

Small Cities CURA: Mapping Quality of Life & Culture

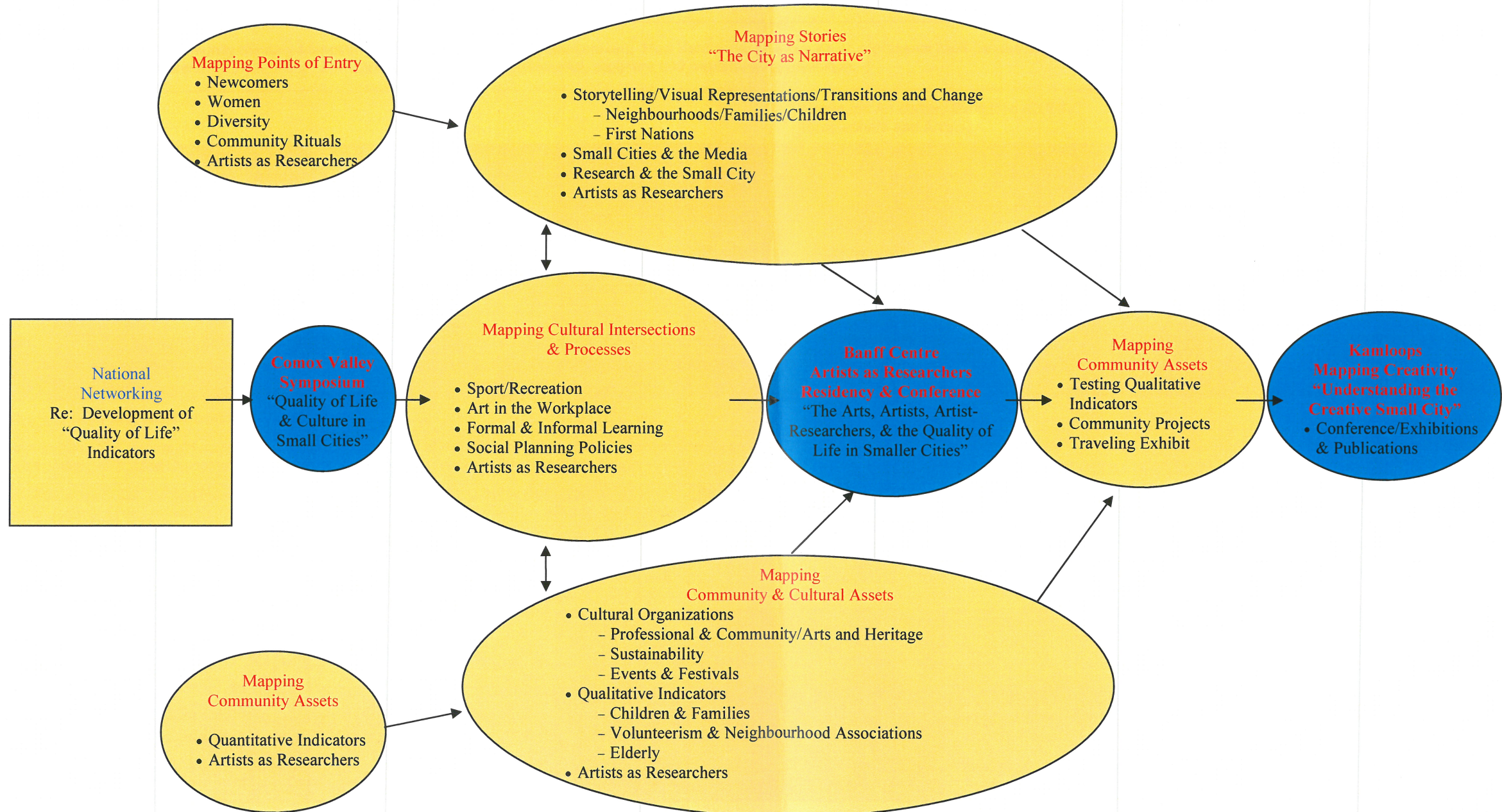
Apr. 2006

Apr. 2007

Apr. 2008

Apr. 2009

Apr. 2010



CURA: The Cultural Future of Small Cities

2001 April	2001 September	2002 January	2002 April	2002 September	2003 January	2003 April	2003 September	2004 January	2004 April	2004 September	2005 January	2005 April	2005 September	2006 January	2006 January
Representing Kamloops		"Artists-As-Researchers" (CURA Artists)													
“Documentary Representation” (Garrett-Petts, Bratton, MacDonald-Carlson, Dubinsky): Policy and organization; self-reflection and program assessment. Expected Outcomes: book publications and articles; conference presentations and workshops; website and CURA newsletter, KAG Exhibition.															
“Self-Representation”: Community Memory Mapping (Garrett-Petts, Lawrence, MacLennan): How Kamloops, as a small city, represents itself (issues of culture and heritage); the subcultures of Kamloops. Expected Outcomes: book publication, articles, conference presentations, workshops, instructional video material, sculpture and website, KAG Exhibition.															
									Kamloops Art Gallery Exhibition (CURA Researchers and Artists)						
Linking Cultural Resources to Social Development		“Thinking about Home” (Dubinsky, Stuart Wood School): A writing and image-making project about the idea of home. Expected Outcomes: book publication(s); conference presentations; KAG Exhibition.							“Growing Up in Kamloops: Parent Survey” (MacDonald-Carlson, Make Children First Learning Initiative): survey of family perceptions of the community’s ability to support healthy early childhood development. Expected outcomes: publication of results, articles, conference papers. First Phase complete September 2004.						
“Conversations with Parolees” (Murphy, John Howard Society): a collection of conversations with parolees and families of parolees (in conjunction with the John Howard Society). Expected Outcomes: book publications and articles; KAG Exhibition.															
“Children’s Museum” (MacDonald-Carlson, Kamloops Museum & Archives): development of a children’s museum area and educational programs at the Kamloops Museum. Expected Outcomes: new children’s museum area and educational programs, Conference and workshop presentations, KAG Exhibition.															
		“Community Mapping Project” (Deutschmann, John Howard Society): Mapping the needs, resources, interests, services, and locations of various clienteles served by the John Howard Society. Expected Outcomes: publication of articles, development of community resource material, conference presentations, KAG Exhibition.													
