

UBC President's Roundtable: Our Role in Migration and Integration

Summary Report



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Introduction

The purpose of this roundtable was to have a frank conversation with others in the migration and integration system—including local community organizations, experts in the field, funders, government, and UBC—to better understand the university's role, identify gaps, and to explore possibilities for deeper collaboration going forward.

Facilitated by Ely Bahhadi and Tracy Wideman, the roundtable unfolded in two parts:

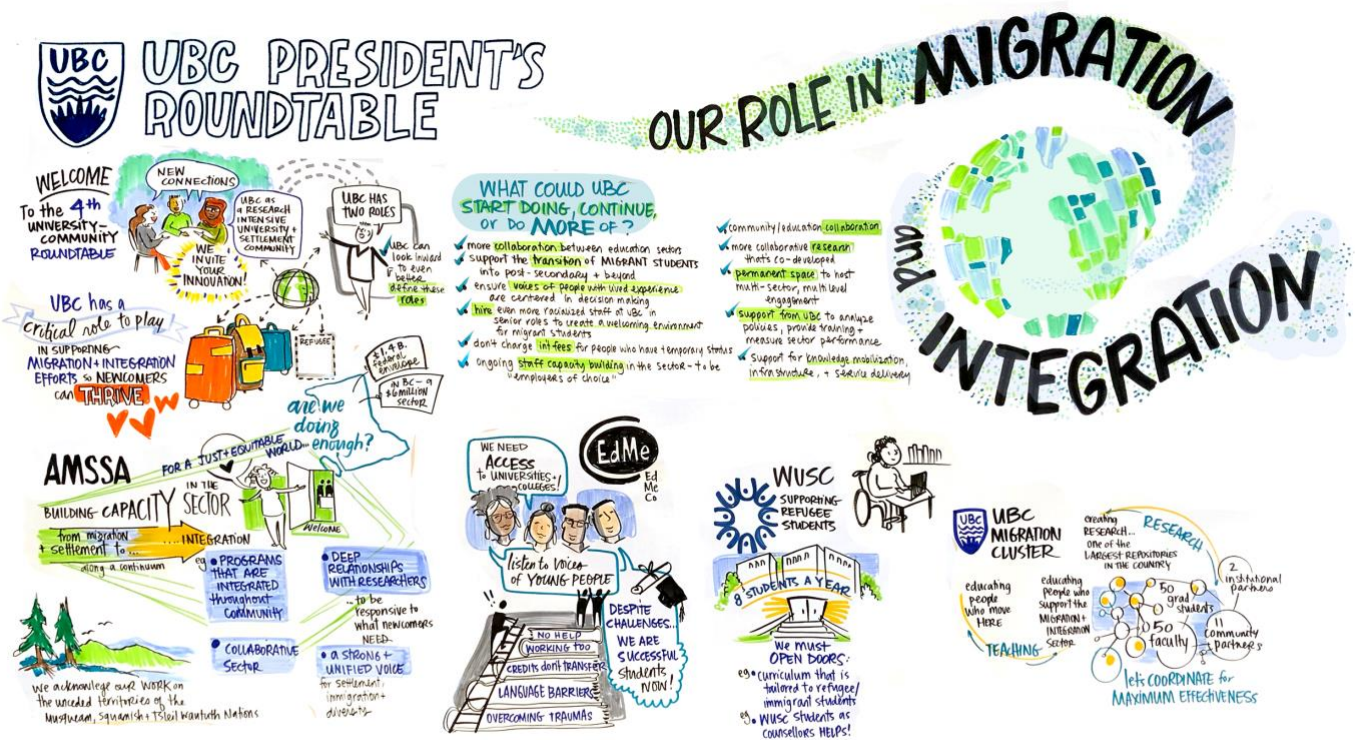
- **Part I: What are we (community & UBC) already doing?**
- **Part II: What (more) could we be doing together?**

This report is a high-level summary of the event to help inform possible next steps and further collaborations. If this report misses or misrepresents any important pieces of the discussion, please contact the UBC Community Engagement office. Also included in this report is a list of participants, and the graphic reports created by Sam Bradd on the day of the event.

Part I: What are we (community & UBC) already doing?

The first part of the session included brief presentations from AMSSA, EdMeCo, World University Service of Canada at UBC, and UBC Migration to ignite creativity and give a sense of existing work happening on and off campus on this topic. Participants explored this further at their tables and shared back with the group some high-level thoughts on what UBC could start doing, continue, or do more of. The following graphic, illustrated live at the event by Sam Bradd, captures the main points. For a larger version of the illustration, click the picture, below, or go [here](#).

Illustration #1: What are we (community & UBC) already doing?



