

Transforming the Field Education Landscape:

Intersections of Research and Practice in Canadian Social
Work Field Education

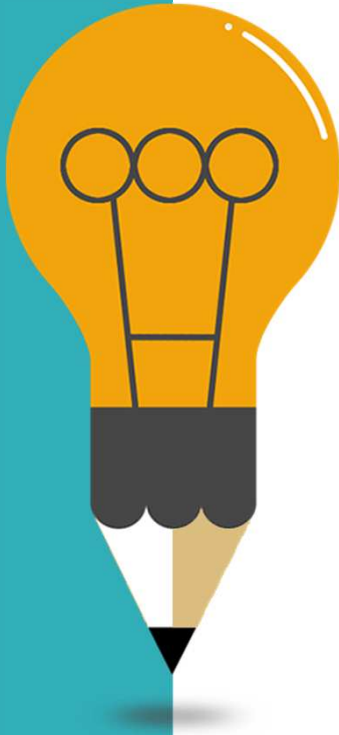
TFEL is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

SSHRC  CRSH

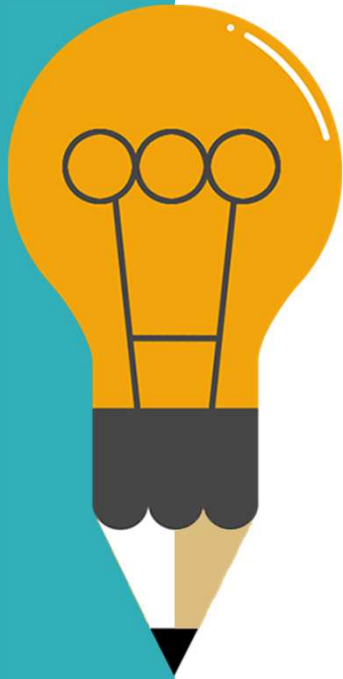
Context

Field education programs in Canada are experiencing growing and multi-layered challenges in delivering practicum experiences to students, including:

1. Rising student demand for placements
2. Field instructor recruitment and retention
3. Increased annual turnover of practicum sites
4. Integrating research and practice



Context



The field education crisis is at a tipping point.



April 1st, 2019

We received approval and funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada



The goal of this partnership is to integrate research and practice in the preparation of the next generation of social workers by developing partnered research training initiatives, both within academia and across the public and not-for-profit sectors, that enhance student and trainee research practice knowledge and applied skill development.



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Our Team: Co-Investigators (13)

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Collaborators (51)

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Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Thomson Rivers University
Université de Moncton
Université de Montréal

Université de Saint-Boniface
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
University of Calgary
University of Manitoba
University of Northern BC
University of Regina
University of Fraser Valley
University of Victoria
University of Windsor
Vancouver Island University
Wilfred Laurier University

Partner Organizations (39)

Alberta Association of Immigrant Servicing Agencies
Alberta College of Social Workers
Alberta Health Services
ASSIST Community Services Centre
Autism Research Centre, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
Babcock University
British Columbia Association of Social Workers
Calgary Counselling Centre
Canadian Association for Social Work Education - Association canadienne pour la formation en travail
Canadian Association of Social Workers
City of Calgary, Calgary Emergency Management Agency
City University of Hong Kong
Community Social Work Team - Health and Wellness Services, University of Alberta
Council on Social Work Education
Department of Applied Philosophy, Chang Jung Christian University
Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
Habitus Consulting Collective

Integrated Health and Social Services University
Network for West-Central Montreal
International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)
McGill University, School of Social Work
Mitacs
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Social Workers
Ontario Association of Social Workers
Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familia
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Simmons School of Social Work
SYSU Centre for Social Work Education and Research
The University of British Columbia, School of Social Work
Thompson Rivers University
University of Eswatini
University of Gondar
University of South Florida
University of Stirling
Youth Research & Evaluation eXchange (YouthREX)

Objectives

To strengthen the recognition of the importance of social work practice research by enhancing knowledge and skills among students, postdoctoral fellows, and current and future practitioners.

