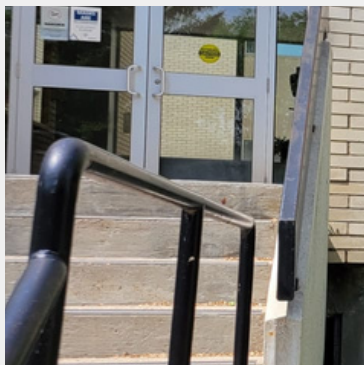


**BU CARES**

# 2023-24 Annual Report



Written by:  
Michelle Lam  
→



# About BU CARES

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.



# 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 2023-2024 year.

We have continued a partnership with Mountain View School Division to explore their work on reconciliation at both school and community levels. We have also received funding through Canada Heritage to continue our anti-racism film project.

We continued our work with Myera Group, an Indigenous-led organization interested in using virtual reality technology for educating students on traditional Indigenous practices. This work is a collaboration with Rural Development Institute (RDI). We are also continuing our work on the benefits and challenges of using Zoom for community-based research, and our study on how schools and community organizations can play a role in depolarizing society.

We are also supporting a number of other studies, looking at understanding microaggressions, supporting digital well-being, understanding epistemic beliefs in science, culturally responsive teaching, curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment in language and literacy, among others.



# Introduction

Our knowledge mobilization activities this year include peer-reviewed articles, research connection briefs, a student-focused compilation magazine, professional reports, podcasts, videos, infographics, posters, speaker series events, lunch-and-learn events, conference presentations, and a bi-monthly newsletter to our members. We have also been active on social media, once again growing our online reach substantially. Our website has also seen increased traffic this year.

The creation of the knowledge mobilization studio will aid us in sharing the research happening through our centre and across campus. This space features a soundproofed room with 3 separate studio setups for audio and video podcasting, broadcast interviews or seminars, and a large green screen. This room will support research across the BU campus.

In addition to conducting, supporting, and mobilizing research knowledge, we also support students in their research journeys. We do this in direct ways, through supervision and mentorship, and through indirect ways, by offering training and tutorials that can be accessed asynchronously.






The research initiatives at BU CARES serve rural and Indigenous educators and community members by building collaborative partnerships and by widely sharing our knowledge and research findings. We are grateful to our many partners and supporters, and look forward to continued collaborations.





# Strategic Research Themes

In collaboration with the BU CARES Advisory Board, this year we have identified five research themes:

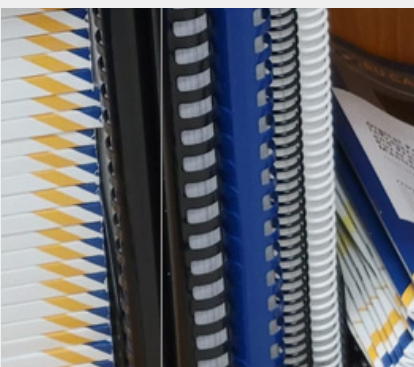
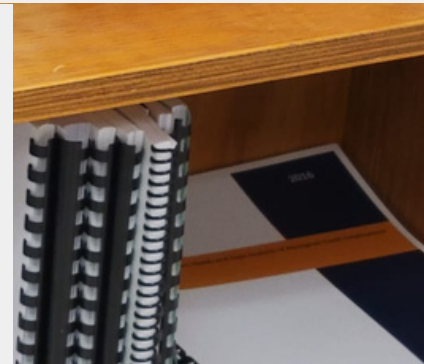
-  Indigenous Education
-  Digital Innovation and Educational Technology
-  Equity and Anti-Racism
-  Eco-Justice
-  Well-being and Mental Health



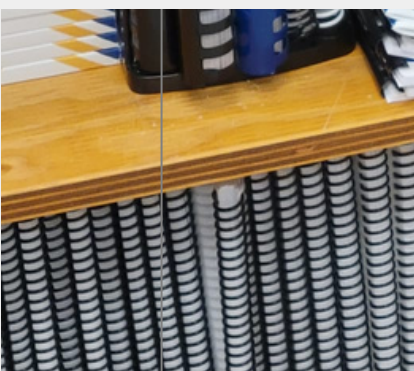
Equity and Anti-Racism



Indigenous Education



Digital Innovation and Educational Technology



Eco-Justice



Well-being and Mental Health



# Highlights from 2023-24

The following pages will highlight our work in:







