ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: RURAL CANADA WORKS

Conference Report

2010 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Rural Development Institute
Annual Rural Policy Conference
Brandon, Manitoba
October 14-16, 2010

November 2010
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The conference organizers would like to extend sincere thanks to a number of partners, sponsors and individuals for their contributions to the event. Without these contributions, the event would not have been a success.

The 2010 national conference would not have been possible without the generous financial contributions provided by: The Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), Natural Resources Canada, Heritage Canada, The Metropolis Project, Manitoba Telecom Services, Brandon University, Manitoba Hydro, and Nelson Education.

We would like to extend our thanks to the conference keynote speakers: Alessandro Alasia, Ray Bollman, Philomena deLima, and Thomas G. Johnson for their contributions to the event. We are grateful to the individuals who served as facilitators, session chairs, and event hosts at this year’s conference: Kim Beilby, Mona Cornock, John Devlin, David Douglas, Ivan Emke, Stefan Epp, Marcelle Garreau, David Marit, Pamela McConnell, George Penfold, Barry Pitz, Norman Ragetlie, Doug Ramsey, Bill Reimer, Bruce Strang, and Kelly Vodden.

Our thanks also go to several organizations for their time and generosity in providing informative and much appreciated tours of their facilities that have enhanced the conference experience for a number of participants: Husky Energy Inc., Maple Leaf Foods, A.E. McKenzie Co. Inc., and the Riding Mountain National Park. We are grateful to our volunteer tour guides, Gerald Cathcard, David Lischka, Karen Marchand, and Doug Ramsey, for giving their time and energy to make sure these tours are a success.

The conference was designed by a group of dedicated individuals who have regularly participated in planning meetings and the facilitation of the different aspects of the event. We would like to recognize their efforts and contributions to the event: Marian Beattie, Alister Cucksey, Sylvia Henry, Bev Lischka, Karen Marchand, and Monika Sormova.

Conference planning committee

David Douglas
*Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation*

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*Rural Development Institute*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) annual policy conference, co-hosted by the Rural Development Institute (RDI), was held October 14-16, 2010 in Brandon, Manitoba. *On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works* focused on rural communities and their futures, and highlighted approaches, policies and projects that are making a difference in rural, northern and remote communities across Canada.

The goal of the conference was to provide a venue where community leaders, economic development practitioners, post-secondary students, researchers and government representatives can discuss challenges affecting today's rural communities and share approaches designed to address these challenges. The conference program was designed around three major themes: Changing rural challenges, What’s working, and Pathways into the future.

The three day conference consisted of three keynote presentations, four breakout time-slots with three concurrent sessions in each time-slot with a total of twenty-four research paper presentations and five panel discussions, and eight poster presentations. Also included in the conference program were meetings and networking sessions of the ICRPS planning committee, CRRF Annual General Meeting, New Researchers’ Forum and Roundtable Discussion, and National Network of Rural Research Centres networking lunch.

On the opening day of the conference, the event organizers partnered with Metropolis Project Canada to present a four-hour Metropolis National Symposium, *Why is Francophone Immigration in Manitoba So Successful?* A number of conference participants took the opportunity to participate in two optional field trips highlighting several local and regional communities and companies.

The conference attracted over 140 participants from across Canada as well as two international presenters. The overall rating of the conference was very good with many comments from participants complimenting presentations, networking opportunities with diverse professional groups, wide area of topics covered, and the organization of the event.
INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) annual policy conference was held in Brandon, Manitoba, October 14-16, 2010.

This national conference brought together students, researchers, economic development practitioners, policy makers, community leaders, and senior representatives from municipal, provincial and federal governments. Over the next three days, more than 140 conference participants shared and discussed policies, projects, and practices designed to actively address rural challenges and help define rural futures.

The goal of the event was to provide a forum for sharing best approaches to address challenges faced by rural, northern and remote Canadian communities, and to inform the development of future policies and approaches on the development of rural areas. The conference provided a unique opportunity for information and knowledge exchange on rural development policies, projects and practices among participants from different sectors.

The conference program consisted of keynote presentations, panel discussions, paper and poster presentations, networking sessions and meetings covering topics such as rural immigration, rural policy, community economic development, food security, rural education, and others. Altogether twenty-four paper presentations and five panel discussions were scheduled in four concurrent time slots allowing participants to chose among different topic sessions in each time slot. Thursday evening opening reception and Friday’s conference banquet offered an opportunity for participants to meet and network.

Partnering with Metropolis Project Canada allowed for a unique opportunity to present a national symposium on the opening day of the conference, Why is Francophone Immigration in Manitoba So Successful?. The four-hour bilingual symposium and panel discussion offered simultaneous translation and attracted 56 participants from across Canada, including representatives from universities, research centres, local, provincial and federal government departments, and a variety of community organizations.

Two field trips were organized on the opening day of the conference, offering an opportunity for conference participants to explore some local and regional points of interests. Participants on the tours of Maple Leaf Foods, McKenzie Seeds, Minnedosa Ethanol Plant and the Riding Mountain National Park found the trips very informative, providing a pleasurable and valuable addition to the conference.

The final report provides an overview of presentations, networking sessions, meetings, and other events held at the 2010 CRRF conference.

On The Bright Side
Conference Report
INTRODUCTION

Brandon, Manitoba

The City of Brandon is a full-service centre boasting amenities and services generally found in a much larger centre. As the second largest city and service centre in Manitoba, Brandon is a major hub for the surrounding agricultural area. Brandon’s industry reflects its agricultural history; its major industries are related to agriculture and include fertilizer and hog processing plants, as well as retail and government services for the surrounding area of Westman. Brandon is also home to Brandon University, Assiniboine Community College, the Manitoba Emergency Services College as well as the Brandon Wheat Kings.

Brandon is the regional centre of Western Manitoba with a population of approximately 44,000 and a trading area of 180,000. Situated in the southwest corner of the province of Manitoba, Brandon covers an area of 75 square km (47 square miles) and is located 197 km (130 miles) west of Winnipeg, 365 km (225 miles) east of Regina and 100 km (60 miles) north of the United States border. A healthy lifestyle is easily achieved in Brandon with many kilometers of paved pathways, acres of greenspace and many opportunities to become engaged in the community.

Known as the “Wheat City” in honour of its rich agricultural heritage, Brandon is a progressive community with a quality of life that must be experienced to be appreciated.

Source: Economic Development Brandon

For more information visit the City of Brandon website at http://www.brandon.ca/
INTRODUCTION

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/
Fondation Canadienne pour la Revitalisation Rurale

CRRF is a charitable institution committed to bettering the lives of rural Canadians. The Foundation’s resources are directed toward funding research and seminars, as well as promoting the dissemination of research results and economic development opportunities.

The CRRF/FCRR was founded in 1987 as a non-partisan voluntary network to foster the welfare of rural Canada through collaborative research on policy, development trends and patterns, and rural problems and opportunities. With over six hundred practitioners, researchers, policy advisors, instructors, community members, NGOs, and other members across Canada, and internationally, CRRF/FCRR collaborates through annual conferences, workshops, seminars, a great diversity of research, public commentary, publications, and other activities.

Projects associated with this vital organization include the 10 year prototypical “New Rural Economy” (NRE) project, three recent major urban-rural interaction projects (Saskatchewan, Newfoundland & Labrador, Ontario/Quebec), a major book on remote communities (2009), a first book on rural planning and development in Canada (2010), and the launching of the Canadian Rural Research Network (CRRN). CRRF/FCRR has just launched its first Strategic Plan and collaborated with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) of Brandon University for its 2010 Conference held in Brandon, Manitoba, October 14-16, 2010.

For more information visit
The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
website at
http://crrf.concordia.ca
INTRODUCTION

Rural Development Institute

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.

