

THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**Strengthening A Culture of Shared Research, Learning and
Knowledge Exchange**

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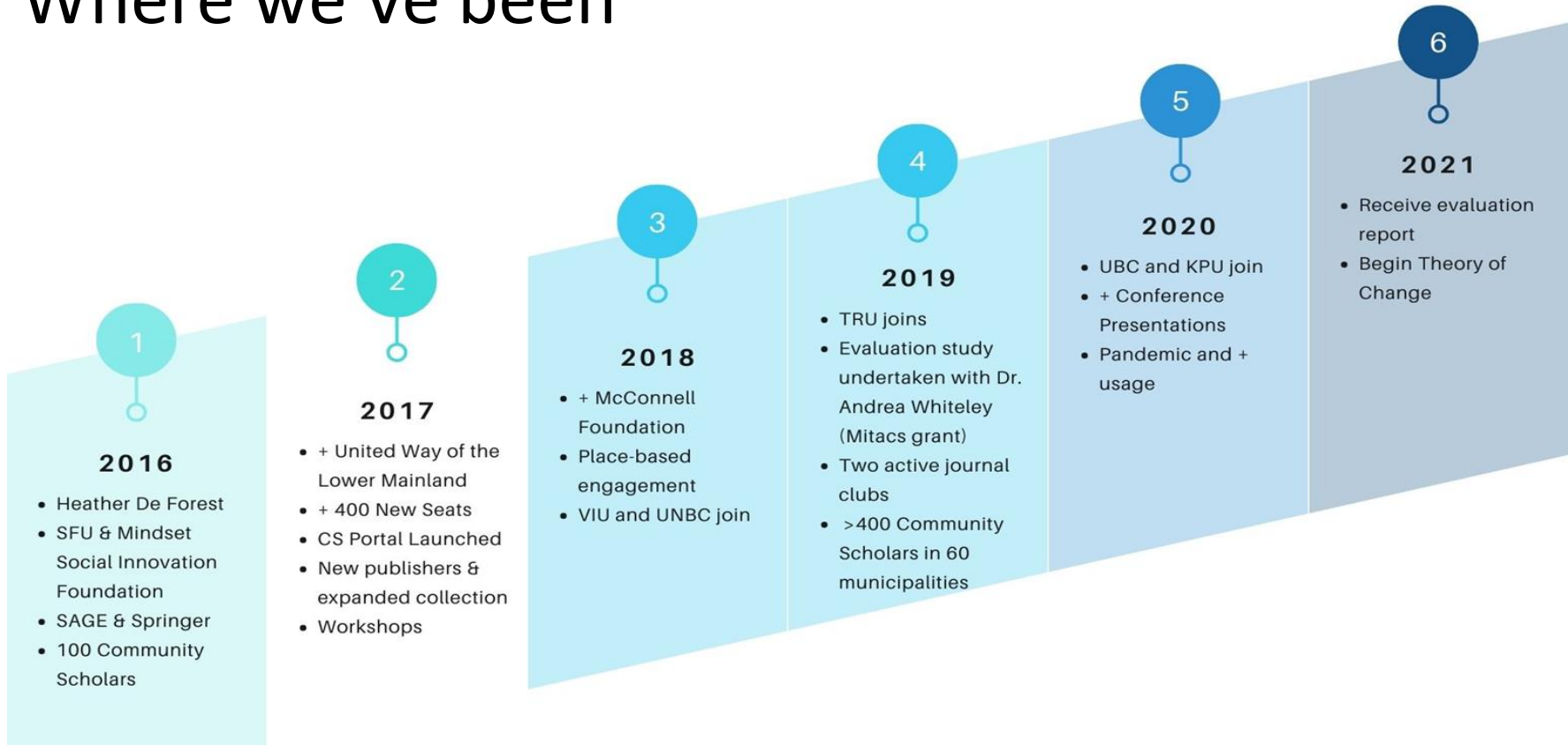


Keltie Ross

Where we've been

Since 2017 the Community Scholars Program has connected researchers in BC-based non-profit organizations with access to published academic research together with supporting library services.