To support the development of sustainable models of field education through engaging students and postdoctoral fellows in research on promising practices in social work field education across Canada.

Objective 1

To transform social work field education by bridging the gap between research and practice through joint training initiatives, projects and other forms of multi-stakeholders engagement and integration.

Objective 2

To train and mentor students and postdoctoral fellows through new partnered research training initiatives that build the research capacity of the current and future generation of social work scholars, practitioners and policymakers.

Objective 3

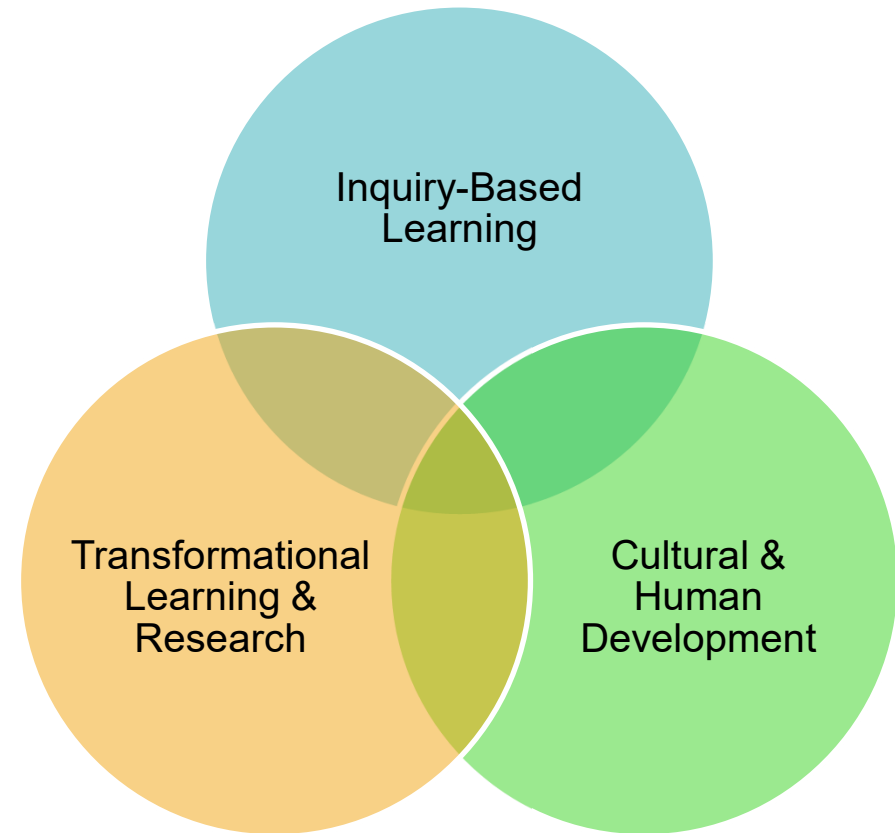
Objective 4

To engage students and postdoctoral fellows in partnered knowledge mobilization and the multi-directional exchange of knowledge in Canada and internationally on promising practices for sustainable field education and practice research.