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. 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. 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.

RDI has linkages with major research and research institutions with rural interests. Illustrations of these linkages include the Department of Rural Development at Brandon University; Canadian Rural Research Network (CRRN); Community Futures Manitoba; International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS); New Rural Economy, The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet); The Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program (CEDTAP); Community Development Corporations.

For more information visit the Rural Development Institute website at http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/index.asp

Conference Hosts and Planning Committee

The 2010 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation national conference was co-hosted by the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University. Robert Annis (Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute), William Ashton (Director, Rural Development Institute) and David Douglas (President, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation) served as co-hosts of the conference.

Planning for the national conference began in early 2010, with a committee comprised of representatives from the Rural Development Institute and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. The goal of the committee was to organize an event focusing on issues affecting rural Canadian communities, and highlight successful projects, programs, and practices actively addressing these challenges. The Conference Planning Committee consisted of Robert Annis (Rural Development Institute, Brandon University), William Ashton (RDI), David Douglas (Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation), Marie Lebel-Racine (Metropolis Project), Julie Boyer (Metropolis Project), Marian Beattie, Sylvia Henry, Bev Lischka, and Monika Sormova (RDI).
KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

The conference featured three keynote presentations on rural opportunities and challenges, rural policies, and successful communities. The following abstracts describe the keynote presentations delivered at the conference.

**Rural Development in Scotland (UK) Reflections from an Insider – Outsider Perspective: From Policy to Practice.**
Philomena deLima, Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland, UK

The presentation shared key findings emerged from the OECD review of rural policy in the UK (Scotland, 2008) and reflections on changes since, particularly the more recent opportunities and challenges (climate change, demographic trends, economic crisis, etc.) facing rural communities in the UK. In the context of continuing debates and discourses on the value and meaning of ‘rural’ as an academic and policy concept, the presentation raised some questions for consideration.

**Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development**
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

This presentation explored the fundamentals of economic development, its goals, measurement and promotion through policy. What kinds of policies work and make sense during recessions? What policies work and make sense during periods of low unemployment and strong ‘growth?’ What special considerations are important when the regions in question are primarily rural?

**How do perceived “successful” communities compare to their peers?**
Ray D. Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Rural Research Group, Statistics Canada

One indicator of successful communities “On the Bright Side” is population change. Alasia (2010) has assessed factors associated with community population change. Each registrant was invited to nominate one rural community that s/he perceives to have been successful -- “On the Bright Side.” The presentation documented how each of the nominated communities fared relative to its peers. Specifically, the presenters identified whether the community is above the regression line (i.e. a positive residual which means it beat its peers) or below the regression line (i.e. it did not beat its peers) in the community growth model. Each identified community was presented 5 to 10 key indicators of the community. The overall objective of the presentation was to test the perception of a “successful” community relative to simple statistical indicators.

**Reference**

Appendix B consists of copies of each concurrent presentation and posters. Copies of all presentations and posters are also available on the conference website at [http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010english-presentations.asp](http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010english-presentations.asp)
CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

The conference organizers circulated a call for presentations inviting rural researchers, community leaders, practitioners, and public policy analysts to submit a proposal for a presentation, panel or a poster to the conference. Twenty-five paper presentations, five panel discussions were accepted and scheduled in four concurrent sessions. The participants had the option to choose among different topics scheduled in each time slot. The submitted presentations related to one or more major themes of the conference:

- Changing Rural challenges,
- What’s working, and
- Pathways into the future.

The presentations were organized in the following twelve sessions:

- Rural Policy Panel
- CED on the Ground
- Rural Immigration Panel
- Food Security
- Rural Policy
- Rural Immigration
- Rural Governance
- Regional Perspectives on Rural Development
- Rural Education Panel
- Rural Governance Panel
- Forest Communities Panel
- Rural Education Panel

In addition to the presentations, eight posters were presented at the conference.

Appendix B consists of copies of each concurrent presentation and posters. Copies of all presentations and posters are also available on the conference website at http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010english-presentations.asp
## On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works

### Conference Participants

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<tr>
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<td>Adikpeto, Rodolphe</td>
<td>Immigration francophone Nouvelle-Ecosse</td>
<td>Halifax, NS</td>
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<td>Allen, Leslie</td>
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<td>Alasia, Alessandro</td>
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## On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works

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<td>Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada</td>
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<td><strong>Gareau, Marcelle Marie</strong></td>
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<td>Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest</td>
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<td>Klein, Kim</td>
<td>Rural Development, Province of PEI</td>
<td>Montague, PEI</td>
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<td>Klassen, Melodie</td>
<td>Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives</td>
<td>Arborg, MB</td>
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<td>Klein, Kim</td>
<td>Rural Development, Province of PEI</td>
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<td>Kosalko, Andrea</td>
<td>Northwest Community College</td>
<td>Smithers, BC</td>
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<td>Kotak, Brian</td>
<td>Manitoba Model Forest</td>
<td>Pine Falls, MB</td>
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<td>Krocker, Dayna</td>
<td>University of Manitoba</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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<td>Kyle, Brad</td>
<td>Southwest Horizon School Division</td>
<td>Souris, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labrecque, Ronald</td>
<td>Assemblee communautaire fransaskoise</td>
<td>Regina, SK</td>
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<td>Lachance, Pat</td>
<td>Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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## On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works

### Conference Participants (cont.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/University</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laflamme, Valerie</td>
<td>Homelessness Partnering Secretariat</td>
<td>Gatineau, PQ</td>
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<td>Lam, Yukah</td>
<td>Westman Immigrant Services</td>
<td>Brandon, MB</td>
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<td>Landry, Christine</td>
<td>Community Futures Manitoba</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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<td>Lapierre-Fortin, Émanuèle</td>
<td>University of Guelph</td>
<td>Guelph, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauziere, Clara</td>
<td>Northeast Superior Forest Community Corporation</td>
<td>Chapleau, ON</td>
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<td>Legere, Isabelle</td>
<td>Secrétariat rural et aux Coopératives</td>
<td>Caraquet, NB</td>
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<td>Léger, Brigette</td>
<td>Agence nationale et internationale du Manitoba</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levy, Alan</td>
<td>Department of Business Administration, Brandon University</td>
<td>Brandon, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lischka, Bev</td>
<td>Rural Development Institute, Brandon University</td>
<td>Brandon, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locas, Benoit</td>
<td>Secretariat de la croissance demographicque, Gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick</td>
<td>Fredericton, NB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Looker, Dianne</td>
<td>Mount Saint Vincent University</td>
<td>Halifax, NS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marit, David</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities</td>
<td>Regina, SK</td>
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<td>Markey, Sean</td>
<td>Simon Fraser University</td>
<td>Surrey, BC</td>
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<td>Masi, Joe</td>
<td>Association of Manitoba Municipalities</td>
<td>Portage la Prairie, MB</td>
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<td>McConnell, Pam</td>
<td>Manitoba Labour and Immigration</td>
<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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<td>McDonald, Dan</td>
<td>Vancouver Island University</td>
<td>Nanaimo, BC</td>
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<td>McTavish, Pamela</td>
<td>Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives</td>
<td>Hamiota, MB</td>
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<td>Mealy, Ruth</td>
<td>Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives</td>
<td>Brandon, MB</td>
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<td>Michalos, Alex</td>
<td>Brandon University</td>
<td>Brandon, MB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mollins, Jennifer</td>
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<td>Winnipeg, MB</td>
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On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works

Conference Participants (cont.)

