Canadian Community-Based Research Centres

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Introduction

As communities prepare for, and respond to, economic, social, and political change, they need timely, relevant, and useful information to help them make decisions. Pressures limiting community development and community economic development in rural and small town places, however, include challenges around human resources, infrastructure, industrial capacity, policy supports, environmental assets, and others. At the same time, there has been increasing pressure to pursue more collaborative, community-based research partnerships in order to produce meaningful knowledge that can lead to change. In this context, community-based research institutions can be an important source of information for these small communities. These institutions can provide knowledge that supports innovation and competitiveness, informs strategic planning exercises and community development initiatives, mobilizes resources, builds local capacity, facilitates local and regional networks, empowers community engagement, and improves the quality-of-life in small places. Community-based research centres can also be an ‘honest’ broker of relationships and agreements between communities, community service groups, industries, and various levels of government. These centres can also play an important role to develop our next generation of community-based researchers by connecting them with relevant research experiences to prepare them to engage in this more collaborative research environment and to be better consumers of research.

The purpose of this report is to broaden the understanding of the types of community-based research centres that exist across Canada. This document is organized into two parts. The first part of this report contains an inventory of community-based rural research centres, while the second part of the report provides information about community-based research centres that focus much of their work in urban places. For each community-based research centre, a range of information was collected including:

- contact information,
- background / mandate,
- general information brochures,
- student information brochures,
- annual reports, and
- policy documents.

The information for this report was collected in February 2012. For further information about this report, feel free to contact Greg Halseth, Director of UNBC’s Community Development Institute.

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Community-Based Rural Research Centres

Community-Based Rural Research Centres in Canada

ACSR - University of Alberta Augustana Campus Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (Camrose)
ARDN - Alberta Rural Development Network (Sherwood Park)
CBROI - Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (Castlegar)
CDI - Community Development Institute (Prince George)
CRDT - Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial (Rimouski)
C-RERL - Canadian Rural Economy Research Lab (Saskatoon)
CRHRS - Canadian Rural Health Research Society (Saskatoon)
CRS - The Centre for Rural Sustainability (Wolfville)
Harris - The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development (St. John's)
INORD - Institute of Northern Ontario Research and Development (Sudbury)
Monieson - The Monieson Centre (Kingston)
PELA - Prince Edward/Lennox and Addington Institute for Rural Development (Picton)
RDI - Rural Development Institute (Brandon)
ROI - Rural Ontario Institute (Guelph)
RSTP - Rural and Small Town Programme (Sackville)
RURAL - The Atlantic RURAL Centre (Halifax)
SIPHERU - Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (Saskatoon)
U-Links - U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research (Minden)
ALBERTA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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What is ARDN?

The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) is a partnership of Alberta’s 21 publicly-funded, publicly-governed colleges, universities, and technical institutes working together to support and enhance rural development. These institutions have combined their expertise, ideas, and resources to strengthen Alberta’s rural way of life. The value of this network is that it draws on the strengths of diverse organizations, gathers and conducts extensive research, and perhaps most importantly, has deep connections in all regions of the province.

Vision:

A strong sustainable network that is the leading source of trusted rural development, research, and learning.

Mission:

To create a model of rural community development through collaboration in research and learning.

Mandate:

The Alberta Rural Development Network will use the combined expertise of Alberta’s post-secondary institutions to support rural development in Alberta and help rural communities grow through learning.
Primary Objectives

The mandate recognizes that the members of the Network are in the business of learning – at every level and in every part of the province. It also recognizes that learning is a vital component of the future of rural communities, whether that’s through expanding access to a range of learning opportunities in rural Alberta, expanding the capacity of communities, applying research and best practices, or building economic development opportunities. While a range of activities are possible using the combined expertise of the Network, the primary objectives are to:

- Provide a resource to rural communities - providing training and human resource expertise to help communities develop capacity, identify community needs, and follow through on opportunities to build stronger futures in rural Alberta.
- Expand access to training and education in rural communities - bringing more opportunities to rural communities and taking full advantage of SuperNet and the combined capacity of post-secondary institutions and rural communities.
- Provide a proactive source for up-to-date information, knowledge and models of best practice in rural development - allowing communities to learn from experiences in other locations and to access not only information but also people, expertise, and ideas.
- Provide strategic research on economic, cultural, environmental, and social issues affecting the well-being of people in rural communities – using partnerships among institutions and with communities and other partners to facilitate collaborative research, share results and findings, and develop products and processes.

The Network operates on a virtual basis allowing communities to access the full range of expertise and capacity from all of the members of the Network, not just the institution closest to their community.

Members of the Network have agreed to commit time, people, and resources to the Network to make it work. They also have agreed to work together, to engage the full capacity of the Network whenever rural communities are looking for assistance, and to build on the current relationships each member of the Network has with rural communities across the province.

To establish the Alberta Rural Development Network, the initial institutions involved a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all public post-secondary institutions in the province.

