



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N E W S R E L E A S E

Thursday, September 15, 2005
For Immediate Release

International CUexpo2005 Conference: Can Research Really Influence Policy Change?

WINNIPEG—Can research change policy? Should researchers play an active role in advocacy and, if so, will advocacy compromise the integrity and objectivity of the research projects? These questions will be explored at a provocative panel discussion entitled *Research as Advocacy: Influencing Policy Change* at **CUexpo2005: Community-University Research Partnerships, Leaders in Urban Change**. This international conference, hosted by the Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance at The University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies, takes place **September 15 – 18, 2005 at the Delta Winnipeg (350 St. Mary Avenue)**.

Research as Advocacy: Influencing Policy Change panel discussion (**Friday, Sept. 16, 2005 - 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**) will examine whether biases exist in community-based research. Community-university research ideally leads to change in policy, but this is not always a simple process. What are some effective techniques of getting researched noticed and acted upon by decision makers? How can a community access/participate in the policy decision-making processes?

Panelists:

- **John Loxley**, Professor of Economics and Research Coordinator, Global Political Economy Program, at the University of Manitoba. Loxley was the founding chair of Cho!ces, a Coalition for Social Justice. In 2000 he was awarded the Joseph Zuken Citizen Activist Award. He currently serves as Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Manitoba and Economic Consultant to the Credit Union Central of Manitoba.
- **John Biles** is Director of Partnerships and Knowledge Transfer, Metropolis Project Team at Citizen and Immigration Canada in Ottawa. John is the co-ordinator of the Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) that acts as the central connection point between the federal funding partners and the project. He has also been working with the Association for Canadian Studies, the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association and the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences to strengthen relationships between Metropolis and other academic organizations.
- **Dennis Howlett** is the Executive Director of the Ottawa-based National Anti-Poverty Organization. Prior to assuming this position in February 2004 he was the Team Leader, Canadian Justice program of the KAIROS, which unites churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response organization. At KAIROS: Canadian

Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Howlett was responsible for programming on health care, refugees, poverty, ecological justice, and aboriginal rights.

Other featured speakers at CUexpo include:

- **Jim Zamprelli, Senior Researcher, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)** *Creating the knowledge and capacity to understand and deal with the Complexities and Diversity of Homelessness (Sunday, Sept. 18, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)* Zamprelli will discuss how CMHC's research and information transfer activities can be useful in developing effective responses to reducing and preventing homelessness and in helping paint a global picture of the situation across the country.
- **Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse and co-founder of Toronto Disaster Relief Committee,** will give insight into *Research With A Pulse (Sunday, Sept. 18, 2005- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)* Cathy will outline some of the unusual research methods that were invented in response to conditions homeless people faced. This community-based research included research tools such as: a piece of string, a roll of tape, a camping shower bag, a video camera, and a telephone. View The Street Health Report (1992) at <http://tdrc.net/CroweResources.htm>

CUexpo2005, with over 92 break-out sessions, will examine issues such as poverty, support for children and youth, homelessness, affordable housing, neighbourhood revitalization, and community economic development.

Major CUexpo2005 sponsors are:

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation,
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- OmniTRAX/Broe QUEST
- Neighbourhoods Alive!
- Winnipeg Foundation.

Other CUexpo2005 sponsors include:

- CanWest Global Communications Corp
- Manitoba Professional Planners Institute
- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Downtown Winnipeg BIZ
- Krave's Candy Co. (Clodhoppers)

For complete details on the CUexpo2005 conference, please visit: <http://cuexpo.uwinnipeg.ca>

The Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance is a partnership of community-based organizations and university academics engaged in participatory research on inner-city issues leading to improved quality of life. Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience," UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,900 full- and part-time students.

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