

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



## Knowledge Mobilization at York University

From Research to Impact

## Knowledge Mobilization at York University

It was a successful year for the Knowledge Mobilization Unit. Through strengthened services and a commitment to helping ensure impactful research results, we continue to deliver quality service for our faculty, graduate students and non-academic partners in community and government. We are leading development of an impact assessment case study framework where we retrospectively examine collaborative projects and systematically explore the impact which the research has had in areas of policy or service provision. Our first case study was completed looking at a Domestic Violence Hub model for service provision in York Region. Research capacity was used to support an evaluation framework for shared services which has had a direct and positive impact on the quality and quantity of services provided. And this impact extended beyond York Region to five other service hubs in Ontario. Practitioners attributed this success directly to research capacity at York. For KMB, we're eager to extend this impact case study development to other projects brokered in the past.

Central to our success and the partnerships we've developed. We work closely with organizations like the United Way Greater Toronto, Toronto Dominion Community Engagement Centre, and most recently, a community services collaborative in the northern part of York Region, Linking Georgina. Being a member of this collaborative provides access and support to organizations and community leaders in the northern communities of York Region who often feel underserved. Of course, we continue to work closely with our colleagues within Innovation York, exploring opportunities for sharing good practices and case conferencing in areas of Industry Engagement and Entrepreneurship. Our relationship with Commercialization within Innovation York is through shared engagement within York's VISTA (Vision: Science to Applications) Project. We have exciting plans for the year ahead too. Thank you for your continued support of Knowledge Mobilization at York University.

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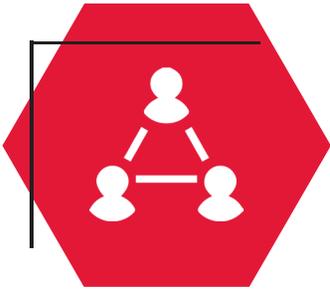
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# OUR SERVICES



## Research Partnerships

We seek to connect York University researchers (faculty and graduate students) with community organizations, business and industry leaders, and policy professionals in all levels of government. Our staff help support researchers to build a mutually beneficial relationship with prospective non-academic partners.

## Collaborative Events

The Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York has tools to support research teams in developing and delivering events for researchers and collaborators that will produce positive results. We can also provide access to technological tools to strengthen these events and outreach capacity.



## Research Grant Support

Staff within the Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York are trained to provide assistance for researchers and their project team in the development of a tailored Kmb or knowledge transfer plan. We provide training and support, and in some cases, in-kind service support for projects. We also review and provide feedback on all Kmb plans prior to their submission.

## Training

The Knowledge Mobilization Unit at York provides learning opportunities for York researchers, staff, graduate students and external partners to help make research relevant to professional practice and policy development. We also deliver customized learning sessions to research teams to provide information, skills and experience in knowledge mobilization.



# OUR NUMBERS

**2017-2018**

**2016-2017**

122 Faculty Engaged

73

157 Partners Engaged

166

132 Students Engaged

128

**\$8.72 mil** Value of Application **\$13.94 mil**



**28**  
Projects



**23**  
Events  
Attended



**31**  
Fund  
Applications  
Submitted



**32**  
Events  
Supported

## Mental Health Impact – Why Mattering Matters

Building on the KMb Unit flagship event, KM in the AM, and working in partnership with United Way Greater Toronto and the Faculty of Health, the KMb Unit was proud to partner on the 2017 Dr. Eric Jackman Lecture which took place in November at the recently opened Y Space in Markham. This sold-out event, with over 70 present, provided space for youth, parents, educators, community leaders and researchers to meet and interact about complex issues of youth development and 'mattering'.

The keynote was provided by Dr. Gord Flett, Canada Research Chair and faculty member within York's Faculty of Health. Dr. Flett shared new research data and highlighted needs for community organizations to develop new opportunities for positive youth development. Issues of mattering, specifically the consequences of disconnection of when youth feel they don't matter, was shared by Dr. Flett. Dr. Flett closed off his talk with actionable messages for doctors, parents, educators and community on how to engage young people and make them matter.

In addition, the day saw an inspiring opening message from United Way CEO, Daniele Zanotti. He shared insight on the impact of the partnership the United Way has had with York University and the Knowledge Mobilization Unit. Through effective engagement with research, United Way member agencies have been able to better serve and support York Region residents, especially youth.

The most powerful part of the day was a moving talk from a young person who shared her experiences and reflections about homelessness, substance abuse and mental health challenges and how she could find a network to help build her resilience to flourish as a youth support worker. She is also back in school as a student at York and this positive message resonated with the audience. Issues of youth development and resilience are not abstract, theoretical constructs but play themselves out in everyday life.

Dr. Flett's experiences as an engaged scholar helped set the tone for the day and the partnership between KMb, Health and the United Way demonstrated how important community engagement and knowledge mobilization efforts are in advancing awareness of research and supporting collaborative partnerships around complex social issues.



SUCCESS  
STORY

## Linking Georgina

York's KMB Unit has had extensive engagement with community organizations throughout York Region including several collaborative projects with agencies in the northern part of the Region. The opportunity to engage with these agencies through a community collaborative model for engagement helps ensure that York research and researchers are accessible across York Region.

Linking Georgina supports a resilient community by collaboratively building on the strengths of people, community and services in Georgina. The purpose of Linking Georgina is to improve the health, well being and social outcomes of everyone in Georgina. Linking Georgina strives to accomplish this by sharing information, assessing needs and trends, and collaboratively mobilizing community resources to implement integrated multi-sector planning and enhanced service delivery.

