

U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research

Established in 1999, the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research works with community partners, faculty and students to deliver research and community service-learning services to Haliburton County. We partner local organizations with faculty and students from Trent University and Fleming College to explore important research questions and increase the capacity of organizations through community service-learning initiatives. The result is lasting relationships and tangible benefits to the social, cultural, environmental and/or economic life of Haliburton County.

What is our mission?

- To provide assistance to community organizations, businesses and municipalities in finding practical information that will support development in Haliburton County.
- To provide students with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills through their engagement with community-based research and community service-learning projects.
- To provide the community with opportunities to inform universities and colleges about community issues and community development.
- To give the community access to the knowledge and resources of universities and colleges.

Strategic Priorities

1. Identify and address community needs and priorities in Haliburton County (Addressing Community Needs)

Identify and address community needs and priorities in Haliburton County (Addressing Community Needs). We will continually refine our consultative process to identify community needs, leading to research initiatives related to the Environment, Economics, Culture, and Social Development.

2. Maintain and improve our relationships with post-secondary institutions (Relationship Building)

We will engage with the administrations, students and faculty of our post-secondary institution partners to provide quality, community-based research and experiential learning.

3. Expand and enhance the profile of U-Links with key constituencies (Visibility)

We will ensure that Haliburton County community organizations, local municipalities, post-secondary institutions, faculty and students, and other key stakeholders are aware of U-Links' expertise in facilitating actionable, community-based research to meet their objectives.

STRATEGIC PLAN – U-Links 2020-2023

4. Ensure the quality of program delivery (Program Quality)

We will continue to refine our systems for program delivery, collaborations with post-secondary institutions, professional development opportunities and evaluation methodology to ensure the quality of the services that we provide to the community and experiential learning opportunities for students. We will conduct meaningful evaluation of our programs and services.

5. Share knowledge gained through research initiatives with the broader community (Knowledge Mobilization)

We will share knowledge through a wide range of fora and media including an annual Celebration of Research, social media, traditional media, presentations, on-line database/archive of Research Projects and Grey Literature and continued engagement with the broader experiential learning network (e.g. Community Campus Engage Canada, Community Based Research Canada).

6. Ensure the future of U-Links (Sustainability)

We will ensure the future of U-Links by recruiting, maintaining and supporting motivated staff and volunteers, establishing and enacting operational procedures and policies, securing sustainable funding, leveraging regional and cross regional relationships.