Research Supporting Regional Collaboration: The Case of the Columbia Basin RDI

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Terri MacDonald, Ph.D
Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development
Selkirk College
Agenda

The Regional Context

Establishing the Rural Development Institute

Research in Partnership

Lessons Learned from Year 1
The Kootenay Region

- ‘Stabilized’ population of approx. 170,000
- Resource-based economy
- Amenity rich
- ‘Fracturing’ geography
The Kootenay Context

- Need for sustainability trends analysis
- Communities with limited & varying capacity
- Community-based research overlaps and support needs
- Increase in regional collaboration but historic challenges remain
- No university in the region
Preferred Future Scenarios

A: Columbia Basin Divide – Booming and Broken
B: Blooming BEST Basin
C: 100 Mile Happiness
D: Paradise Lost

Increase
Response to changing economic conditions
Ability to create sustainable regional systems
Decrease
Selkirk College

- Over 2,000 students
- 70 certificate, diploma and degree programs
- Oldest regional college in BC

Aviation • Contemporary Music & Technology • School of the Arts • School of Environment & Geomatics • Golf Operations & Ski Resort Management • Health & Human Services
Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development

- $1.5 million in matching funds from within the West Kootenay-Boundary
- 21 BC Research Chairs (Health-7, Technology-2, Enviro-3, Social-5, Economic-4)
- One of only 2 RICs located at a college
- Extensive affordable housing research in first 5 years ($10m over 3 years)
The Columbia Basin Trust

- Provincial crown corporation to support region impacted by Columbia River Treaty
- Support economic, social and environmental well-being

- $321m endowment - $276m for hydroelectric projects & $45m for other projects
- $20m annually to support well-being & self-sufficiency
Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute

- **Multi-year partnership** to support informed decision-making

- **The only college-based, ‘rural-placed’ RDI** in Canada

- **Regional** catchment area, well-positioned as a regional rural research incubator

- Understanding **rural revitalization in sustainability terms**

- **Regional approach**, addressing identified regional & sub-regional needs
RDI Goals

SUPPORTING INFOMED DECISION-MAKING THROUGH RELEVANT & TIMELY RESEARCH

PROMOTING INNOVATION & BEST PRACTICE TOOLS

MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT RURAL REVITALIZATION
Research Snap Shot

RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

ATTRACTING YOUNG ADULTS TO RURAL REGIONS KBM PROJECT

SME ADOPTION OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

MANUFACTURING & TECHNOLOGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

STOCKRAF ASSOCIATION RDI SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNITY FUTURES CENTRAL KOOTENAY

INSTALLATION & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION REGIONAL PILOT

PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVE

STATE OF THE BASIN & RDI WEBSITE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT: PILOTING BEST PRACTICES & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

GEOSPATIAL EMPLOYMENT LANDS PROJECT

COLUMBIA BASIN RDI

= RDI led initiative
State of the Basin:
Transitioning to an Integrated Framework

Conservation
Environment

Demographics
Employment

Economic
Income
Built Infrastructure & Housing
Health
Education & Learning
Community & Society

Well Being

Environmental
Cultural
Social
State of the Basin: Indicator Thematic Areas

- **Environmental**
  - Water
  - Air
  - Land
  - Biodiversity
  - Recreation
  - Heritage
  - Arts
  - Culture

- **Economic**
  - Workforce
  - Economy
  - Infrastructure & Housing
  - Transportation
  - Demographics
  - Education & Learning
  - Civic Engagement & Safety
  - Health, Wellness & Affordability
## Communities & Corridors for Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail &amp; Area (Fruitvale, Warfield, Montrose, RDKB Areas A &amp; B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rossland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlegar &amp; RDCK Areas I &amp; J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson &amp; RDCK Areas E &amp; F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaslo &amp; RDCK Area D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmo &amp; RDCK Area G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slocan Valley (Slocan, Silverton, New Denver, RDCK Area H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakusp &amp; RDCK Area K</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**West Kootenay Corridor**

| Creston & RDCK Area A, B & C |
| Kimberley & RDEK Area E |
| Cranbrook & RDEK Area B & C, Indian Reserves |

**South East Kootenay Corridor**

| Fernie & RDEK Area A |
| Elkford |
| Sparwood |

**Elk Valley Corridor**

| Canal Flats |
| Invermere |
| Radium Hot Springs |
| RDEK Area F |
| RDEK Area G |
| Golden & RDCS Area A |

**Columbia Valley Corridor**

| Valemount |
| Revelstoke & RDCS Area B |

**Boundary Corridor**

| Grand Forks |
| Greenwood |
| Midway |
| RDKB Area C |
| RDKB Area D |
| RDKB Area E |
State of the Basin: Approach

- Integrated ‘well-being’ & ‘sustainable development’ framework
- Prioritize analysis of interrelationship between ‘dimensions’
- Inclusion of objective and subjective measures
- Online tool with geospatial mapping and ongoing trends analyses
State of the Basin: Approach

- **Search and compare** indicators by community and corridor
- **Mixed method**, quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- Focus on indicators that can **inform decision-making**
- Long term focus on **community-based research & direct support**
As highlighted in Chart 1, data from Census 2011 reveals the population of the Columbia Basin Boundary Region has returned to 2001 levels, rebounding from a decline in population of 3,704 as reported in the 2006 census.

