help more non-academic practitioners become aware of cutting-edge developments within their fields. They are also used to inform the general public about research done within the university or other research institutes.

The biggest thing that I have learned is how to read and understand academic articles from varying disciplines. During my time at KMb, I learned about trends and methodologies within many different academic fields. I also learned about how to more efficiently read articles and understand their key points. This helped me become more comfortable within an academic environment in general, improving my academic performance and leading me on a path towards graduate school in the future. I plan to use KMb principles in the future to ensure that my eventual research is accessible to a broader audience.

KMb Outreach and Engagement

Highlights

2017: David Phipps is awarded the Directors' Award for Inter-Institutional Collaboration, Canadian Association of Research Administrators

Presentations

May 2016

Phipps, D. Dissemination and knowledge mobilization. Society for Scholarly Publishing.

Johnny, M. Clear Language Communications Presentation. Baycrest Health Sciences.

Phipps, D. and Bayley, J. Research Impact Literacy. Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum.

Phipps D. and Bayley, J. Competencies for Research Impact. UK Knowledge Mobilization Forum.

July 2016

Johnny, M. Introduction to Knowledge Mobilization Services. Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Johnny, M. Building Knowledge Mobilization into Project Plans. York Region District School Board

September 2016

Johnny, M. KmB Planning. ventureLAB's Blueprint: Affordable Housing Design Lab Project.

Johnny, M. Introduction to Knowledge Mobilization at York. Black Creek Community Health

October 2016

Johnny, M. Knowledge Mobilization in Canada. Community Based Research Canada

November 2016

Jensen, K. Social media for KT and KM. Workshop for Alberta Innovates.

December 2016

Phipps, D. International aspects of research impact. Engage Conference. Bristol, UK.

Jensen, K. 2016. Knowledge mobilization and entrepreneurship. CARA Ontario.

January 2017

Johnny, M. Knowledge Mobilization Services at York. Linking Georgina.

March 2017

Johnny, M. Effective KmB Planning and Services in Canada. Eawag - Switzerland's Federal Water Research Institute

April 2017

Phipps, D. and Renoe, S. International Impacts. National Alliance for Broader Impacts Summit.

Recent Publications

Phipps, D.J., Cummings, J. Pepler, D., Craig, W. & Cardinal, S. (2016). The co-produced pathway to impact describes knowledge mobilization processes. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*, 9(1): 31-40.

Phipps, D.J., Jensen, K.E., Johnny, M., & Poetz, A. (2017). Supporting knowledge mobilization and research impact strategies in grant applications. *Journal of Research Administration*, 47(2): 49-67

Phipps, D.J., Brien, D., Echt, L., & Kyei-Mensah, G., V. (2017). Determinants of successful knowledge brokering: a transnational comparison of knowledge intermediary organizations. *Research for All*, 1(1): 185-97.

Bayley, J.E., Phipps, D., Batac, M. & Stevens, E. (2017). Development of a framework for knowledge mobilisation and impact competencies. *Evidence & Policy*, preprint

Bayley, J.E. & Phipps, D. (2017). Building the concept of research impact literacy. *Evidence & Policy*, preprint

Poetz, A., D.J. Phipps, S. Ross (2017). Identifying and Prioritizing Stakeholder Needs in Neurodevelopmental Conditions in Canada: Stakeholder Engagement Activity Report.

Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation York

In late summer 2016, the Knowledge Mobilization Unit formally joined Innovation York. This move has allowed us to more seamlessly integrate our services and our operational processes with the broader innovation service landscape at York.

Innovation York is the innovation office for York University. The office provides services to faculty members, trainees, students, industry, and the community in five service units: agreements, industry engagement, knowledge mobilization, commercialization, and entrepreneurship. Innovation York's goal is to facilitate and maximize the commercial, economic, and social impacts of research and innovation, and to create a culture of engaged scholarship and experiential learning.