City, Regional and Environmental Planning															
“Planning and Development Issues” (MacKinnon, Nelson, City of Kamloops): a study of Kamloops’ downtown and North Shore cores in terms of composition, economic pressures, forms of social capital and possibilities for future development. Expected Outcomes: reports, articles, workshop presentations, KAG Exhibition.															
“Neighbourhood, Culture and Health” (Nelson, Interior Health): ethnographic investigation of factors affecting health status in two Kamloops neighbourhoods. Expected Outcomes: articles, conference papers, KAG Exhibition.							“Small Cities Forum” (CURA researchers, City of Kamloops): public forum to discuss the cultural future(s) of small cities.								
“FORREX Video Production”(Garrett-Petts, Dubinsky, Nash; Forest Research Extension Partnership): a video project focusing on the symbolic and cultural importance of forest renewal in the Thompson Region.” Expected Outcomes: twenty-five minute video, study guide, KAG Exhibition.															
Local History															
“Biography of a Building,” "Neighbourhoods 2000" (MacKinnon, Nash, Yarmie, Heritage Society, Kamloops Museum & Archives): archival and field studies of commercial and residential properties in Kamloops. Together the two projects will document the history and growth of Kamloops’ diverse neighbourhoods. Expected Outcomes: book publications and periodic displays, KAG Exhibition.															
“Secwepemc Photography Project” (Secwepemc Cultural Education Society and the Kamloops Art Gallery): a documentary photography project using photography as a research tool and form of artistic representation. Expected Outcomes: book publication, KAG Exhibition.															
“Tomson Highway Play on The ‘Laurier Memorial’” (Hoffman, Western Canada Theatre, Secwepemc Cultural Education Society): a series of discussions and public programs related to the WCT presentation of the Tomson Highway play. Expected Outcomes: public forums, documentary video production airing on Bravo network, workshops, and KAG Exhibition.															

Web site: www.cariboo.bc.ca/smallcities/

Quality of Life for Smaller Canadian Communities

<http://community.bccampus.ca/smallcities>

Co-Directors/Principal Investigators: Will Garrett-Petts - Kamloops CURA, Mark Seasons - University of Waterloo CURA and Robert MacKinnon - University of New Brunswick, Saint John CURA