- Conducting Research
- Supporting Research
- Mobilizing Research






## Conducting Research

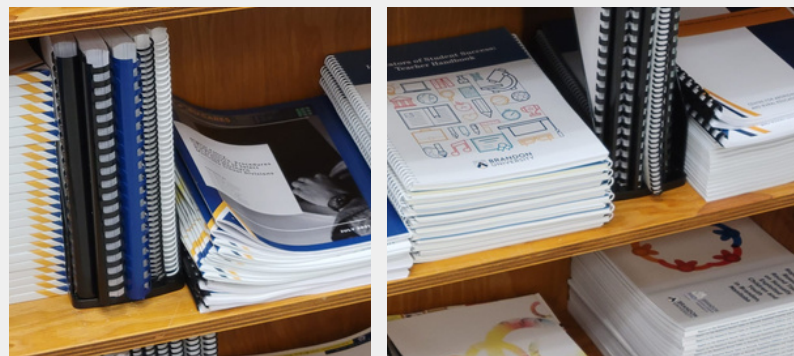
Working with community and government partners enables BU CARES to conduct research on issues of relevance to rural and Indigenous communities. In 2023-2024, we have 6 ongoing projects, and 3 completed projects:

### ONGOING

-  Anti-racism education
-  School & community reconciliation
-  Indigenous virtual reality
-  Zoom for community-based research
-  Strategies for depolarization
-  Strategies for addressing microaggressions

### COMPLETED

-  Community voices postdoc position
-  Digital literacy, relationality, and critical reading skills
-  Student belonging at BU during the pandemic





## Supporting Research

BU CARES supports the research of our members through securing external funding, providing software access, providing space for research assistants, and facilitating community partnerships. We are often approached for letters of support or introduction which detail these supports. In 2023-2024, we have committed supports for:

### **Eight ongoing projects, including:**

- Epistemic beliefs in science
- Early literacy skills
- Education administrators' coping
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment in K-12 language and literacy
- Digital wellbeing
- Outcomes of 50 years of PENT

### **Three partnership funding applications:**

- Decolonizing possibilities of change (UBC)
- Research, creation, and action as refuge (Université de Montréal)
- Restorying autism (Queens University)





# Mobilizing Research

BU CARES has multiple avenues for mobilizing research knowledge. By using different avenues, we build connections in both academic and non-academic spaces, building community connections and mobilizing knowledge broadly.

In 2023-24 we directly published:

- 4 Peer-reviewed journal articles
- 1 Book chapter
- 5 Research reports
- 1 Non-peer reviewed articles
- 26 Research connection briefs
- 1 Research connection magazine
- 5 Peer-reviewed presentations
- 5 Non peer-reviewed presentations
- 10 Podcast episodes
  - Audio podcasts played 1261 times this past year
  - Video podcasts watched 1027 times this past year
- 15 Videos (includes podcasts)
- 2 Infographics
- 1 Poster
- 1 Research tutorial
- 20 Lunch and learn sessions
- 1 Doc Talks speaker session

The above list does not include publications from our members, whose research may be supported by BU CARES but not published directly through the above channels. Every year, we compile a list of our members' peer-reviewed publications, which can be found on our website: [www.bucares.ca/publications](http://www.bucares.ca/publications).