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.
Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:


CANADA RURAL ECONOMY RESEARCH LAB

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About C-RERL

The Canada Rural Economy Research Lab (C-RERL) is located in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics at the University of Saskatchewan.

C-RERL is a state-of-the-art research facility designed to study Canada's rural economy, quality of life, and environment utilizing the latest GIS software and statistical packages.

C-RERL examines all issues that affect the vitality of Rural Canada from a diversified economy, healthcare, environment, amenities, transportation, to a productive and sustainable agricultural sector. Whether it is linking GIS to survey results, creating informative maps, to analysis using complex statistical techniques, C-RERL endeavors to use the most innovative research approaches to assess issues that affect all Canadians.

A central part of C-RERL’s mission is to inform public policies designed to stabilize and enhance rural communities throughout the nation in general and in Saskatchewan in particular. Declining agricultural employment has disproportionately hit rural areas and rural institutions have adapted slowly to these economic forces. The inevitable outcome has been that Saskatchewan’s rural public and private infrastructure has been inadequate to stimulate growth in the New Economy. An analogous policy concern is emerging for urban centres where governance and finance are identified as major challenges in coping with growth and expansion. At the provincial and federal level, relatively poor rural economic performance has heightened concerns related to regional equity. The intent is to create a research environment that will facilitate the design of government policies that are conducive to full participation in the new economy by rural areas and rural communities.

C-RERL is open to partners in research and clients from the provincial government. Individuals or groups are invited to explore the capabilities of the facility and to utilize the services available through joint projects, contract research or on a fee-for-service
basis. Demonstrations of the features of the lab are available upon request and questions regarding its use and potential are welcome.

**General Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Student Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Annual Reports:**

Not available.

**Policy Documents:**


Skotheim, J. 2005. Leveling the Playing Field for Saskatchewan’s Startups. Saskatoon: Rural Economy Research Lab, University of Saskatchewan.
CANADIAN RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH SOCIETY

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Mission Statement

Our Mission:

To facilitate research and knowledge translation aimed at understanding and promoting the health of people living in rural and remote Canada

Our Goals:

To build inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, mutually supportive, and community-focused research networks concerned with rural and remote health

To develop health research that is responsive to the needs of people living in rural and remote communities

Our Targets:

Increase in the number of researchers active in rural and remote health research.

Increase in the number of nationally funded peer-reviewed research projects in rural and remote health.

Increase in the number of studentships, post-doctoral fellows and research chairs with a focus on rural and remote health.

Increase in the involvement of rural and remote communities in planning, implementing and evaluating health research.
General Information Brochures:
Not available.

Student Information Brochures:
Not available.

Annual Reports:
Not available.

Policy Documents:
CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT TERRITORIAL

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Mission:

The Centre de recherché sur le developpement territorial (RTDC) is a group policy approved in May 2003 by the Quebec Fund for Research on Society and Culture (FQRSC). It brings together scientists and researchers working in the field of territorial development.

The activities of the RTDC are increasing knowledge on various aspects of regional development in Quebec and elsewhere in the world.

Using various methodologies, research and can support decision-making as well as the evaluation of policies, programs or development projects, land use planning, and regional development.

The PRDC is a host environment stimulating and highly creative in training, coaching and development of students, researchers, analysts, or those interested in the field of regional development.

For researchers at the RTDC, regional development is a common interest. It is both an emerging line of research and a foundation for initiatives, especially for the public to better understand and influence factors that determine economic development. These factors are economic, cultural, political, and relate to the characteristics of the places.

Spatial development perspective is needed as a re-articulation of both knowledge (from several disciplines) that the territories for the real progress of humanity: the equitable distribution of wealth, the pursuit of democratic experience, preservation and flowering of the cultures.
General Information Brochures:
Not available.

Student Information Brochures:
Not available.

Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:


Noranda: Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial, Université du Québec à Rimouski.


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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Background:

Rural and small town places across central and northern BC confront a range of social and economic restructuring pressures such as the dependence on single resource based industries, the uncertainty of employment within these industries, the loss of local employment in support industries, the leakage of commercial businesses and retail dollars, and resulting losses in local population. These pressures also include the restructuring of public and private sector investment in both services and facilities. In many cases, service closures also create associated losses in local employment and can limit opportunities for local diversification. In short, rural and small town places in UNBC's service region face challenges as they struggle with sustainability and viability.

At the same time, dynamic opportunities are being explored. These include the cruise ship arrivals in the northwest, destination resort developments near Valemount, dinosaur discoveries near Tumbler Ridge, oil and gas development in the Peace River region, a rejuvenation of mining activity, and a host of other examples.

