

## **The Cultural Property Community Research Collaborative: A model for collaborative research and curatorial projects.**

**To be given to the South African Association of Canadian Studies at the  
University of Cape Town, South Africa, Friday, June 27, 2008.**

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In 1999 the University of Victoria was one of the first successful applicants to the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for funding under the new Community University Research Alliance program. Both the intent of these grants (for “community-based research”) and the amounts (up to one million dollars per project over five years) were unique and pioneering. UVic’s Cultural Property Community Research Collaborative ultimately raised and expended over three million dollars, involved five community partnering institutions, over twenty collaborating institutions in large and small communities throughout British Columbia, and sponsored dozens of student research teams mentored by UVic academics to assist these institutions in the research and development of their collections. By the end of the project SSHRC funding had levered over three million in total funds deployed.

This paper will review the intent and organization of the program, provide examples of the projects undertaken, and describe the nature of the various collaborative techniques which brought academics, students and community stakeholders together. It will conclude with an overview of the institutional outputs, the benefits to the participants, and an analysis of the challenges and lessons learned.

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