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**Rowat**, Marcia
Asessippi Parkland Economic Development Corp.
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On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works

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Nanaimo, BC

Vodden, Kelly
Memorial University
Centreville, NL

Walsh, Don
Rural Municipality of Woodlands
Woodlands, MB
OPTIONAL EVENTS

Metropolis Symposium

*Why is Francophone Immigration in Manitoba So Successful?*

*Sur quoi repose le succès de l’immigration francophone au Manitoba?*

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 9am – 1pm.

The Metropolis Project partnered with Brandon University’s Rural Development Institute to organize a symposium on francophone immigration in Canada during the annual conference of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation hosted by the Rural Development Institute. The four-hour symposium titled, *Why is Francophone Immigration in Manitoba So Successful?*, explored issues regarding invitation, settlement, and retention of newcomers in Manitoba’s rural settings. The event opened a dialogue between community, academic and government sectors on ethnolinguistic diversity in rural centres. The symposium was open to both French and English speaking participants and offered a simultaneous translations in both languages.

The Metropolis Symposium was designed around two panel discussions with opening presentations by a total of eight panellists. Panel one focused on the theme of Francophone immigration in Manitoba, including settlement, integration, retention factors, and linguistic and cultural identity of Francophone immigrants in the province. The fist panel featured four presentations by the following presenters:

- *Welcoming Francophone Refugees in Manitoba*. Bintou Sacko, Accueil francophone
- *The Integration of Francophone Immigrants*. Mohamed Doumbia, Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities

Metropolis Symposium at the 2010 CRRF/RDI Conference
Photo by Alister Cucksey
Panel two discussed Francophone Immigration in rural settings and concentrated on the question, *What do rural settings do better than urban settings in terms of Francophone immigration in Canada?* The following four research papers were presented in the second part of the symposium:

- *The Success of the Nova Scotia Francophone Immigration Steering Committee.* Rodolphe Adikpéto, Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- *The Growing Influence of Francophone Immigration on the Canadian Territory.* Christophe Traisnel, Université de Moncton
- *Francophone Immigration in Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie.* Georges Bahaya, Centre d’Accueil et d’Établissement du Nord de l’Alberta

The symposium looked at the different experiences of immigration and settlement service providers, both from government and non-government sectors alike. Some of the discussion time was around the reasons why Francophones immigrate to Manitoba versus places such as Quebec. One of the reasons put forth was the exemplary settlement services provided by the various agencies in the province, including immigrant to community pairing for support and guidance, language and job search services, and many more services that help immigrants get settled into their new community.

In the north, the discussion was around recruitment rather than retention because no one stays in the north for very long and connecting to the community becomes a more complicated task.

Overall the message was clear; the attraction and retention of a population of people is dependent on finding assistance in getting a job, connecting them to specific people in the community, and helping them to access government and social services that they would not otherwise be aware of or able to access.

*Metropolis* is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world.

For more information visit the *Metropolis* website at [http://canada.metropolis.net/](http://canada.metropolis.net/)
Concerning the Environment: A Tour of Minnedosa Ethanol Plant and the Riding Mountain National Park

The tour focused on alternative approaches to large-scale production and the preservation of the country’s fragile ecosystems. The tour commenced at Husky’s ethanol plant in Minnedosa and continued with a guided tour through a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve at the Riding Mountain National Park.

The Husky Ethanol Plant in Minnedosa opened in April 2008 and is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Western Canada. The plant will produce annually at peak production 130 million litres of ethanol and 126,000 tonnes of dried distillers grain with soluble (DDGS), a high-protein livestock feed supplement.

Riding Mountain obtained National Park status in 1930 and was officially opened in 1933. The park covers 2973 square kilometers of forests, hills and valleys, with more than 400 kilometers of hiking trails. This wilderness area is home to wolves, moose, elk, black bear, hundreds of bird species, an a captive bison herd. Designated by UNESCO in 1986, the Riding Mountain Biosphere is one of fifteen biosphere reserves in Canada.

Global to Local: A Tour of McKenzie Seeds and Maple Leaf Foods

Global to Local tour focused on two local companies whose business and hiring practices helped form the profile and history of Brandon, and define the cultural mosaic and future of the prairie city.

One of city’s oldest companies, McKenzie Seeds opened in Brandon in 1896. Over the next few decades, A.E. McKenzie expanded its operations and opened branches across Canada. Today, the country’s #1 Packet Seed company specializes in flower and vegetable seeds and other gardening products with an annual distribution to 5,600 retailers.

Maple Leaf Foods pork processing plant opened in Brandon in 1999 and over the next decade the company brought more than 1,700 foreign workers to Brandon. In order to address labour shortages, the company has seen their hiring strategies change from local to national, and then international labour pools. In total, an estimated 4,000 of dependent arrivals (spouses and children) are expected to make Brandon their home in 2011. The company is the largest employer of foreign labour in Brandon with workers recruited from countries such as Mexico, El Salvador, Ukraine, Mauritius, China, and others.

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OTHER CONFERENCE EVENTS

Conference Opening and Brandon University President’s Reception

The conference organizers, in collaboration with the Office of the President, Brandon University, hosted an opening reception on Thursday night of the conference. Approximately 90 people attended the opening event that featured greetings and presentations from the Brandon University’s President, representatives from local and provincial governments, as well as music entertainment by students from the BU School of Music.

Dr. Bruce Strang, Dean of Arts, Brandon University, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. After welcoming remarks from the conference committee David Douglas, President, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, and William Ashton, Director, Rural Development Institute, Dr. Strang welcomed Dr. Deborah Poff who delivered greetings on behalf of the Office of the President, Brandon University.

Councillor Jim McCrae delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of the City of Brandon, followed by a presentation by Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI). As part of his presentation, Minister Struthers presented Dr. Poff with a cheque for $90,000 to support research conducted by the Rural Development Institute as part of the MOU.

Fitting with the theme of the conference was a slide presentation of historical images from rural Manitoba, projected for the duration of the reception. Tom Mitchell, University Archivist, delivered final presentation of the evening on the development and history of the Stuckey photograph collection consisting of thousands of B&W images of Brandon and Southwestern Manitoba.
The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) was held on Thursday October 14th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Royal Oak Inn, Brandon. All participants at the CRRF Annual Policy conference were invited to attend.

CRRF was founded in 1987 as a non-partisan voluntary network to foster the welfare of rural Canada through collaborative research on policy, development trends and patterns, and rural problems and opportunities. With over six hundred practitioners, researchers, policy advisors, instructors, community members, NGOs, and other network members across Canada, and internationally, CRRF collaborates through annual conferences, workshops, seminars, a great diversity of research, public commentary, publications, and other activities.

Recent projects associated with this vital organization include the 10 year prototypical “New Rural Economy” (NRE) project, three recent major urban-rural interaction projects (Saskatchewan, Newfoundland & Labrador, Ontario/Quebec), a major book on remote communities (2009), a first book on rural planning and development in Canada (2010), and the launching of the Canadian Rural Research Network.

CRRF has just launched its first Strategic Plan and collaborated with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) of Brandon University for the 2010 Annual Conference.

Further details on CRRF can be found at: http://crrf.concordia.ca/.
OTHER CONFERENCE EVENTS

Conference Banquet

More than 120 conference participants enjoyed dinner and entertainment at the conference banquet held on Friday evening at the Regency Ball Room at the Royal Oak Inn.

The event was MC’d by Robert Annis, Research Affiliate of the Rural Development Institute, and featured greetings from the conference Gold Sponsors and live music by Stonewall group 3/4 Down. Pat Lachance, Regional Advisor, Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat, delivered a message on behalf of Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veteran Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture).

Kelvin Shepherd, President of Manitoba Telecom Services, main corporate sponsor of the conference, joined the evening to deliver greetings on behalf of MTS. Mr. Shepherd outlined recent MTS initiatives to enhance telecommunication and internet access in rural and remote areas across Manitoba.