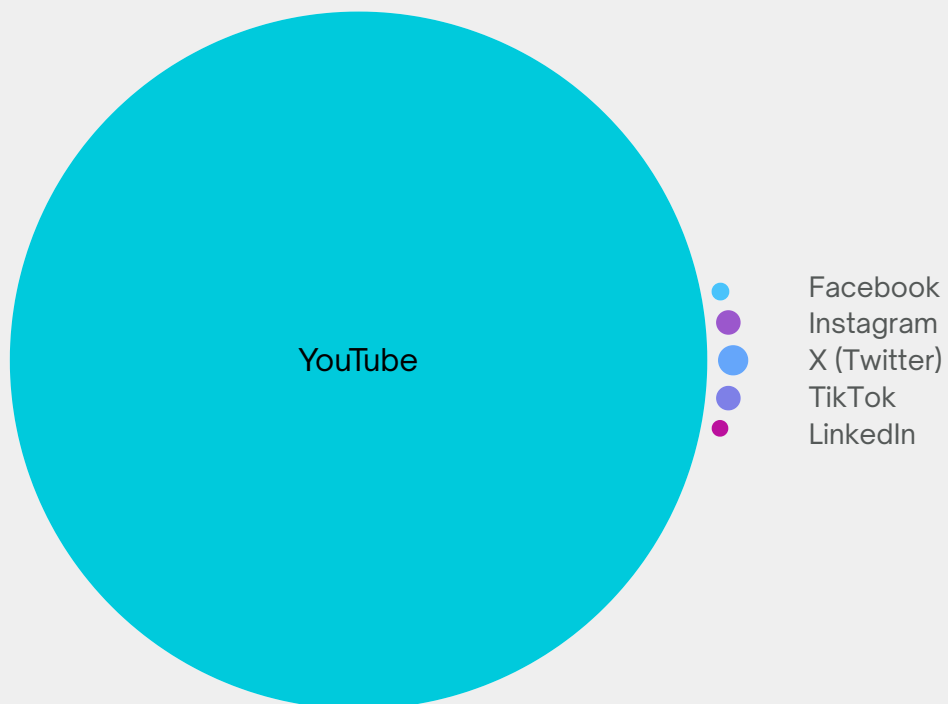


# Mobilizing Research - Social Media and Website

This year, our website was visited 8830 times (29% increase from last year). Our newsletter has 128 subscribers (39% increase), and our social media sites have a total of 347,935 followers (~900K% increase), primarily driven by an increase in YouTube subscribers.

### Social Media Sites and Number of Subscribers/Followers:

- YouTube: 346,000
- TikTok: 430
- X (Twitter): 652
- LinkedIn: 198
- Facebook: 226
- Instagram: 429



