BU CARES Annual Report

2021-22





About BU CARES

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Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies

BU CARES is an applied research centre established in 2008 and housed in the Faculty of Education at Brandon University. BU CARES helps identify and answer research questions generated collaboratively with community partners, develop faculty and graduate student research capacity, facilitate connections between university researchers and community members, and promote research related to rural and Indigenous education.

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Introduction

This annual report is submitted per the Brandon University Senate policy governing Research Centres, Institutions, and Groups – Policy and Procedures. This annual report details the initiatives and activities of the centre and its personnel, research accomplishments, graduate training, and other research-related activities, and financial information for the 2021-2022 year.

This year we received a grant from the New Frontiers in Research Fund from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study innovative approaches to research in the pandemic. This will allow us to replicate and further explore the benefits and challenges of using Zoom for community-based research. In addition to this new funding, we continue to conduct research on anti-racism through Canada Heritage funding, research on rural homelessness through funding from Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, and several smaller projects funded through BURC and community partners.

In addition to the funding mentioned above, which is just over \$250,000, we also were successful this year in securing funding for a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship to further our work on community belonging for newcomers arriving in the Westman area, together with Westman Immigrant Services (WIS). This joint Mitacs/WIS-funded position will allow for more local capacity and knowledge to be mobilized to serve the community and expand research knowledge.

This year we have continued our work on anti-racist education, producing 4 antiracist films, a facilitation guide, and a pledge to action. As a result of this work, our director, Dr. Michelle Lam, was invited to give a keynote presentation at the Prairie and Northern Territories Small Centre conference, and was also invited to speak with the directors of the Community Education Development Association (CEDA), and also the standing committee on Northern, Rural, and Remote Communities led by Dr. Natalya Brown (Nippissing U). She also was contacted by the PEI Department of Education and Lifelong Learning to discuss ways we might be able to collaborate in the future. These conversations are great for building connections for BU/CARES, and for opening up future possibilities. BU CARES was also able to provide support for multiple other projects, including making connections in the community, providing access to software and training, providing space for research assistants, and helping with recruiting participants. For example, by organizing peer support and feedback for grant applications, we have helped six researchers secure funding in this past year, and have written support letters for two additional grants still in process.

This year has also seen growth in the area of knowledge mobilization. New funding from Brandon and Area Community Foundation allows for new podcasting equipment to be purchased this upcoming year, and a new BURC knowledge mobilization grant allows us to hire a podcast editor for those episodes that can not be edited with existing project funds. Our audio podcasts were played nearly 900 times, and video podcasts were viewed just over the same amount. The print-based Research Connection released 32 briefs this year, highlighting BU research from multiple disciplines, and a compilation magazine currently in progress will further this reach. Two of our research films on anti-racism went viral, with each one receiving approximately 50,000 views. Finally, this year we started a new speaker series, "Doc Talks," in which we presented a new speaker each month, such as the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor, as well as current Brandon University Faculty members. These talks had 226 people registered across 5 events.

Online knowledge mobilization at BU CARES has also grown this year. Last year we had 837 followers across our social media pages. This year we have 1561, an increase of 86%. Our membership has also grown, and we have begun sending bi-monthly newsletters to our members. Our website averages 776 page views per month and has been steadily increasing since we launched our new site in June of this year. This is a big difference from last year when we received 1793 views for the entire year. To compare, last month (March), the new site saw 2624 views for that month alone.

In addition to conducting, supporting, and mobilizing research knowledge, we also support students on their research trajectories. We began a video series of research support tutorials, which have been accessed 19,000 times on YouTube. More directly, we have employed six research assistants for a variety of projects, supervised two practicum students, and employed one more assistant to support our social media presence. Funding from Canada Summer Jobs enabled us to extend these opportunities.

