



Internal use

423941

# Letter of Intent

<b>Identification</b>																				
This page will be made available to selection committee members and external assessors.																				
Program name <b>Community-University Research Alliances (CURA)</b>																				
Application title <b>Meeting the Climate Change Challenge: Municipal Responses to BC Climate Policy</b>																				
Org. code <b>1591211</b>	Full name of lead organization <b>Royal Roads University</b>																			
Applicant family name <b>Dale</b>				Applicant given name <b>Ann</b>		Initials														
Org. code <b>1591211</b>	Full organization name <b>Royal Roads University</b>																			
Department/Division name <b>School of Environment and Sustainability</b>																				
Does your proposal involve human beings as research subjects? If "Yes", consult the <i>Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans</i> and submit your proposal to your organization's Research Ethics Board. <span style="float: right;">Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></span>																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Year 1</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Year 2</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Year 3</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Year 4</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Year 5</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total funds requested from SSHRC (from page 6)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>194,000</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>194,000</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>194,000</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>196,000</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>196,000</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>974,000</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Total funds requested from SSHRC (from page 6)	<u>194,000</u>	<u>194,000</u>	<u>194,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>	<u>196,000</u>	<u>974,000</u>
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<b>Signatures</b>																				
The undersigned accept the terms and conditions as outlined in the corresponding program description; the instructions provided with this form; and any conditions applied to a grant pursuant to this application.																				
<b>For lead organization (President of university or non-academic organization)</b>																				
Name		Signature			Date															
<b>For lead organization (research office or financial administrator)</b>																				
Name		Signature			Date															
<b>Applicant</b>																				
Name  <b>Ann Dale</b>		Signature			Date															

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LOI Application  
2009/10/22



Family name, Given name

Dale, Ann

<b>Participants</b>		
List names of your team members (co-applicants and collaborators) who will take part in the intellectual direction of the research. Do not include assistants, students or consultants.		
Role Co-applicant <input checked="" type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>	CID (if known)	
Family name <b>Seymoar</b>	Given name <b>Nola-Kate</b>	Initials
Org. code <b>1</b>	Full organization name <b>International Center for Sustainable Cities</b>	
Department/Division name <b>President/CEO</b>		
Role Co-applicant <input checked="" type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>	CID (if known)	
Family name <b>Newman</b>	Given name <b>Lenore</b>	Initials
Org. code <b>1591211</b>	Full organization name <b>Royal Roads University</b>	
Department/Division name <b>School of Environment and Sustainability</b>		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input checked="" type="radio"/>	CID (if known)	
Family name <b>Holden</b>	Given name <b>Meg</b>	Initials
Org. code <b>1590611</b>	Full organization name <b>Simon Fraser University</b>	
Department/Division name <b>Urban Studies</b>		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input checked="" type="radio"/>	CID (if known)	
Family name <b>Roseland</b>	Given name <b>Mark</b>	Initials
Org. code <b>1590611</b>	Full organization name <b>Simon Fraser University</b>	
Department/Division name <b>Centre for Sustainable Community Development</b>		
Role Co-applicant <input checked="" type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>	CID (if known)	
Family name <b>Robinson</b>	Given name <b>John</b>	Initials <b>B</b>
Org. code <b>1590111</b>	Full organization name <b>The University of British Columbia</b>	
Department/Division name <b>Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability</b>		

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LOI Application



Family name, Given name  
Dale, Ann

<b>Participants (cont'd)</b>		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input checked="" type="radio"/>		CID (if known)
Family name Sheppard	Given name Stephen	Initials R.J.
Org. code 1590111	Full organization name The University of British Columbia	
Department/Division name Forest Resources Management		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>		CID (if known)
Family name	Given name	Initials
Org. code	Full organization name	
Department/Division name		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>		CID (if known)
Family name	Given name	Initials
Org. code	Full organization name	
Department/Division name		
Role Co-applicant <input type="radio"/> Collaborator <input type="radio"/>		CID (if known)
Family name	Given name	Initials
Org. code	Full organization name	
Department/Division name		