As Chart 2 reveals, the communities that experienced the highest levels of growth over the last 10 years were Nelson, Cranbrook, Castlegar, Salmo and Creston. The highest levels of population decline over the last 10 years occurred mainly in the northern part of the region, including Revelstoke, Golden, Nakusp and Valemount. The larger communities in the Kootenay Boundary Region District also experienced decline, including the Creston Trail Area, Rossland, and Grand Forks (in the Boundary Corridor). Nakusp and the Slocan Valley has also experienced significant decline over the last 10 years.
RESOURCE DATABASE

**Warfield Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Valemount Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Trail Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Sparwood Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Slocan Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Silverton Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

**Salmo Community Facts** - Local indicators of economic activity tell us about the vitality of a community, as well as the specifics of certain activity. The Community Facts of...

CONTROL PANEL

Use the following selections to filter the displayed resources.

- **Pillars**
  - [ ] Economic
  - [ ] Social
  - [ ] Cultural
  - [ ] Environmental

- **Communities**
  - [ ] Boundary Country
  - [ ] Castlegar
  - [ ] Columbia Valley
  - [ ] Cranbrook
  - [ ] Creston Valley
  - [ ] Elkford
  - [ ] Fernie
  - [ ] Golden
  - [ ] Greater Trail
  - [ ] Kaslo
  - [ ] Kimberley
  - [ ] Nakusp
  - [ ] Nelson
  - [ ] Out of Region
  - [ ] Regional
  - [ ] Revelstoke
  - [ ] Rossland
  - [ ] Slocan
  - [ ] Slocan Valley
  - [ ] Sparwood
  - [ ] Valemount

- **Resource Types**
  - [ ] Document / File

[Filter Resources]
STATE OF THE BASIN

**Legend**
- $ Economic Indicators
- 🌱 Environmental Indicators
- 🖋 Cultural Indicators
- 👥 Social Indicators

**State of the Basin**
A tool to identify, monitor and report on information relating to economic, social, cultural, environmental and other community related aspects as they relate to well-being within the region.

**State of the Basin Poll**
What is the best question to ask in the poll?
- One about trees
- One about commerce
- None of the above
Demographics (Basin-wide)

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante, lobortis id tincidunt at, suscipit velit metus. Aenean turpis ligula, ultricies sed auctor gravida, vestibulum sed nisi. Suspendisse potenti.
Demographics (Basin-wide)

Location: Elftord
Year: 2011

DEMOGRAPHICS DATA #1
DATA TYPE: LINE CHART
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce magna ante, lobortis id tincidunt at, suscipit vel metus. Aenean turpis ligula, ullamcorper sed auctor gravida, vestibulum sed nisi. Suspendisse potenti.
State of the Environment: Piloting Best Practices & Digital Technologies

- Explore the landscape of enviro & sustainability research & planning
- Expand existing SoTB enviro indicators
- Develop web-based geospatial portal
- Build capacity of stakeholders to support data collection efforts & link research planning & implementation
Geospatial Employment Lands Project

Purpose is to better understand the supply, demand and use of employment lands in the region

- Compiling all available GIS data & identifying gaps
- Providing an integrated geospatial / economic development analysis
- Hosting series of forums to discuss findings and link research to planning
- Creating a sustainable, web-based geospatial portal with site selection query functionality
- Create a land use & infrastructure framework to support future local and regional planning
Business Retention & Expansion
Rural Pilot Project

• Best practice research & development of regional model

• Formation of a regional support network

• Pilot in 8 communities and build capacity through tools & training

• Conduct local, sub-regional and regional analysis & support related follow up and planning
Link college expertise to SMEs in an effort to accelerate ADT

- Better understand SME needs and college capacity to address these needs

- Deliver ADT training through a series of workshops, short courses and online GIS courses

- Provide advisory and direct support to SMEs
Attracting & Retaining Young Adults to Rural Regions KBM Project

- Identify & consolidate different forms of knowledge on young adult A&R

- Engage & profile young adult perspectives

- Identify & profile ‘best practice’ policies & programs

- Host a national conference to share perspectives & best practices
Rural Community Service Learning Partnership

- Build the capacity of post-secondary institutions to support rural CSL
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in rural CSL
- Support regional rural development through rural CSL
- Develop a rural CSL partnership model that is replicable and sustainable
Challenges & Solutions from Year 1 of the RDI

• **Institutional constraints & limited capacity**
  → projects to advance institutional culture

• **Perceived competing interests**
  → build trust ‘by doing’ on ‘common ground’

• **Fracturing geography**
  → strategic outreach, video conferencing

• **Limited awareness & managing expectations**
  → communications plan, strategic outreach & build capacity ‘by doing’
Challenges & Solutions from Year 1 of the RDI

• Single funding source  
  → diversify, strategically leverage funds

• Varying levels of rural community capacity  
  → context-driven models & direct support

• Rapidly growing research institute  
  → build foundation based on year 1 needs

• Integrating efforts of leading partners  
  → governance & advisory groups to co-create
The RDI Moving Forward... What is Needed?

• Creating the Research Hub at www.cbrdi.ca

• Growing Rural Researchers & Supporting Community-Based Research

• Informing & Supporting Regional Collaboration

• Brokering research partnerships with the colleges, universities & industry

• Growing the Institute and further leveraging funding
Critical Ingredients

- Purposeful & ongoing community engagement
- Responsiveness & answering ‘so what’ questions
- RDI to take a leadership role, colleges and CBT to do the same
- Manage expectations & effectively communicate impact
- Flexibility to ‘get things done’ is key & focus on assets
- Leverage funding & focus on building capacity
Help Inform RDI Moving Forward

• **Are we on the right track?** – Do the RDI research priorities resonate?

• **Inform SoTB analysis** – feedback on analytic corridors & framework

• **Regional Online Research Library** – out of region resources

• **Contact us** – [cbrdi@selkirk.ca](mailto:cbrdi@selkirk.ca)  Visit us: [www.cbrdi.ca](http://www.cbrdi.ca)

• **Join us** – sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter via website
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