

PEOPLE, PLACES, POLICIES AND PROSPECTS

Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need

Seasonal Newsletter

FALL 2021

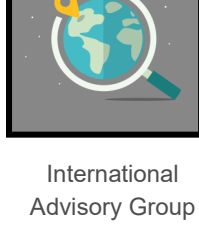
In This Edition



Jackie Kennelly
Visual Methods
Training



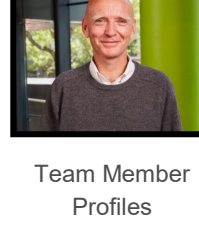
Len Usiskin on
Social Support
Program Changes



International
Advisory Group



Platforms to
Share and See
Housing Research



Team Member
Profiles

National Project Update

The fall semester has brought us new research activities. We have welcomed new partners and new researchers to our team, begun detailed analysis of the Canadian Housing Survey with our new Postdoctoral Fellow Vikram Nichani, and started interviews with tenants receiving different kinds of rent subsidies in the CBRM. In addition to launching research activities, we have also convened a meeting of international researchers and are continuing with our series of lectures and training opportunities for students. Topics this fall included a presentation and discussion of visual methods by Dr. Jackie Kennelly (October) and a presentation on housing in Membertou First Nation by Melissa Macdonald, with an upcoming presentation from Sarah Buhler on her work on evictions.

Read further in this edition of our seasonal newsletter to learn more about how we are engaging with international researchers. You will also find details about Dr. Jackie Kennelly's presentation, stay up to date on Len Usiskin and Quint Development Corporation's recent work in Saskatchewan, and learn about opportunities to share and hear about housing research findings through the CHEC Blog and Best Evidence Podcast. Finally, as always, check out our profiles on team members and organizations associated with our project from across Canada and the world.

Webinars and Professional Development Opportunities: Jackie Kennelly and Visual Research Methods

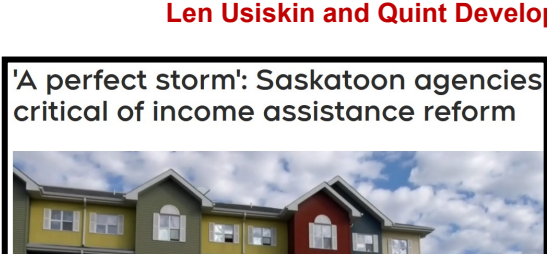
Dr. Jackie Kennelly participated in the research assistant training series by presenting a workshop on visual methods. During the session, students had the opportunity to learn more about each other's research backgrounds before discussing the many different practices encompassed in visual methods research. Topics covered included the use of visual methods as a part of mixed methods, unique ethical and legal considerations that arise from the use of visual methods, and how visual methods can play a role in empowering research participants. The session was rich in conversation and concluded with Dr. Kennelly highlighting some of her past work, which heavily featured visually methods. One project she shared was a video series called "Encountering Democracy" that was co-created with youth research participants. If you are interested in learning more, please see the videos [here](#).



If you would like to join the next webinars or would like to host a session about your organization's work or research, please let us know. (Email: coordinator@cbu.ca).

Len Usiskin and Quint Development In the News

'A perfect storm': Saskatoon agencies critical of income assistance reform



Len Usiskin, the Executive Director of Quint Development Corporation, community partner in Saskatoon, as well as member of our National Working Group, was featured in [CTV News](#) and [CBC News](#) this September in relation to major changes to social support programs implemented in Saskatchewan in 2019. Len has been tracking the impact of replacing the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) and the Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA) with the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program. Changes associated with the creation of the new program included consolidating rent and utility payments and eliminating direct payments to housing and utility providers for people receiving SIS. Usiskin has noted a significant increase in rental arrears and eviction notices in Quint's buildings, as well as increased safety concerns within the properties due to break ins and non-tenants trying to stay in the buildings. Usiskin and others are calling for the Saskatchewan government to re-evaluate if their income assistance program is increasing homelessness and making it harder for housing providers to conduct their work. Learn more about Len Usiskin in the profiles section of the newsletter.