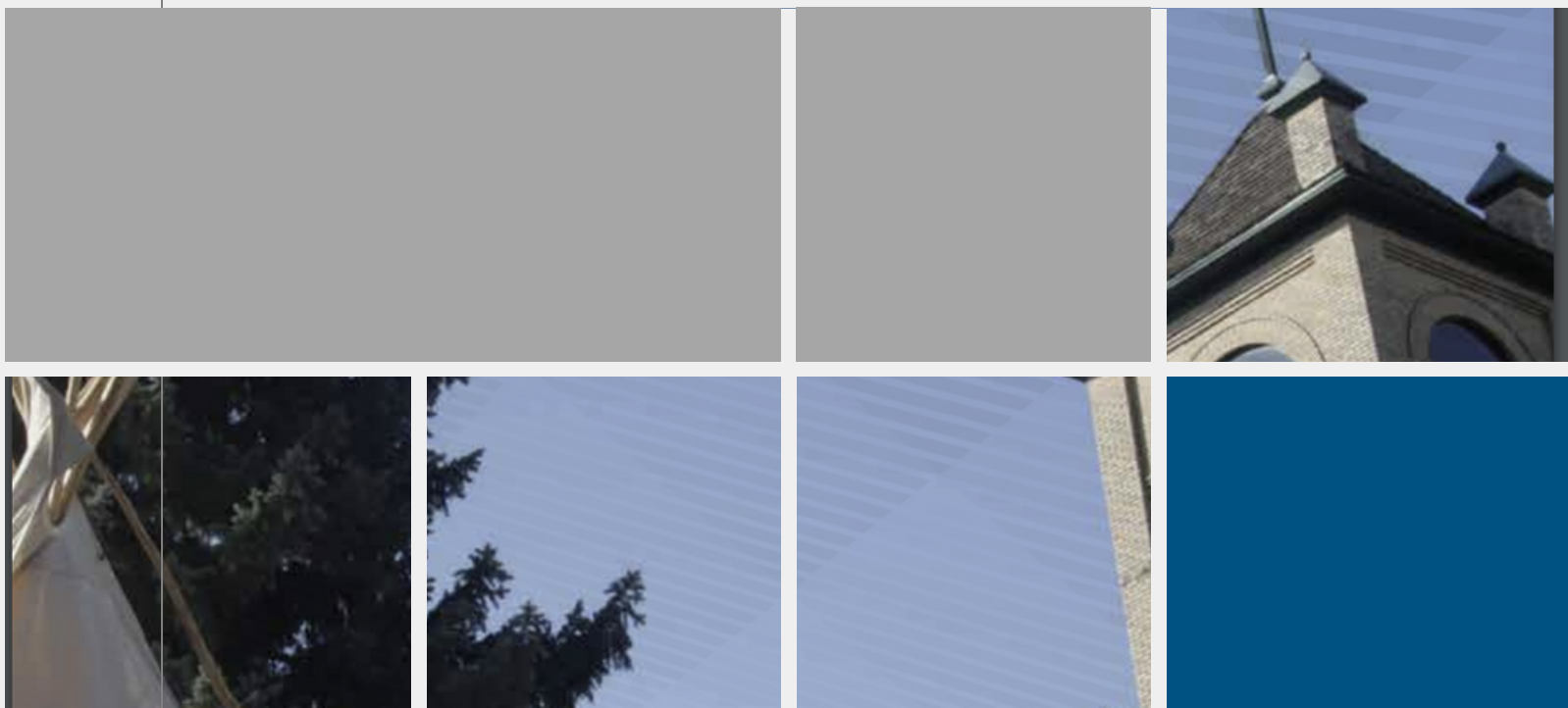
# Supporting Students

This year we were happy to support the production and distribution of a student-focused research connection compilation magazine which highlights student stories of research at BU.

We also supported students through:

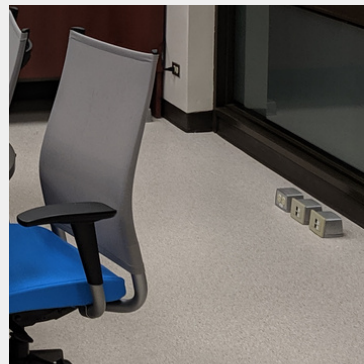
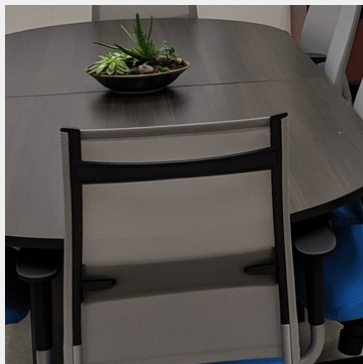
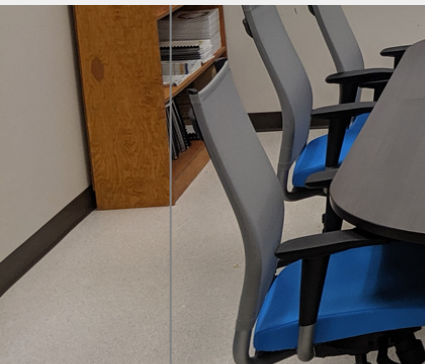
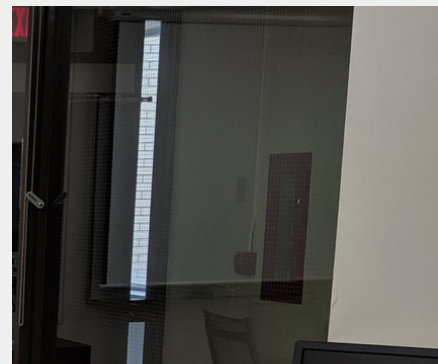
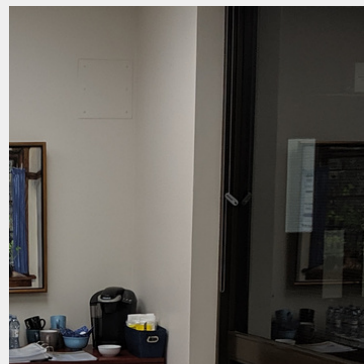
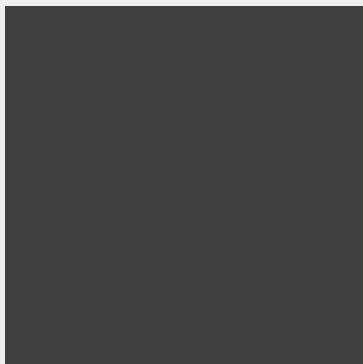
- 3 graduate students completing a practicum in community-based research
- 6 part-time and full-time positions created, including 4 research assistants and 2 research facilitators
- 7 volunteer opportunities facilitating community-based research with schools and community organizations

