



HARRY CUMMINGS AND ASSOCIATES INC

Monitoring and Evaluation Projects

Evaluation of the Co-Creating a Sustainable BC Initiative. August 2019 – present.

The Co-creating a Sustainable BC Initiative is a project of the Fraser Basin Council and it provides an opportunity for youth to get more deeply involved in core environmental, social and economic sustainability issues affecting their community. Youth and young adults in two BC pilot sites, Kamloops / surrounding communities and Sea-to-Sky Corridor (Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and area) will participate in the program to identify barriers to making meaningful and lasting changes in their communities, and practice a collaborative approach to identifying potential solutions. HCA is carrying out a process and impact evaluation that will serve to assess the effectiveness of the program delivery model and the extent to which intended youth outcomes were achieved (e.g. knowledge and skill development, improved sense of self-confidence in ability to affect change, ability to develop and implement) a formal plan for a sustainability project).

National Occupational Analysis for Dental Assisting in Canada. March 2019 – present.

HCA is working with the Canadian Dental Assistants Association and the National Dental Assisting Examining Board to redevelop and complete the 2019 NOA. The NOA is a key research component that supports the advance of the profession of dental assisting across Canada. The results will help to confirm current practices and identify emerging practices, technologies, tools and issues. The results will also inform the content of the national dental assisting exam and dental assisting curriculum as well as government regulation and policy development related to the profession of dental assisting. HCA is developing a national survey that will be distributed to approximately 28,000 dental assistants across Canada and key informant interviews and focus groups will be utilized to capture a broader perspective from relevant stakeholder groups (provincial associations, regulators, educators, etc.).

Evaluation of the Mining Essentials Program. January 2019 – present.

HCA is working on behalf of the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) to evaluate the Mining Essentials program. The program provides opportunities for Indigenous peoples to develop the essential and work readiness (include confidence, attitudes, workplace culture awareness and quality of work) skills needed to achieve rewarding employment in the mining sector. The program was developed in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, employers, educators and communities. It is the only industry validated national mining training program for Indigenous peoples and it was purposefully developed to include Indigenous teaching methods and mediums. Community elders are active participants in the program as activity leaders and instructors. HCA is evaluating the implementation of the program in five pilot sites in Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Data collection methods include key informant interviews with institutional and industry partners, trainers, elders, and learners/students. Learners/students are also participating in surveys.

Evaluation of the YMCA PlusOne Mentoring Program. March 2017 – present.

HCA is conducting a multi-year evaluation of the YMCA PlusOne Mentoring program in four sites across Canada (Moncton, Montreal, Regina, Surrey). PlusOne Mentoring is a community-based mentoring program that engages high-risk youth and aims to change behaviours and build aspirations to construct

positive pathways to a sustainable future. The program targets youth aged 10-17 from at-risk populations (e.g. newcomer, indigenous, visible minority, inner-city, etc.) who demonstrate an accumulation of risk factors at home, school, and in their personal lives. HCA developed the evaluation plan and collaborated with YMCAs of Quebec to develop methods and data collection tools including key informant interviews, focus groups and a risk assessment tool for youth participants. Youth will be tracked at regular intervals to identify changes in several behavioral and emotional domains over time (e.g. school ability, family relations, community engagement, behavior towards others, emotional management, self-harm, substance use). HCA will be collaborating with staff in the four host sites and staff at the head office (YMCAs of Quebec) in collecting data over five years. The PlusOne Mentoring program is funded by Public Safety Canada.

Evaluation of the City of St. Thomas Creating Connections Project. October 2015 – present.

HCA is conducting a five year evaluation of the Creating Connections project that was initiated in Sept. 2015 through a partnership between Southwestern Public Health Unit (SWPH), the City of St Thomas and three local developers (Doug Tarry Homes Ltd, Springwater Developments Inc. and Hayhoe Homes). Principal funding for the project is being provided from Public Health Agency of Canada with matching funding from the local developer partners creating a total project budget of just under \$2 million. The project is being led by SWPH and its goals are to 1) improve the built environment within the City of St. Thomas in order to support increased rates of walking and physical activity, and 2) engage families, community members and municipal officials in order to improve walkability within the City of St. Thomas and a demonstration area. HCA has completed a comprehensive evaluation plan and the data collection methods include document file review, an annual survey of project partners, key informant interviews with project partners, and a pre and post-implementation phone survey of community residents.