This year our director was awarded an International Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Substantially Contributing to the Content and Knowledge in Rural Policy Learning Commons by the Rural Policy Learning Commons. The research initiatives at BU CARES serve rural and Indigenous educators and community members both by building collaborative partnerships for specific topics and by widely sharing our knowledge and research findings. This year, as the pandemic has continued, this research has shown the importance of further exploring concepts like belonging in online spaces, the need to address digital divides in rural and northern communities, social issues like racism and homelessness in rural areas which are being exacerbated in pandemic contexts, and more. BU CARES, in collaboration with others, is currently supporting or conducting projects in all of these areas.

Highlights



Conducting Research

Working with community and government partners enables BU CARES to conduct research on issues of relevance to rural and Indigenous communities:

- Three Completed Projects, including (1) Digital Realities in Rural Manitoba; (2) Belonging and Mental Well-being: Perspectives of Brandon University Students during COVID-19; (3) Community Voices: Inclusivity and Anti-Racism
- Five Ongoing Projects, including (1) Stronger Together: Examining Rural Roots/Routes of Homelessness; (2) Viral Vitriol: Using Online Platforms to Promote Peace; (3) Community Voices: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Board Governance; (4) Innovative Approaches to Research in the Pandemic: Exploring the Potential of Large-Scale Online Community-Based Discussion Platforms; (5) Exploring Intersections of Digital Disinformation and Relational Ties

These projects bring further benefits through:



Supporting Students



Building Connections



Mobilizing Knowledge



"Grace (Research Assistant from CARES) has finished the Literature Review for SWRC. She did an amazing job... amazing. She was also really quick! I just wanted to share because I was really impressed."

- Dr. Candice Waddell-Henowitch, Chair, SWRC

Supporting Research

BU CARES supports the research of other faculty members through securing external funding, providing software access, providing space for research assistants, and facilitating community partnerships. Through these, we have supported:

- Five completed projects, including (1) Using Collaborative Teacher Teams to Develop Promising Practices in Uncertain Times; (2) Rural Remote Learning in Westman; (3) Cree Immersion Program Report; (4) Status of Women Committee research on Covid-19 Impacts on Marginalized Genders; (5) Music Teachers' Experiences During the Pandemic
- Four ongoing projects, including (1) Pre-service Teachers and Indigenous Perspectives in Curricula; (2) Spirit of Hope: Celebrating the Inspiring Lives of Indigenous Educators; (3) Understanding and Supporting Pre-service Teachers' Learning Processes and Culturally Responsive Teaching Self-Efficacy; (4) Understanding the Counselling Role of the School Principal

Building Community Connections & Mobilizing Knowledge

"Just a quick story about your work. After your presentation to the P2P Standing Committee on Rural, Remote and Northern Communities, the videos and guides were shared in PEI. The response to it was overwhelmingly positive. Thanks for your work on this, you are changing Canada."

 Don Boddy, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO)

Written Engagement

- 2 Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles
- 5 Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters
- 1 Edited Book
- 3 Publicly Available Research Reports
- 2 Non-Peer Reviewed Articles
- 32 Research Connection Briefs

Discussion-Based Engagement

- 1 Invited Keynote Presentation
- 2 Invited Conference Presentations
- 5 Conference Presentations
- 2 Invited Community Presentations
- 2 Research Tutorials
- 20 Podcasts

Website & Social Media

YouTube - 421 Followers Facebook - 160 Followers Twitter - 612 Followers Instagram - 279 Followers LinkedIn - 78 Followers Other Platforms - 16 Followers

Advisory Board

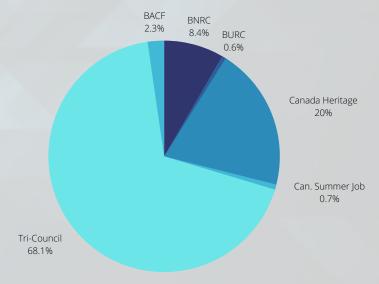
- Dr. Heather Duncan
- Mr. Kevin Tacan
- Ms. Michelle Bessette
- Ms. Leah LaPlante
- Dr. Patricia Douglas
- Dr. Jacqueline Kirk