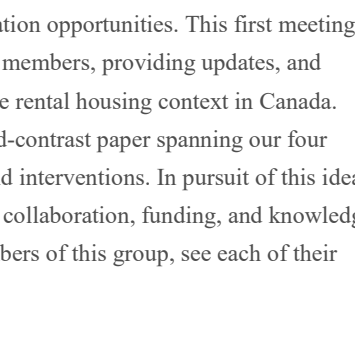
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Convening of the First International Advisory Group Meeting

November 4th marked the first meeting of the People, Places, Policies and Prospects International Advisory Group. The group represents team members from Canada (Saskatoon, Ottawa, and Sydney), the United States (Chicago and Urbana-Champaign), Australia (Melbourne), and the United Kingdom (Lancaster). The role of the group is to keep project members informed about international research projects and policy development as well as to identify potential collaborations and knowledge mobilization opportunities. This first meeting focused on building relationships among advisory group members, providing updates, and sharing information with international members about the rental housing context in Canada. The group discussed writing a collaborative compare-and-contrast paper spanning our four countries, focused on affordable rental housing policy and interventions. In pursuit of this idea, group members are considering different ways to pursue collaboration, funding, and knowledge mobilization. To learn more about the international members of this group, see each of their profiles at the end of the newsletter.

Have new research you would like to share? Interested in Learning about Housing Research Findings? Opportunities from Cynthia Belaskie Through CHEC's Blog, and The Best Evidence Podcast

Researchers interesting in sharing their work have a great opportunity to reach audiences in a more accessible way through [CHEC's blog](#) and The Best Evidence Podcast. This is also an outlet to learn more about housing research. The CHEC blog recently featured a three-part series by Steve Pomeroy called *Exploring causes of escalating home prices*. The blog posts contain information about research into recent inflation of home prices in Canada and explores issues such as insufficient supply, the role and nature of demand, and policy options in regard to inflation. The most recent post "[Understanding Women's Housing Precarity: Before and Beyond the Pandemic](#)" by Brenda Parker, Catherine Leviten-Reid, and Isobel Araujo was published on November 17th 2021.

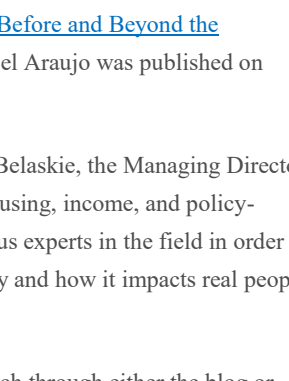


The [Best Evidence Podcast](#) was launched this year by Cynthia Belaskie, the Managing Director of CHEC, and Robbie Brydon. The podcast explores current housing, income, and policy-related research. Belaskie and Brydon discuss topics with various experts in the field in order to highlight key information about how research connects to policy and how it impacts real people and organizations.

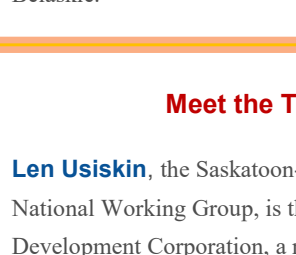
Any researchers interested in sharing their own stories or research through either the blog or the podcast should contact William Roy (coordinator@cbu.ca) to be connected with Cynthia Belaskie.

Meet the Team: Researcher and Student Profiles

Len Usiskin, the Saskatoon-based community lead on the National Working Group, is the Executive Director of Quint Development Corporation, a non-profit community economic development organization that works in Saskatoon's west side core neighbourhoods. Quint provides affordable and transitional housing, employment services, and develops social enterprises as part of its efforts to address economic and social disparities in low-income core neighbourhoods. Len is also a founding co-manager of Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre, and is a founding member and continuing board member of Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR).