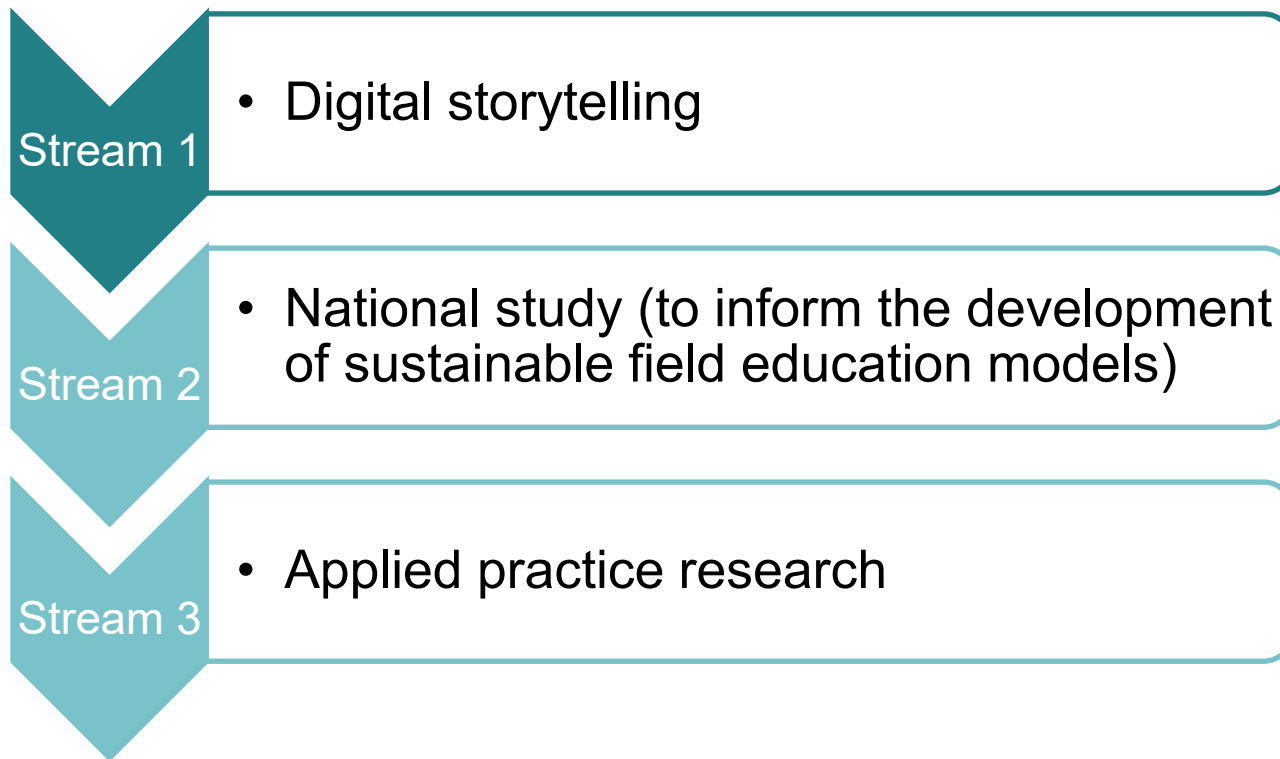
Objective 5

Theoretical Framework

The partnership is built on an **inquiry-based learning** and transformational approach.



Training & Mentoring Activities



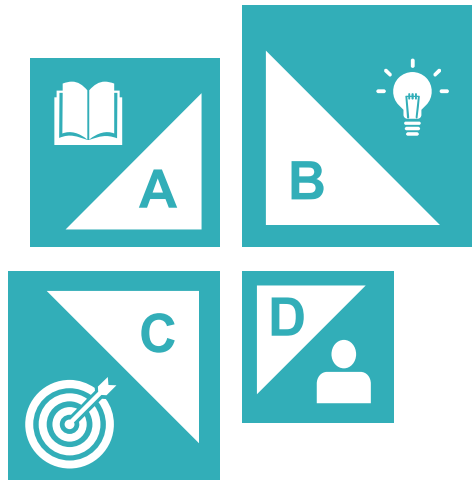
Stream 1

Digital Storytelling

Digital storytelling as a method will be used to promote deep reflection, to make sense of experience, to encourage cooperative activity, to build confidence, and to create a powerful product that can have a transformative effect on the maker and viewer alike.

Partnered research training activities

- Develop virtual resources
- Host workshops and webinars
- Develop training modules
- Host Research Fellows program
- Document innovative and best practices



The guiding research question is:

In what ways does the storytelling process enhance student learning about research training and mentorship?

