



Institute for Human Development and Well-Being

Institut de recherche pour le développement et le bien-être humain à l'université McGill

The primary force behind the creation of the *Institute for Human Development and Well-Being* is to foster research, training/teaching, and collaboration amongst researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, professionals, and community organizations with an active interest in the development and well-being of the human individual and groups from a transdisciplinary perspective.

The McGill *Institute for Human Development and Well-Being* (IHDW) draws together senior as well as new and emerging scholars from a number of different faculties and schools, and reflects McGill's commitment to understanding and maximizing human development and well-being and is dedicated to teaching, innovative research, and responding to the needs of societies.



Mental health and many common mental disorders are shaped to a great extent by the social, economic, physical and cultural environments in which people live.



The Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-Being

MISSION AND GOALS/GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principle behind the creation of the Institute is that a transdisciplinary approach to studying human development and well-being provides an optimal method to study and improve the development and well-being of studying individuals, group of persons, and various populations. This framework is located within the study of both the individual and the social, and includes the study of the development of the individual (across the lifespan), of the individual's ongoing transactions with his or her environments, and the role that society can play in facilitating human development and well-being.

Mid-term and *shorter term goals* include piloting courses, supporting students' course work (providing financial contribution), promoting activities of researchers' projects.

As a *long term goal*, the Institute seeks to establish a thriving milieu that not only supports transdisciplinary research and community engagement in relation to human development and well-being, but seeks to enhance human development and well-being through better understanding.

Principal Objectives

1

To promote a comprehensive understanding of human development and well-being through collaboration among scholars from a variety of disciplines and community practitioners and leaders.

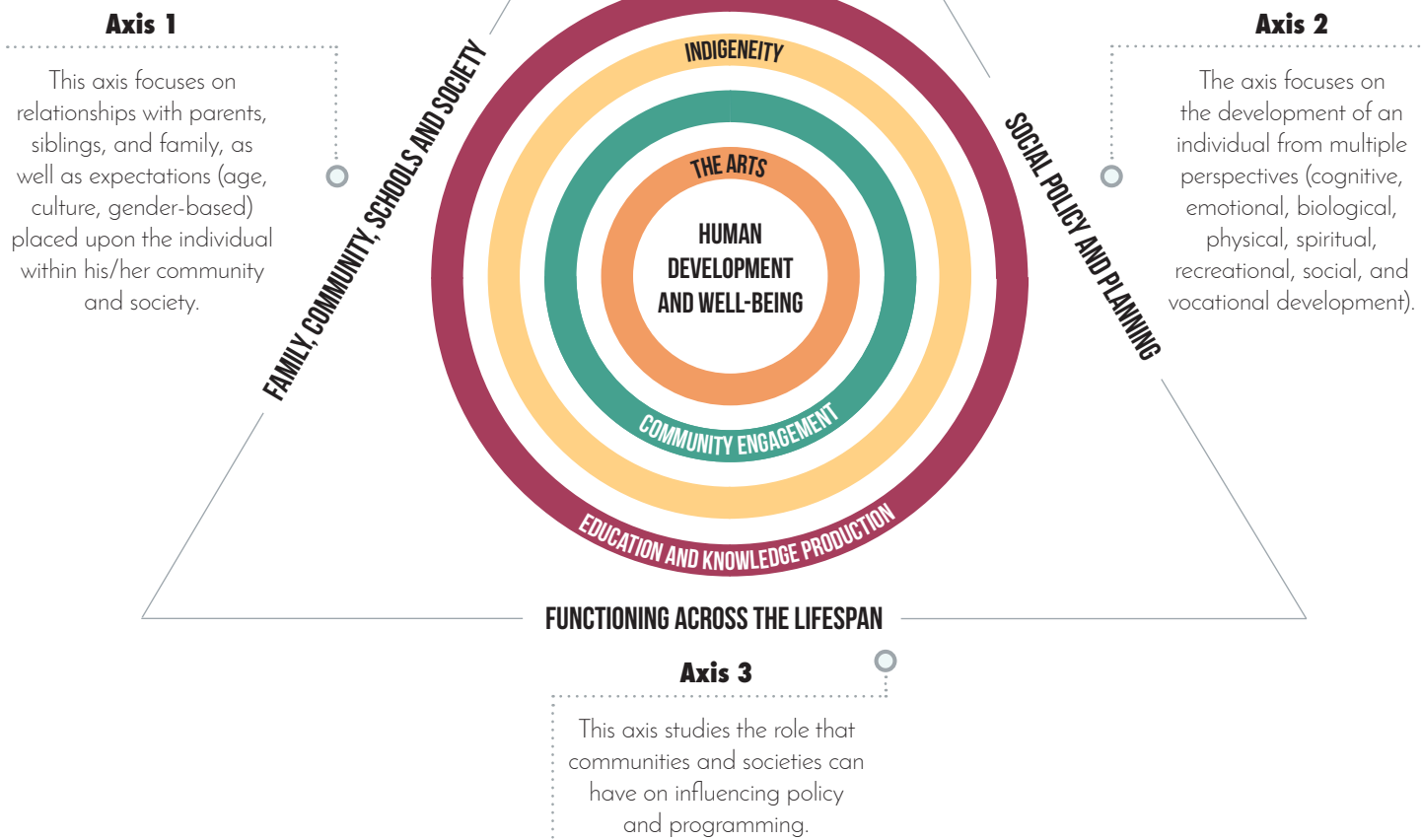
To foster an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the range of issues affecting human development and well-being, and especially to identify intersecting and interlocking barriers to the well-being of individuals or communities.

