

**Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop,  
May 14-17, 2008 in Prince George, BC**

Within all developed economies we find that rural and small town communities are experiencing considerable change. They are changing as a result of resource industry restructuring, demographic aging and youth out-migration, the restructuring of both public and private sector services, and the ongoing implications of urbanization. Within this context, communities and policy makers are working to meet challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. To be effective, both local and public policy decision makers need a clear understanding of the pressures driving change, the opportunities inherent in such changes, and the creative responses of similar rural and small town areas. To this end, the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and the Enterprise Program at Simon Fraser University (SFU) are co-hosting “Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop” to be held in Prince George from May 14-17, 2008.

This workshop brings together twenty-three rural and small town scholars from eight OECD countries to discuss possibilities about what our next rural economies will look like. Older approaches to community and economic development focused upon a ‘space-economy’ with attention to comparative advantages and overcoming the cost of distances. This approach is being replaced by recognition of the growing importance of ‘place-based economies’ where the unique attributes and assets of individual places now determine its attractiveness for particular types of activities and investments.

**Dissemination plan**

Although the speakers are invited rural and small town development scholars, the workshop will be open to local government and economic development representatives from across northern BC so that the dialogue from this opportunity can have an immediate impact. The resulting book publication will highlight responses to challenges and opportunities for both rural communities and public policy makers so that they can positively engage with contemporary rural development challenges.

Each presenter will explore three topic areas. The first is to provide *general background on rural community and economic restructuring* by highlighting particular nuances and differences. The second will describe efforts at *place-based policy or economic development*, and its implications/lessons for rural community development. The third will consider current trends and successes as they may ground *possible ‘next rural economies’*.

In addition to detailing general trends affecting rural places and regions, and successful place-based adjustments to those trends, we are also interested in chapters which provide detail related to some specific topics. These include the transformation of seasonal economies, renewed natural resource developments, the role of amenity migration, possibilities arising from information technology industries, sustainable/green energy developments, niche education, and alternative models of public service delivery,

transportation development, multi-functionality, transitions supported by senior government adjustment programs, and others.

The resulting publication will highlight responses to challenges and opportunities for both rural communities and public policy makers so that they can positively engage with contemporary rural development challenges. At this point, we have approached 2 international publishers (Ashgate and Routledge) respecting their interest a book on “The Next Rural Economies”. Their wide distribution networks fits with the workshop motive of getting this material to the widest possible audience of rural and public policy decision makers.

### **Workshop Structure**

The event will begin with an opening reception of ‘Day 1’ (Wednesday May 14). Given that participants will be coming from a wide number of countries around the world, this day is to provide opportunity for people to gather in Prince George. A sponsored arrival/reception will be hosted in the evening.

‘Day 2’ (Thursday May 15) will begin with paper presentations and discussion. Depending upon the number of papers, we may schedule a half day site visit. There will be an evening dinner reception (the dinner will be sponsored by a regional development organization). A keynote speaker at the end of Day 2 (Professor Bill Reimer from Concordia University) will reflect on emerging issues in the workshop discussions and the experiences from rural and small town Canada.

‘Day 3’ (Friday May 16) will involve another full day of paper presentations and discussion, a closing roundtable discussion to bring together key lessons, issues, and themes, and then participant departures. The closing roundtable discussion will be led by Greg Halseth (UNBC) and the purpose will be to link general themes and issues as they were raised throughout the workshop. The evening will include a gathering for further informal discussion. Due to other travel plans, some participants may wish to depart Prince George Friday night.

‘Day 4’ (Saturday May 17) will be our departure day. Most international flights from Vancouver depart in the afternoon and evening. This will allow participants to access a range of travel time options.

In addition to the workshop speakers, students from UNBC’s Geography Program and SFU’s Exploration Program will display research posters examining facets of rural and community development.

## **Organizing Committee:**

Greg Halseth  
Professor, Geography Program  
Canada Research Chair, Rural and Small Town Studies  
University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9  
Tel: 250-960-5826  
Fax: 250-960-6533  
Email: [halseth@unbc.ca](mailto:halseth@unbc.ca)  
Website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/>

Sean Markey  
Assistant Professor, Arts and Social Sciences Program  
Instructor, Community Economic Development Centre  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6  
Tel: 778-782-7608  
Fax: 778-782-5473  
Email: [spmarkey@sfu.ca](mailto:spmarkey@sfu.ca)  
Website: <http://www.sfu.ca/cscd/>

David Bruce  
Director, Rural and Small Town Programme  
Adjunct Professor, Geography and Environment Department  
Mount Allison University  
144 Main Street  
Sackville, NB E4L 1A7  
Tel: 506-364-2395  
Fax: 506-364-2601  
Email: [dwb Bruce@mta.ca](mailto:dwb Bruce@mta.ca)  
Website: <http://www.mta.ca/rstp/>

