



Capacity: The Centre for Research in Community Engagement and Gender Equity

Gender-based violence is a pressing and global societal concern that contributes to poor health, reduced quality of life, and systemic inequities in accessible, appropriate, quality, and coordinated health and social care. Community-based organizations are pioneers in providing trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches tackling the structural inequities that directly contribute to the global crisis of gender-based violence and its devastating effects.

Dr. Vicky Bungay, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Gender, Equity and Community Engagement, is the founder and Scientific Director of Capacity: The Centre for Research in Community Engagement and Gender Equity at the University of British Columbia. By joining local knowledge and expertise with scientific evidence, Capacity is responding to the pressing need for responsive and innovative approaches that meet women “where they are at,” build from their strengths and capacities, and support them throughout their healing journeys. In partnership with community-based organizations serving self-identifying women, girls, and youth across Canada, Capacity is aiming to change services, policies and programs that can better prevent and mitigate the harms associated with gender-based violence locally and internationally.

The team at Capacity has embarked on a multi-year, multi-site initiative adapting and scaling up outreach interventions that seek to redress inequities in timely, coordinated, and appropriate health and social care. These projects address four key areas: creating responsive and ‘ready’ programming; enhancing coordinated and integrated health and social care services; expanding and refining existing approaches to trauma-informed care; and advancing the science and art of community-science partnerships that can further enhance community capacity as leaders in policy and programming that foster women’s rights to self-determination and their rights to live a life free of violence.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)) and Canada Research Chairs (CRC) recently published a research story highlighting the work of Dr. Vicky Bungay and the Capacity team in collaboration with community partner co-leads and other team members. This story was also featured in the January 2024 edition of Dialogue, SSHRC’s e-newsletter. Please read the full story [here](#).