



Manulife Centre  
for **Community**  
Health Research

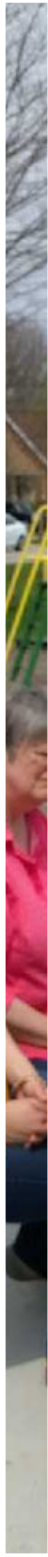
# Newsletter

*September 2018*

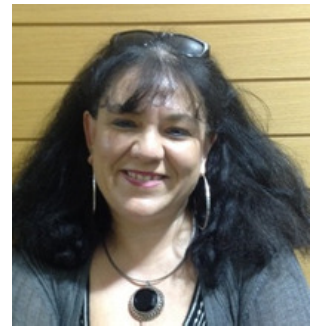


LEGACY PROJECTS





# Director's Message



Dear Colleagues,

As the Director of the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research I would like to thank the student interns, professors and community partners, both here and abroad that have made this year yet again one which was truly remarkable. Our dedicated staff and students have done an incredible job at expanding our outreach activities while strengthening our capacity in research and community development services.

We have once again been able to increase the number of professors, community members and graduate students to our membership, three of whom are from French Guyana and Senegal, West Africa. All of the student interns with whom we have worked this year are completing their degrees and moving on to paid work all over the province of Ontario. Over the years we have built a strong network of MCCHR alumnae who continue to collaborate with us from time to time on various projects. Sustaining these relationships is important for us as a training and research center.

A few highlights from this newsletter include:

- Developing a partnership with a social enterprise in Dakar, Senegal dedicated to youth involvement in international environmental issues as well as conducting research on university-community collaboration in St. Louis, Senegal;
- Hosting a national conference funded by the Social Sciences Humanities and Research Council entitled: "Legacies of Social Welfare Work in Canada";
- Organizing and facilitating a walking tour which was informed by our research on examining the social history of women and poverty;
- Celebrating International Women's Day at the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work;
- Developing a workshop on Bystander Training funded by the Student Levy Fund of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Evidently the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research has been and continues to be very active in both research and community development initiatives. It is both an honour and privilege to be of service to our community partners who rely on our expertise and networks to enhance the work in which they are involved. Our ongoing goal at the Manulife Centre is to keep training graduate students in the art and science of community based research and development while increasing our services both here and abroad. Future plans include offering credit and non-credit programming/workshops in various areas of community health and wellness. I will report back on this dossier in our next newsletter. On this note, I wish everyone reading our newsletter a safe, healthy and regenerating fall season.

Sincerely,

*Ginette Lafrenière*





## Researching University-Community Collaboration in Sanar Village

In January 2018, the Director of the MCCHR travelled to Senegal West Africa in order to conduct research on the subject of university-community collaboration with residents of the village of Sanar which borders the University Gaston Berger (UGB) in St Louis, Senegal. This research builds upon work in which she was involved during her last trip to Senegal in 2015. She and two of her colleagues from Senegal interviewed 17 community members in order to explore the experiences of residents whose village has been heavily influenced by the presence of the university. Issues around the history of the relationship between

UGB and Sanar were explored, including the physical space which the university occupies in the village, employment policies (hiring local residents), the provision of health care services and the relationship of Sanar with faculty and students. Next April, Dr. Lafrenière hopes to interview members of the administration as well as faculty and students at UGB and then organize a one day forum in order that UGB members and residents of Sanar can meet face to face to explore ways in which to enhance collaboration as well as pursue partnerships in research and development which are important to community residents.





## International Partnership in Senegal: Janna

Mamadou Sakho is the founding Director of Janna, a social enterprise dedicated to bringing to the forefront environmental issues within Senegalese society. After several years working abroad, Mamadou decided to return to Africa in order to help the continent and his native country. His passion for environmental issues stems from his childhood while living in Senegal and living by the following philosophy: "The best way to be part of growth in a developing country is to invest in the green economy." In 2016, Mamadou founded Janna, a multi-service social enterprise which brings nature back to the daily life of Senegalese in different sectors, such as business and education. Mamadou has recently completed a project with his former primary school where he conducted interviews with students to understand their needs and in turn established gardens around the school property. He produced a short documentary entitled the "Green Movie", (funded by the Ministry of the Environment Senegal) in order to be used as a didactic tool for young people in both

primary and secondary schools relative to the importance of initiating environmentally friendly strategies to save Senegal's ecosystem. Another important initiative in which Janna has been involved is by helping to install solar panels in villages in South Senegal. The organization also works with sports programming by providing young basketball players with sports equipment in exchange for their participation in environmental initiatives at home and in their own communities. In supporting the work that Mamadou and his organization, Janna, conducts in Senegal and to promote the importance of international environmental issues, the Manulife Centre is assisting in the English translation of the book, "Children of the Earth", which Janna published in 2017. The book relates the story of a group of children from 10 countries across 5 different continents who are faced with various effects of climate changes.



# Legacies of Social Welfare Work in Canada: Conference Series



The Manulife Centre for Community Health Research organized a three-day conference series looking at Canada's complex history of social welfare and social reform. The conference series took place between October 24-26, 2017 at three locations, Renison University College of the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus and the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work Kitchener campus. Our team collaborated closely with the following faculty members: Dr. Sandy Hoy (Laurentian University), Dr. Kathy Absolon-King and Elder Banakonda Kennedy-Kish Bell of the Indigenous Field of Study (IFS) at the Lyle Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Dr. Kathy Hogarth of Renison University College, Dr. Tim Leduc and Dr. Tarah Brookfield of Laurier Brantford. This core group of academics applied and received funding from the Social Sciences Humanities and Research Council to create and facilitate robust and meaningful dialogue around Canada's history of social welfare. During the conference, 32 speakers from across Canada presented untold stories about the legacies of social welfare on indigenous populations, Black and Aboriginal allyship on Turtle Island, child welfare, oppression and resistance of LGBTQ+ communities, the history of mad people, gendered violence and eugenics and First Nations women. There were more than 600 people in attendance over the three day series ranging from B.S.W and M.S.W. students, students from social sciences and humanities, community members, faculty and staff of UW and WLU as well as local stakeholders working in social services. An additional component of this project was to create an online database for academics and students researching various histories of social welfare work in Canada.