With monthly meetings, Linking Georgina provides a dynamic platform to share and exchange information relevant to the lives of residents and to help and support member agencies. Over the past year, our engagement with LG has realized three unique project opportunities and helped ensure relevant agencies have been able to attend events hosted by the KMB Unit.

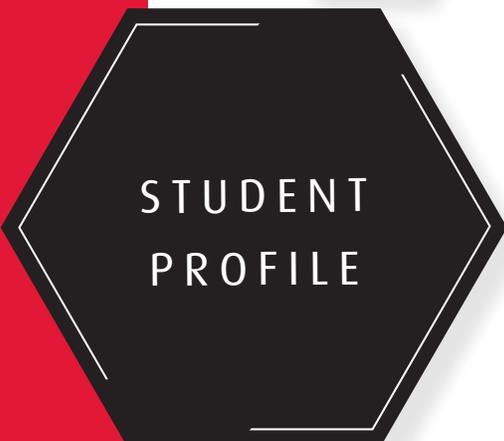
## Asam Malik

My name is Asam Malik. I am a 3rd year student at York University, currently enrolled in Lassonde's Software Engineering Program. I have been working with KMB for the past year as a design communication assistant. My role involves designing print collaterals, evolving our office brand and supporting researchers across York University in creating infographics. KMB has been a wonderful place for me to work and has helped me improve and grow as a designer and a communicator.

My favourite part of the job is the creativity and freedom I am given to develop products. This creativity allows me to explore original designs and take risks in my work. Furthermore, I have met some great people during my time at KMB. From researchers to higher-ups at Innovation York, I have had the chance to share and discuss my work with many people and the responses have generally been phenomenal. I couldn't have asked for a better place to start off my career, and I will certainly remember this place long after graduation.



PARTNER  
SPOTLIGHT



STUDENT  
PROFILE



# OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

**6**  
GUEST  
LECTURES



**24**  
WORKSHOPS



**5**  
EXHIBITING  
SPACES



- Canadian Science Policy
- Conference Board of Canada
- C2U Expo
- Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum
- Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences



# RESEARCH IMPACT CANADA

Research Impact Canada (RIC) - Réseau Impact Recherche Canada (RIRC) is an international knowledge mobilization network including universities from across Canada and the UK who are investing in supports for greater impact of publicly funded research. With 17 members, York knowledge brokers continue to provide leadership across the network.

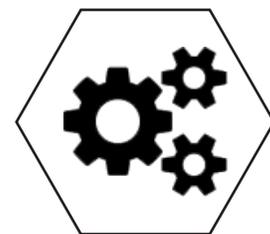
As Lead Institution, we Chair the Governance Committee. Our brokering capacity also allows us to co-chair the Communications and Professional Development Working Groups. Engaging with knowledge brokers across the country, and gaining insight to the many ways in which partners deliver knowledge mobilization services have helped York continuously improve on its understanding, development and delivery of knowledge mobilization.

## INNOVATION YORK

Knowledge Mobilization at York has entered into its third year within Innovation York. Being part of a dynamic team of professionals has had a direct and positive impact on our work. Liaising with colleagues in Industry Engagement, Commercialization, Entrepreneurship, Grants and Agreements and a new team based on Markham who lead Y Space, support our capacity to serve our researchers and community partners. Through the continued leadership of Sarah Howe, Director, Innovation York, we are pleased to provide a suite of services which are both informed from our experience in KMB, but also from proven practices in innovation services across York and the IY team.



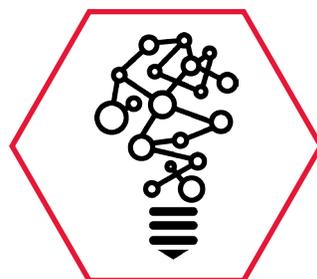
Agreements



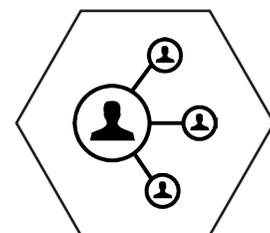
Commercialization



Entrepreneurship



Knowledge  
Mobilization



Industry Engagement

We continue to appreciate the unwavering support which our office has enjoyed for 13 years now. In addition to the senior leadership here at York, we would like to shine a light on and thank our community partners - large and small - who have been a significant part of our success this past year, and since 2006. Our recognition and support from the not for profit sector in York Region would not have been possible without our longstanding partnership with United Way Greater Toronto. Our partners continue to push us to deliver quality services which improve access to research and researchers and we appreciate the engagement efforts of the past year in connecting community organizations to world leading researchers to support real world solutions. Our commitment to service is something we take seriously and look forward to building on this partnership in the future.

Special thanks to Robert Haché, Sarah Howe and David Phipps for their leadership and support here at York.



**Michael Johnny**

Manager - Knowledge Mobilization



**Krista Jensen**

Knowledge Mobilization Officer



**Anneliese Poetz**

Knowledge Translation Manager

Kids Brain Health



**Asam Malik**

Design Communications Assistant



**Rebecca Giblon**

Research Translation Assistant

<http://www.innovationyork.ca>

@KMbYork

@ResearchImpact

Innovation York, York University  
Room 201, Second Floor, Kaneff Tower  
4700 Keele St. Toronto, ON M3J 1P3  
Phone: 416-736-2100 | FAX: 416-736-5512  
kmbunit@yorku.ca