In addition, community development in northern BC faces a dilemma. On the one hand, public policy is clearly saying that rural and small town places must generate 'bottom up' community and economic development activity. In work with many northern BC communities, we have found that they are already engaged in this bottom up development work. At the same time, however, public policy and market mechanisms have been removing many of the basic infrastructure and information supports which would make bottom up community development feasible. The Community Development Institute at UNBC can play a pivotal role in supporting research and providing information so that people in central and northern BC are able to make their own informed decisions about their community's future.
In accordance with UNBC's founding vision, and with our Mission "as a university in the north, for the north", this Institute can fill a crucial information gap and play a significant role in northern BC as people, places, and economies restructure in response to change. It also serves to support one of the three interdisciplinary themes in UNBC's Strategic Research Plan. Just as the "Sustainability of Communities" theme envisions a range of disciplinary involvement, so too does the Institute encourage a wide range of faculty involvement. The diversity of people and places in northern BC also means that the Institute is respectful of that diversity and UNBC's commitments to openness and equality (En cha huná).

**Purpose:**

The mission of the Community Development Institute at UNBC is to support the research, information, and development needs of Northern BC's rural and small town communities as they adjust to change in the new economy.

The Institute is a resource centre to which communities and decision-makers can turn in their search for timely and relevant information. It is also be a conduit through which information from outside the region is shared with communities. In addition, the Institute is ideally positioned to coordinate broader regional research to understand and energize community development.

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in the issues of community capacity and community development:

Under changing social and economic conditions, communities need the capacity to respond. Community capacity refers to the ability of residents to organize their assets and resources to achieve objectives they consider important. These objectives may be reactive, where people are faced with a challenge, or innovative, where new visions are established and pursued. Community capacity is built and maintained by the norms, traditions, regulations, and social relationships enabling otherwise disparate individuals to co-ordinate their actions for collective ends.

To enhance this capacity requires community development. In a general sense, community development concerns improvements to local social and cultural infrastructure. It is most often identified with increasing the skills, knowledge, and abilities of residents to access information and resources and to then use these tools to create strategies and partnerships which can take advantage of changing circumstances.

The Community Development Institute at UNBC focuses upon:

*Research:*

Balancing both applied and basic work so as to maintain academic credibility and to be of practical relevance to communities.
**Outreach:**

Building upon a strong "extension" tradition to connect research and training opportunities with community needs and to translate best practices and leading scholarship into applied tools for rural and small town places.

**Education:**

Creating community capacity through a close connection between the university curriculum, opportunities under continuing education and regional offerings, and connections with the northern colleges and with specialized centres for delivery of education and training programs.

In addition, the Community Development Institute at UNBC emphasizes the following.

**Capacity Building:**

Through opportunities in training and information sharing, the Institute will create community development capacity 1) among our undergraduate and graduate student population, 2) with in-service professionals, and 3) with community members. Capacity transfer to northern communities and residents is a central goal.

**Collaboration:**

In a resource limited educational setting, we do not seek to replicate already functioning research and educational services nor to be in competition with existing programs and services offered by municipal, regional, provincial, or federal agencies. Instead, collaboration involves mutual working relationships so that each party (whether government or community group) benefits from interaction with the Institute. For example, various centers in BC and elsewhere (none of which have a specific rural/northern focus) have educational outreach programs but no means to coordinate, organize, or offer them in communities. The provincial government's Community Transition Branch and the federal government's Rural Secretariat have also expressed a desire for a working relationship, as they do not have the research capacity to investigate small town transition but can access data otherwise not accessible to university researchers. By combining their interests, the partners achieve a new product and create useful information for communities. Opportunities for collaboration also exist within UNBC, such as with the Institute for Social Research and Evaluation.

**Complementarily:**

In terms of complementarily, shared interests between UNBC research institutes provides a foundation for wider study of topics which will feed directly into the outreach activities of the Institute by creating information and products relevant to rural and small town communities. For example, the changing availability of health care services is a shared interest with the BC Rural and Remote Health Research Institute and the different
approaches each takes will generate synergy. An important complementary relationship also exists with UNBCs Northern Land Use Institute. Refinement of the NLUI's mission on "land use" to integrate settlement and resource landscapes creates the need for a companion interest in the human side of community development issues.

Classroom/Community Service Learning:

Opportunities are also made available by coordinating community needs with classroom teaching opportunities for UNBC faculty and students. This is increasingly important for universities, and UNBC is building upon its already strong faculty commitment and community interest.

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

Community Development Institute. 2009. UNBC Community Development Institute Annual Report 2009. Prince George: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Community Development Institute. 2010. UNBC Community Development Institute Annual Report 2010. Prince George: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Community Development Institute. 2011. UNBC Community Development Institute Annual Report 2010. Prince George: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

Policy Documents:


Markey, S., Halseth, G. and Manson, D. 2006. Re-orient to Readiness: Overcoming Barriers to Implementation in the Northwest Region of British Columbia. Prince George: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.


Ryser. L. and Halseth, G. 2010. A Primer for Understanding Issues Around Rural Poverty. Prince George: Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia.

COLUMBIA BASIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute was established in October 2010. A website is being developed

Regional Innovation Chair:

The Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development (RIC) was formally established on November 15, 2006 to conduct a program of research in rural economic development. The position is supported through an endowment established under the BC Leading Edge Endowment Fund, which included matching funding from non-government sources.