Working Group

- Grant Charles (UBC)
 - Natalie Clark (TRU)
 - Michelle Reid (NVIT)
 - Christine Walsh (UC)
-

Stream 2

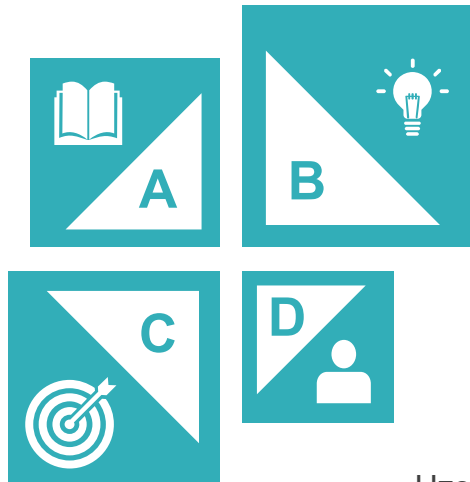
National Study

A national study will be undertaken by students and postdoctoral fellows, with training and mentorship from faculty and partners.

A survey on the state of field education in Canada and interviews on innovative and 'good' practices will be conducted.

Partnered research training activities

- Develop virtual resources
- Host webinars, workshops, meetings
- Train students on KMb processes
- Support access to Mitacs internships.



Innovative practices may include:

- Field instructor recruitment and retention
- Indigenous and anti-colonial field education
- Interprofessional practice
- International field education
- Official language in minority contexts
- Service user placements
- Research-based practicum
- Field supervision modules
- Use of technology/simulation

Working Group

- Uzo Anucha (York)
- Marion Bogo (UT)
- Grant Charles (UBC)
- Natalie Clark (TRU)
- Sheri McConnell (MU)
- Eileen McKee (UT)
- David Nicholas (UC)
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- Tamara Sussman (McGill)
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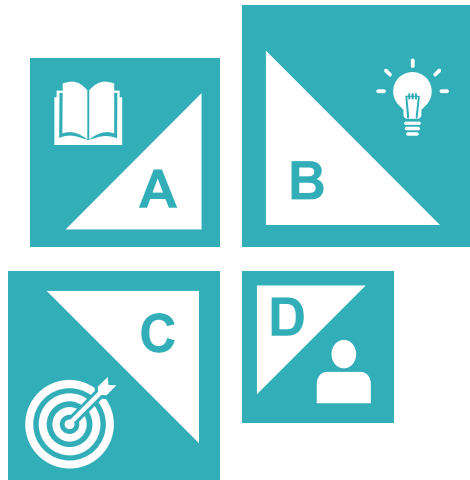
Stream 3

Applied Practice Research

To facilitate the integration of research and practice in field education, students and postdoctoral fellows will be trained and mentored in Research As Daily Practice.

Partnered research training activities

- Develop training modules & resources
- Host a Field Education Summit (2020)
- Integrate research into learning contract agreements
- Integrate Research As Daily Practice in student placements
- Identify how findings can be translated into new, more service user-relevant policies and practices



The key issue is that the social work practices used constitute systematic ways of developing an understanding of an individual, family, and/or community, and can also be seen as a research process.

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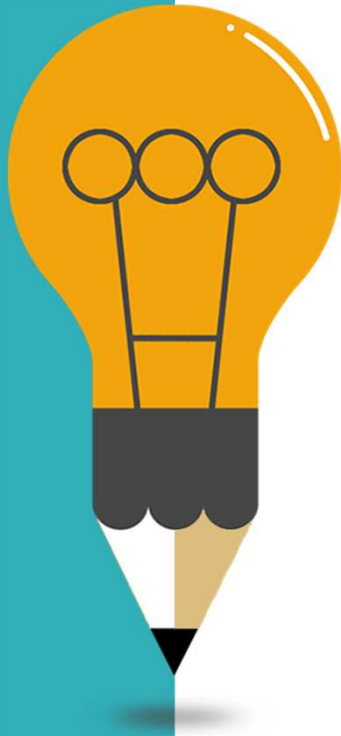
The partnership aims to create training and mentoring environments where students and postdoctoral fellows can thrive and ask critical questions about the nature of social work and field education.

