



# KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE



# KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE (K4C) AND THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS FUND

## The Current Landscape

The critical challenges facing humanity today require new understandings and solutions. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is an effective method of empowering communities to address their own unique health and education challenges. CBPR is research and knowledge-making that is ethically based and centered on the community as the source of research questions, validation of knowledge and use of that knowledge. Its community-centric approach in addressing gender equality and climate action, as well as other UN Sustainable Development Goals, is an essential contribution to the global movement of the democratization of knowledge.

The Knowledge for Change Consortium (K4C) was founded by Budd Hall, Order of Canada recipient and a respected pioneer in the field of CBPR and Rajesh Tandon, Founding President of Participatory Research in Asia. K4C is a mechanism to advance their work as co-chairs of UNESCO Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. As a Senior Fellow in the [Centre for Global Studies](#) at the University of Victoria, Budd brought greater focus to the significant role CBPR plays in promoting critical citizenship in a complex and rapidly changing global environment.

## The Opportunity to Make Change

There is a high demand for structured CBPR training, and K4C can play an instrumental role in providing such education. The K4C Mentor Training Program is a 21-week program aimed towards young researchers (**Community Scholars**) from grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the Global South and Excluded North.

K4C Training is delivered via Hubs; each Hub is a partnership between a higher education institution and a CSO. K4C Mentor Training promotes collaborative, multidisciplinary, and cross-regional research in the field of global studies to local, national, and international communities.

Training includes online learning activities, a two-week face-to-face learning workshop, and a field work component to be carried out locally under the guidance of a local supervisor. The Community Scholars then become mentors to others in their communities and will continue their work by setting up a Hub in their community to further the work of CBPR and, ultimately, knowledge democracy.

Community Scholars who complete the K4C program will receive a certificate of completion under the joint seal of UNESCO Co-Chairs and will be given a certificate under the joint seal of the UNESCO Chair CBR-SR, PRIA International Academy (PIA) and the University of Victoria (UVic).

**Through your support, Community Scholars will be able to participate in the K4C Mentorship Program Training and in turn, train the next generation of Community Scholars.**



## The Way Forward

K4C Community Scholars are already making meaningful contributions in their communities! Here are three examples of K4C Mentorship in action:

- In the Tolima region of Colombia, students of design worked closely with former guerrillas and local indigenous communities (victimizers and victims) to co-create a special coffee brand called the Third Agreement, now a commercial success (Ibague Hub).
- In Uganda, Gulu Hub researchers worked with community youth through arts-based methods, promoting youth leadership in revitalizing local forests, and inspiring young people to continue their studies and become local entrepreneurs.
- In Rompin National Park area in Johor in Malaysia, local indigenous community Orang Asli has been facing displacement; Mizan Hub (Kuala Lumpur) is working with Orang people (who are tourist guides) analysing how their customary land rights can be respected within the law of local parks.

The Community Scholars Fund will provide scholarships to prospective mentors from CBPR organizations so that these Community Scholars can take full advantage of the K4C Training opportunities.

## Opportunity for Philanthropic Partnership

K4C Hubs are partnerships between a higher education institution and a CSO. Each partner invests \$2,500 per Scholar for the training, but in most cases, CSOs are unable to meet the funding requirements.

**Budd Hall will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2023 and is aiming to raise \$100,000 CDN to support the Community Scholars Fund.** This target will secure training for **40 CSOs** to participate in the K4C mentor training over a four-year period.

Your gift to the Community Scholars Fund will provide a tangible way forward for communities to address their own challenges, and move forward the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education's mandate to build research capacity in the Global South and the Excluded North.

**To support this initiative, click the following links: [Canadian and International donors](#) or [US donors](#).**

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**For more information, please contact:**

Budd Hall, Community Scholars Fund Visionary and Champion at [bhall@uvic.ca](mailto:bhall@uvic.ca)

For more information on this initiative, click [here](#) and for other ways to give, click [here](#).

\*US Donors – select Other from the drop down and type in CSF (Budd Hall)



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