Finances

April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022

Research Project Funding:

Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corp.	\$29,196
Brandon University Research Committee	\$2000
Canada Heritage	\$69,922
Canada Summer Jobs	\$2500
Tri-Council New Frontiers in Research	\$237,970
Brandon and Area Community Foundation	\$8000



- Dr. Cathryn Smith
- Dr. Candice Waddell-Henowitch
- Ms. Valerie McInnes
- Dr. Chris Beeman
- Ms. Susan Barteaux

Current Projects

Community Voices: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Board Governance

This research project, funded through Brandon Local Immigration Partnership (BLIP) and Brandon University Research Committee (BURC), and developed in partnership with Brandon Friendship Centre, Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corp., Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and Westman Immigrant Services, and in consultation with the Interdisciplinary Immigration Research Network, is a series of community consultations around the topics of belonging, inclusivity, and anti-racism. The purpose is to explore local perspectives of what it means to belong, identify barriers to belonging within Brandon and Westman, and imagine future possibilities of collaboration. This project is led by Dr. Michelle Lam.

Stronger Together: Examining Rural Roots/Routes of Homelessness

The purpose of this project is to understand rural homelessness, mobility and migration, current support structures in place, and opportunities afforded by increased interagency collaboration and communication within rural communities. This project is led by Dr. Candy Skyhar and is funded through Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corp.

Viral Vitriol: Using Online Platforms to Promote Peace

This 2-year project, funded by Canada Heritage, is a multi-stage project. The first stage was comprised of a provincial interview exploring Manitobans' perspectives of and experiences with racism. Drawing on this data, the second stage was comprised of creating scripts based on common experiences and then testing them with diverse focus group participants. The final stage was filming and launching the <u>videos on social media</u>, then analyzing the comments and discussion they prompt. This project is led by Dr. Michelle Lam and will be completed in August, 2022.



Exploring Intersections of Digital Disinformation and Relational Ties

This research project examines the relationships between pre-service teachers' digital literacy skills when consuming online information and how that information disseminates throughout their lives and affects their relationships with others. This project is jointly led by Dr. Michelle Lam, Mr. Matteo Di Muro, Dr. Zahra Kasamali, Dr. Joe Stouffer, and Dr. Ellen Watson.

L Innovative Approaches to Research in the Pandemic: Exploring the Potential of Large-Scale Online Community-Based Discussion Platforms

The project aims to explore three major questions: 1) What are the impacts of employing online platforms such as Zoom for community-engaged research? 2) What challenges may be encountered by shifting to an online methodology, and 3) How might these challenges be creatively overcome? This project is led by Dr. Michelle Lam with funding from the Tri-Council.

Sometimes You Just Know Something: An Exploration of Intuition

Using a narrative inquiry process, this project explores three critical questions: 1) How does intuition inform individual actions; 2) What causes people to trust or distrust their intuition, and 3) How do people respond when confronted with stories they cannot explain with western ways of knowing? This project is led by Dr. Michelle Lam.

Community Voices 2 Year Postdoctoral Project

Building on the successes of the BURC/community-funded project with the same name, this postdoc position will continue to explore the topics of belonging, anti-racism, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Brandon and the Westman Region. Dr. Ayodeji Osiname will lead this project under the supervision of Dr. Michelle Lam.



Knowledge Mobilization



Refereed Publications from CARES Members

(Names with <u>underline</u> are BU CARES members)

Ahmadu, M., Herron, R. V., Allan, J. A., & <u>Waddell, C. M.</u> (2021). Identifying places that foster mental health and well-being among rural men. Health & Place, 71, 102673. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102673

Bagheri, R., Hooshmand Moghadam, B., Candow, D. G., Elliott, B. T., Ashtary-Larky, D., <u>Forbes</u>, <u>S. C.</u>, Rashidlamir, A., & Wong, A. (2021). Response to: Resistance exercise in lean older adults: Mind the gap in energy intake. The British Journal of Nutrition, 1–2. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1017/s000711452100310x