George Penfold held the position of Regional Innovation Chair until his retirement in July 2011. Dr. Terri MacDonald assumed the role of Regional Innovation Chair in July 2011.

The work of the RIC is based on regional priorities and on partnerships with local and regional organizations and businesses. The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre provides complementary expertise, access to data and state-of-the-art GIS and other research tools and skills.

Goals:

Based on a foundation of applied research and outreach, the goals of the Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development are to:

- Develop the capacity in the region for sound decision-making in matters related to economic development, through the provision of relevant research data and analysis, together with related skill and capacity development.
• Assist in the diversification of the regional economy through the promotion of innovation and technology transfer in existing and new enterprises.

• Support provincial and national networks that undertake applied research on the revitalization of high amenity, highly rural communities and regions.

**Outcomes:**

The work of the Regional Innovation Chair will aim to improve the economic climate of rural communities in the region by supporting evidence-based planning and decision-making. Expected outcomes include:

• A better understanding of the challenges faced by rural areas, leading to more effective policies, programs and regulations.

• Greater capacity within regional and local organizations involved in economic development.

• Better informed decisions by both public and private sector organizations.

• Assist in development of strategic directions for investment and economic development within the region.

• Move innovative, more effective and greater levels of public and private sector investment.

• Diversification and innovation in telecommunications and the knowledge sectors.

• More employment or, at the very least, stabilizing existing employment levels and security of income.

• Greater economic diversity within both regional and local economies.

The Regional Innovation Chair also has the responsibility of leading the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI). Supported through a multi-year partnership between Selkirk College and the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) the RDI was announced at the Columbia Basin Symposium in October 2010. In 2008, CBT launched a State of the Basin Initiative, with the first Basin-wide indicator report and website. The work of the RDI will now bring together the responsibility for and assets of CBT’s State of the Basin Initiative and Selkirk’s Regional Innovation Chair to create a sustained resource for promoting and supporting informed planning, decision-making, and citizen engagement in the Columbia Basin and Boundary regions.
General Information Brochures:
None available

Student Information Brochures:
Not available

Annual Reports:
Not available

Policy Documents:
Not available
Contact Information:

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Background:

The Institute for Northern Ontario Research and Development is committed to developing the knowledge and capacities needed to create a dynamic, diversified and sustainable economy and society in Northern Ontario.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

Not available.

Policy Documents:


Contact Information:

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Website: http://www.pelaird.ca/

History:

The PELA Institute for Rural Development was established in 2007 to serve the economic and social interests of Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington Counties through sustainable economic development.

In accomplishing this goal the PELA Institute, in association with its partners, aimed to gather information, analyze trends, exchange ideas and best practices, provide policy alternatives; and attract the attention of academics, researchers, and government to specific rural development issues affecting PELA Counties. Furthermore, the PELA Institute was designed to assist supporting partners in the development of rural policy, and to help measure and monitor the results of its implementation. It accomplished this through strategic alliances with key research institutes to assist with the collection and analysis of rural data to develop research and policy alternatives, as well as facilitate the sharing of ideas.

However, several barriers to rural economic development were identified. From a lack of relevant, recent, and specific data for Rural Eastern Ontario to a lack of cooperation between communities in Eastern Ontario to a lack of attention paid to Eastern Ontario by academics, researchers and government officials. These barriers are what the PELA Institute, through such tools as the central repository of information, intends to break down, allowing for further future economic development.
General Information Brochures:
Not available.

Student Information Brochures:
Not available.

Annual Reports:
Not available.

Policy Documents:

Rural and Small Town Programme
Mount Allison University
144 Main Street
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Website: http: http://www.mta.ca/research/rstp/index.htm

The Rural and Small Town Programme closed in June 2011; however, their policy
document contributions have been included in this document.

Background:

The Rural and Small Town Programme prepared people and organizations to adapt to
change and to act on opportunities for developing sustainable rural communities and
small towns. The Programme linked research and action by generating and sharing new
knowledge, developing self-help tools, and providing information and educational
services which lead to innovative approaches and solutions.

General Information Brochures:

Not available

Student Information Brochures:

Not available

Annual Reports:

Not available

Policy Documents:

Bruce, D. and Merrill, S. 2010. Needs and Demands for Youth Housing and Support
Services in Charlottetown and Summerside Prince Edward Island. Sackville: Rural and
Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University.

Economic Development: An Informed Approach for Measuring Progress and Success.
Sackville: Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University.


Background:

Rural populations face considerable challenges in today’s rapidly changing society. Restructuring in agriculture and industry, plus fiscal restraint and shifts in rural and northern demographics are leading to a re-examination of the roles of governments, communities and individuals.

Brandon University’s Rural Development Institute (RDI) is a centre for excellence in rural development helping strengthen rural and northern communities through research and information on issues unique to these areas.

Our Mandate:

For more than 100 years Brandon University has been a cornerstone of the City of Brandon and southwestern Manitoba. Throughout this time, Brandon University has maintained its foundation as a rurally-based university with strong national and international links.