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LOI Application



Family name, Given name

Dale, Ann

<b>Partners</b> - Partners may be organizations in the public, private or non-profit sectors. Individuals are not eligible as partners. Enter complete information for each partner.							
Org. code 1	Full organization name BC Climate Action Secretariat			Organization type Provincial/Territorial government		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address PO BOX 9486			Contact family name Mack				
			Given name James			Initials	
City/Municipality Victoria	Prov./State BC	Postal/Zip code V8W9W6	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension	
Country CANADA			Telephone number	1	250	387-5581	
			Fax number				
E-mail James.Mack@gov.bc.ca							
Org. code 1	Full organization name BC Hydro			Organization type Parapublic		Confirmed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Address 333 Dunsmuir Street			Contact family name Travers				
			Given name Michael			Initials	
City/Municipality Vancouver	Prov./State BC	Postal/Zip code V6B5R3	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension	
Country CANADA			Telephone number	1	604	224-9376	
			Fax number				
E-mail							
Org. code 1	Full organization name David Suzuki Foundation			Organization type Charitable organization		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address 219-2211 West 4th Avenue			Contact family name Robinson				
			Given name Peter			Initials	
City/Municipality Vancouver	Prov./State BC	Postal/Zip code V6K4S2	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension	
Country CANADA			Telephone number	1	604	732-4228	
			Fax number				
E-mail probinson@davidsuzuki.org							



Family name, Given name

Dale, Ann

Partners (cont'd)							
Org. code 1	Full organization name Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions				Organization type Research organization		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
Address PO Box 1700 STN CSC				Contact family name Pederson			
				Given name Thomas		Initials	
City/Municipality Victoria		Prov./State BC	Postal/Zip code V8W2Y2	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension
Country CANADA				Telephone number	1	250	853-3596
				Fax number			
E-mail picsdir@uvic.ca							
Org. code 1	Full organization name Pembina Institute				Organization type Research organization		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
Address 219 - 19 Street NW				Contact family name Raynolds			
				Given name Marlo		Initials	
City/Municipality Calgary		Prov./State AB	Postal/Zip code T2N2H9	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension
Country CANADA				Telephone number	1	403	269-3344
				Fax number			
E-mail marlor@pembina.org							
Org. code	Full organization name				Organization type		Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>
Address				Contact family name			
				Given name		Initials	
City/Municipality		Prov./State	Postal/Zip code	Country code	Area code	Number	Extension
Country				Telephone number			
				Fax number			
E-mail							



Family name, Given name  
Dale, Ann

### Research Activity

The information provided in this section refers to your research proposal.

### Keywords

List keywords that best describe your proposed research or research activity. Separate keywords with a semicolon.

climate change; adaptation and mitigation; municipal strategies; carbon neutral; comparative case studies; sustainable development; innovation diffusion

### Disciplines

Indicate and rank up to 5 disciplines that best correspond to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

Rank	Code	Discipline	If "Other", specify
1	61400	Urban and Regional Studies, Environmental Studies	
2	61418	Environmental Management	
3	61406	Regional Planning	
4	61499	Other Environmental Studies	Climate Change
5			

### Areas of Research

Indicate and rank up to 3 areas of research related to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

Rank	Code	Area
1	214	Global/Climate Change
2	180	Environment and Sustainability
3	320	Politics and government

### Temporal Periods

If applicable, indicate up to 2 historical periods covered by your proposal.

From	To
<p>Year</p> <p>2009      BC      AD</p> <p>_____      ○      ●</p> <p>_____      ○      ○</p>	<p>Year</p> <p>2016      BC      AD</p> <p>_____      ○      ●</p> <p>_____      ○      ○</p>



Family name, Given name

Dale, Ann

**Research Activity (cont'd)**

**Geographical Regions**

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 3 geographical regions covered by or related to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

Rank	Code	Region
1	1130	Western Canada
2		
3		

**Countries**

If applicable, indicate and rank up to 5 countries covered by or related to your proposal. Duplicate entries are not permitted.