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Undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students, practicum students, and postdoctoral fellows will be involved in all aspects of the project.

Knowledge Mobilization (KMb)



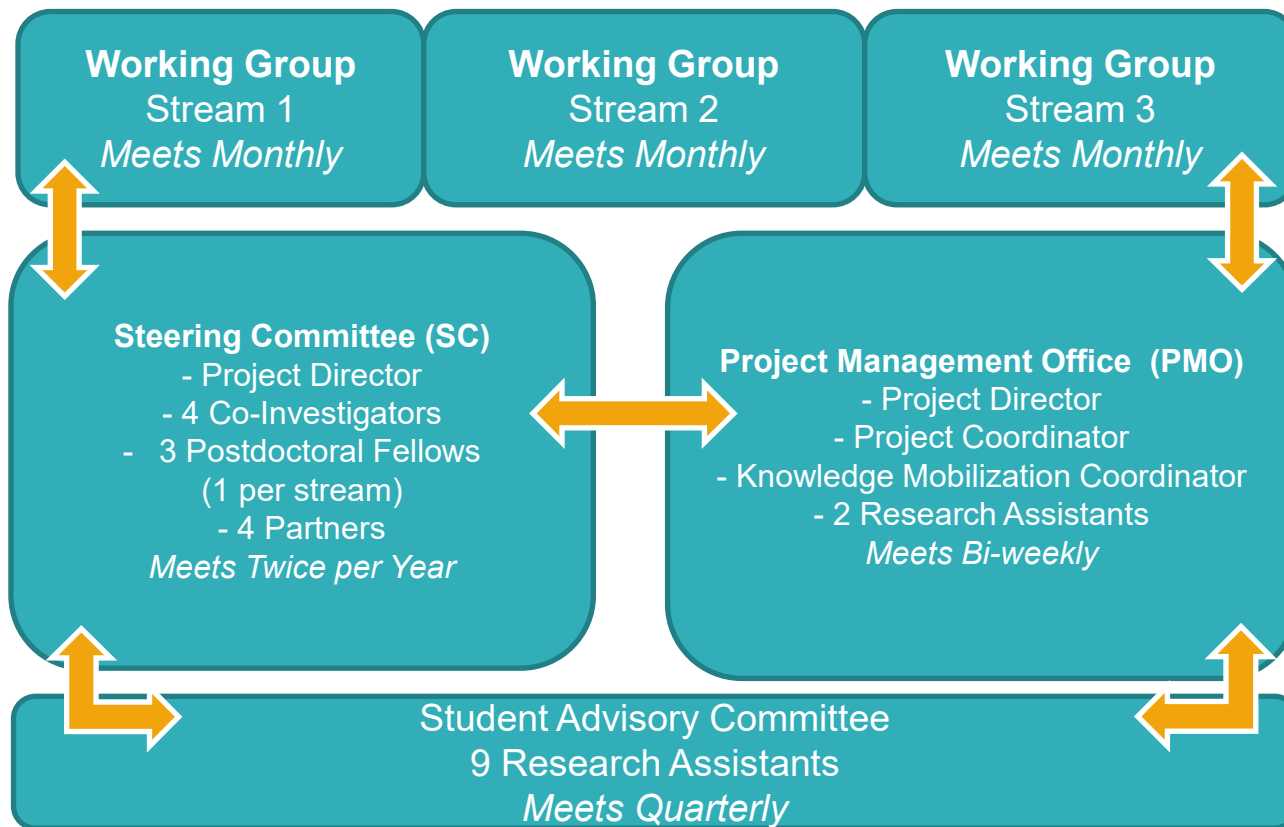
Knowledge will be co-produced, translated, and disseminated throughout the project:

- Webinars
- Podcasts
- Digital Stories
- Training Modules
- Infographics
- Social Media



www.tfelproject.com

Governance: Collaborative Decision-making





Questions?

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