Brandon University established the Rural Development Institute in 1989 as an academic research center and a leading source of information on issues affecting rural communities in Western Canada and elsewhere.

The RDI functions as a not-for-profit research and development organization designed to promote, facilitate, coordinate, initiate, and conduct multi-disciplinary academic and applied research on rural issues. The Institute provides an interface between academic research efforts and the community by acting as a conduit of rural research information and by facilitating community involvement in rural development. RDI projects are characterized by cooperative and collaborative efforts of multi-stakeholders.
The Institute has diverse research affiliations, and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate. The RDI disseminates information to a variety of constituents and stakeholders and makes research information and results widely available to the public either in printed form or by means of public lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences.

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:


Bucklaschuk, J. 2008. Mapping Ethnocultural Communities and Organizations in Brandon and the Westman Region. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.


Rural Ontario Institute

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About Us:

The Rural Ontario Institute contributes to a strong, vibrant rural Ontario with vision, voice, and leadership.

Mission:

Developing leaders, initiating dialogue, supporting collaboration and promoting action on issues and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

Strategic Elements:

- Developing Leaders
- Initiating Dialogue
- Supporting Collaborations
- Identifying Key Issues and Opportunities
- Building Organizational Capacity in Rural Ontario

Looking forward, the Rural Ontario Institute will embark on initiatives that build strong rural leaders and represent the critical rural voice on issues of importance to rural Ontario.

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD.
Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:

Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research. 2009. Exploring the Socio-Economic Impact of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Thunder Bay and Sudbury, Ontario: Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research Lakehead and Laurentian Universities.


Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit

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Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit
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Evaluation Research:

SPHERU also engages in Research Evaluation projects and promotes health equity by addressing health disparities through policy relevant research.

Research Methods:

SPHERU’s team is involved in four inter-related kinds of primary and secondary research aimed at:

- The creation of new knowledge.
- Independent policy analysis.
- Collaborative research with policy makers around shared research questions and evaluation of policies and programs.
- Collaboration with communities on identifying the sources of health inequities and strategies to reduce these inequities.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.
Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:


The Atlantic Rural Centre Halifax

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Website: http://www.theruralcentre.com/

About: Atlantic RURAL Centre

Formed in 2004 and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Atlantic RURAL Centre promotes research development, collaboration, and knowledge translation between researchers, government agencies, concerned citizens, and rural Atlantic Canadians.

Through research and other initiatives, the Atlantic RURAL Centre seeks to make a positive impact on the lives of rural Atlantic Canadians.

Our Mission:

To enhance our understanding of physical and socioeconomic environmental influences on health and the capacity of rural Atlantic Canadians to respond to these challenges.

Objectives:

The RURAL Centre is a mutually-supportive collaborative research network and resource centre that aims to:

- To provide a locus for exchange of ideas between researchers, government agencies, concerned citizens, and rural Atlantic Canadians.
- To foster trans-disciplinary research interactions and initiatives in Atlantic Canada.
- To create enhanced training opportunities for students and rural health professionals in Atlantic Canada.
- To include research on innovation uptake and implementation by policy makers and health service providers in Atlantic Canada.
General Information Brochures:
Not available.

Student Information Brochures:
Not available.

Annual Reports:
Not available.

Policy Documents:

There was a note on the page for research stating, “This page is down momentarily for revisions”
The Centre for Rural Sustainability, Acadia University

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Website: http://www.ruralsustainability.org/index2.htm

About the CRS:

We are a community non-profit organization that facilitates learning, planning, and strategic decision making around issues of long-term and short-term sustainability for rural Nova Scotia communities. We envision a not-too-distant future where the financially stable economies of rural communities are fuelled by ecologically sustainable means that foster quality of life, social justice, and health.

Our objectives:

- Cultivate sustainability education, planning and management resources in rural communities.
- Partner with local and regional governments and organizations to generate and implement sustainability initiatives in rural communities.
- Develop and maintain a financially viable sustainability demonstration centre.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

None available.
Policy Documents:

THE HARRIS CENTRE OF REGIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

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The Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development
Memorial University of Newfoundland
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Website: http://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/index.php.

Our Mandate:

The Harris Centre mandate is to co-ordinate and facilitate Memorial University’s activities relating to regional policy and development, and advise on building the University’s capacity and identify priority themes and projects relating to teaching, research, and outreach.

Our Vision:

The Harris Centre’s vision for Newfoundland and Labrador is of a vibrant democracy with informed citizens actively engaged in realizing a prosperous and sustainable society which values individual and collective responsibility for decision-making and development, true to our unique culture and identity.

Our Values:

The Harris Centre aspires to live up to the reputation of, Dr. Leslie Harris, in whose honour the Centre was named. The following qualities guide the work done at the Harris Centre:

*Integrity:*

The Harris Centre is an honest broker that harnesses the resources of the University in speaking truth to power at all levels.