Rank	Code	Country	Prov./ State
1	1100	CANADA	
2			
3			
4			
5			



Family name, Given name

Dale, Ann

### Funds Requested

For each budget year, estimate as accurately as possible the research costs that you are asking to fund through a grant. For each Personnel costs category, enter the number of individuals to be hired and specify the total amounts required. For each of the other categories, enter the total amount required. **Note:** RTS amounts are not required at the LOI stage.

Personnel costs	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
<b>Student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b>										
Undergraduate	1	10,000	1	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Masters	2	35,000	2	35,000	2	35,000	2	35,000	2	35,000
Doctorate	1	20,000	1	20,000	1	20,000	1	20,000	1	20,000
<b>Non-student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b>										
Postdoctoral	1	45,000	1	45,000	1	45,000	1	45,000	1	45,000
Other	2	70,000	2	70,000	2	70,000	2	70,000	2	70,000
<b>Travel and subsistence costs</b>										
	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
<b>Applicant/Team member(s)</b>										
Canadian travel	6,000		6,000		6,000		8,000		8,000	
Foreign travel	0		0		4,000		4,000		4,000	
<b>Students</b>										
Canadian travel	8,000		8,000		10,000		10,000		10,000	
Foreign travel	0		0		4,000		4,000		4,000	
<b>Other expenses</b>										
<b>Professional/Technical services</b>										
<b>Supplies</b>										
<b>Non-disposable equipment</b>										
Computer hardware										
Other										
<b>Other expenses (specify)</b>										
<b>Total</b>	194,000		194,000		194,000		196,000		196,000	

### Development Funds

Amount 20,000



**Budget Justification**

The budget of \$20,000 will be used for three activities:

- 1) A total of \$10,000 is suggested for the development of a website (website design and development, including the database). The website will include detailed information regarding the research project, and its principals. A database to house the inventory of British Columbia municipal responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as existing student research at the MA and PhD levels will also be built.
- 2) A total of \$5,000 for research assistant to begin to build the inventory.
- 3) A total of \$5,000 is for travel/subsistence costs to bring the full team together to finalize the full proposal. This will include partners and collaborators. Details cost estimates are as follows:
  - a. Flight costs
    - i. Dale, Ottawa – Vancouver – Return \$ 1000
    - ii. CPRN, Ottawa – Vancouver – Return \$ 1000
    - iii. IISD, Winnipeg – Vancouver – Return \$ 800
  - b. Accommodation
    - i. 2 People x 2 nights x \$180/nt \$ 720
  - c. Ground transportation
    - i. 4 x \$100 \$ 400
  - d. Meeting costs and meals \$ 1080

Summary:

Website Development	\$ 10,000
Personnel Costs – RA	\$ 5,000
Travel/Subsistence	\$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>



### Funds from Other Sources

You must include all other sources of funding for the proposed research. Indicate whether these funds have been confirmed or not. Where applicable, include (a) the partners' material contributions (e.g. cash and in-kind), and (b) funds you have requested from other sources for proposed research related to this application.

Full organization name Contribution type	Confirmed	Year 1 Year 5	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
BC Hydro	<input type="checkbox"/>	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
In Kind		15,000			
David Suzuki Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
In Kind		20,000			
International Center for Sustainable Cities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
In Kind		25,000			
Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Cash		25,000			
Royal Roads University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Cash		6,000			
Royal Roads University	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
In Kind		55,000			
The University of British Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
In Kind		40,000			
	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Total funds from other sources</b>		186,000	186,000	186,000	186,000
		186,000			

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**MC<sup>e</sup>, Meeting the Climate Change Challenge: Municipal Responses to BC Climate Policy**

