



TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

We invite you to collaborate with CHASI, the preeminent team of changemakers developing meaningful, equity-driven responses to issues for communities in the Fraser Valley and beyond. For more information on how you can be a part of this work, contact Dr. Martha Dow at martha.dow@ufv.ca or thehub@ufv.ca.

[UFV.CA/CHASI](https://ufv.ca/chasi)

UFV's Community Health and Social Innovation Hub (the CHASI Hub)

Creates physical and virtual gathering spaces that foster out-of-the-box thinking and evidence-informed action.

Partners on research and knowledge mobilization initiatives that work across boundaries to support equitable innovations to improve individual and community health.

Co-creates experiential learning opportunities for students with our community partners.

WHAT CHASI IS

- ▶ Innovative
- ▶ Collaborative
- ▶ Multi-sectoral
- ▶ Evidence-informed
- ▶ Interdisciplinary

WHAT CHASI DOES

- ▶ Community engagement
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Knowledge Mobilization
- ▶ Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis

THE CHASI TEAM

- ▶ University and community-based researchers
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Community stakeholders
- ▶ Health and social service professionals
- ▶ Industry and government partners

2020 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



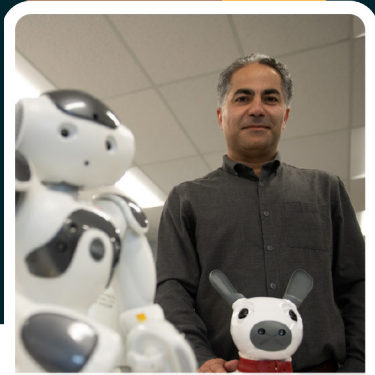
South Asian women, outdoor exercise, and health outcomes

► *SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL*

This project examined the importance of physician referral for exercise programming in engaging South Asian female patients who would benefit from lifestyle changes.

Pictured: An illustration by CHASI Student Graphic Design Intern Frankie Fowle inspired by this project.

2020 CONTINUED



Dr. Amir Shabani's work integrates social robots and AI.

Moving from risk assessment to risk reduction: An analysis of fire-related risk factors in First Nation/Indian Band or Tribal Council areas across Canada

▶ NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

A risk analysis of 624 on-reserve communities across Canada to assist the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council as it collaborates with communities in the implementation of strategies aimed at fire risk reduction.

Developing and piloting play-based tools and approaches for collecting evidence on gender-based violence amongst adolescents in humanitarian settings in Uganda and Lebanon (2020-23)

▶ RIGHT TO PLAY INTERNATIONAL, GLOBAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (US)

This project includes participatory data analysis workshops with adolescents in refugee camps in Uganda and Lebanon, as well as local and international Right to Play staff.

Research Assistant Development (RAD) Program

▶ VARIOUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partners fund a student research assistant or intern position supervised by a senior researcher and dedicated to explore issues important to our community partner. In 2020-2021 students examined risk and resiliency in relation to food insecurity and sexualized violence.

Siting of NIFSC Regional Centres through GIS analysis

▶ NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

Supporting a regional fire centre site selection process through the creation of a GIS model which integrated risk assessment while maximizing the number of supported community members.



“

I am continually inspired by the collaboration, creativity, and energy of CHASI's research team and their meaningful projects that merge exploration and community engagement. CHASI embodies UFV's commitment to community-driven research and knowledge mobilization activities with students at the centre of these learning opportunities.

Dr. Joanne MacLean

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

2021 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Mental Health

Nearly every survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 on post-secondary students revealed that it had a profoundly negative impact on student mental health. Reports indicated that the transition to remote learning resulted in a lack of structure and blurred boundaries between work, school, and home life, creating unprecedented challenges. Students also mentioned that the pandemic hindered their motivation to complete coursework, while also magnifying stress. Indeed, some students cited feeling "constantly overworked" (eCampusOntario, 2021, p.71). The greatest stressors that were identified include: concern for one's health; concern for loved one's health; concern for finances; concern for future employment opportunities; concern for final grades and concern for the future. Students who cited the most concerns about the future were most likely to be women, international students, those not living with their parents, and visible minorities.

44%



of students reported their mental health had worsened to some extent since the university closed

University of Toronto Students' Union, 2020

"Everything happened so fast and so suddenly that I had barely any time to process what was actually going on. I couldn't go home and wasn't prepared to do so as school has been my escape for the past few years."