Bagheri, R., Hooshmand Moghadam, B., Candow, D. G., Elliott, B. T., Wong, A., Ashtary-Larky, D., <u>Forbes, S. C.</u>, Rashidlamir, A. (2022). Effects of Icelandic yogurt consumption and resistance training in healthy untrained older males. The British Journal of Nutrition, 127(9), 1334-1342. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007114521002166

Barzegar, H., Arazi, H., Mohebbi, H., Sheykhlouvand, M., <u>Forbes, S. C.</u> (2022). Caffeine coingested with carbohydrate on performance recovery in national-level paddlers: A randomized, double-blind, crossover, placebo-controlled trial. The Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness, 62(3), 337–342. https://doi.org/10.23736/s0022-4707.21.12125-5

Beigrezaei, S., Yazdanpanah, Z., Soltani, S., Rajaie, S. H., Mohseni-Takalloo, S., Zohrabi, T., Kaviani, M., <u>Forbes, S. C.,</u> Baker, J. S., & Salehi-Abargouei, A. (2021). The addition of exercise to a weight loss diet on inflammatory markers: a systematic review and meta-analysis of controlled clinical trials. Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition, 1–13. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1080/10408398.2021.1999201

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Herron, R.V., Newall, N. E.G., Lawrence, B. C., Ramsey, D., Waddell, C.M., & Dauphinais, J. (2021). Conversations in times of isolation: Exploring rural-dwelling older adults' experiences of isolation and loneliness during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Manitoba, Canada. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 18(3028). https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18063028

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Karayigit, R., Naderi, A., Saunders, B., <u>Forbes, S. C.</u>, Coso, J. D., Berjisian, E., Yildirim, U. C., Suzuki, K. (2021). Combined but not isolated ingestion of caffeine and taurine improves Wingate Sprint Performance in female team-sport athletes habituated to caffeine. Sports (Basel, Switzerland), 9(12), 162. https://doi.org/10.3390/sports9120162

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<u>Kasamali, Z.</u> (2021). "Throwing salt on wounds": Covid-19 and a curriculum of embodiment. Prospects, 51(1), 103–116. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11125-021-09561-x

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<u>Kokorudz, S.</u> (2021). Pre-service teachers' experiences during a pandemic. Journal of the World Federation of Associations of Teacher Education, 4(1), 19–30.

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Lam, M. (2021). Race, relational dynamics and anxious adjustments: The complexities of identities in relation to one another. International Journal of Research & Method in Education, 45(2), 129–136. https://doi.org/10.1080/1743727X.2021.1926972

Lewgood, J., Oliveira, B., Korzepa, M., <u>Forbes, S. C.</u>, Little, J. P., Breen, L., Bailie, R., Candow, D. G. (2021). Efficacy of dietary and supplementation interventions for individuals with type 2 diabetes. Nutrients, 13(7), 2378. https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13072378

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<u>Stouffer, J.</u> (2021). Seeking middle ground: Analyzing running records from the top and bottom. The Reading Teacher, 74(6), 769–784. https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2012

Underwood, K., van Rhign, T., Balter, A., <u>Douglas, P., Lawrence, B.</u> & Parekh, G. (2021). COVID-19, disability and childcare: A disabled children's childhood approach. Journal of Childhood Studies, 46(3), 16–29. https://doi.org/10.18357/jcs463202119970

<u>Waddell, C. M.</u>, de Jager, M. D., Gobeil, J., Tacan, F., Herron, R. V., Allan, J. A., Roger, K. (2021). Healing journeys: Indigenous men's reflections on resources and barriers to mental wellness. Social Science & Medicine, 270, 113696. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113696

<u>Waddell-Henowitch, C.</u>, Herron, R., Ramsey, D., <u>Lawrence, B.</u>, de Jager, M., & Newall, N. (2021). Rural healthcare workers needs and experiences during COVID-19. Journal of Rural and Community Development, 16(4), 54–75.

