

UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund

Final Report – maximum 2 pages

Project Name: Decolonizing Planning: implementation of new course and curriculum

Date: 14th July

Submitted by: Leonie Sandercock

Year of Funding: 2013-2014

Summary of Work Accomplished

This grant has enabled us to go from scratch to a 30-credit Masters level specialization in 3 years. We launched our Indigenous Community Planning specialization in Fall 2012 with an intake of six students each year, and 21 credits worth of new curriculum, plus 9 credits that draw on existing SCARP courses. The 21 new credits include an internship with a First Nations organization; an Indigenous Law and Governance course; an Indigenous Community Planning core course (co-taught with a Musqueam Elder); and the capstone of this specialization, which is the 12 credit Practicum, involving students being placed, in pairs, on a First Nations reserve outside the Lower mainland and spending 4-6 weeks in that community, over a period of 8 months, working with and learning from the host community on a community planning project. We were able to hire a half time Instructor for this 12-credit sequence, thanks to a 5-year grant from the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

We are very proud of the work that has been accomplished by our six second year students in 2013-14 in their Practicum placements with the Skidegate Band Council of the Haida Nation, the Tobacco Plains First Nation and the Seabird Island First Nation. The student-community co-presentation day on May 21st 2014 at the UBC First Nations House of Learning was attended by about 60 people (including 5 delegates from the REF), and the feedback that we have received about the quality of those presentations and the depth of the work that has been completed has been very gratifying.

Those students completed their Professional Project report at the end of June, based on the Practicum experience, and have now completed all requirements for graduation.

In Feb 2012 we constituted an Advisory Committee to give advice on this curriculum, as well as on recruiting, funding, and so on, and that Committee continues to meet twice yearly and is co-chaired by Prof Sandercock from SCARP, and Leona Sparrow, Director of Treaty, Lands and Resources, from Musqueam

We are extremely proud of the formal partnership we have developed with the Musqueam Indian Band in the design and implementation of our new curriculum. Their engagement with us adds enormous credibility to what we are teaching, and the role of the Musqueam Elder in Residence is a very special one both in and outside the classroom, in mentoring both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

Evaluation of Project's Success

Include evidence of rigorous evaluation.

One success is that the first four graduates of the program all found jobs with Indigenous communities or organizations within a few months of completing their degree and Practicum placement in 2013.

A second success is that our first two host communities for the newly created 12 credit Practicum - the Skidegate Band Council of the Haida Nation, and the Gitksan Government Commission - both invited us back for a second year's placement. (The GGC invitation came too late. We had already committed to the Txunaka (Tobacco Plains) First Nation. And likewise, now that we have completed year two of the Practicum, all three communities want us to return (Skidegate Haida, Tobacco Plains, and Seabird Island Nation). This is an indication that the students are doing excellent work with, at the same time as learning a great deal from, our host Nations.

A third major success is the evolving partnership with the Musqueam Indian Band. Each year they become more deeply involved and have more ideas about how to support the program, as well as supplying our Elder in Residence, and co-teaching PLAN 548P with Prof Leonie Sandercock. Many class sessions take place at Musqueam, where we receive teachings from their Elders and other knowledge holders, as well as a feast an introduction to the Longhouse for ALL incoming Masters students during Orientation Week in September.

A fourth success would be the quality and increasing numbers of applicants each year. In 2012 we had 12 applicants for 6 places and three Indigenous applicants received Aboriginal Graduate Fellowships. In 2013 we had 14 applicants for 6 places. One Indigenous applicant received an AGF. In 2014 we had 16 applicants for 6 places. One Indigenous applicant received a SSHRC.

In Sept 2013 we successfully sought financial support from the new Dean of Applied Science. Prof Parlange has committed \$58,000 per year for the next 3 years towards annual running costs. And Van City is contributing another \$15,000 for a Practicum, which takes us close to our ideal target of \$80k per annum. So perhaps our greatest success is achieving financial sustainability for the next 3 years.
