



**Justice
Institute**
BRITISH COLUMBIA

APPLIED RESEARCH STRATEGIC DIRECTION



APPLIED RESEARCH AT JIBC

Since its establishment in 1978, the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) has played a vital role in strengthening justice and public safety through education, training, and applied research. As a provincial post-secondary institution with a unique applied mandate, JIBC advances professional practice in fields where knowledge can save lives, reduce harm, and build trust in the systems that keep communities safe. Applied research advances the institution's vision of safer communities and a more just society by generating knowledge that directly improves practice, training, and policy across justice and public safety sectors.

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We work with front-line professionals and the communities they serve to identify and address gaps, pressures, and innovations that influence performance, resilience, equity, and social outcomes.
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As a strategic focus area for JIBC, applied research begins with real-world problems identified by practitioners – firefighters, paramedics, police, emergency managers, and others – facing complex challenges in dynamic public and community safety environments. Its goal is not only to understand these challenges but to create practical solutions through tools, models, simulations, approaches, and learning

opportunities. These efforts are designed to strengthen decision-making, training, and the preparation of students to enter these professions with confidence, competence, and readiness for the realities of the work. This connects JIBC's mandate as the province's public safety educator to its mission of developing justice and public safety professionals through exceptional applied education, training, and research.

At JIBC, applied research is grounded in the realities faced by practitioners, communities, and students preparing to enter justice and public safety practice. We work with front-line professionals and the communities they serve to identify and address gaps, pressures, and innovations that influence performance, resilience, equity, and social outcomes. Through this strategic approach, education and training remain closely aligned with community needs, emerging challenges, and the lived experience of those doing the work, strengthening both the professions and the systems that support them.

Applied research strengthens professional practice and the systems that support it while building capacity among students, who gain applied skills, judgment, cultural awareness, exposure to real-world research, diverse perspectives, and pathways into employment. By intentionally linking field-based knowledge with learner development, applied research deepens the connection between practice and education, supporting a sustained exchange between professional practice, learning, innovation, and inclusion.

JIBC'S KEY COMMITMENTS

Applied research also advances JIBC's six key commitments as outlined in *For the Greater Good: JIBC Strategic Plan 2022–2027*.

1 Putting Students First

Applied research advances this commitment by creating meaningful opportunities for students to engage in real-world inquiry, strengthening applied learning, and expanding pathways to employment. Through participation in research activities, diverse learners gain practical experience, professional connections, and insights that support their success at JIBC and beyond.

2 Pursuing Education & Training Excellence

Applied research strengthens this commitment by generating evidence that keeps curriculum current, relevant, and inclusive; enhancing experiential learning; and ensuring programs reflect emerging practice, community expectations, and labour market needs.

3 Living Indigenous Ways of Thinking, Being, Relating and Doing

Applied research supports this commitment by adopting community-engaged, respectful, and culturally grounded approaches that honour Indigenous knowledges, priorities, and self-determination, while strengthening relationships with Indigenous partners.

4 Fostering the Success of Our People

Applied research contributes to this commitment by building institutional capacity, supporting innovation among faculty and staff, and strengthening collaborative partnerships that enhance professional growth and organizational learning.

5 Championing Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Applied research advances this commitment by ensuring diverse perspectives inform research questions, methods, and outcomes, and by producing evidence that supports equitable, culturally responsive, and accessible practice across justice and public safety sectors.

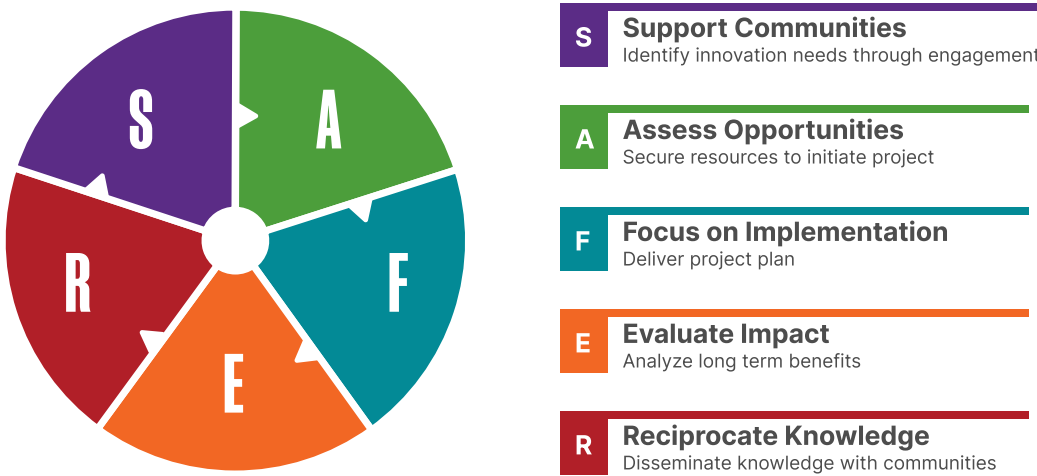
6 Elevating Organizational Effectiveness

Applied research contributes to this commitment by strengthening the internal systems, supports, and processes that enable high-quality research, student participation, effective knowledge mobilization, and EDI-aligned practices – enhancing JIBC's overall readiness to generate, manage, and apply research that serves practitioners, learners, and communities.