University of Alberta Students' Union

All data, spotlights and quotes included in the dashboard have been repurposed from post-secondary reports. We have corrected errors and added emphasis on some direct quotes to enhance clarity and draw attention to key themes. Any reference to student responses is for illustrative purposes only.

2021-2022


Impact of COVID-19 on Post-Secondary Students: A systematic Review of Institutional Instruments

► BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL ON ADMISSIONS & TRANSFER (BCCAT)

Creating an interactive repository of survey documents about the impact of COVID-19 on postsecondary students across Canada and analyzing them thematically with attention to implementation and areas for future research.

Pictured: Mara Haggquist, Student Graphic Design Intern, in front of the interactive dashboard she constructed for this project.

2021 CONTINUED



Older adults in White Rock socialize while carpet bowling, one example of wellness programming in the city.

Improved Understanding, Enhanced Access: Utilizing Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Strengthen Social Connections as a Path to Improve Health Outcomes (2021–2024)

▶ *TD READY COMMITMENT FUND*

This multi-year project examines the importance of social connections for youth and older adults in relation to health outcomes.

Tk'emlúps te Secwépmc Ground-Penetrating Radar Preliminary Survey and Analysis

▶ *TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPMC, KAMLOOPS INDIAN BAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION*

Conducting multiple Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scans, including post-analysis of imaging and interpretation of all identified subsurface anomalies.

Channeling Youth Voices: Pathways to Resilience in Chilliwack, British Columbia

▶ *SPARC BC, TAMARACK INSTITUTE'S COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND*

An exploration of the experiences of youth in Chilliwack, B.C. who have been impacted by housing precarity, substance use, and mental health issues, with a focus on highlighting the complexities of these issues for public knowledge and decision-making structures in community organizations and government entities.

Giving Voice to Dementia

▶ *ACCELERATE RESEARCH FUND – UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY*

This project had individuals with dementia document and communicate their day-to-day experiences, laying the foundation for an online portal to connect with one another, build community through digital storytelling, and “feel that sense of purpose.”

Food (In)Security at the University of the Fraser Valley: Understanding the Antecedents, Prevalence, and Impact of Food Insecurity

▶ *MITACS, DIVISIONS OF FAMILY PRACTICE (ABBOTSFORD, CHILLIWACK, MISSION)*

This research examined the prevalence of food insecurity at UFV, how the availability of food resources affects students, and highlighted strategies for the university to employ in addressing food insecurity.

Wellness and Connectedness in White Rock during COVID-19

▶ *CITY OF WHITE ROCK, BRITISH COLUMBIA*

An exploration of the strengths and limitations of White Rock's wellness programming for older adults, with the principal goal being to effectively support population health and experiences of wellness for older residents during and beyond the pandemic.

Community Scan: A Directory of Post-Secondary Institutions and Friendship Centres Across Canada

▶ *NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL (FORMERLY ABORIGINAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION)*

Creating a directory of entities within postsecondary institutions (e.g., Indigenous Student Centres, Indigenous Studies Departments) and Friendship Centres across Canada to aid in recruitment strategies and local community engagement.

Sexualized Violence: Student Experiences of Sexualized Violence and Perceptions of Institutional Responses

▶ *MITACS, DIVISIONS OF FAMILY PRACTICE (ABBOTSFORD, CHILLIWACK, MISSION)*

Examining the prevalence of sexualized violence experienced by University of the Fraser Valley's students, perceptions of institutional responses and creating survivor-focused recommendations for UFV's prevention, support, and reporting.

2021 CONTINUED

Members of the archaeological team investigating the former Monashee Internment camp.

Needs, Priorities, and Strategies for Action: An Exchange Event on Health Care Planning in Mission, B.C.

► *MISSION ALL TOGETHER FOR HEALTHCARE (MATH)*

CHASI facilitated a community planning event focused on healthcare needs and priorities.

Monitoring Canada's Cannabis Use: A Short Summary

► *CANADIAN CENTRE ON SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTION*

A synthesis of current national data pertaining to cannabis use trends in Canada.

Food (In)Security: An Assessment of Communal Factors Impacting Food Security in Chilliwack

► *MITACS, CHILLIWACK SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL*

An analysis of factors related to household food security, examining how the economic, social, cultural, demographic, and environmental context of the community, as well as local food system and related food policies, contribute to local food security.

Fragments of History: Unearthing the Stories and Artefacts of Monashee Internment Camp

► *CANADIAN FIRST WORLD INTERNMENT RECOGNITION FUND*

This multi-faceted initiative involved the Monashee Internment Camp excavation, archival research and interviews culminating in the creation of the documentary *Fragments of History: Unearthing the Stories and Artefacts of Monashee Internment Camp*.