In response to the threat of anthropogenic climate change, the provincial government of British Columbia has introduced many innovative policies that go far beyond those in other North American jurisdictions. These include a carbon tax on fossil fuels, and a requirement that all public sector organizations be carbon-neutral by 2010 and buy offsets if these goals are not met. The result of these policies is that all BC municipalities have a major economic incentive (the sum of the carbon tax and mandatory offsets will amount to \$40/tonne of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in January 2010, increasing by \$5/tonne/yr to 2012), to reduce carbon emissions. These policies have created a unique research opportunity: the province will be a test-bed of policy innovation for CO<sup>2</sup> mitigation and adaptation. There is a major opportunity to learn from varied efforts of municipalities to undertake mitigation and adaptation, to identify best practices, and to contribute to a process of social learning at a provincial level. With few exceptions, most municipalities in BC have limited knowledge of their carbon inventory, or the costs, characteristics, and likely effects of the mitigation options available to them. The opportunity for knowledge sharing and diffusion that will emerge as hundreds of municipalities engage with this same challenge is unprecedented in Canada.

Meeting the Climate Change Challenge (MC<sup>3</sup>), has three research objectives:

- complete an environmental scan and inventory, document and identify community; leaders in the emerging best practices in British Columbia municipalities grounded in the rich research and frameworks evolving on municipal adaptation and mitigation practice;
- build upon this research and practice, to develop strategies for niche connection, policy innovations and intervention strategies; and
- facilitate peer to peer research/practitioner exchanges, widespread knowledge mobilization and social dissemination to cultivate further mitigation and adaptation beyond that required by the current legislation and policies.

Three research clusters support these objectives: 1) adaptation and mitigation practice; 2) peer to peer knowledge mobilization; and 3) on-line expert-practitioner research collaboration. MC<sup>3</sup> brings together four of the province's universities in partnership with five of the country's leading non-government organizations, two international sustainable development institutes, BC Hydro, the province's Climate Action Secretariat, and an inter-university policy-research initiative, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS). Royal Roads University (RRU) is a leader in distributed education, and the other two lead partners, UBC's Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) and the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), are leaders in community to community learning exchanges and participatory action research related to integrated long-term sustainable development planning. MC<sup>3</sup> can mobilize its existing team of young scholars already working in local communities to quickly begin documenting the early adopters and innovations in leading municipalities.

MC<sup>3</sup> will begin to build peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge mobilization as municipalities complete their first round of mandated carbon mitigation and adaptation. It will employ a comparative case study methodology and research/practitioner connections to speed the exploitation of knowledge throughout British Columbia municipalities and across Canada. The dissemination of innovative responses and action is critical as other jurisdictions in North America begin to develop active climate policy frameworks. British Columbia is on the leading edge of what is likely to be a major wave of local government responses to climate change in Canada. Cultivating innovative practice will be invaluable to other Canadian communities as they begin their responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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**MC<sup>e</sup>, Meeting the Climate Change Challenge: Municipal Responses to BC Climate Policy****Detailed Description**

Global climate changes triggered by anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) pose an immediate and serious threat to both the ecological integrity of Earth's biosphere and the social and economic stability of society. Success in addressing climate change at the international level has been mixed; though some countries have responded to their Kyoto protocol commitments, others, Canada included, have not met their Kyoto goals. Provincial and municipal governments are working independently to address climate change within their own jurisdictions. As noted in Burch (2009), communities have direct control of critical sources of emissions and are the scale at which the potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change will play out. Communities have power under the Local Government Act to shape land use and building codes in their community. Communities, however, face significant hurdles because of technology lock-in, policy path dependence, and institutional rigidities. The diffusion of carbon saving technologies is inhibited even in situations where there are clearly environmental and economic advantages (Unruh, 2000), and when acting alone, there is a hesitancy to move beyond the "least best" required.