Together, these commitments ensure JIBC continues to meet its public purpose – turning knowledge into action to strengthen safety, resilience, equity, and well-being in communities across British Columbia and beyond.

HOW WE DO APPLIED RESEARCH AT JIBC

The SAFER Research Framework guides how JIBC conducts applied research – ensuring that inquiry, collaboration, and innovation are purposeful, consistent, and oriented toward real-world impact. The framework provides a shared approach that connects projects across disciplines and supports the development of knowledge that benefits practitioners, students, and communities. It strengthens coherence in how research is planned, implemented, evaluated, and shared, while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging needs. Within this model, students engage with research that mirrors the realities of practice, and EDI principles help shape research questions, partnerships, and project design so that outcomes reflect and respect the diverse communities served by justice and public safety professionals.



JIBC Safer Research Framework

Grounded in JIBC’s vision of safer communities and a more just society, the framework reinforces our commitment to working with partners and communities to understand their evolving needs and address pressing challenges. It supports evidence-informed decision-making, social innovation, and culturally responsive approaches that honour diverse perspectives, experiences, and ways of knowing. By embedding opportunities for student participation and applying EDI principles at each stage – from identifying community needs to sharing results – the SAFER framework ensures that applied research contributes to the advancement of our disciplines, strengthens inclusion, and enhances the preparation of future professionals.

HOW APPLIED RESEARCH AT JIBC CREATES IMPACT



Applied research at JIBC creates measurable impact by improving how justice and public safety professionals are trained, how organizations deliver services, how students develop workforce-ready skills, and how communities experience safety and well-being. Its value lies not only in producing knowledge but in how that knowledge is used – in strengthening practice, education, policy, equity, and collaboration across systems.



Impact occurs when research leads to better decisions, culturally responsive and inclusive tools, and approaches that are taken up by practitioners, integrated into student learning, and applied by organizations and policy-makers. These outcomes are seen in how research shapes curriculum and training, improves student access to employers, supports diverse learners, informs organizational change, and contributes to greater equity, resilience, and trust within communities. Applied research enhances capacity across the professions and builds capacity among students, who benefit from meaningful involvement in real-world research, exposure to diverse perspectives and communities, and pathways into employment that strengthen representation and inclusion in the public safety workforce.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Applied research at JIBC contributes directly to the institution's mission of *developing dynamic justice and public safety professionals through exceptional applied education, training, and research*. It provides the evidence, partnerships, and tools that ensure JIBC's programs remain relevant, responsive, and impactful. Guided by the vision of *safer communities and a more just society*, JIBC's applied research activities strengthen practice, inform policy, and support organizations to adapt in a rapidly changing world.

This Applied Research Strategic Direction builds on the commitments of *For the Greater Good: JIBC Strategic Plan 2022–2027* and reflects extensive internal and external consultation. It outlines a focused direction that emphasizes three interrelated areas of innovation that cut across disciplines and professional domains:

- 1

Training Innovation – translating research into experiential education that strengthens professional competence and resilience.
- 2

Social Innovation – advancing equitable, inclusive, and community-engaged approaches to justice and public safety practices and operations.
- 3

Technological Innovation – leveraging tools, data, and emerging technologies to enhance learning, preparedness, and decision-making.

Each of these innovation areas is supported by three cross-cutting themes that guide how applied research is planned, supported, and translated into practice at JIBC. Together, these themes reflect the shared requirements for applied research that is collaborative, adequately resourced, and designed to generate benefits that extend beyond individual projects. They ensure that work across all three innovation areas is carried out in a consistent and purposeful way.

- 1

Enhance collaboration and applied problem-solving – advancing equitable, inclusive, and community-engaged approaches to justice and public safety practices and operations.
- 2

Advance applied research capacity – strengthening the people, skills, systems, and partnerships required to conduct rigorous, practice-informed inquiry, ensuring that JIBC has the expertise, infrastructure, and readiness to respond to emerging challenges and to generate evidence that supports both practitioners and students in applying knowledge to real-world contexts.
- 3

Extend reach and impact – ensuring that research findings are not confined to individual projects but are translated into tools, training, and community benefits that strengthen safety, equity, and well-being across the province.