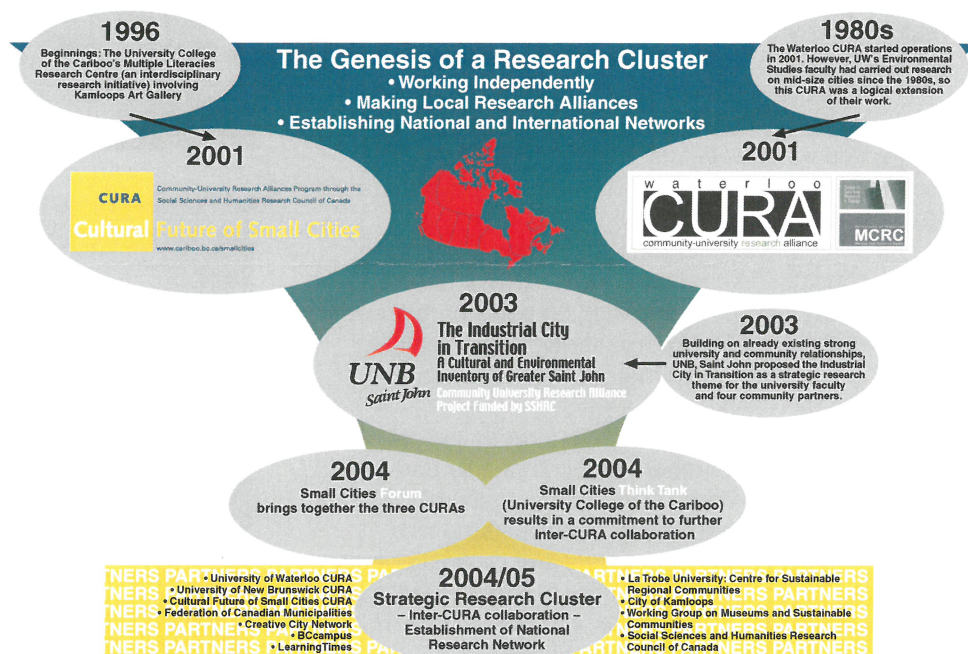
The Clusters Theme, Importance and Scope

The strategic cluster researching **Quality of Life Reporting Systems and Cultural Indicators for Smaller Canadian Communities** brings together the three Community-University Research Alliances (CURAs) – centred in Kamloops, BC, Saint John, NB and Waterloo, ON – currently studying the cultural and social aspects of those small and mid-size cities making the transition from a reliance on industry and resource extraction to a reliance on cultural, environmental and historical resources.

Research on quality of life measures and cultural indicators particular to small cities is of critical interest to:

- urban planners
- social policy makers
- cultural organizers
- academics in urban studies, cultural studies, social work, the social sciences, environmental studies and the arts
- the general public

We argue for localizing questions of globalization and cultural identity at the municipal level by seeking qualitative protocols and measures to explore the challenges and possibilities facing Canada's smaller cities. It is our aim to employ knowledge about cultural organization and expression, 'sense of place' and community development as a theoretical basis and conceptual framework for defining 'Quality of Life' and developing qualitative indicators sensitive to issues of cultural formation.



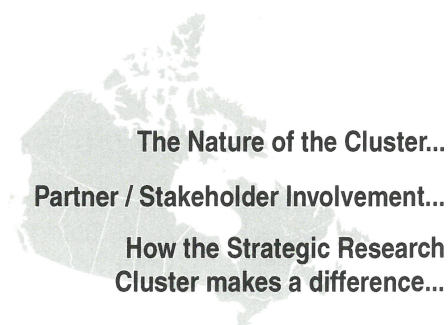
Canada's Leadership Role

Canada's strength in this area of research is evidenced by the research partners who have joined the cluster, including: **Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Creative Cities Network, Working Group on Museums and Sustainable Communities, City of Kamloops, City of Nanaimo, City of Courtenay, BCcampus and LearningTimes**

Progress to Date

We are at an early stage in our understanding of small city quality of life and cultural development issues and opportunities. This research program will continue for years to come. Without question, the clusters model will facilitate the necessary trans-national exchange of knowledge, perspectives and research findings. The alternative would be pockets of research conducted in isolation, which would preclude knowledge transfer and exchange.

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Research Clusters Grant in 2004



Nature of the Cluster

This area of study calls for extensive inter-CURA collaboration by coordinating (but not replacing) the community-university research linkages already established in each of the three participating communities.

During the first two months of the cluster we became aware that research networks like ours – made up of related communities of place with established and distinct research programs – lay the groundwork for a national community of interest.

We also recognized that knowledge sharing and cooperation via the Internet and other technological means do not necessarily create research communities. They provide important supplements to, and extensions of, existing social networks.

In the case of our research cluster, each of the three principal researchers (each either a director or co-director of a CURA focusing on small or mid-size city development and culture) brings together existing academic networks with national and international reach.

Collectively the project team already directs over 100 university researchers and community partners, and the directors have overseen the training of more than 90 research assistants. In partnership with BCcampus Online Communities and LearningTimes, we established an online research portal to facilitate virtual meetings, collaborative authorship, and the archiving of relevant research materials.