Moms on the Move (MOM)

► *LES MILLS*

An assessment of the impact on mental well-being of a bi-weekly, 8-week outdoor exercise program for mothers with new babies.

Sociocultural norms and gender responsive play-based education: A qualitative study of students, teachers, and families in Rwanda, Ghana, and Mozambique (2021–2022)

► *RIGHT TO PLAY INTERNATIONAL; FUNDED BY SSHRC PARTNERSHIP ENGAGE GRANT AND UFV'S FACULTY STUDENT SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY FUND*

A qualitative study examining experiences with play-based education in school and in community across three African nations.

Student Engagement at the University of the Fraser Valley: An Analysis of Factors Impacting Student Retention

► *MITACS, DIVISIONS OF FAMILY PRACTICE (ABBOTSFORD, CHILLIWACK AND MISSION)*

An analysis of survey data assessing student (dis)engagement, factors contributing to early school exit and variables impacting student retention at the University of the Fraser Valley.

An Analysis of Student Experiences Using UFV's Advising Centre

► *STUDENT SERVICES - UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY*

An analysis of UFV's Advising Centre's student survey about using the services during the first year of the pandemic, with particular attention to their experiences and preferences regarding online counselling models.

Contested Spaces: Responding to the Need for Peer-Engaged Programming

► *ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES*

Evaluating first-hand experiences of clients and staff at two shelters for unhoused individuals in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

FACES OF RESILIENCE

CHASI's debut art exhibit, [*Faces of Resilience*](#) is a collection of work from our talented former graphic design intern, **Celina Koops**. Several of the pieces were originally created for CHASI projects and to mark observances such as National Indigenous History Month and International Women's Day. The art hung in the CHASI Hub, bringing life, colour, and inspiration to our team.

Reflecting on *Faces of Resilience*, Celina writes:

The artwork presented celebrates more than just diversity and resilience. Each piece opened a new discovery and carried me closer to my own identity as well.

The Faces of Resilience are loud. They are voices to acknowledge those who are denied one. The visibly Indigenous and women of colour featured in this art also showcase the beautiful colour palettes that were invented within each culture.



2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



2022 - 2024

Community Action Cohort

► SUNCOR ENERGY FOUNDATION

This initiative supports rich experiential learning opportunities for students working alongside research and knowledge mobilization professionals and co-mentored by CHASI and community members working on social justice focused projects.

Pictured: Some members of the CHASI team gather around the Hub's festive decorations. From left to right, standing: Chelsea Klassen, Lead Researcher; Andrea Moorhouse, Student Research Assistant. Kneeling: Chloe Raible, Student Research Assistant; Frankie Fowle, Student Graphic Design Intern; Imran Tatla, Research Assistant; Sharon Strauss, Student Illustrator.

2022 CONTINUED



Dr. Sarah Beaulieu's work often uses ground penetrating radar

Understanding Food (In)Security in an Intersectoral Model of Service Delivery (2022–2023)

▶ ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

An environmental scan and asset and gap analysis focusing on Abbotsford's food security services ecosystem and its interconnectedness with other social determinants of health.

Gang Prevention Project: Community-based Gang Prevention Strategy (2022–2023)

▶ CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

Development of a 3-year community-based gang prevention strategy for at-risk youth in Abbotsford through an analysis of effective practices, current community capacity, and an analysis of Abbotsford Police Department data on gun and gang crime and overall youth crime.

Gang Prevention Project: Multi-Phase Evaluation Plan (2022–2023)

▶ CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

The design of a multi-phase evaluation plan for a community-based gang prevention strategy for at-risk youth.

Gang Prevention Project: Sustainability Plan (2022–2023)

▶ CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

The development of a collaborative multi-year sustainability plan with key community partners including the design and development of a strategy for public awareness and education in relation to the community-based gang prevention strategy for at-risk youth.

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Ground-Penetrating Radar Preliminary Surveys and Analysis

▶ TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC, KAMLOOPS INDIAN BAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conducting multiple Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scans, including post-analysis of imaging and interpretation of all identified subsurface anomalies.



“

Being a part of the CHASI team has not only made me a better student and researcher, but, arguably, a better person. The CHASI team always encourages me to broaden my intellectual perspective, which develops my research capabilities and knowledge; and, in turn, expands the way I view the world. CHASI's commitment to fostering critical thinking, and facilitating EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) culture and practices is an invaluable asset to UFV.