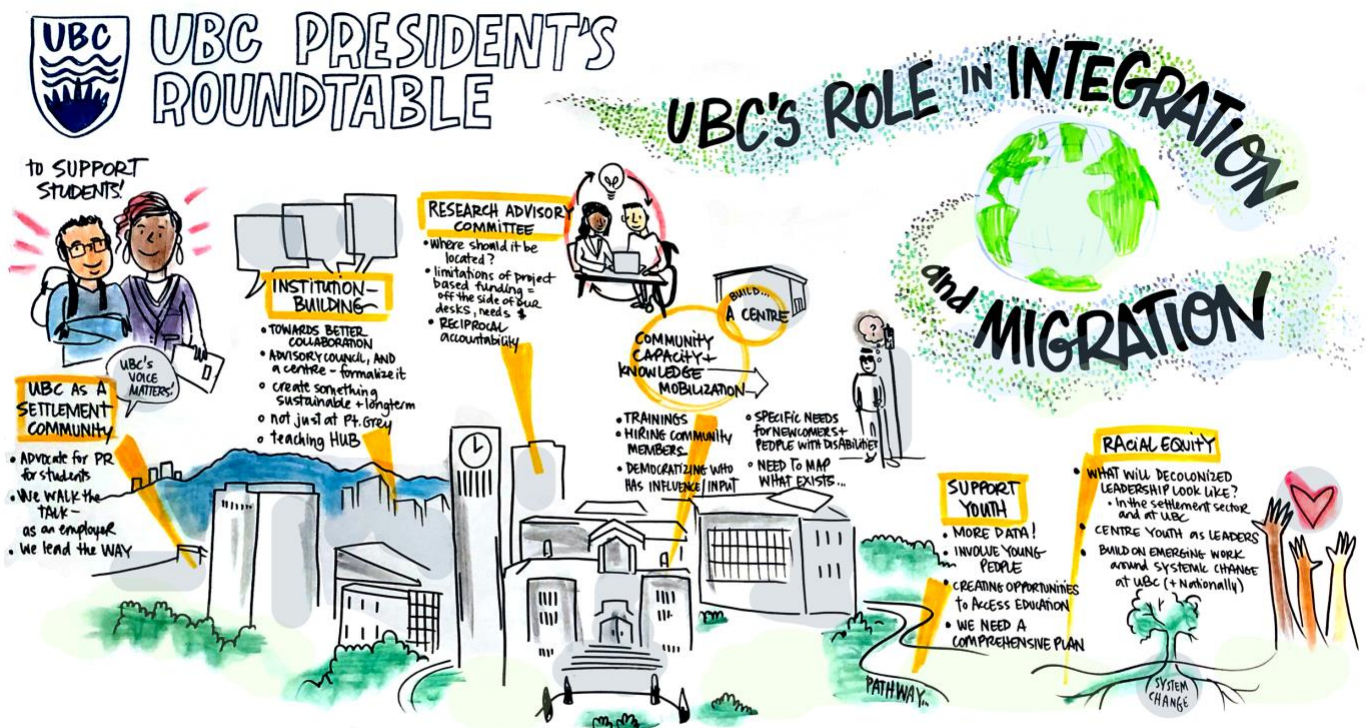
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LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING | Drawing Change
Sam Bradd

Part II: What (more) could we do together?

Building off of part one, the second part of the roundtable involved participants organizing themselves into small group discussions on topics they wanted to explore and see action. See the graphic below for the topics discussed. For a larger version of the illustration, click the picture or go [here](#). See the following section, "Report-Back Summary," for more detailed insights and ideas that came out of the session.

Illustration #2: What (more) could we do together?



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Report-Back Summary

This section captures the information reported back to the group after the small-group discussions in Part II. It also includes table notes recorded as part of each discussion.

Idea for Action #1: Research Matchmaking

Discussions at this table focused on how to facilitate research and equitable collaborations between university researchers and community groups.

This group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- Develop a research advisory council, perhaps independent from government funding.
- For service providers to participate in this or any research project, researchers have to make sure to secure funding for the provider because the service providers have little funding that can go to non-project-based work.
- Important to “bring researchers into [the community service providers] world” and co-create research projects.
- Important to return the research to the community and be accountable to each other.

Idea for Action #2: Institution Building

Discussions at this table focused on how there’s a lot going on in this sector and across many departments at UBC but that it would be useful to better coordinate and collaborate in a sustainable way for mutual benefit.

This group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- Build a hub off campus that focuses on research, teaching, and dialogue, has two to three staff, and is guided by an advisory council.
- Provide sustainable funding for said hub; short-term funding isn’t that helpful.

