



DESIGNING THE
SCHOOL FOR
CIVIL SOCIETY

Dialogues on Civil Society

RE-IMAGINING THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Guelph has a strong and varied tradition of working with civil society in research, teaching and service. Through international development studies, community-university engaged scholarship from local to global, and numerous other civic engagement activities, we see faculty, staff and students working closely with civil society organizations for community benefit.

A series of conversations on how the university can better work with and contribute to civil society locally and globally are now being hosted. University and community members are invited to explore, provide expertise and experience, and respond to key ideas to inform work to build a “school for civil society” that provides new pathways for teaching, learning, research and service. The overall purpose of these dialogues is to engage in discussions that help to:

- Broaden and deepen thinking on the meaning of civil society and the linkages between the universities and civil society sectors
- Engage university constituents in a process of imagining how the University of Guelph can move in a direction of greater engagement
- Engage community, civil society organizations and individuals to inform and partner in building greater opportunities for teaching, learning and engagement
- Provide vision and key directions for a new school for civil society that re-imagines international development, community engaged scholarship and civic engagement

SCHOOL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

University of Guelph

Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1

www.schoolforcivilsociety.ca

519.824.4120 x 56096



[sfcivilsociety](https://twitter.com/sfcivilsociety)

civilsociety@uoguelph.ca

TO DATE:

1. Short conversations with various international development faculty, community engaged faculty and students; early conversations with university partners (Fall 2011)
2. **“Envisioning a school for civil society”** dialogue in December 2011 with 25 campus stakeholders from across colleges to encourage critical and rich discussion about opportunities and obstacles in the University responding to ideas around civil society.
3. **Campus Wide Dialogue on Civil Society:** an all day session with almost 100 participants where participants were challenged to re-envision undergraduate education, move to meet global challenges, to design engagement and programs to meet both knowledge and skills needed by civil society organizations was made by Alastair Summerlee, Paul Davidson, President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and Dr. Budd Hall, Secretary to the Global Alliance on Community Based Research and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.
4. **Catalyst Team engaged:** small group of campus leaders with expertise in engagement, international development and planning, design further strategies and process, and elicit support from additional stakeholders.
5. **Key methods and processes** for revealing trends and scenarios (looking a decade or so out) decided and methods for eliciting stakeholder input, scans, reviews and vision for new pedagogy, international development, community engagement developed.

NEXT:

1. **Continued dialogue:** stakeholder interviews, forum, environmental scans, etc. held in Spring 2012
2. **Summer 2012** will see bringing together of “whole” picture revealed by multiple dialogues and strategies– directions, values, partners in the new school identified
3. **Fall 2012** will incorporate directions, address structural issues of new school, engage partners in shaping new curriculum, fellowships, research endeavours, etc..
4. Full proposal for new school early 2013

SCHOOL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

University of Guelph

Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1

www.schoolforcivilsociety.ca

519.824.4120 x 56096



[sfcivilsociety](https://twitter.com/sfcivilsociety)

civilsociety@uoguelph.ca