



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | VANCOUVER

# Community Engagement and Service: The Third Mission of Universities

May 18 - 20, 2009

University of British Columbia

The Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training

PRESENTATIONS ON ALL FORMS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY ARE INVITED,  
especially if they focus on one of the three sub themes:

- 1) Universities and Regional Regeneration and Development
- 2) Higher education and Sustainable Development
- 3) Universities and Major Local and Regional Events  
(for example the Olympics, the Soccer World Cup, or the World Exposition)

Of particular interest will be studies that focus on the impact of collaboration by universities and regions,  
and the local and regional development that has resulted from this collaboration.



For conference details, see [www.obs-pascal.com](http://www.obs-pascal.com) or [www.chet.educ.ubc.ca/Conferences1.html](http://www.chet.educ.ubc.ca/Conferences1.html)



# Community Engage- ment and Service: The Third Mission of Universities

The conference will showcase research and practice of what in North America is called ‘Service to the Community’. Although newly discovered by some universities, service to the community, has a long tradition in others and, in many cases, is recognised as an explicit mandate in the university charter. Service is understood to be the third mission of universities, alongside Teaching and Research. Service and community engagement takes many different forms. Examples are community-based research and learning, assistance in regional development, continuing and community education, technology transfer, and other forms of knowledge sharing and linkages.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The conference will be of interest to the research and academic community working in these fields but will also be of significant interest to practitioners in these areas particularly from cities and regional development agencies, local and national government agencies and organizations working in the field. The structure of the conference will facilitate the sharing of experiences and research findings across a wide range of interests including:

- Mission and forms of university continuing education
- Knowledge transfer and joint research
- Community-based research and teaching
- Learning cities and regions
- Major events as a trigger for creating learning communities.

## FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE

The particular mix of participants at PASCAL conferences provides for an informed dialogue between academics, regional and local leaders, and professionals. In addition to keynote addresses, panels and individual papers, demonstration projects will illustrate successful practice, and roundtable discussions will allow for debate and discussion on a range of topics associated with the central themes of the conference.

## THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Vancouver is one of the world's most livable and beautiful cities. Its reputation is owed to the spectacular physical setting with its beaches and mountain and also to the multi-cultural composition of its population. Vancouver is home to the arts and culture, theatre and music, and to the sciences, with four universities and several colleges and institutes serving the region. Three years ago, Vancouver was designated as a 'Learning City'. In 1986, the city played host to the World Exposition, and in 2010, Vancouver will host the Winter Olympics.

The University of British Columbia is the oldest, largest and internationally best known university in the province and one of the top universities in Canada. Like the city, its campus is located at a spectacular site, overlooking the Georgia Strait, with islands and the snow covered Coastal Mountains in the background. Its campus is home to some 2000 researchers and more than 40,000 students.

## THE CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CHET)

CHET was established in 1984, with a mandate to conduct policy-oriented research and analysis in the fields of higher education and training. The Centre maintains close ties with all levels of government in Canada, international bodies such as the OECD and UNESCO, non-government organizations, and the community at large. CHET is a place where researchers from different disciplines, policy makers and graduate students work together to discuss policy, conduct research, and disseminate the results.

## THE PASCAL OBSERVATORY

PASCAL is an international research and policy development alliance, which aims to develop, discuss and communicate new concepts and emerging ideas about place management, social capital and learning regions. The central theme of the third mission of universities in regional development is one of the pivotal strands of the PASCAL Observatory.

Pascal originally grew out of the work of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on both higher education management and regional development. The Observatory was created in 2002 by a number of universities and regional authorities who wished to further and expand their work under the auspices of an independent alliance of experts. PASCAL's activities are funded through subscriptions from local regional governments and membership fees from universities and colleges. PASCAL undertakes research and development projects related to place management, social capital and learning regions, utilizing a growing network of partners and associates, and animates dialogue and discussion among members and other interested organizations through the publication of studies and papers as well as conferences and workshops.