*Independence:*

The Harris Centre respects the professional expertise of Memorial’s faculty, staff and students in providing objective contributions to regional policy and development.
Inclusivity:

The Harris Centre values and respects difference, and strives to include varying perspectives in its activities and programs.

Transparency:

The Harris Centre adopts best practices in governance, decision making and communications to ensure fair and open operations.

Collaboration:

The Harris Centre recognizes the contributions of individual citizens, private, public and community organizations, as well as Memorial faculty, staff and students, in the collective advancement of regional policy and development.

Practical Application:

The Harris Centre will encourage research, teaching and outreach that are relevant to the needs of the citizens, communities and organizations of Newfoundland and Labrador and to the governance of the province.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:
The Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development. 2007. Economic Development Benefits of the Oil and Gas Industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John’s: The Harris Centre, Memorial University.


Hall, H. 2010. Local Governance, Creativity and Regional Development in Newfoundland and Labrador: Lessons for Policy and Practice from Two Projects. St. John’s: The Leslie Harris Centre, Memorial University.


The Monieson Centre

Scott Carson, Director
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History:

The Monieson Centre was established in November 1998 at Queen's University within the Queen's School of Business with generous funding from Melvin R. Goodes (former Chairman and CEO of Warner-Lambert). The Centre is named for Dr. David Danny Monieson, an emeritus faculty member renowned for inspirational teaching and leadership at Queen's School of Business.

Mandate:

The Monieson Centre brings leading academic research to business, government, and community audiences to create value through knowledge. The Centre focuses on research themes related to the knowledge economy - how to harness the expertise of individuals, organizations and communities to create knowledge capital. Acclaimed researchers study issues such as governance, corporate culture, innovation, change management, human resource management and economics. Issues are studied theoretically and practically. The result is innovation, insight and understanding to grow business, inform policy, and revitalize industries and communities. We call it “research at the speed of business.”

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.
Annual Reports:


Policy Documents:


Note: The Monieson Centre has an extensive database of research documents for the following topics:

- Agriculture,
- Community Development,
- Economic Diversity and Entrepreneurship,
- Economy,
- Education,
- Environment and Natural Resources,
- Health and Wellness,
- Information Technology and Knowledge Transfer,
- Infrastructure,
- Labour Market and Human Capital, and
- Migration and Demographics.

However, these documents cannot be downloaded – they must be ordered from the Centre. It is not clear from the list which documents have policy implications.
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA – AUGUSTANA CAMPUS: ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

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About Us:

The ACSRC is a joint-initiative of the Augustana Faculty and ALES, and has a core operating budget and staff supported by both of these faculties. Project funds are derived from research and other grants, contribution agreements and contracts with agencies such as the Tri-Council, provincial government and similar bodies.

Vision:

The vision of the ACSRC is of resilient rural communities across Canada linked closely to the discovery, dissemination, and application of new knowledge at the University of Alberta through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement, and partnerships. Such resilient rural communities will hinge on informed citizens actively participating in community governance and development in order to support and sustain the people, livelihoods, regional and local capital, economic development; and long-term social viability of rural communities as a key element of the Canadian economy, the natural environment and as home to many Canadians.

Mission:

The mission of the ACSRC is to link the research, outreach, and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.
Collaboration:

The ACSRC recognizes the contributions and capacity of individual citizens, private, public, community and other non-governmental organizations, faculty, staff and students of post-secondary institutions in Alberta, in collectively advancing the development and sustainability of rural communities.

Capacity building:

The ACSRC is committed to supporting the ability of rural communities via research, outreach, and knowledge transfer. To not only govern themselves, but to participate in a meaningful and efficacious manner at and with all levels of government and administration.

Goals:

The ACSRC has established 5 goals which, through their accomplishment, will move the Centre toward achieving its mission in a fashion consistent with its vision and values.

Research:

Stimulate, support and conduct research on the multiple elements of rural community sustainability.

Education:

Stimulate and support innovative education in rural community development, sustainability and policy.

Outreach:

Generate greater interaction and collaboration with rural community stakeholders.

Knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange (KSTE):

Stimulate, support and conduct KSTE to support evidence-informed decision-making and governance at multiple levels, from the local to the international.

Sustainable Operations Challenges:

- To provide research leadership, profile and coordination to the University’s commitment to rural engagement.

- To foster research of relevance to rural communities, including interdisciplinary and inter-Faculty collaborative research, that may be regional, national, or international in scope.
- To think respectfully and reciprocally with, not just for, rural communities, and to facilitate knowledge transfer.

- To develop collaborative relationships with other university-based rural centres in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

**General Information Brochures:**

Brochure available on CD

**Student Information Brochures:**

Not available

**Annual Reports:**

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. 2010. Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Annual Report 2009-2010. Camrose: Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, University of Alberta Augustana Campus.

**Policy Documents:**

Raphael, D. 2003. Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in Canada: Bridging the Gap Between Research Findings and Public Policy. Camrose: Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, University of Alberta Augustana Campus.
U-LINKS CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY – BASED RESEARCH, ONTARIO

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K0M 2K0

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Website: http://www.haliburtoncooperative.on.ca/ulinks/

About U-Link Centre for Community – Based Research:

The U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research delivers the Community-Based Education Program in Haliburton County, bringing the resources of the university to the community and the resources of the community to the university.