Lorne Martin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Knowledge Management, delivered a message on behalf Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.
Conference Banquet (cont.)

The evening offered an opportunity to launch of Rural Development Institute’s latest publication, *Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Change*. Dr. Doug Ramsey from Department of Rural Development, Brandon University, who is also one of the co-editors of the book, thanked all involved in the production of the book that features essays by more than 30 rural development researchers from Canada, USA and UK.

Following dessert and the gifting of centerpieces, participants enjoyed dancing to a 3-hour live performance by 3/4 Down.

Conference Banquet
Photos by Alister Cucksey
OTHER CONFERENCE EVENTS

New Researchers’ Forum

On the closing day of the CRRF/RDI conference, participants had the opportunity to join a round-table discussion New Researcher’s Forum: Methods for Rural Research. The forum/roundtable discussion focused on methods used in rural research and was open to both new and established researchers.

Facilitated by John Devlin, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph, and Kelly Vodden, Department of Geography, Memorial University, the session offered a venue for an exchange of ideas and research practices. Approximately 30 participants joined the forum for an opportunity to share their perspectives and learn from others about the range of methods used in rural research.

National Network of Rural Research Centres Lunch

The National Network of Rural Researchers networking lunch brought together representatives from several research organizations from across Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a range of issues related to the creation of a national network of centres focusing on rural and northern research.

The meeting participants identified several main goals of the network:

- To create a clearinghouse for research and raw data
- To organize and host conferences and events
- To host an internet gateway akin to the Canadian Rural Research Network
- To create internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students
- To facilitate communication between research centres, communities, and individuals

The next step of the National Network will to complete an application to the SSHRC Partnership Development program to secure funds for the creation of the network and its activities.

Representatives from the following organizations participated in the meeting:

- Monieson Centre, Queens University
- Centre for Sustainable Community Development, Simon Fraser University
- Rural Secretariat, Newfoundland
- Rural Ontario Institute
- Rural Research Centre, Memorial University, Grenfell
- Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia
- Assiniboine Community College
- Centre for Rural & Northern Health Research, Laurentian University
- Rural and Small Town Program, Mount Allison University
- Alberta Centre for Sustainable Communities
- Alberta Rural Development Network
- Rural Resource Centre, Nova Scotia Agricultural College
- The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University
- Rural Development Institute, Brandon University
- Rural Small Town/ Canada Rural Resources Network, Statistics Canada
- Department of Rural Planning and Development, University of Guelph
Federation of Canadian Municipalities Presentation

David Marit, Board Member of the The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and President of the Saskatchewan Association of Canadian Municipalities, delivered a Saturday morning presentation on behalf of FCM. The presentation focused on three main areas: who is FCM and what they do, key issues facing today’s rural communities in Canada, and the work FCM does to help rural communities to secure a future.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal government since 1901. The organization represents close to 90% of the Canadian population—more than 1,900 municipal governments across the country. Members include Canada’s largest cities, small urban and rural communities, and 18 provincial and territorial municipal associations.

FCM was the first national organization to make the case for stimulus investments in infrastructure. The Economic Action Plan included $10 billion dollars for municipal priorities, the largest-ever investment in cities and communities.

The organization created the FCM Rural Forum in December 2001. The Rural Forum comprises municipalities that are rural in nature, as well as urban communities that have a significant rural component or interest. The mandate of the Rural Forum focuses on two main issues: strengthening advocacy for rural communities and helping rural municipal governments improve access to FCM’s support.

The 2009 report, *Wake-up Call: The National Vision and Voice We Need for Rural Canada*, was developed in collaboration with Dr. Donald Savoie, Université de Moncton, and Dr. Bill Reimer, Concordia University. The report focuses on the growing crisis in rural Canada and its consequent threat to the national economy. The report raises questions on the role of the federal government in rural communities, and suggests a blueprint for a federal rural agenda.

For more information visit
the FCM website at
http://www.fcm.ca/
CONFERENCE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

The 2010 annual CRRF/RDI Rural Policy Conference attracted over 140 participants from across Canada. Present were also keynote speakers from USA and the United Kingdom.

Conference participants included researchers, policy makers, community leaders and development practitioners, students, representatives from federal, provincial, and municipal government agencies, as well as representatives from a number of non-governmental organizations. The diverse representation of professional groups greatly contributed to the conference content and allowed for new networking possibilities and an exchange of ideas and practices among presenters and participants.

Feedback from participants of the event reiterated the need for an annual conference focusing on rural issues and policies, and complimented the opportunities that the 2010 conference offered: establishing new networking opportunities; learning about new resources; sharing of research, applied knowledge and ideas; and integrating academic research and applied practice presentations in the conference program.

One of the successes of this conference was the encouragement of active engagement of the new generation of rural researchers and practitioners. Conference subsidies facilitated through the Rural Development Institute, made possible through the support from the Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives, enabled 11 students from universities from across the country to travel to Brandon and partake in the conference. A number of these students delivered presentations and posters at the conference.

The financial and in-kind support from a number of federal and provincial government organizations, provincial corporations, and local and regional businesses was crucial for a successful delivery of the conference (see p. 28 of the report for a full list of conference sponsors and partners). Active involvement of these agencies in the delivery of the 2010 conference was both an encouragement and also a confirmation of the importance of hosting an annual venue to continue a dialogue on issues, challenges, and solutions that affect not only rural, remote, and northern communities, but Canada as a whole.

On The Bright Side

Conference Report

2010 CRRF/RDI Conference
Photo by Alister Cucksey
CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS

The conference organizers circulated an evaluation form among participants and presenters inviting feedback regarding conference organization, topics and content, facilities, and other aspects of the event. Altogether 37 respondents (25% conference participants) completed the two-page evaluation form and offered their feedback on the conference.

Participants were asked for their opinion on a series of statements about the conference, and asked to indicate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, were undecided, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the following statements:

- Communication prior to the conference was excellent.
  (Strongly Agree 21%; Agree 62%; Undecided/Disagree/Don’t Know 17%)
- The presentations were well organized.
  (Strongly Agree 32%; Agree 60%; Undecided/Disagree 8%)
- The conference topics were of interest to me.
  (Strongly Agree 30%; Agree 59%; Undecided/Disagree 11%)
- The presenters provided useful information.
  (Strongly Agree 32%; Agree 50%; Undecided/Disagree 18%)
- The conference field trips were informative.
  (Strongly Agree — 7 respondents; Don’t Know - 18 respondents)
- The conference location worked well for me.
  (Strongly Agree 35%; Agree 51%; Undecided/Disagree/Strongly Disagree 14%)
- The presentation rooms were comfortable.
  (Strongly Agree 25%; Agree 44%; Undecided/Disagree 31%)
- The meals and refreshment breaks were good.
  (Strongly Agree 34%; Agree 50%; Undecided/Disagree 16%)

The overall rating of the conference was very good. The following summary offers some of the statements reiterated on the response sheets:

- Networking, networking and networking were among the most important aspects to our conference participants
- The rich sharing of research and applied knowledge and ideas
- Attracted great people with great ideas. High quality!
- Participation of diverse professional groups. Integration of academic and practice presentations.
- Wide area of presentations.
- “Bright Side” - optimistic theme, excellent idea.
- Passionate speakers who knew their topic.
Conference Evaluations (cont.)