Policy instruments such as those in use in BC, can spur rapid change (Grubb et al., 2002), but it is likely to occur at a 'niche' level (Seyfang and Smith, 2007), thus, communities tend to address such issues largely in isolation. The ability of communities to address environmental issues such as climate change varies greatly (Newman and Dale, 2005; Dale, Ling & Newman, 2009), as they require various types of expertise and social capital to lead to change. This depends on both people's ability to lend support, and their willingness to do so. Unfortunately, this leads to a situation in which some communities face asymmetries and scale effects in their access to capital, and are also hampered by institutional silos and stovepipes which severely inhibit the evolution of responses to global issues such as climate change. It has been argued that we must look to the deeper underlying path dependent development trajectories to reveal the true sources of barriers to action (Burch and Robinson, 2007; Robinson et al., 2006). Breaking down the silos will be a central challenge as communities move beyond the first round of changes spurred by legislation to move to long-term integrated planning and decision-making. These silos and stovepipes in government seriously mitigate against changing the 'rules of the game' that inhibit rapid technological uptake and infrastructure change so necessary to reducing climate change impacts. In addition, policy coherence between government levels and policy alignment within municipal governments is necessary to remove the barriers to action (Dale et al. 2007). Capitalizing on this shift in which municipalities in BC act as leaders on sustainable development issues through peer to peer knowledge exchanges, the establishment and confirmation of best practices, the development of tools and processes for engagement, and widespread mobilization has the potential to move British Columbia far beyond what is currently mandated.

Given the urgency of climate change and the deadlines posed by the legislation, there is a need to accelerate the exchange and diffusion of learning, best practices, and technologies from city to city. Research suggests that cities learn by copying other cities, that big cities learn from medium sized ones and they from smaller ones, and that when faced with a difficult dilemma, 80% of senior city officials turn first to their colleagues, not to research results (Seymoar et al. 2009). Thus, this proposal brings together practitioners and researchers along with their institutions, with the specific intention to share learning about developing and implementing climate change action plans.

The province of British Columbia is an ideal 'living laboratory' as it is leading the way in Canadian government policies to mitigate climate change impacts. Albeit previous efforts have been made to address climate change, these were not supported by stringent, legislated targets or strategies. In addition to introducing a carbon tax on fossil fuels, and the passage of Bill 44 in 2008, which mandates that all public sector organizations must be carbon-neutral by 2010, BC has set a target of reducing total

provincial emissions by 33% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act, Bill 27, sets out similar targets for municipalities; the bill requires that local governments set targets to reduce GHG emissions and develop policies and actions to achieve those targets in their Official Community Plans by May 31, 2010.

### **Research Objectives and Outcomes**

The current municipal response to provincial legislation governing mitigation of climate change represents an unprecedented opportunity to study multiple sectors, institutions, and diverse municipalities with consistent control variables. Numerous questions concerning the efficacy of various policies, practice and technologies, what ‘rules of the game’ need to be changed will be empirically answerable during the time period covered by this project. MC<sup>3</sup> will contribute substantively to our understanding of municipal climate change response by assessing the first round of municipal changes in BC and undertaking action research designed to move those communities forward in their climate change response. The goal of this CURA is to achieve levels of adaptation and mitigation that go far beyond any current implementation, policies and programs now in place and to create processes and tools through which communities can learn from one another. The research outcomes to meet this goal are to:

- complete an environmental scan and inventory, document and identify community leaders in the emerging best practices in British Columbia municipalities grounded in the rich research and frameworks evolving on municipal adaptation and mitigation practice;
- build upon this research and practice, to develop strategies for niche connection, policy innovations and intervention strategies; and
- facilitate peer to peer research/practitioner exchanges, widespread knowledge mobilization and social dissemination to bootstrap further mitigation and adaptation beyond that required by the current legislation and policies.

Three research clusters flow from these outcomes, each of which will be organized in teams of co-investigators, collaborators, and partners. They are: climate change adaptation and mitigation practice; peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge mobilization; and on-line research/practitioner collaboratives.

MC<sup>3</sup> will assemble the complete documentation of a large-scale provincially mandated response to climate change to date at the municipal level, and create new methods of peer to peer knowledge exchanges in the field. The sharing of the amassed knowledge gathered during the first phase of the project will utilize all community partners and will aim to support the next iteration of climate change adaptation in British Columbia by widespread social diffusion of the innovations emerging in the province. In addition, a meta-case analysis will reveal key barriers to implementation and desired future policy directions to accelerate another iterative round of policy directions and implementation.