Idea for Action #3: Foregrounding Racial Equity

This group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- Decolonize leadership in the settlement sector and at UBC. Question: what would decolonized leadership look like and how can we support these conversations?
- Create pathways to leadership for racialized migrants within UBC and the settlement sector.
- Teach youth that they are the strength of the community and help build pathways for them to employment in this sector.

Idea for Action #3: Supporting Aging-Out Youth

The discussion at this table focused on the complex system newcomers face navigating the transition between high school and university.

The group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- Provide mentorship support to help navigate into the university system from high school.
- Develop a transition team, a collaborative effort between high schools, neighborhood houses, post-secondary institutions.
- Create a more seamless and comprehensive system to assist young newcomers to make this transition.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for advocacy at the government level that:
 - Address various stages.
 - Gathers data for aging-out youth.
 - Supports youth in self-advocacy.
 - Provides information on who to consult with for mentorship and coaching.

Idea for Action #4: UBC as a Settlement Community

The discussion at this table focused on how UBC as a settlement community could further support newcomers.

The group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- UBC can act as an ally by:
 - Combating negative stereotypes/narratives.
 - Amplifying and lifting the voices of those lived experiences.
 - Sharing expertise and leveraging skills and experience.
 - Highlight and promote the value of refugees.
- UBC can lead and model good practices by:
 - Representing diverse voices in leadership and governance structures.
 - Supporting newcomers in transitioning out of university and into employment.
 - UBC can lead as an employer by offering jobs to newcomers.
- UBC can foster belonging and recognize that belonging is not dependent on how long one has been here or how long one intends to stay.
- UBC should see it as a moral responsibility to support resettlement.

Idea for Action #5: University/Sector Coordination

The discussion at this table focused on how to best improve coordination between the university and the migration and integration sector.

The group reported the following needs/suggestions/goals:

- Offer education and training for settlement work. As important as identifying research gaps is building the capacity of the sector to, for example, do their own data collection and research. Training can be with tools like webinars. Perhaps build capacity for graduate students to provide training.
- Improve websites to find people at UBC.
- Before coordinating activities, map who is doing what work, both inside the university and outside. With this in hand, determine which groups are being invited into the university and which are not so as to make access fair and transparent.
- Engage with clients in ways other than as “objects of research.” Engage the sector as a partner. Develop better ways to connect with UBC researchers as partners.
- Establish an interdisciplinary course on migration, perhaps led by Lloyd Axworthy.

- Develop more supports at UBC for refugee students, including panels, storytelling; develop better able to access services.
- Stop charging refugees international student fees.
- Increase number of WUSC students.
- Develop better information sharing practices.
- Use an accessibility justice lens, not as an afterthought, for navigating UBC and the sector.
- Improve coordination between the settlement sector and other service providers to improve support for newcomers with disabilities:
 - Settlement staff do not have training in disability. Settlement sector cannot address disability needs while newcomers are on their settlement journey.
 - Create a disability resources unit in service providers like AMSSA.
 - Create a resource guide for settlement and disability.
 - Create a working group/task force between two sectors (settlement and disability).

Participant List

First	Last	Title	Organization
Yaser	Amiri	EdMeCo Co-Founder Youth Lead	EdMeCo
Gage	Averill	Dean of Arts, UBC	University of British Columbia
Ely	Bahhadi	Faciliator	University of British Columbia
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Maxwell	Cameron	Professor, Acting Director of School of Public Pol	University of British Columbia
Sarah	Cameron	International Transition Advisor, WUSC and MCF	International Student Development, UBC
Nadia	Carvalho	Vancouver Immigration Partnership Coordinator	City of Vancouver
Irafasha Credo	Casmil	International Student Development	University of British Columbia
Robin	Ciceri	Vice-President, External Relations	University of British Columbia
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Catherine	Dauvergne	Dean of Law	Peter A. Allard School of Law - UBC
Erin	de Sousa	Student Volunteer	UBC School of Community and Regional Planning
Ryan	Drew	Director of Integrated Services for Newcomers	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Cheryl	Dumaresq	Managing Director	Vice-Provost International Office, UBC
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Marcela	Fuller	Settlement Services Coordinator	Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Lily	Grewal	Director	Province of BC

First	Last	Title	Organization
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Jenny	Lam	Senior Manager, Immigrant Services	Options Community Services Society
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Laura	Mannix	Director of Community Development	DIVERSEcity
Carmen	Miranda- Barrios	Settlement Supervisor	Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society
Vi	Nguyen	Director, Youth Engagement	Vancouver Foundation
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Olga	Stachova	CEO	MOSAIC

First	Last	Title	Organization
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