- Lots of diversity between academic and practical which I appreciated. This was a fantastic way to hear current research by the researchers themselves—very important part of this conference.
- I would be very interested in a joint panel of academics & practitioners—as a debate.
- Excellent—overall. There were a few challenges with space in the session rooms.
- Enjoyed Western hospitality and local entertainment.
- Not many opportunities to talk to people during presentations about specific topic. Sometimes felt rushed.
- Very important to continue organizing the annual conference. Partnering with a rural research institute seems to be the most effective model for a “smooth” running event. It will be very important to continue to engage the next generation of rural researchers and practitioners.
- I think it was a good CRRF event. The partnership with RDI was obviously very good and the level of organization and attention to detail was very impressive.
- I really appreciated the focus on lessons learned which helped to move theoretical to practical application. This was critical for me.
- I would like to see a greater participation of Aboriginal researchers and research about Aboriginal rural communities.
- Good—I think energy issues (renewable, rising prices, etc.) could have been touched on more.
- Tours were fantastic—a one hour debrief afterwards would e good—maybe a discussion before about ‘issues’ related to the business to be toured...?
CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The 2010 CRRF/RDI conference would like to acknowledge the following organizations for their support of this event:

**Conference Gold Sponsors**

Heritage Canada
Natural Resources Canada

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Metropolis Project

*Sponsored by the Canada and Manitoba governments*  
*through Growing Forward, a federal provincial territorial initiative.*

MTS
Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat

**Conference Event Sponsors**

Brandon University
Manitoba Hydro

**Conference Partners**

Husky Energy Inc.
Nelson Education

The Green Spot
Maple Leaf Foods

Husky Energy Inc.
McKenzie Seeds

Riding Mountain National Park
City of Brandon

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*Images of sponsor logos*
APPENDIX A
Keynote Presentations

Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development

Thomas G. Johnson
Rural Policy Research Institute
University of Missouri Columbia

Brandon, Manitoba
October 15, 2010

Focus of Presentation
- Successful economies are primarily influenced by local and regional, conditions and programs
- National and state (provincial) programs empower local and regional initiatives
- Focus here is on general strategies that are most effective at the regional and state or provincial levels
- How to measure success

Development is not....
- Rising population
- Rising employment
- Rising tax revenues
- Increasing property values
- But development may lead to each of these trends

Economic Development is....
- A long term process of rising productivity and income for residents
- In contrast, the short term goal of economic policy is:
  - Job creation to remedy business cycle unemployment
  - Monetary policy to ensure price stability

Development = Creative Destruction
- “Creative destruction”
  - Development progresses as high productivity activities replace lower productivity activities
  - High value products replace low value products
  - Good jobs replace poor jobs
- Displacement is a necessary part of economic development!
APPENDIX A
Keynote Presentations

**Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development**
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

---

**Displacement Effects**
- At near full employment (labor and capital), new economic activity squeezes out or displaces existing economic activity (somewhere).
- This leads to higher returns to labor and capital, increased profits, increased net public revenues.

**Secondary Effects**
- Secondary effects are the multiplier effects of new investment and production.
- All economic activities have secondary effects.
- During periods of near full employment, both primary and secondary effects displace other economic activities.
- **Best practice** is to calculate secondary effects but allow for displacement effects.

---

**Economic Development Strategies**
- Economic development is notoriously subject to fads.
- See Joel Best. “Flavor of the Month: Why Smart People Fall for Fads” (2006).

**Recent Waves of Economic Development Strategies**
- Early 1980’s – late 1990’s: Retention and expansion
- Late 1990’s – present: Regional innovation strategies.
- Each new strategy was added to the earlier strategies.

---

**Industrial Recruitment**
- **Focus**
  - Footloose firms
  - Outside investment
  - Foreign Direct Investment
- **Tools**
  - Industrial targeting
  - Tax breaks & rebates
  - Subsidized loans
  - Loan guarantees
  - Grants
  - Industrial parks
  - Infrastructure

---

**Retention and Expansion**
- **Focus**
  - Existing local businesses
  - Internal investment
- **Tools**
  - Direct subsidies
  - Technical support
  - Public-Private partnerships
  - Infrastructure
  - Tax Increment Financing
APPENDIX A
Keynote Presentations

Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

Regional Innovation Strategies
- Focus
  - Business clusters
  - Entrepreneurs
  - Research universities and centres
- Strategies
  - Cluster targeting
  - Business Incubators
  - Venture and angel capital
  - Brokering business networks
  - Entrepreneurship development
  - Workforce development
  - Public/private partnerships
  - Quality of life

What do we know about these strategies?
- Research has shed some light on the efficacy of many of these strategies

Industrial Targeting
- Businesses locate in places, not states or provinces
- Targeting must be based on
  - Regional assets (capital, financial, built, human, social, natural, historical and cultural)
  - Preferences of residents
  - Benefits and costs of typical firms

Industrial Recruitment
- Inward investment brings new ideas, needed capital, and connections to markets
- New firms often become magnets for other firms (suppliers, marketers, competitors)
- But footloose industries are bargained away as easily as they are recruited

Tax Incentives
- Recruitment and incentives work some times
- Very expensive and if local public services decline they may slow development
- Financial incentives can put existing businesses at a competitive disadvantage
- “Additionality” often low
- Not all incentive tools are equal—benefit cost analyses are essential

Infrastructure Investments
- Infrastructure is essential to business growth
- Speculative investments are expensive and can displace other important public expenses
- Infrastructure that raises quality of life, as well as productivity is the safest bet.
Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

Retention and Expansion
- In general, R&E strategies have been positive economic development tools
- They must be used with care since development is generally a process of creative destruction
- R&E programs focused on innovation can facilitate change and development

Technical Support, Work Force Development and other Public Services
- If well done, these services increase productivity and overall competitiveness and are available to all businesses in the region

Tax Increment Financing
- TIF is a way to finance infrastructure
- Can create fiscal stress for municipal governments
- Often abused strategy
- If well designed and focused on real needs TIFs can be very effective

Cluster Targeting
- In contrast to industrial targeting, cluster targeting
  - Is based on region’s assets
  - Is more sustainable since firms reinforce each other
  - Tend to generate higher wages and profits
- Targeting process is the key

Entrepreneurship Development
- If successful, it raises the productivity of workers
- More likely to stay in the region than foot loose businesses
- Often fills important niche in regional economies, supporting other businesses and raising quality of life

Venture and Angel Capital
- Venture capital often limiting factor in new businesses
- Important element in support of an entrepreneurship strategy
- Often difficult to establish in declining or distressed economies
- Public intervention through tax credits or guarantees can increase supply
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Best Practices in Local and Regional Economic Development
Thomas G. Johnson, Community Policy Analysis Centre, University of Missouri

Why Economic Impact Analysis and Benefit Cost Analysis?

- Consequences of their programs and decisions
  - On the employees and employers
  - On public revenues and expenditures
- Rate of return on alternative public expenditures

Relationship between public decision-makers and economic analysts

- Analysts need to understand
  - Decision-makers information needs
  - Decision-makers skill levels
- Public decision-makers need to understand
  - Indicators
  - Data needs
  - Model limitations

Conclusions

- Federal and provincial governments have an important role to play in encouraging and empowering healthy regional economies
- Local and regional development agents must be provided with opportunities and incentives to partner with each other and with the private sector

Conclusions

- Economic development involves the replacement of low productivity activities and jobs with higher productivity activities and jobs
- This requires accurate indicators of productivity, displacement, benefits and costs
- BCA and EIA are critical tools for designing effective economic development programs, and for preparing for the consequences of these programs

Some Useful Readings


QUESTIONS
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Rural Development in Scotland (UK) Reflection from an Insider—Outsider Perspective: From Policy to Practice
Philomena deLima, UHI Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, Academy Lodge, Inverness


• The declining contribution of agriculture to rural economies.
• The key question: how to adapt current strategies to the different development trends in rural regions, with a particular focus on policies exploiting ‘local, place-specific resources’?
• Agricultural policy is sector-specific - rural development policy is multisectoral, place based (territorial policy)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Approach</th>
<th>New Approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm income, farm competitiveness</td>
<td>Competitiveness of rural areas, valorisation of local assets, exploitation of unused resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key target sector</td>
<td>Various sectors of rural economies (ex. rural tourism, manufacturing, ICT industry etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsidies</td>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key actors</td>
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<tr>
<td>National governments, farmers</td>
<td>All levels of government (supra-national, national, regional and local), various local stakeholders (public, private, NGOs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

( OECD, 2006, Table 1 The new Rural Paradigm, p4)

What are the policy implications of the new ‘rural paradigm’

• Pooling of knowledge held by a wide variety of actors in the public, civic and private sectors centrally as well as locally across different sectors to develop an inclusive vision
• ‘Traditional hierarchical administrative structures’ are inadequate to administer policies which are multisectoral encompassing diverse rural areas
• Moving beyond centralised approaches to ones that encourage ‘bottom up’ initiatives grounded in specific places

OECD(2006) ‘New Rural Paradigm’ (2)
Two principles emphasised as characterising the “new rural paradigm” (NRP) A focus on:

• places instead of sectors
• investment instead of subsidies
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UK Context
Based on the OECD definition:
- England is predominantly peri-urban; approx 10% of its population is rural.