2

3

To work towards holistic educational and lifestyle solutions to problems of development and well-being, emphasizing an integrated approach that considers contexts (current and historical), physical, medical and environmental influences, along with political, economic and social influences concerning different populations.

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Indigeneity and working with indigenous groups is a key aspect of the landscape of work at McGill University, across Canada and internationally, and with various partner organization, and as such, spans themes that cross all three axes.

The Arts (artistic production, arts-based research, artistic expression) play a key role in bridging social connections in order to contribute to the quality-of-life of individuals and communities.

Cross-Cutting Themes

Education and Knowledge Production can be regarded both as a cornerstone and methodology for understanding and promoting human development and well-being, regardless of whether one is talking about schooling and formal education or informal education and popular education.

Community Engagement, which may be done through media and technology, as well as participatory and digital work working with communities are taking on a significant place in the lives of individuals and society in relation to communication and connections both to the present and the past.

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Reading groups and gatherings

The IHDW will embark upon reading groups headed up by either faculty members or doctoral students, and organized around very specific themes and issues related to human development and well-being.

Visiting researchers

Visiting researchers will provide a new and fresh perspective to research projects that are being conducted outside the mandate of the Institute, and will have an opportunity to learn from and collaborate on projects that are being conducted by researchers and students at the IHDW.

Support to arts-based research and the arts

Support will include an artist in residence program; funding for art space; and, funding for undergraduate and graduate students working in the arts.

Symposia, speaker series, public events

The Institute will conduct a variety of different types of high profile and regular speaking events for visiting researchers and associate members to present their work. Where possible the various symposia will be co-sponsored with other units to ensure maximum possibilities for collaboration.

Webinars

The IHDW will regularly sponsor webinar events linked to specific human development and well-being topics and themes. These will be open to associate members and graduate students at McGill and can link to national and international members and partners.

TEACHING/CURRICULUM/ SUPPORT TO STUDENTS

Student Training

One of the primary reasons for creating the IHDW is both to create as well as promote a research and teaching environments that foster support for undergraduate and graduate students working in thematic areas linked to human development and well-being.

Transdisciplinary course offerings

The Institute will draw together faculty members and students from across several schools and faculties to offer related courses on human development and well-being (senior undergraduate and graduate level).

Internships

The Institute will provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to work on projects related to human development and well-being. Students will have an opportunity to collaborate with researchers within the Institute in a way that fosters beneficial collaborations between students and researchers.

Digital media and arts-based events

The IHDW will establish a sustainable arts and media strand of exhibitions (including virtual), performance and other visual and arts-based events, focusing on healing, and human development and well-being.

Summer Institutes

Summer Institutes will provide training in specific research areas. These Institutes will involve the various web-based and digital lab projects at McGill on sexual violence, HIV and AIDS, cyber-violence, participatory methodologies and community development, and visual media and child and adversity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IHDW Website

The website provides a digital platform for researchers, students and community members to explore the current and up-and-coming projects and research partnerships, seminar series, and conference symposia. A key feature of the IHDW website is an online gallery of photo exhibition of projects carried out by members.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ihdw/>



COLLABORATION

Researchers at the Institute seek new possibilities for collaboration with communities, policy makers and researchers across a variety of disciplinary areas and in a variety of social contexts and across local, national and international settings. We subscribe to the idea that the critical issues facing societies today are ones that start with an understanding of the significance of the role of well-being and of the significance of human development as an approach. Skill and knowledge areas can relate to indigenous methodologies, working with youth advisory panels, and ethics in human development and well-being research.

The organization of dialogue, symposia, and conferences will draw on and address the diversity of the societies in which we live. These include:

●
People with physical, psychological, and/or intellectual disabilities

●
People with emotional, physiological and mental health issues

●
Traditionally at-risk populations including those with minority, Indigenous, low SES, immigrant, and refugee status.

Participating Faculties and Schools at McGill

Faculty of Education

Department of Family Medicine

Department of Psychiatry

School of Urban Planning

Faculty of Dentistry

School of Social Work

Department of Anthropology

Co-Directors



Ingrid Sladeczek



Shaheen Shariff



Jake Burack



Jeff Derevensky



Neil Andersson

Other Members and Associates

Local Members

John Abbott College
Concordia University

Community Partners

Girls' Action Foundation
Rooftops Canada
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Centre for Rural Health

National Members

Laurentian University
University of Victoria
University of Toronto
Dalhousie University

International Members

Mid Sweden University
Columbia University
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan
North-West University
University of KwaZulu-Natal

CONTACT



Claudia Mitchell, Director
claudia.mitchell@mcgill.ca
McGill University

Participatory Cultures Lab
McGill University
participatorycultureslab.com

3715 Rue Peel, Room 221,
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1X1 Canada