Our research tutorials on YouTube continue to be well-received. This past year, these tutorials were viewed 205,730 times, covering topics such as using NVivo for research, how to do research analysis, and organizational tips for researchers.



# Advisory Board

- Dr. Alysha Farrell
- Ms. Rachel Robertson
- Chief Karen Batson
- Ms. Stephanie Spence
- Dr. Aloysius Anyichie
- Dr. Jacqueline Kirk
- Dr. Ayodeji Osiname
- Ms. Valerie McInnes
- Mr. Matteo di Muro



# Finances

## New Research Project Funding Received

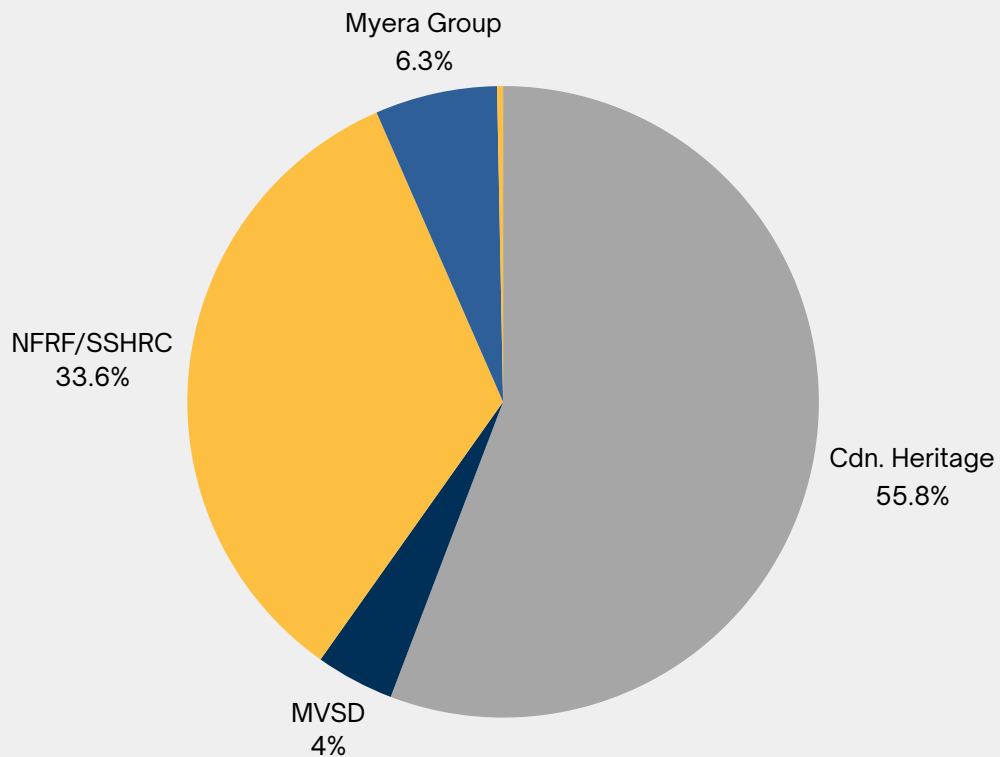
Canadian Heritage Anti-Racism Film Project (2024-2025)	\$138,791
Mountain View School Division	\$10,000

## Ongoing Projects (March 2024 Balances)

NFRF/SSHRC	\$83,645
Myera Group, Inc.	\$15,564

## Other Income


YouTube	\$760
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# Thank You

Thank you to all who have contributed to the work of BU CARES over the past year. We look forward to another year of collaboration and impact.

 204-727-7331

 270 - 18th Street, Brandon MB R7A 6A9

 [www.bucares.ca](http://www.bucares.ca)