Predominantly rural territories in the UK are:
- 54% of Scotland; 41% of Wales; and 47% of Northern Ireland.

Rural Population: UK, Scotland and Canada
Population concentrated in urban/metropolitan areas:
Based on OECD typology or urban-rural:
- Scotland’s predominantly rural region make up 75% of its territory; 17% of its population; 13% of its GDP (OECD 2008, p36)
- 95% of Canadian territory is rural; 29% of Canadians live in predominantly rural areas; Quebec: 26.2% live in rural—however, Quebec has less of an urban-rural split (OECD 2010, p46;126)

What is Rural in Scotland?
- Settlements with a population of less than 3,000; and
- Utilising drive times to larger settlements
Rural Scotland is divided into:
- Accessible rural: those with a less than 30 minute drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of 10,000 or more;
- Remote rural: those with a greater than 30 minute drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of 10,000 or more.
(Scottish Government 2010a)

Scotland : Percentage of Population and Land by Geographic Area, 2008

Rural economy: Scotland and Quebec
Increasing dominance of service sector, with presence of manufacturing, tourism etc:
- Service sector dominates; Scotland it comprised 43% of employment in 2004; and 40% in Quebec in 2006
- Importance of agriculture has been declining in Quebec and in Scotland; e.g. Scotland: 1.3% of GVA and 11% of rural employment in 2004.
(OECD 2008, p36; OECD 2010, p135-37)
Rural Development in Scotland (UK) Reflection from an Insider—Outsider Perspective: From Policy to Practice
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Positive aspects of rural Scotland
Rural areas performed well with regard to socio-economic indicators in Scotland (and there are some similarities with Quebec) for example:
- Income levels of tertiary education; relatively low unemployment rates; greater numbers of enterprise/new start-ups
- Rural areas were more likely to have gained from net migration (e.g. share of rural population increased from 19% to 21% in Scotland)
- Rural areas in Scotland ‘show comparable or better health standards and practices than urban areas’ e.g., expectancy was 3 years higher, etc

However there are Caveats....

Rural Scotland is Diverse
Rural Scotland is ‘spatially heterogeneous’ and the positive story is confined mainly to the ‘accessible rural areas’ (again not unlike Quebec to some extent):
Remote rural areas in Scotland:
- experience significant loss of population
- have an ageing population
- show poor economic performance
- have low incomes and at risk of being ‘poor’ including fuel poverty
- have a predominance of low skilled jobs
- have higher living costs
- experience poor access to services/closure of services
- have poor access to affordable housing
- have a weak transport infrastructure

Differences in Age Distribution of Population of Rural Areas, Relative to the Rest of Scotland, 2008

Rural Scotland: opportunities and constraints
Rural Scotland (as rural Quebec) has good potential for development for example:
- Growth sectors: renewable energy, ‘silver economy’, tourism and recreation, etc
- Capitalising on higher population and net migration in some areas, etc

But there are constraints in rural Scotland:
- High cost of housing and shortage of housing attributed to landownership patterns and planning
- Lagging technology
- Commuting and car dependency/weak transport infrastructure
- Prevalence of small businesses/lack of business growth, etc
- Weak infrastructure for promoting innovation

In addition changing demography and increasing pressures on public sector finances impacting on public services provision may be seen as an opportunity for innovation as well as posing threats

Rural Policy and Governance in Scotland
- Lacks an overall vision—top down
- A predominantly sectoral approach which has led to a proliferation of many visions of rural policy which in turn lacks visibility and coherence. Also differing definitions of ‘rural’
- Proliferation of agencies across all levels
- Privileges a ‘central place based’ approach with little understanding of rural-urban linkages
- ‘Consultation fatigue’ and lack of genuine involvement of a wide range of local and regional actors in policy design and implementation
- Lack of sensitivity to the diverse rural contexts in Scotland

OECD(2008) Some recommendations for rural Scotland
Rural policy and implementation:
- A distinct, integrated rural development policy with stronger coordination, leadership & engagement at central & local levels
- Recognition of the diversity of rural Scotland
- Encourage sharing of local best practices

Four priorities for investment were identified:
- Rural housing and planning (rigid planning; concentration of land ownership)
- Service delivery and investment to tackle the challenges of an ageing population and rural transport infrastructure
- Exploiting the potential for rural diversification beyond agriculture
- A ‘deep’ understanding of rural-urban linkages and synergies

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Lessons for Scotland from Quebec?

• Rural policy as part of a wider ‘societal vision’ built on active policy ownership involving civil society and academia
• A strong emphasis on social capital and community capacity building:
  ➢ As a prerequisite for economic development; and
  ➢ Providing the potential for addressing public service delivery issues
• Rural policy as place based and multi-sectoral underpinned by appropriate governance arrangements. (OECD 2010)

Québec learning from Scottish Experience?

Some possibilities include:

• Addressing innovation ‘blocks’ by supporting the development of a networked University in remote rural areas—e.g. the University of the Highlands and Islands
• Developing a close synergy between social and economic goals—e.g. Highlands and Islands Enterprise
• Community ownership of assets—e.g. land, energy, community buildings...
• Innovations in delivery of public services—social enterprise, co-production ...
• Population strategies

Beyond a traditional focus in rural policy?

To what extent have rural policies moved beyond a traditional focus in Scotland (and Québec)?

• There is some movement towards broadening out rural policy—e.g. community ownership of local assets, recent consultation strategies:
  ➢ ‘Speak up for Rural Scotland’ (Scottish Government 2010b); Land Use Strategy (Scottish Government 2010c)
• But... do these go far enough? How is rural and urban conceptualised in these documents? And, is consulting enough—will it lead to change?
• Funding is still biased towards agriculture and the environment:
  ➢ The Scottish Rural Development Plan (SRDP) has funding of around £1.5 billion for the period 2007–2013 to allocate to rural areas: LEADER accounts for 6% (approx £52 million) of the total SRDP allocation to rural areas.
(http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/farmingrural/SRDP/LEADER)
• Challenges for LEADER— but some good examples: HIE
(http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/LEADER)

Policy and Practice: beyond Rhetoric or Reality? (1)

“The Scottish Government is committed to supporting rural life, rural communities and the rural economy. To do so it has mainstreamed the needs of rural Scotland within all of its policies.”

In this way, rather than setting rural Scotland aside as something different or a special case, it has encouraged all policy makers to take the needs of rural areas seriously and to adapt their policies to meet local needs and circumstances wherever possible.

A number of bodies and mechanisms exist to oversee and co-ordinate the Government’s approach to rural development. These ensure that all of the Government’s policies are sensitive to the needs and circumstances of rural communities. They also keep policy makers in touch with the views of the communities they serve.”