### **Knowledge Mobilization**

Knowledge mobilization is a central objective of MC<sup>3</sup> with the goal of transformative social change through creating processes by which communities can learn from one another. Three critical tools are the on-line case study data base, peer exchanges through e-Dialogues, and distributed network formation. Distributed networks are crucial to knowledge diffusion and mobilization as they accelerate both the generation and transfer of knowledge (Seymoar et al. 2009). Electronic communication is a key element of facilitating the creation of distributed networks essential to the project and for building new practitioner/research knowledge collaboratives. The Principal Investigator has explored internet communication technology, real-time e-Dialogues and on-line case study research dissemination over a seven-year period (Dale, 2005; Dale & Naylor, 2005). MC<sup>3</sup>'s reliance on electronic distribution and interaction through the on-line case study database will allow for fast and efficient information exchange

that is itself less carbon intensive than traditional meetings of geographically dispersed participants. This research outcome will rely heavily on the expertise of ICSC and their model of city-to-city learning and knowledge collaboratives developed through the Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network based on peer exchange. Peer exchanges provide the opportunity for participatory reflection and adjustment as the research and actions proceed. Building an on-line repository of case studies will ensure proactive dissemination of what is working and what is not working in British Columbia municipalities of direct benefit to communities across Canada and elsewhere. Complimented by real-time synchronous e-Dialogues that bring together practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers across communities a network of innovators and early-adopters will be built.

### **Methodology**

MC<sup>3</sup> will begin with an exhaustive review of case study work and theoretical exploration of municipal responses to climate change in BC, followed by a comprehensive scan of community adaptation and mitigation strategies. Features such as the size, density, and scale of the communities will be used as sorting variables and geographical impact factors will be noted. MC<sup>3</sup> will utilize a mixed-methods and contextual, comparative case study approach (Yin, 2003; Stake, 1995) as case studies are useful for addressing questions about specific behaviours such as the community efforts explored in this grant. A contextual comparative case study examines the commonalities and difference in the events, activities, and phenomenon that are the units of analysis in a typical case study. In the second phase of the project communities will be engaged through a process of action research and peer to peer knowledge transfer. Through on-line synchronous conversations and interactive databases, communities will be able to compare and contrast what is ‘working and not working’ and adapt their responses. This ‘thick’ data will assist communities in the shift from reactive to proactive stances on mitigation and adaptation. The goal of the project will be to focus attention on community-community transfer instead of positioning the academic leads as gatekeepers of knowledge or experts on ‘best’ practices. The project will foster iterative processes of knowledge evolution, mobilization, and diffusion as these communities move to legislated goals and ideally far beyond.

### **Partnerships, Alliances, Collaboration**

MC<sup>3</sup> draws upon a diverse partnership of university researchers, non-government organization leaders, two international institutes, and two policy agencies. The Principal investigator, Dr. Ann Dale, has extensive knowledge of sustainable community development in Canada and holds a Canada Research Chair in sustainable development at Royal Roads University. Her community research is both place-based and virtual, and she is recognized as a leader in on-line real-time dialogue and innovative research dissemination techniques. She chairs the Canadian Consortium for Sustainable Development Research (CCSDR), is a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, a recipient of the 2009 Bissett Alumni Award for Distinctive Contributions to the Public Sector and received the Policy Initiative Award for Outstanding Research Contribution to Public Policy. Dr. John Robinson, Co-Investigator, is a professor in the Institute of Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia and is one of Canada's foremost interdisciplinary leaders in climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable development. He is the director of the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) project at UBC that upon completion, will link theory, and practice to provide bridges between the technological and behavioral advances necessary in the transition to more sustainable patterns of living. Dr. Nola-Kate Seymoar, Co-Investigator, is the President, and CEO of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC), an award winning institution dedicated to bringing theory into action in Canada and around the world. Dr Seymoar spearheaded the Centre's approach to creating peer learning networks to accelerate the transfer of best practices, technologies, and policies from city to city. ICSC uses participatory action research to