**Participants:**

Dr. Neil Argent	Australia
Dr. Chris Bryant	Canada
Dr. Mary Cawley	Ireland
Dr. Jean-Paul Charvet	France
Dr. Deborah Che	USA
Dr. Owen Furuseth	USA
Dr. Hugh Gayler	Canada
Dr. Lisa Harrington	USA
Dr. Bruno Jean	Canada
Dr. Salma Loudiyi	France
Dr. Nik Luka	Canada
Dr. Peter Nelson	USA
Dr. Kevin O'Toole	Australia
Dr. Masatochi Ouchi	Japan
Dr. Doug Ramsey	Canada
Dr. William Reimer	Canada
Dr. David Storey	England
Ms. Kelly Vodden	Canada
Prof. Nigel Walford	England
Dr. Mike Woods	Wales
Dr. Greg Halseth	Canada
Dr. Sean Markey	Canada
Mr. David Bruce	Canada

## Preliminary Program

### **Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies Workshop**

#### **Day 1: Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

Travel day/ arrival of participants

4:00pm – 6:00 pm: Registration

(Tour University Campus)

6:00pm – 8:00pm: Meet and Greet/ Dinner

#### **Day 2: Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**8:00 AM – 8:15 AM.: Breakfast**

**8:15 AM.: Welcome**

**8:30 AM–10:00 AM: Paper Session 1 – Demographics, Migration & Immigration 1**

Paper 1: Neil Argent - Local economic and social development in the multifunctional landscapes of rural Australia.

Paper 2: Peter Nelson – Labour market change and linked migration in the rural United States

Paper 3: Lisa Butler Harrington – Change in the U.S. Great Plains States

Paper 4: Owen Furuseth – A New Rural North Carolina: Latino Place-making and Community Engagement

Discussion

**10:00-10:30: Break**

**10:30 AM–12:00 PM: Paper Session 2 – Demographics, Migration & Immigration 2**

Paper 5: Nigel Walford - Connecting Rural and Urban Places: Enduring Migration between Small Areas in England and Wales

Paper 6: Hugh Gayler - Ontario's Greenbelt and Place to Grow Legislation and the Future for the Countryside and Rural Economy

Paper 7: Kevin O'Toole – Sustaining Rural Places through Creating New Spaces for Allied Health Professionals

Discussion

**12:00 PM–1:00 PM: Lunch**

**1:30 PM–3:00 PM: Paper Session 3 – Emerging Economies**

Paper 8: Mary Cawley – Adding Value Locally through Integrated Tourism

Paper 9: Deborah Che – Value-added and Entertainment Agricultural Products in Michigan's Fruit Belt

Paper 10: Doug Ramsey – Rural Restructuring and the New Rural Economy: Examples from Germany and Canada

Paper 11: David Bruce – Nurturing the Animation Sector in a Peripheral Economic Region: The Case of Miramichi, NB

Discussion

**3:00 PM–3:30 PM: Break**  
**3:30 PM-5:00 PM: Keynote Address - Bill Reimer**  
**6:00 PM-8:00 PM: Dinner**

**Day 3: Friday, May 16, 2008**

**8:00 AM – 8:15 AM: Breakfast**

**8:15 AM: Welcome**

**8:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Paper Session 4 – Rural Policy and Governance**

Paper 12: Christopher Bryant – Co-constructing Rural Communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges for Central Governments

Paper 13: David Storey – Contemporary Approaches to Rural Development: Lauding the Local

Paper 14: Michael Woods – Political Economies of Place and in the Emergent Global Countryside: Stories from Rural Wales

Paper 15: Bruno Jean – Rural Development: The Next Territorial Development Paradigm

Discussion

**10:00-10:30: Break**

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Paper Session 5 – Rural-Urban Peripheries**

Paper 16: Jean-Paul Charvet – The Reviving Of Small Rural Towns On The Paris Periurban Fringes.

Paper 17: Salma Loudiyi – When urban-rural fringes arise as differentiated place: The socio-economic restructuring of ‘Volvic Sources et Volcans (France)’.

Paper 18: Nik Luka – Rural and small town development in the recreational countryside surrounding Toronto.

Paper 19: Masatochi Ouchi – Rural development strategies in southern Honshu, Japan.

Discussion

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Paper Session 6 – Renewal in Resource Peripheries**

Paper 20: Kelly Vodden – Resource development in the periphery: Lessons from Newfoundland

Paper 21: Sean Markey – Renewal: From Space to Place in Northern British Columbia

Paper 22: Greg Halseth – The Next Rural Economies

Discussion

**2:30 PM–3:00 PM: Break**

**3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Wrap-up and Discussion for Final Chapter**

**4:30 PM – 5:00 PM: Conference Closing**