Policy delivery process ...?

• Policies tend to still be top down... despite frenetic consultation activities.
• Lack of meaningful local government structures and fiscal devolution at the local level
• The policy delivery process continues to be complex and segmented at all levels
• Continuing bias towards rural sectoral based interests
Who belongs and who does have a say ...?
Whose voices are heard and how sensitive are the polices to local contexts …? 

Some examples : Rural Development Council, Local Action groups … is this going far enough? 

But quoting Chris Philo, (1992 p20) , I also fear that despite changes there continues to be a danger of :
‘... portraying British rural people ... as all being “Mr Average” as being men in employment, earning enough to live and probably English, straight and somehow without sexuality, able in body and sound in mind, and devoid of any other quirks of (say) religious belief or political affiliation."

“Rural is not dead”?
Despite the rhetoric it still can appear as though the ‘rural’ is on the defensive. But...
“... portraying British rural people ... as all being “Mr Average” as being men in employment, earning enough to live and probably English, straight and somehow without sexuality, able in body and sound in mind, and devoid of any other quirks of (say) religious belief or political affiliation."

Concluding thoughts/ questions

• When does the ‘new rural paradigm’ stop being ‘new’ and becomes the norm?
• Are the spatial concepts of ‘rural’ and ‘urban’ useful lenses to make sense of changes in our countries/societies/communities?
• OECD reviews of rural policy are a useful snap shot , but constrained by commissioning process ... challenges of moving from reviews to taking actions ... 
• Rural policies do not develop in a vacuum but are contingent on specific forms of government and governance, which vary across nations and may limit the transferability of policies and practices.
• Recent debates about climate change, resource scarcity, food security, etc are bringing ‘rural’ back on national agendas: is this likely to lead to a reinforcement of the sectoral emphasis on rural policy?

References /Reading

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*Rural Development in Scotland (UK) Reflection from an Insider— Outsider Perspective: From Policy to Practice*
Philomena deLima, UHI Centre for Remote and Rural Studies, Academy Lodge, Inverness

Thank you

Philomena de Lima
Philomena.deLima@invernessuhi.ac.uk

CRRS website: www.crrs.uhi.ac.uk

CRRS email: crrs@uhi.ac.uk
Economic development is a rising level of productivity (and we use “population change” as an indicator of success if they do not like the place. Partridge (2007) argue that population change, which is largely driven by net migration – voting with one’s feet – captures both the benefits of growth in economic activity in a geographic space and the amenity benefits of residing in a geographic space. Obviously, there are alternative measures. Tom Johnson (Oct 15, 2010) noted that development is problematic. They suggest that “income and wages are ambiguous indicators” (Partridge et al., 2007, p. 41) because higher income and wages would be associated with areas with agglomeration economies but places with lower income and wages are chosen by people who wish to consume the amenity attributes of some geographic areas. Thus, trends in income or wages is not necessarily an unambiguous measure of the change in the well-being of individuals in a geographic area. Partridge et al. (2007) argue that population change, which is largely driven by net migration – voting with one’s feet – captures both the benefits of growth in economic activity in a geographic space and the amenity benefits of residing in a geographic space.

What is “success” – We use “population change” as an indicator of success if they do not like the place. people come if there are jobs or if they like the place. people leave if there are no jobs or if they do not like the place. Obviously, there are alternative measures. Tom Johnson (Oct 15, 2010) noted that development is not a rising population – but development may lead to a rising population. Economic development is a rising level of productivity (and rising income) which may or may not lead to a rising population. Examples of the latter are many rural municipalities on the Prairies where each remaining farmer is highly productive and has a high income (relative to an urban worker) – but there are very few people living in the municipality.


Outline:
• Introduction
• What factors are associated with community “success” in Canada?
• Comparison of “predicted” growth and actual growth for communities nominated by conference attendees
• Discussion: How do perceived successful communities compare to their peers?
• Conclusions

How do perceived “successful” communities compare to their peers?

Introduction
• What is “success” – We use “population change” as an indicator of success if they do not like the place. people come if there are jobs or if they like the place. people leave if there are no jobs or if they do not like the place. Obviously, there are alternative measures. Our model shows the association of population change with major factors driving population change. We then look at the communities that you have nominated to determine if they grew more or less than is predicted by our model.

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How Do Perceived “Successful” Communities Compare to their Peers?
Ray Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada
Primary sector restructuring and the strength of metropolitan agglomerations are two major drivers of changing population settlement patterns across Canada. Communities highly reliant on traditional sectors at the beginning of the 1980s experienced significant population downsizing. In contrast, communities with a higher share of employment in dynamic sectors experienced higher population growth. Sector restructuring has been paralleled by a steady process of agglomeration around urban centres. Although urban decongestion has occurred within high density regions, both proximity and population size of the nearest urban core are positively associated with population growth of their surrounding communities.

The regression model “predicts” growth for each community based on the characteristics included in the model. This average represents the growth experienced by the “peers” of the given community. For each given community, we will show:

- Predicted versus actual growth (i.e., did this community grow by more or less than its peers?)
- Selected socio-economic characteristics for 1981 to 2006

What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

1. Communities that were more diversified and had a higher educational attainment at the beginning of the 1980s experienced higher population growth over the following two decades.

2. Community population change is determined both by community as well as regional characteristics; the latter in some cases reinforces community effects.
You are successful (or "competitive") if your growth was higher than your peers. In a regression context, this means that your actual growth was higher than your predicted growth.

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, predicted population change ranged from 58% (CCS containing Duncan, B.C.) to -33% in the Rossburn CCS in Manitoba. How do perceived "successful" communities compare to their peers?
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How Do Perceived “Successful” Communities Compare to their Peers?
Ray Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, predicted population change ranged from 58% (CCS containing Duncan, B.C.) to -33% in the Rossburn CCS in Manitoba.

Predicted percent change in population from 1981 to 2006


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Ray Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

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How Do Perceived “Successful” Communities Compare to their Peers?

Ray Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, predicted population change ranged from 58% (CCS containing Duncan, B.C.) to -33% in the Rossburn CCS in Manitoba.

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, there is a wide range in predicted versus actual population growth, 1981 to 2006.

Percent change in population from 1981 to 2006

Predicted percent change in population from 1981 to 2006

Predicted percent change in population from 1981 to 2006

Predicted percent change in population from 1981 to 2006


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In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, there is a wide range in predicted versus actual population growth, 1981 to 2006.

Predicted: -14%  
Actual:  -9  
5 percentage points more than predicted

Russell (Man.) CCS

Predicted: +17%  
Actual: +4%  
21 percentage points less than predicted

Morris (Man.) CCS

Predicted: -4%  
Actual: -9  
5 percentage points more than predicted

Daly (Man.) CCS

Predicted: +8%  
Actual: -19%  
27 percentage points less than predicted

Rivière-Malbaie (Que) CCS

Predicted: -5%  
Actual: -12%  
7 percentage points less than predicted

Rivière-Malbaie (Que) CCS

Predicted: -33%  
Actual: -43%  
20 percentage points less than predicted

Key West (Bask.) CCS

How Do Perceived “Successful” Communities Compare to their Peers?
Ray Bollman and Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

Conclusions

• The model accounted for 57% of the variation. This is good for this type of model. We have identified some key factors.
• However, 43% of the variation is not due to the factors in our model. Some of the variation is “luck” – either the good kind or the bad kind.
• Most of the missing 43% is due to local unique factors which are difficult (perhaps impossible) to capture in a statistical analysis.
• One-half of the nominated communities performed better than their peers.

Discussion

How do perceived “successful” communities compare to their peers?