U-Links is a project of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative and is supported by Trent University and the Township of Minden Hills. U-Links works in co-operation with our program delivery partner in Peterborough County, the Trent Centre for Community – Based Education (TCCBE).

Purpose:

Our purpose is to link organizations and businesses in Haliburton County with research needs to university and college students and professors who are interested in undertaking community-based research projects.

Goals

- To provide assistance to community organizations, businesses, and municipalities in finding practical information that will support social, cultural, environmental, and economic development in Haliburton County.

- To provide university students with opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills by working on community-based research projects.

- To provide the community with opportunities to inform universities about community issues and development.
**General Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Student Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Annual Reports:**


**Policy Documents:**

Link to on-line catalogue does not work.
CARLETON CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY INNOVATION, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

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Website: http://www3.carleton.ca/3ci/index.htm

About Carleton Centre for Community Innovation:

Carleton University was born out of the community over 60 years ago. Since then, it has forged strong links and developed a positive reputation within its local community, nationally and internationally. Carleton’s most recent Strategic Plan (Defining Dreams 2009) identifies four pillars of identity for our institution:

- Innovation,
- Location,
- Engagement with the community, and
- Solutions to real world problems.

The Carleton Centre for Community Innovation is a university research centre building on Carleton’s four pillars of identity. Further, it is directly committed to realization of the Carleton Academic Plan (2010) that sets research and teaching goals for the University in the frame of Critical and Creative Inquiry and Engagement.

Carleton’s Mission:

Through research, education and program management, to investigate, strengthen and disseminate innovation in non profit and philanthropic management, social finance, responsible investment, community-based economic development, and local governance, on the part of geographic communities and communities of interest, in Canada and around the world.

Acting as a catalyst and convener, and linking research to practice and policy, the Centre seeks to enhance understanding and knowledge of the distinctive contributions of the non-profit, voluntary, and philanthropic sectors and local institutions to the quality of life of citizens and community vitality.
We invite community leaders, policymakers, business executives, trade unionists, non-profit managers and engaged scholars to join us in producing action-oriented knowledge that will empower communities to build better lives for their citizens.

**General Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Student Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Annual Reports:**

Not available.

**Policy Documents:**


History:

The Centre for Sustainable Community Development (SCD) aims to integrate economic, social and environmental objectives in community development. SCD is based on a consideration of the relationship between economic factors and other community elements such as housing, education, the natural environment, health, accessibility and the arts. SCD has emerged as a compelling alternative to conventional approaches to development: a participatory, holistic, and inclusive process that leads to positive, concrete changes in communities by creating employment, reducing poverty, restoring the health of the natural environment, stabilizing local economies, and increasing community control.

Our Mandate:

The SFU Centre for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD), formerly the Community Economic Development Centre was founded in 1989. The Centre’s mission is to support the sustainable development of communities through research, education (credit and non-credit), and community mobilization. The centre provides research, training, and advisory services throughout BC and Canada as well as internationally. The CSCD offers an undergraduate certificate and post-baccalaureate diploma (both also available through distance education), graduate support, and a non-credit professional program.

Research Projects:

The CSCD is committed to developing practical, effective solutions for environmental, social, and economic challenges, and possesses a unique understanding and approach to support businesses and communities in their transition to sustainability. We conduct rigorous applied and participatory research in supporting this goal. Research is conducted
by centre faculty and staff, graduate students, undergraduate students, and associates. Our results are disseminated through a variety of channels, including books, academic journal articles, papers, reports, student projects and the media.

**General Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Student Information Brochures:**

Not available.

**Annual Reports:**

Not available.

**Policy Documents:**


CENTRE FOR TOURISM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

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Website: http://ctcdr.lakeheadu.ca/

CTCD Mission:

The mission of the Lakehead University CTCD is to promote balanced sustainable development in cooperation with communities and partners through involvement in interdisciplinary research, community education, and consultancy services.

To achieve this mission, the CTCD will seek to:

● Respond to and liaise with members of communities and regions serviced by Lakehead University. (Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses)
● Develop projects and solutions based on identified community needs.
● Respond to challenges and opportunities by facilitating processes to address, implement, and monitor research.
● Identify and foster regional, national and international partnerships of interest that contribute to better understanding and implementing social, environmental, and economic sustainability in small communities.

The Centre also aims to contribute to the mission of Lakehead University as an accessible and accountable comprehensive university committed to excellence in faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research within the region, nation, and beyond.