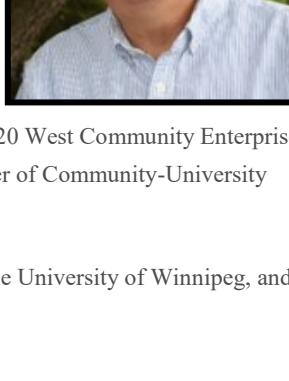


Len has a BA in Economics and Environmental Studies from the University of Winnipeg, and an MA in Economics from the University of Manitoba.



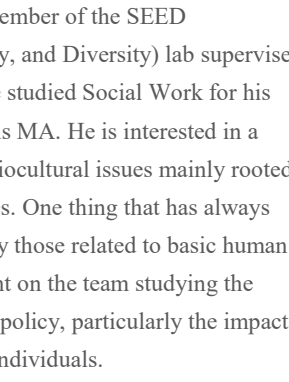
Mannie Mirzae is currently doing a PhD degree in Social Psychology, focusing on sexualities, at the University of Saskatchewan (CHHD Stream, Department of Psychology and Health Studies). He is also a member of the SEED (Saskatchewan Equity, Equality, and Diversity) lab supervised by Prof. Todd G. Morrison. He studied Social Work for his BA and Political Science for his MA. He is interested in a diverse range of structural, sociocultural issues mainly rooted in policies made at different levels of decision-making processes. One thing that has always been a big concern for him is injustices within society especially those related to basic human needs and rights such as shelter. He works as a research assistant on the team studying the Rental Development Program in the context of changing social policy, particularly the impact of the Saskatchewan Income Support program on low-income individuals.

Dr. Guy Johnson is a professor at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. He works in the field of Urban Housing and Homelessness. Johnson is also the director of the Unison Housing Research Lab, which was created by RMIT and Unison Housing, a non-profit housing provider in Melbourne. With a background in homelessness services, Guy Johnson conducts research that contributes to housing policy and practice. Recent research has covered topics from the impact of changes in health status (whether changes in health precipitate homelessness or are a result of homelessness) to the effects of case management on homelessness. Currently, Guy Johnson is evaluating whether his work with the Unison Housing Research Lab has resulted in meaningful changes in practice.

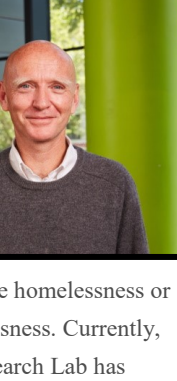


Dr. Melissa Fernandez Arrigoitia is a lecturer based out of Lancaster University. She lectures in Urban Futures (Institute for Social Futures), which is part of the Sociology Department and the Lancaster Institute of Contemporary Arts. Her recent research has looked at the [United Kingdom's first older women's co-housing community](#) as well as "[What collaborative housing offers in a pandemic](#)". Dr. Fernandez Arrigoitia was also recently published in the *Radical Housing Journal*, of which she is Editor. In general, her research focuses on topics such as urban housing, urban crisis, and urban futures, as well as human and emotional geographies and community-led practice. Her work is rooted in post-colonial and feminist methodologies.

Dr. Andrew Greenlee is an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning based out of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. Dr. Greenlee focuses his research on residential mobility and the governance of residential mobility programs in the United States. He also examines housing and neighbourhood stability and change. Most recently, he is studying code enforcement as a form of policing, which investigates how discretion in code enforcement may be disproportionately applied. Dr. Greenlee is also connected with long-term research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and has done additional work on political ecology. Dr. Greenlee holds a PhD in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.



If you or your organization has an announcement or project you would like shared, please reach out to William Roy, our National Project Coordinator, at coordinator@cbu.ca. We can help share your news and increase the reach of important work being done in the housing sector by all of our community and academic partners.

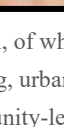
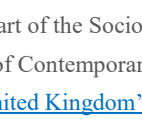


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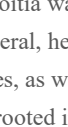


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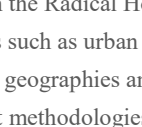
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People
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and
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