Knowledge Mobilization works closely with all four of the other service units within Innovation York. Under one umbrella, we look forward to strengthening our capacity to support our researchers, our community partners and help maximize the impact of research at York. Here's an overview of the services available within Innovation York to complement our work within Knowledge Mobilization:

Industry Engagement

Innovation York's industry engagement unit provides a single point of contact for researchers and trainees seeking industry partners and for companies seeking academic partners. They assist with the development of these relationships, in order to facilitate the creation of innovative research projects.

Agreements

Innovation York's agreements unit is committed to ensuring that your research agreements are drafted, reviewed, negotiated, and executed in a timely manner.

Commercialization

Innovation York's commercialization unit works with creators to determine the most appropriate way to commercialize their intellectual property through licensing activities, start-up company creation, or a hybrid commercialization and entrepreneurship model. Their goal is to ensure that intellectual property at York is translated into new products, research tools, methodologies or services that will have social and economic impact.

Entrepreneurship

LaunchYU is York University's entrepreneurship program where entrepreneurs across campus and in the surrounding community can connect, collaborate, learn and succeed.

Research Impact Canada - Réseau Impact Recherche Canada

Research Impact Canada (having changed our name from ResearchImpact-RéseauImpactRecherche in 2016-2017) is a network of 12 universities working together to build capacity to maximize the impacts of research on our local and global communities. Our focus is the institution – those policies, tools and services that create the conditions where our researchers, students and their non-academic partners can co-create impacts.

In 2016-2017, the Network developed the concept of Knowledge Impact Tools (KIT) as a tool kit for member universities' practices. We signed an MOU with the National Alliance for Broader Impacts (NABI, www.broaderimpacts.net), a US network of researchers and research staff seeking to create impacts of research beyond their own scholarly contributions. This MOU encourages cooperation between the two networks including, but not limited to, sharing information, tools and co-presenting at annual conferences.

With the 2014-2017 term ending for York as Lead Institution, the Network held a call for the next Lead Institution. This process identified York as the Lead institution for a second and final three-year term from 2017 to 2020. The Expression of Interest drafted by York will form the basis for the new Strategic Plan.

Research Impact Canada Members



Acknowledgements and Thanks

As we advance into our second decade of services in Knowledge Mobilization, we acknowledge our work and our success results from strong leadership, integral partnerships, skilled and passionate researchers and a staff team who bring dedication and professionalism to their work.

At the foundation of our success is the unwavering support and leadership of Robert Haché, VP Research & Innovation at York University. He guides our work and looks for opportunities to grow the connections locally, nationally and internationally. We are also very privileged to be formally part of Innovation York. The engagement, leadership and passion of Innovation York Director, Sarah Howe, is helping us reimagine Knowledge Mobilization services through an integrated approach to community-campus engagement and supporting our efforts to advance impact of York research. Working closely with other Innovation York offices will only bolster our recognized leadership in Knowledge Mobilization, enhancing our processes and the quality of services we can offer within Innovation York.

Our continued leadership within Research Impact Canada places us in a highly visible position where we can share successes across our network, with opportunities to profile York success in Knowledge Mobilization across a national and international stage. Special thanks to David Phipps for his ongoing leadership and for keeping KMB York prominent nationally and abroad.

Special thanks to the entire team within the Knowledge Mobilization Unit:

Sarah Howe (Director, Innovation York) – Sarah provides strategic leadership and oversight to the unit.

Michael Johnny (Manager, Knowledge Mobilization) – Michael is responsible for all KMB operations and provides leadership in brokering collaborative projects

Krista Jensen (Knowledge Mobilization Officer) – Krista provides leadership in aspects of training and data management. She also coordinates all KMB events

Anneliese Poetz (Knowledge Translation Manager, Kids Brain Health Network) – Anneliese leads Knowledge Translation services across Canada for this Networks of Centres of Excellence supported project.

Simon Landry (Knowledge Mobilization Officer, Vision: Science to Applications) – Simon coordinates KMB services to York researchers, graduate students and non-academic collaborators within this Canada First Research Excellence Fund project.

Asam Malik (Design Communications Assistant) – Asam is supporting a pilot to explore visual representation of KMB products such as posters and infographics

Rebecca Giblon (Research Translation Assistant) – Rebecca leads development of ResearchSnapshots

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