generate and transfer knowledge and is recognized for its work in integrated long-term planning for sustainability and in building neutral knowledge collaboration across boundaries of sectors, disciplines, departments, and nations. Dr. Lenore Newman, Co-Investigator is an assistant professor at Royal Roads University and a specialist in large scale environmental threats. She has conducted case study fieldwork in the urban context and has a background in atmospheric physics. Research collaborators for the project include Dr. Mark Roseland, Director for the Centre for Sustainable Community Development and Dr. Meg Holden, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies, Simon Fraser University, and Dr. Stephen Sheppard, Professor, Landscape Architecture and Forestry, and Director, Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, University of British Columbia.

MC<sup>3</sup> brings together a collaboration of five key players in British Columbia, and one national policy research network, invited to ensure policy relevance and timely knowledge diffusion in the policy development community as the research is being generated. The provincial partners are the BC government's Climate Action Secretariat, BC Hydro, ICSC, the David Suzuki Foundation, and PICS. PICS' mandate is to assess solutions and communicate research into practice, which closely aligns with the research outcomes of MC<sup>3</sup>. The David Suzuki foundation is a world leader in global climate change education and public engagement programs, and the Pembina Institute is one of Canada's most respected environmental research institutes, and has conducted extensive work on climate change practice. The national partner is the Canadian Policy Research Network and the seventh partner is the International Institute for Sustainable Development, currently working domestically on the implementation of sustainable development indicators in the City of Winnipeg, in partnership with the United Way Community Foundation.

### **Training**

Training will build on an existing core of doctoral and masters students currently working with the lead researchers. The creation of eminently qualified personnel (HQP) is a primary objective of M3C, to be accomplished in several ways. HQP will be trained on multiple levels: policy innovation and municipal projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation; leading-edge inter- and trans-disciplinary research methods, including the deliberative design of teams of natural and social science researchers working directly with community partners as co-researchers; the facilitation of community-wide strategic policy development and strategies, on-line research dissemination techniques, network formation and community engagement, and using innovative e-tools that will develop skills in online moderation, dialogue, and e-learning. In addition, 2-3 internships will be created at ICSC to facilitate practice working directly in communities. Students will also be actively encouraged to co-author publications for peer reviewed academic journals, and to attend conferences and as well, to publish in community journals.

### **Governance**

MC<sup>3</sup> will be governed by a management team of the three co-investigators, and chaired by the PI. The management team will be responsible for setting strategic direction and priorities, identifying and supporting partnerships, and alliances for network formation, knowledge mobilization, and approving budgets for research outcomes. A project steering committee composed of all the collaborators and partners will meet quarterly to provide advice and feedback as the project progresses. The project manager will report directly to the PI and will be responsible for day-to-day financial and administrative management, project reporting, co-ordination of team members and communications. A post-doctoral scholar will be shared by Drs. Dale and Robinson and will be responsible for research collaboration and academic publications from the entire team, including non-academic partners, and for building a scholar research network across the country.

## Dissemination Activities

Diffusion of the results of the MC<sup>3</sup> project will involve multiple methods, utilizing both traditional and popular venues. Besides traditional peer reviewed publication and academic conferences, the results will be discussed through action networks of cities, climate change and sustainability planning circles, and local climate change cafes. The goal is for continuous, multi-directional learning to take place among all process participants. Broader diffusion will include community newspapers; editorials, and articles for the popular press and position papers crafted for various audiences. The MC<sup>3</sup> website will be the information hub of the project, and will host extensive archives and photo exploration of the case studies, as well as searchable literature databases and a collaborative function for sharing of knowledge among practitioners, aside from the innovators database. A key dissemination venue will be the on-line e-Dialogues designed and facilitated to foster diffusion of information and ideas across multiple stakeholders, particularly, research/practitioner networks. Research outcomes and intellectual capital will also be widely shared via the scholar research network, ideally breaking down post-secondary silos, especially between the large and the smaller institutions.

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