Evaluation of “Moving Forward: Expansion of Springboard’s Community Learning HUB across Western Canada (Alberta and Saskatchewan) and Northeastern Ontario.” November 2017 – present.

Springboard’s HUB is a web-based, interactive digital media platform for youth involved in the criminal justice system. The suite of HUB programming focuses on anger management, substance abuse prevention, employment readiness, financial literacy, apprenticeship and trades, and cultural teachings. HCA is evaluating the program’s expansion to Western Canada and Northeastern Ontario.

Operation Springboard Capacity-Building Initiative. January 2018 – present.

HCA is undertaking a 3-year initiative to strengthen evaluation capacity at Operation Springboard, a Toronto-based organization dedicated to helping vulnerable individuals through difficult life transitions. The objective is to build a culture of evaluation at the organization through a series of capacity-building workshops and the collaborative planning/conduct of one or more evaluations. Year-one activities include: 1) workshops structured around key evaluation concepts; 2) the systematic development of logic models for each of Springboard’s programs; and 3) collaborative evaluation of the SOAR program.

Operation Springboard's I-Innovate Process and Impact Evaluation. June 2018 – present.

HCA is currently working with Operation Springboard to develop an evaluation approach for the I-Innovate program, an LPRF-funded initiative designed to prepare at-risk youth for employment and/or educational advancement through activities designed to foster digital literacy. HCA will be designing the process and impact evaluation, which will include an analysis of information management system data, a pre/post assessment administered to youth at intake and program completion, and key informant interviews with staff, partners and youth.

Kahnawake Community Health Plan 2012-2022 - Five Year Interim Evaluation. September 2016 – present.

HCA is currently working with Niska Cooperative, another consulting firm, on conducting a 5-year evaluation on the Community Health Plan of Kahnawake, a Mohawk First Nation in Quebec. The evaluation includes working with their community health steering committee in designing and implementing the evaluation. We are using participatory methods to engage staff and the community in evaluating the implementation and the impacts of the Community Health Plan.

CCGHC Climate Change Mentoring Project Evaluation. November 2016 – June 2019.

The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care (CCGHC) is an alliance of health care providers that aims to encourage green health care practices across the country. HCA collaborated with the CCGHC to evaluate their Climate Change Mentoring project between 2016-2019. The deliverables for the first year were a Program Logic Model and a review of their annual report. In year two, HCA provided the CCGHC with data collection tools and an annual report and in year three HCA completed the data analysis and provided the CCGHC with a final evaluation report.

Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs – 2018-2019 Economic Impact Study. 2018 – 2019.

Harry Cummings and Associates was hired by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs (OFSC) to prepare an assessment of the economic impact of snowmobile activity in Ontario. For this study HCA conducted a document review of available studies on snowmobiling across Canada and surveyed OFSC permit holders on their snowmobiling related expenses for the 2018-2019 season. HCA used the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model to develop an estimate of the full scope of the economic impact of snowmobiling in Ontario.

Yukon Research Centre Evaluation. 2018.

HCA conducted an evaluation of the Yukon Research Centre (YRC) and their activities from 2013-2017. YRC was established in October 2009 to provide Yukon College the opportunity to grow its research activities to develop a knowledge economy for the benefit of Yukon. Since their inception almost a decade ago, the YRC has grown and has been conducting ground-breaking research in the fields of northern climate change, energy innovation, mine life cycle, biodiversity monitoring, and resources and sustainable development in the Arctic. The YRC also works closely with northern stakeholder and First Nations communities to conduct research and build knowledge and research capacity. To complete this work, HCA used a mixed methods and historical/retrospective approach. The HCA team conducted an in-depth document review, a comparative institution assessment to inform the final report, and engaged with stakeholder groups through on-site and phone interviews.

Evaluation of United Way of Greater Toronto's Transition Fund. 2018.

The United Way of Greater Toronto contracted Harry Cummings and Associates (HCA) to conduct an evaluation of its Transition Fund. The Transition Fund, launched in 2014, is an internal, staff-led granting stream designed to support agencies and initiatives aligned with United Way of Greater Toronto's strategic plan as the organization transitions to a new funding model. The evaluation included a document/literature review and key informant interviews with Transition Fund grant recipients, United Way staff and Management Advisory Group members.

Scaling-Up Good Food Programs in Food Insecure Neighbourhoods – FoodShare Toronto. 2018.