# Legacies in Social Welfare Work in Canada: Pop-Up Events

After the conference series unfolded, we encouraged similar discussions and presentations across Ontario in order to continue the dialogue of how people and communities have been impacted by certain social welfare practices in Canada. Two pop-up events took place in Sudbury and Kitchener. They are described below:



## Carol Hopkins: Native Wellness Assessment

The first pop-up event that we supported took place at the School of Indigenous Social Work and School of Social Work of Laurentian University in Sudbury, ON. Carol Hopkins, the Executive Director of the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, discussed the Native Wellness Assessment as a method of addressing substance use and mental health issues, indigenous culture and healing in Canada. This lecture was presented to 30 students and faculty in attendance.



## Janes Walk: From the Poorhouse to Now



Another pop-up event that was funded through this grant was the Jane's Walk in Kitchener, entitled "From the Poorhouse to Now". This event took place in the community where the Poorhouse existed from 1869-1951 and where the first women's shelter was created by the YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo in 1905. The walking tour was facilitated by Jen Gordon, Director of Youth Services at the YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo, and Laura Coakley, current Research and Project Coordinator for the MCCHR. Laura introduced the audience to the history of the Poorhouse as well as illustrated the daily lives of the people who resided and worked there. Several stories were shared relative to the struggles surrounding women who were living in poverty in the 19th century. Jen bridged the history of the Poorhouse to that of the YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo by exploring ways in which the present-day neighbourhood continues to work to create community and challenge oppression on a daily basis.





## Poorhouse Exhibit Touring the Community

The Poorhouse mobile exhibit has been on the road this past year! We have had the opportunity to travel around Waterloo Region to showcase our SSHRC-funded project “Life in the Poorhouse: A Historical Digitalized Case Study of the Waterloo County House of Industry and Refuge (1869-1951)”. Dr. Sandy Hoy (Laurentian University) and Laura Coakley, research assistant on the project, presented data on the Poorhouse project at several community events within the Region. During these community discussions, we were able to showcase the work that we have engaged by presenting the history of the House of Refuge of Waterloo County and revealing hidden stories of some of the residents that lived at the House. We have also been able to take our mobile exhibit to several community heritage events, such as the Wilmot Heritage Day in New Hamburg and the British Home Children of Canada 150th Family Reunion. At these events, we had the chance to meet people from across Ontario who shared their stories of what it was like growing up close to the Poorhouse and how the stigma surrounding the institution resonated even 80 years after it was built. We have also been able to display the mobile exhibit at the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History at the Kitchener Public Library as well as Joseph Schneider Haus. By being embedded in the community, we have received many people coming forward to share the stories of their ancestors who had stayed or were connected to the Poorhouse. As a result, we have been able to help several people discover more information about their ancestors. We continue to promote our online virtual museum ([www.waterloohouseofrefuge.ca](http://www.waterloohouseofrefuge.ca)) to engage our community around this institution.

## Celebrating International Women’s Day



In honour of International Women's Day on March 8th, the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research welcomed students, faculty & community members to celebrate this important day. A number of people dropped by to discuss what the day meant to them. One student shared that International Women's day is “still important and needed because even in 2018 we are fighting for equal rights for all women, no matter their class, race, sexual orientation or physical ability.” This sentiment was echoed throughout the day as we presented documentaries that the Manulife Centre has directed and produced on issues relative to women's issues. Students were interested in learning about some of the projects that we conduct at the center around gendered violence, mental health and other community based projects. It was a great opportunity for us to connect meaningfully with students, faculty and community partners in the Faculty of Social Work while creating a space for dialogue and debate around women and gender issues.



# Manulife Centre Receives Funding for the Development of an Online Bystander Training Workshop

MCCHR was very fortunate to receive funding this year from the Student Levy Fund of Wilfrid Laurier University in order to create an online version of the “Made at Laurier Bystander Training Workshop”. This training is dedicated to empowering students on the importance of being a positive bystander in situations where one is encouraged to safely intervene when a colleague appears to be in a dangerous, sexually exploitive, racist, homophobic or otherwise compromising situation. This year, student interns will be working on the online pedagogy for this workshop in the hopes of releasing it in the Fall of 2019.



## Welcoming our New Placement Students



We are proud to welcome Emma Parsons, Jenn Vale and Lauren Burkhardt who will be completing placements with the Centre this year and will be working on a variety of projects. Student interns are indispensable for the work in which we are involved and we look forward to a productive year.



## Our New Website is Here!



Visit Us @: <https://researchcentres.wlu.ca/manulife-centre-for-community-health-research/>

### MCCHR Flex Fund

MCCHR is dedicated to assisting its associates in initiatives and professional development activities related to health and wellness. Each year we allot micro-grants for various endeavors. For more information or to apply contact Ginette Lafrenière at [glafreniere@wlu](mailto:glafreniere@wlu).

### Mailing List

To be put on our mailing list or for general inquiries contact:  
[glafreniere@wlu.ca](mailto:glafreniere@wlu.ca)

### Inquiries

For research inquiries, flex funding or to become an associate, please contact:  
[glafreniere@wlu.ca](mailto:glafreniere@wlu.ca)







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*Inspiring Lives.*