Partner / Stakeholder Involvement

We see the online resource as providing a key platform to support more traditional research collaborations. Within the virtual learning community, all partners have:

- **access to the articles and discussion about topics of interest to the research endeavour**
- **use of the virtual meeting room and the opportunity to collaborate on articles, papers and presentations**

Collectively, online interactions among community members will create a virtual record (a kind of group memory) which:

- **verifies discussion topics and illuminates the dialogue process**
- **provides opportunities for reflection, interpretation, synthesis and evaluation**

How the Strategic Research Cluster makes a difference

Our Strategic Research Cluster's facilitative communications technology will help to overcome physical and financial barriers, while the cluster's technology will also identify, establish and strengthen connections amongst



DOWNTOWN KAMLOOPS



DOWNTOWN WATERLOO

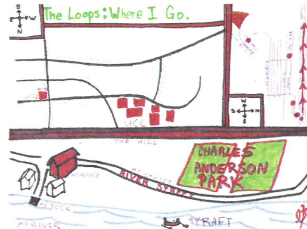


DOWNTOWN SAINT JOHN

researchers and stakeholders with a shared interest in small city quality of life and cultural development. **The result?** Greater opportunities for research synergies achieved in a highly efficient and effective manner.

“Representing Kamloops”

*Help us create a story/map of
Kamloops*



“Representing Kamloops” is part of the Community-University Research Alliance called “The Cultural Future of Small Cities.” The Kamloops Art Gallery, UCC, and various community partners* are working in cooperation to create and document a cultural map and oral history of Kamloops. This project seeks to explore how individual attachment to place defines one’s sense of culture and belonging, as well as how the cultural landmarks that we identify as important reflect the cultural life of our city.

*Community partners include the City of Kamloops, FORREX (Forest Research Extension Partnership), John Howard Society, Kamloops Museum and Archives, Stuart Wood School, Secwepemc Cultural Education Society, and the Western Canada Theatre Company.

*We would like to understand how
Kamloops residents:*

- 1) spatially conceptualize their city,
- 2) represent their city, and
- 3) invest places within their city with personal significance through mapping and storytelling.

*You can participate in this project
with us by:*

- 1) drawing a memory map of Kamloops (or an area of Kamloops) that is significant to you; and
- 2) telling us the story that goes along with your map.

Making a Memory Map

One group of CURA researchers hopes to create a different kind of map—one which will use memories in place of relief to capture a sense of place....

If Roland Moonie closes his eyes and concentrates, he can almost smell the sagebrush wilting under the intense summer sun. Sweat slips down his furrowed brow, as his boots kick loose earth into dusty swirls. And though he isn't there now, Moonie remembers stumbling across the "beautiful rock walls, held together delicately—immense walls made of smooth round creek rocks."

Moonie, in his hiking exploits to Tranquille Creek, has established a connection to this space through his memories—and in turn through his narrative of this space he has created a place.

A place is, according to sociologist Thomas F. Gieryn, "space filled up by people, practices, objects and representations." Space is the canvas upon which people paint memories, meaning. Moonie's experiences in Tranquille Creek have created a narrative that will always link him to that place.

It is this kind of narrative and mental imagery that researchers involved in the Representing Kamloops component of the CURA project hope to gather from a diverse array of Kamloops residents. CURA co-director Will Garrett-Petts, along with sociology professor David MacLennan and fine arts professor Donald Lawrence have spent the summer refining their research methods as well as creating multiple models of Kamloops. These will be used to aid researchers, and also to unite their findings in a final artistic representation at the Kamloops Art Gallery in 2004.

In order to capture this sense of place, researchers are employing a technique called memory mapping, where par-



ticipants draw a map of Kamloops from their memory and at the same time, focus on a place that has special meaning for them. By doing this, they bring to mind the narrative that gives the space meaning for them. Afterwards, participants relate the story that illuminates their attachment to a special place, illustrating cultural significance through both the narrative and the rendering.

"Memory maps should serve as an important medium for belonging," commented MacLennan. Unlocking this sense of belonging is a particularly important aspect of the project, because according to MacLennan, division is at the root of our city.

Preliminary mapping has shown the diverse perspectives people have about the city. Further, these initial representations of Kamloops have served as a launching point for colourful narratives that left MacLennan and fellow researchers asking themselves: "How many different versions of Kamloops are out there?"

A centre piece of the project will be a table-sized model of Kamloops, laboured over by Don Lawrence and his research assistants Linda Goddard and Ken Nelson. As life

was being breathed into the enormous model, conventional maps of every shape and size were left plastered onto the walls of the studio. Though these clinical renderings may be used to inform the memory maps of participants, researchers hope that the model will become an organic, malleable representation which will change with time and interpretation.

"We're trying to define cultural mapping," said Garrett-Petts. Understanding people's felt sense of place animates topographical maps, broadens meaning and helps convey

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cultural as well as geographic information.

Now, Moonie's memories—the images and feelings that make Tranquille Creek special to him—will become part of a collective memory of Kamloops, and a collective sense of place. Though relief and topography define the landscape of space, it is this collective narrative that defines the culture of place.

A Representation of Kamloops....



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