Ekaterina Marenkov

CHASI STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2022 CONTINUED

After the Flood: Community Response and Recover (2022–2023)

▶ ARCHWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

This project invited those directly impacted by the Abbotsford floods in 2021 to describe their experiences through a survey instrument, interviews, and focus groups with the goal to understanding how community members can be supported in recovery and the community can enhance disaster resiliency and preparedness.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) (2022–2023)

▶ COLLEGE OF ARTS – UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

The initiative supports the WIL program by supervising research assistants and interns, providing data visualization, report design, and dashboard development mobilizing information about experiential learning.

Haida Gwaii Reconciliation through Truth-Seeking Project (2022–2023)

▶ OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL

Walking alongside the community to conduct archival research and document survivor and community member stories in ways dictated by the survivor's wishes, including written, artistic, and oral (e.g. audio, video, self-told, chosen-narrator) representations.

Reimagining Abbotsford Hospice Society's Client Support Training Curriculum

▶ ABBOTSFORD HOSPICE SOCIETY

A curriculum project to revise the Abbotsford Hospice Society's client support training materials in a manner that attends to current information and trends, inclusive pedagogy, experiential learning, intercultural experiences, multimedia content, and the social context within which hospice care is provided.



“

CHASI has created a two-way bridge of information sharing and innovation between the University and community organizations, which strengthens efforts for positive change on both sides.

Abbotsford Restorative Justice's experience working with CHASI has been very positive. We approached them with a rough idea for a grant proposal. Through a highly collaborative approach, CHASI designed and produced a strong proposal which was innovative, evidence informed, and included an evaluation component, all of which added a large measure of credibility to the application.

Given the limited capacity of our non-profit, we would not have had the time or expertise to have developed the initiative alone.

Our community is undoubtedly being strengthened by the innovative and collaborative work of CHASI.

Kim Riddell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ABBOTSFORD RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Together Empowered (2023–2024)

▶ *STUDENT AFFAIRS – UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY*

A data collection and knowledge mobilization project supporting evidence-based decision-making relating to student experiences, shaped by individual and collective identities and the intersectionality woven through those experiences.

Mobilizing Strategic Planning within an Evidence-informed Decision-making Matrix

▶ *UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY*

Mobilizing UFV's key strategic commitments through the development of a responsive and evidence-informed decision-making matrix.

Rising Together: Reimagining the Referral System for Restorative Justice in Abbotsford

▶ *ABBOTSFORD RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION (ARJAA)*

Strengthening ARJAA's referral system and, by extension, their capacity to provide restorative justice as an alternative to traditional systems of justice.

Evaluation of CEDAR Outreach Society services

▶ *CEDAR OUTREACH SOCIETY*

An evaluation of a peer-support model of service delivery to individuals experiencing substance use, homelessness, and conflict with law enforcement in relation to poverty.

Firefighter Wellness Manual

▶ *NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL*

Creating a comprehensive training curriculum to aid in the education of firefighters on topics related to mental and physical wellness and the unique complexities of their profession.





The CHASlcast

► CIVL RADIO

As part of CHASI's mission to support the social, mental, emotional, physical, and economic health of those living in our communities, we bring together experts from across disciplines. Those experts have some incredible stories and insights. To share those with the communities we serve, we created The CHASlcast: a monthly podcast where we drill down on a current topic and chat about how it impacts our lives.

Hosted by CHASI's director Dr. Martha Dow and recorded in CIVL Radio's studio at the University of the Fraser Valley, the CHASlcast is available to stream on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, Stitcher, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music/Audible, and other podcast platforms.


Pictured: Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra advocated for spaces of belonging and bringing an anti-racist lens to the classroom on an episode of The CHASlcast.

DR. MARTHA DOW

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB

Dr. Martha Dow is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of the Fraser Valley. Her work emphasizes action-oriented research, community collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making. Dr. Dow has worked on a variety of program and policy development projects in relation to public safety, health, education, and vulnerable populations and has presented her work internationally. She has worked with all levels of government, the United Nations, and a variety of non-governmental organizations collaborating on projects that engage her commitment to equity, social justice, and providing space for marginalized voices. Dr. Dow is a recipient of the UFV Teaching Excellence Award (2016) and the Angus Reid Practitioner Applied Sociology Award (2022, Canadian Sociological Association).

Contact Dr. Martha Dow at martha.dow@ufv.ca or 604.615.9002



Turning knowledge
into action.

ufv.ca/chasi