Characteristics of the CTCD Approach:

The Centre’s approach to its research and activities will:

● Be interdisciplinary in nature to reflect the characteristics of the complex social, environmental, and economic issues facing communities in our region.
● Adopt a complex systems perspective in addressing the development of sustainable communities and businesses.
● Focus on smaller communities in terms of population, services, and location.
• Operate as a ‘store front’ for communities to access the collective expertise of the University faculty associated with the research centre.
• The interdisciplinary approach of the Centre is reflected in the researchers initially involved from the Faculties of Professional Schools (ORPT); Forestry and Forest Sciences, Business, Science and Environmental Studies (Geography) and we anticipate that this involvement will expand further to other Faculties and Departments as the Centre develops.

General Information Brochures:
Not available.

Student Information Brochures:
Not available.

Annual Reports:

Policy Documents:
Not available.
Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto

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About CUCS:

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies promotes and disseminates multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on urban issues. The Centre’s activities are intended to contribute to scholarship on questions relating to the social and economic well-being of people who live and work in urban areas large and small, in Canada and around the world. The Centre was established in 1964 as a research unit of the School of Graduate Studies. Its research associates include professors and graduate students from a dozen different disciplines and professionals from a variety of organizations.

Our Mandate:

The Centre exists to:
- Bring together faculty, professionals, and graduate students interested in urban development, policy issues, and the quality of life in cities.
- Encourage interdisciplinary scholarly research on urban issues.
- Support this research by providing academic staff and students with space, access to services and information, opportunities for collaboration, seminars and conferences, and graduate research internships.
- Disseminate ideas related to urban and community studies to other researchers and to agencies and organizations interested in urban matters by publishing books, reports, bibliographies, and research bulletins.
- Improve communications among researchers and between researchers and the broader urban community.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.
Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

Not available.

Policy Documents:


Dobilas, G. and Battye, F. 2005. Multi-Partner Funding for Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto. GHK International (Canada) LTD.


Hulchanski, J.D., Fair, M. 2008. Neighbourhood Change and Building Inclusive Communities from Within. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto.


Rankin, N.K. 2008. Commercial Change in Toronto’s West-Central Neighbourhoods. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto.


Wachsmuth, D. 2008. From Abandonment to Affordable Housing: Policy Options for Addressing Toronto’s Abandonment Problem. Toronto: Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto.

About IUS:

The Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) is an independent research arm of the University of Winnipeg. Since 1969, IUS has been both an academic and an applied research centre, committed to examining urban development issues in a broad, non-partisan manner. The Institute examines inner city, environmental, Aboriginal, and community development issues. In addition to its ongoing involvement in research, IUS brings in visiting scholars, hosts workshops, seminars and conferences, and acts in partnership with other organizations in the community to effect positive change.

Areas of expertise include:

Housing and homelessness; neighborhood and demographic change; program evaluation; urban Aboriginal issues; municipal government; policy analysis; social policy; and sustainable urban development.

General Information Brochures:

Not available.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

Not available.
Policy Documents:


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Website: http://web.uvic.ca/ocbr/

About OCBR:

Office of Community-Based Research at UVic is a community–university partnership. Our mission is to create and support inter-disciplinary, multi-sectoral engagement, research to create vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive communities. Whether it's in the Capital Regional District, on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, Canada or globally, the CBR and campus-community partnership movement is growing and creating locally relevant and globally significant practical, research, and policy solutions to the major issues of our time. OCBR-UVic have created partnerships and collaborated with various NGO's, community members, business, funder, and government representatives on a multitude of topics such as food security, homelessness, and climate change. However, OCBR is not limited to these topics for community based research. Our office responds to emerging issues by supporting academics, students and the wider community to work together to connect research to on-the-ground solutions.

Our Mandate:

OCBR-UVic facilitates collaborative community-university research and partnerships that enhance the quality of life and the economic, environmental, and social well-being of communities. OCBR-UVic creates and supports:

- New opportunities for collaborative research initiatives and projects on issues that arise from and matter to our communities.
- Multi-sectoral partnerships between civil society, non-profit community organizations, First Nations, funding agencies, government, business, and the university.
- Strong evidence-based recommendations for public policies, programs, and practices to meet community needs.
- Innovative national and global networks to support community – based research and community-university engagement.
- Seminars, colloquia, talks, workshops and courses.
OCBR and the Community:

OCBR undertook further consultations with researchers, community groups, and First Nations in 2006 on how the University of Victoria's community engagement, partnerships, research, and projects could be supported or improved. This led to the formal development of OCBR with a Steering Committee composed of equal University and community representatives, the first university-wide and campus-community governance structure of its kind in Canada. The major function that OCBR provides is capacity building and resource support for CBR initiatives and projects. Acting as agents and brokers for community engagement and CBR partnerships is the major role.

General Information Brochures:

Brochure available on CD.

Student Information Brochures:

Not available.

Annual Reports:

Not available.

Policy Documents:

Office of Community Based Research and Faculty of Human and Social Development. 2010. BC Affordable Housing Research and Action Roundtable. Victoria: Office of Community Based Research, University of Victoria.

Office of Community Based Research. 2011. The Local Food Project: Strategies for Increasing Food Security on Vancouver Island. Victoria: Office of Community Based Research, University of Victoria and Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance.