Where we've been



Where we've been

6

2021

- Receive evaluation report
- Begin Theory of Change

- Planning meetings May-July 2021
- Building on evaluation report, 2020-2021
- Focus groups included:
 - A. Research partners
 - B. Program participants
- Result: draft Theory of Change

According to our Community Scholars...

Program benefits include:

- strengthened proposals & reporting
- improved presentations
- helped us advocate & make better policy recommendations
- improved our understanding of the issues
- research was a catalyst for the design new programs
- supported evidence based approaches
- helped us to stay informed & up to date
- improved our engagement activities
- improved our decision-making
- allowed us to train and share new knowledge with other non-profits
- been a source of professional development for staff & (for a few) encouraged further learning
- a small number expressed benefits of connections with other non-profits (from workshops)
- Challenges and needs that the program is uniquely positioned to address:
 - lack of time for research and learning is an ongoing challenge
 - scholars want short, self-directed, on-line training in conducting research and use of the portal
 - Desire to connect with other CS and university researchers

What university researchers had to say...

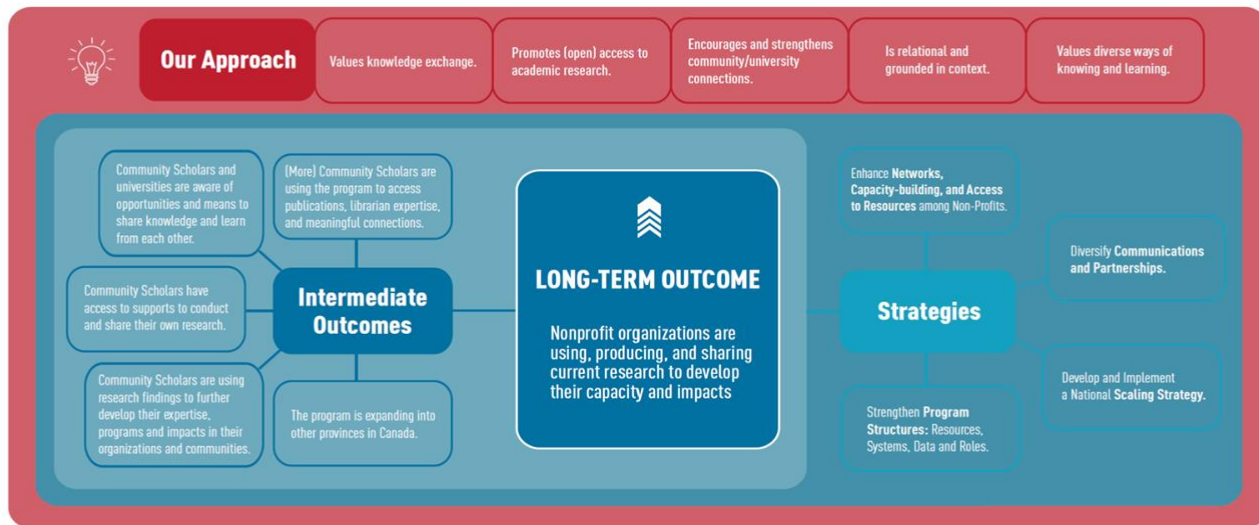
- Lack of time to build relationships with communities and learn more about their work as a key gap
- University researchers also identified the barrier that make it harder to communicate and collaborate, including academic structures (like ethics policy, restricted student funding) and mindsets (data versus experiential evidence)

COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM THEORY OF CHANGE

"Strengthening a culture of shared research, learning and knowledge exchange."

🔍 The Problem

Non-profit organizations don't have access to up-to-date research



Our Approach

Continue to build a program that

- Values knowledge exchange
- Promotes (open) access to academic research
- Encourages and strengthens community/university connections
- Is relational and grounded in context
- Values diverse ways of knowing and learning

Long term outcome (...2026)

Non-profit organizations are using, producing and sharing current research to develop their capacity and impacts. The change targets:

- increase the # of program scholars and organizations in BC who are actively participating
- expand program offerings to advise and make referrals related to the research process
- expand opportunities for CSs to share research with others
- scale the program into other provinces

Theory of Change: Our Strategies



THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Learn more!

CommunityScholars.ca