Maple Leaf Centre for Action on Food Security has supported FoodShare Toronto in an effort to scale up its Good Food programming available to food insecure households in the Mount Dennis and Weston neighbourhoods. The project coordinates markets and food box programming that ensures that affordable vegetables and fruits are available in these neighbourhoods through small scale social enterprise initiatives.

HCA was hired to provide training and technical support for the evaluation design, data collection and reporting aspects of the program. HCA worked collaboratively with FoodShare Toronto to support the evaluation activities of this program and build the evaluation capacity of FoodShare staff and volunteers.

Evaluation of the Regional Diversity Roundtable’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Leadership training program. 2018.

The goal of the training program is to build the DEI capacity of organizational leaders in the human services sector. The project supports leaders to carry out DEI assessments of their organizations and plan/implement changes to address policy, program and service gaps. HCA was contracted to advise on an evaluation strategy for the program, as well as develop organizational assessment and evaluation tools.

Evaluation of Headwaters Food and Farming Alliance's Farm to School (F2S) Program. 2018.

Headwaters Food & Farming Alliance is a program of Headwaters Communities in Action, a grassroots citizen's group that engages with local community leaders to achieve overall well being in Ontario's Headwaters region. Seeking to address a disconnect between food producers and consumers in the region, the Alliance introduced its Farm to School program in 2014. The goal of the program was to strengthen local food communities and improve community health and well being through education workshops, a local food club, and food literacy classes. Since 2016, program staff members have worked with HCA to develop and implement an evaluation approach to meet the program's funding requirements, inform future program implementation and address sustainability considerations.

Evaluation of United Way Toronto and York Region’s (UWTYR) Innovation Fund. 2017.

In the summer of 2017, UWTYR contracted HCA to conduct an evaluation of its Innovation Fund. The Fund is a new granting stream launched to support innovation amongst United Way member agencies. HCA undertook a document review and key informant interviews to assess the Fund’s successes and challenges. The findings will be used to inform the administration of the Fund and/or other United Way funding mechanisms moving forward.

Right To Play’s Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth – Program Evaluation. 2017.

HCA was hired to conduct an evaluation of Right To Play’s Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) Program. In 2010, RTP Canada initiated its PLAY Program. The program has partnered with 87 communities First Nations communities and Urban Aboriginal organizations in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba for the 2016-2017 year. The PLAY Program includes three core programs throughout the school year: the After School Program, the Youth Leadership Program, and the Play for Prevention Program. HCA conducted qualitative site visits to 6 First Nation’s communities and worked with RTP Canada staff to do an in-depth analysis of their national participant and community mentor surveys.

Evaluation of the Good Food and Urban Agriculture Programs for FoodShare Toronto. 2017.

HCA worked with FoodShare Toronto to assess the impact of its programming and the roll its efforts are playing in the city’s poverty reduction efforts. Working collaboratively with FoodShare staff, with funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund, HCA engaged with stakeholders at various levels through survey questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups to assess program impact. HCA utilized a sustainable livelihoods framework in the evaluation design. The study was supplemented with a wide review of available academic research and demographic data to assess how FoodShare programming contributes to the poverty reduction.

Canadian Mining Certification Program – Pilot Evaluation. 2017

HCA conducted an evaluation of a new alternate assessment process and certification pathway developed by the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) for the occupational areas of Frontline Supervisor, Industry Trainer and Hoist Operator. The evaluation methods included surveys and key informant interviews with Examiner Panel members, referees, CMCP staff and certification applicants/candidates.

National Crime Prevention Strategy Feasibility Study: Participant Follow-Up. March 2016 – December 2016.

HCA conducted a feasibility study to determine NCPS past funded project participants' contact with the criminal justice system. The study covers participants who left the NCPS program at any time between 2008 and 2015. A case study approach was used to examine four NCPS past funded projects across Canada.

National Crime Prevention Strategy Sustainability Study: Examining the Sustainability of Crime Prevention Projects. April 2016 – January 2017.

HCA conducted a review of 20 NCPS-funded projects to determine the extent to which the projects have been sustained beyond funding and the key factors that contributed to sustainability. Twelve of the projects participated in key informant interviews by phone and eight projects completed an electronic version of the questionnaire tool. The 20 projects represented different outcomes post funding: projects that have continued with all of their core elements; projects that are ongoing, but changed; projects that have ended, but some elements remain; and projects that have ended and are no longer active. The study included projects from across Canada funded by the NCPS program since its inception in 2006.