<u>Waddell-Henowitch, C. M</u>. Gobeil, J., Tacan, F., Ford, M., Herron, R., Allan, J., Kruth, M., & <u>Spence, S</u>. (2022). A collaborative multi-method approach to evaluating Indigenous landbased learning with men. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 21, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069221082359

Yazdanpanah, Z., Beigrezaei, S., Mohseni-Takalloo, S., Soltani, S., Rajaie, S. H., Zohrabi, T., Kaviani, M., <u>Forbes, S. C.</u>, Baker, J. S., & Salehi-Abargouei, A. (2022). Does exercise affect bone mineral density and content when added to a calorie-restricted diet? A systematic review and meta-analysis of controlled clinical trials. Osteoporosis International, 33(2), 339–354. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00198-021-06187-9



Other Publications, Articles, Reports & Briefs

Ahmadu, M., Herron, R., <u>Waddell, C.</u>, Allen, J. (2021). Identifying places that foster mental health and well-being among rural men. Health & Place, 71, 102673. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2021.102673

Chamberlain, J., Dupuis, C., Fleming, C., Sayers, G., <u>Skyhar, C.</u>, Smith, N., <u>Waddell-Henowitch, C.</u>, & Wood, L. (2021). Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized genders at Brandon University. Status of Women Review Committee. Brandon University website. https://www.brandonu.ca/swrc/recent-research/

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Rauch, K., Epp, D., & <u>Waddell-Henowitch, C.</u> (2021, September). Suicidality in rural and remote health. Manitoba: Prairie Mountain Health Plus.

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<u>Terry, M.</u>, & Malik, A., & Anju, S. (2021b). Factors that affect grade nine students in Al Moattasem International School, Saudi Arabia. Report to Al Moattasem International Schools in Saudi Arabia. [192 single-line spaced pages]





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Shields, R., & Gerry, C. (Directors) & <u>Douglas, P.</u> (Producer). (2021, October 31). Untitled and fears & dreams. Screened at Autistic Reels: Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival [online].

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<u>Smith, C., & Moura, G.</u> (2021). Westman Consortia rural and remote learning: Interim report. https://www.bucares.ca/publications

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Other Knowledge Mobilization



Research Connection

Research Connection is a weekly publication that features a 2-page summary of a research project from Brandon University. It provides information about the impact of Brandon University's academic research, creative activities, and expertise. BU CARES is responsible for administering this publication, which is supported by the Office of Research Services.

In 2021-2022 we released 32 Research Connection publications.



Podcast

Leaning in and Speaking Out: The Research Connection Podcast, supported by BURC, the Research Support Fund, and Brandon and Area Community Foundation, released 17 new episodes this year. These episodes can be found on iTunes, Spotify, and other podcast stations, in addition to our website. Each podcast features a minimum of two guests--one academic and one community member--who demonstrate mutually beneficial conversations, sharing knowledge in both directions and forming connections between the university and community.



3 Minute Thesis

The 3 Minute Thesis event, held annually at BU, is an opportunity for students to share their research and compete for prizes. BU CARES was an organizer for the 3 Minute Thesis again this year and supervised two practicum students involved in planning the event.



Thank You

"It's been a long 16 years in the workforce, and my experiences at BU CARES have changed the way I view work as well as my standards for the people I'd like to find myself working for or with. Thank you for that."

- Stephanie Spence, Research Assistant

Thank you to all who have contributed to the work of BU CARES over the past year:

- The advisory board for their advice, insight, support, and collaborations.
- Christiane Ramsey for her careful attention to detail, consistent coordination and communication in preparing the Research Connection briefs and annual compilation, and editing expertise.
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- Podcast guests who dedicated their time and expertise to the Leaning in and Speaking out Podcast.
- Faculty members who presented their research as part of the Doc Talks Speaker Series.
- Contributing authors who highlighted their research in the Research Connection publication.
- Colleagues who share their insights, passions, and expertise in collaborating to support community-based research.