Collectively, these themes guide how projects are designed, how partnerships are developed, how students and practitioners engage in research, and how knowledge is mobilized across systems.

This plan reinforces JIBC's leadership in applied education and research. It positions the Institute to respond effectively to emerging needs while advancing a strong, evidence-informed culture that supports safer communities and a more just society.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVE 1: Advance Training Innovation

GOAL

Strengthen professional competence, adaptability, and readiness by integrating applied research into education and training that reflects evolving practice, community needs, and system priorities.



STRATEGIES

Enhance collaboration and applied problem-solving by working with public safety agencies, community organizations, employers, and diverse learners to ensure that training priorities reflect real operational demands and support equitable pathways into justice and public safety careers.

Advance applied research capacity by developing and evaluating new models of experiential, simulation-based, and work-integrated learning (WIL) that integrate diverse learner perspectives and strengthen student readiness for complex, real-world environments.

Extend reach and impact by sharing and scaling research-informed training approaches across programs, disciplines, and jurisdictions, increasing student access to high-quality applied learning and expanding partnerships that connect learners to employers and communities.

Use applied research to improve how learning is delivered by strengthening evidence-informed, inclusive, and accessible training methods that respond to changing technologies, workforce needs, and community expectations, ensuring that all learners can succeed.

Objective 2: Advance Social Innovation

GOAL

Strengthen justice and public safety through applied research that supports evolving practice, operations, community resilience, and system transformation.



STRATEGIES

Enhance collaboration and applied problem-solving by working with communities, agencies, and partners to address existing and identify emerging social challenges, shared priorities, and opportunities for adaptive and community-engaged approaches that reflect diverse lived experiences and strengthen inclusion.

Advance applied research capacity by strengthening the methods, skills, partnerships, and institutional readiness and contexts needed to study social and cultural issues in justice and public safety, and by supporting diverse learners and communities through applied research.

Extend reach and impact by developing practices, tools, and learning that help professionals, students, and communities from diverse backgrounds adapt to emerging social realities in ways that promote equity and cultural safety.

Build bridges between applied research, training, and leadership development to ensure that social innovation is reflected in how professionals, and future graduates, learn, act, and lead with awareness of diverse community needs and inclusive approaches to practice.



Objective 3: Advance Technological Innovation

GOAL

Strengthen justice and public safety by positioning JIBC as a leader in applied research that evaluates and informs the effective use of technology, data, and digital tools to improve safety, learning, and decision-making.



STRATEGIES

- Enhance collaboration and applied problem-solving by working with agencies, industry, and practice-based educators to understand emerging technological opportunities and challenges, and to co-develop approaches that support inclusive, community-informed practice.
- Advance applied research capacity by strengthening JIBC’s methods, expertise, and readiness to evaluate the value, accessibility, and impact of technology on diverse learners, practitioners, and professional contexts.
- Extend reach and impact by generating evidence and practical guidance that support organizations, communities, and training partners in adopting technology in ways that strengthen safety, readiness, equity, and public confidence.
- Apply research findings to enhance simulation, immersive learning, and work-integrated learning (WIL), ensuring that technology-enhanced education strengthens experiential learning and improves outcomes for all learners.



MEASURES OF SUCCESS



- Success will be reflected in the extent to which JIBC’s applied research strengthens its ability to respond to emerging needs, generate practical knowledge, and translate research into improvements in education, training, professional practice, and community outcomes.
- Over the life of this Strategic Direction, JIBC will look for evidence of:
- Stronger and more diverse partnerships with justice and public safety agencies, communities, industry, government, and other research partners;
 - Increased capacity to undertake applied research, including stronger research expertise, infrastructure, systems, student involvement, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration;
 - Greater use of applied research to address real-world challenges identified by practitioners, partners, communities, and learners;

- Increased integration of research findings into JIBC education and training, including curriculum, simulation, experiential learning, work-integrated learning, and emerging approaches to professional development;
- Greater development and adoption of research-informed tools, practices, technologies, models, and approaches that improve professional practice and organizational decision-making;
- Broader reach and uptake of JIBC research beyond individual projects, including use by practitioners, partner organizations, communities, and decision-makers;
- Meaningful student participation in applied research that builds practical skills, professional connections, and readiness for employment; and
- Evidence that applied research is contributing to safer, more resilient, equitable, inclusive, and responsive justice and public safety systems and communities.

These measures will provide a foundation for assessing progress and informing the future development of performance indicators as JIBC strengthens its applied research data and evaluation capacity.



Start the conversation.

Connect with us to explore how applied research can support your goals and strengthen your community.



jibc.ca/research



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We respectfully acknowledge that the Justice Institute of British Columbia serves people across the province situated on Traditional, unceded, and Treaty Territories and the many Nations who are represented by the urban Indigenous population in British Columbia.



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