Presentation to “On the Bright Side: What has worked in Canadian rural community development?” 2010 Annual Rural Policy Conference of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Brandon, October 14-16, 2010

Alessandro Alasia and Ray D. Bollman
Rural Research Group, Statistics Canada

Read more


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Concurrent Session Presentations and Posters

Posters

**Historical Institutionalism and New Regionalism: The Case of Rural Policy in Québec**
Matthew Brett, Concordia University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/brett.pdf

**Identifying and removing barriers to the implementation of socioeconomic plans in central Newfoundland**
Jen Daniels, Department of Geography, Memorial University
Kelly Vodden, Department of Geography, Memorial University
Tanya Noble, Rural Secretariat, Executive Council, Government of NL

**The Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance: Community Based Research to Promote Food Justice**
Stefan Epp, Dayna Kroeker, and Stephane McLachlan, University of Manitoba
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/epp.pdf

**The University-Community Partnership: Benefits of a Rural Ontario Land Use Planning Project**
Christopher Fullerton, Department of Geography, Brock University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/Fullerton.pdf

**Standing Tree to Standing House: Community and Local Resource Based Approach to Housing**
Laurel Gardiner, Frontiers Foundation Inc.
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/gardiner.jpg

**Exploring Regional Collaboration in the Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland**
Ryan Gibson, Department of Geography, Memorial University
Kelly Vodden, Department of Geography, Memorial University
Greg Dominaux, Rural Secretariat, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/Gibson-Vodden-Dominaux.pdf

**Rural Broadband + Quantum Leaps = New Economic Opportunities**
Helen Hambly, School of Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/posters/hambly.pdf

**Envisioning your Sustainable Community**
Christy Hempel, University of Guelph
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Presentations

CED on the GROUND

Presentations:  

*On the Front Lines: CED in Practice in Rural Manitoba*  
Ruth Mealy and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) CED Team  
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/Mealy.pdf

*Participatory Process and Rural Development in Canada*  
Holly Dolan and Isabelle Légère, Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  

*Co-operation Works!*  
Brendan Reimer, Canadian CED Network  
Vera Goussaert, Manitoba Cooperative Association  

RURAL POLICY

Presentations:  

*Harnessing the Tide: Building Momentum toward a Rural Strategy for BC*  
George Penfold, Selkirk College  
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/penfold.pdf

*Gaining a Rural Lens through Rural Immersion Experiences*  
Nicole Vaugeois, Vancouver Island University  
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/vaugeois.pdf

*Innovation towards Smart Service Provision*  
Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth, UNBC  
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/ryser.pdf

*Vibrant Rural Communities*  
Ted Eastley and Colin Hudon, Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council  
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/eastley.pdf
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Presentations

FOOD SECURITY

Presentations

Local Food from the Farmer’s Perspective: A Waterloo Case Study
John Devlin, SEDRD, University of Guelph
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/devlin.pdf

Growing our Own Up North: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in Northern Manito
Laurel Gardiner, Bayline Regional Roundtable
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/gardiner.pdf

The Harvest Moon Society: Holistic Community Development through Urban-Rural Partnerships
Colin Anderson, University of Manitoba & The Harvest Moon Society
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/anderson.pdf

Food solutions - Land and people – Alberta Stories
Susan Roberts, Growing Food Security in Alberta
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/roberts.pdf

RURAL IMMIGRATION

Presentations:

Employing New Canadians: Rural Employers Information Pathway for Hiring Temporary Foreign Workers in Manitoba
Jill Bucklaschuk, Anisa Zehtab-Martin, Rural Development Institute

Housing Immigrants in Small Communities
Tom Carter, University of Winnipeg
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/carter.pdf

Rural Immigration in Manitoba: Opportunities and Challenges for Welcoming Communities
Karen Marchand, Jenny Rockett, Rural Development Institute
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/Marchand-Rockett.pdf
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Presentations

RURAL GOVERNANCE

Presentations:  Planning for a Brighter Future: Municipalities Working Together
Shelley Kilbride, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/kilbride.pdf

Navigating Community Benefit from Resource Activities in Rural Regions
Karen Heisler, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/heisler.pdf

Participative Policy Formation: Fostering Collaboration in an Multi-Shareholder Environment
Alan Levy, Department of Business Administration, Brandon University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/levy.pdf

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentations:  The Centre for Research and Innovation
Bruce Rutley, Centre for Research and Innovation
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/rutley.pdf

The Role of the State in Tourism Product Development and Promotion in Manitoba
Doug Ramsey, Department of Rural Development, Brandon University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/ramsey.pdf

Amenity-based rural development – A Canadian Typology and Assessment of Current Supports
Nicole Vaugeois, Vancouver Island University
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/Vaugeois-amenities.pdf

Rural Action Plan – A Rural Economic Development Strategy for Prince Edward Island
Kim Klein, Fisheries, Aquaculture & Rural Development, PEI
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/klein.pdf
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Presentations

RURAL EDUCATION

Presentations:  

- **Manitoba Education Rural Education Action Plan**  
  Jean-Vianne Auclair, Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education  
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/auclair.pdf

- **The Reality of Lifelong Learning in a Rural Community**  
  Karen Rempel, Faculty of Education, Brandon University  
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/rempel.pdf

- **Rural Successes; Rural Challenges**  
  Dianne E. Looker, Mount Saint Vincent University  
  http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/looker.pdf
APPENDIX B
Concurrent Session Presentations and Posters

Panel Discussions

RURAL IMMIGRATION PANEL

This panel, composed of representatives from community, government and academia, explored the challenges and the opportunities associated with increased immigration to rural settings.

Moderator: Robert Annis, Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute
Panelists: Sandy Trudel, City of Brandon
Balfour Spence, Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies, Brandon University
Ray Bollman, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada
Caroline Duvieusart-Déry, Francophone Immigration, Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Sylvie Moreau, Immigration Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada
Bill Ashton, Director, Rural Development Institute

RURAL POLICY PANEL

Rural Policy panel, led by federal, provincial, and municipal officials, and researchers will explore priorities, national commonalities, and opportunities to developing policies specific to the demands of rural Canada.

Moderator: Kim Beilby, Rural Food and Policy Section, MAFRI
Panelists: Doug Dobrowolski, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Mr. Merv Tweed, MP, Brandon-Souris

RURAL GOVERNANCE PANEL

Regional Collaboration: Pathway to Innovative Governance or Rural Abandonment?

Moderator: David Douglas, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
Panelists: Ken Carter, Director of Partnership Research and Analysis, Rural Secretariat,
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Sean Markey, Simon Fraser University
Kelly Vodden, Memorial University
Bill Reimer, Concordia University

Regional Collaboration: The Importance of Social Infrastructure
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010/presentations/ReimerBill.pdf
APPENDIX B
Concurrent Session Presentations

Panel Discussions

FOREST COMMUNITIES PANEL

The Power of Partnering: Forest Communities Working together for their Common Future

Moderator: Ivan Emke, MUN University
Panelists: Brian Kotak, Manitoba Model Forest
           Clara Lauziere, Northeast Superior Forest Community
           Marie-Claude Gauthier, Lac-Saint-Jean Model Forest
           Michael Slivitzky, Canadian Forest Natural Resources Canada

RURAL EDUCATION PANEL

Innovative Partnership Approaches for Skills Training and Economic Development in Rural and Remote Aboriginal Communities

Moderator: Marcelle Gareau, Partnership Development, Research and Coordination
Panelists: Owen Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Unama’ki Economic Benefits Office
           Andrea Kosalko, Manager of the School of Exploration and Mining, Northwest Community College
           Lorraine Arcand, Wabasca, AB
Identité linguistique et culturelle des immigrants francophones au Manitoba/Linguistic and Cultural Identity of Francophone Immigrants in Manitoba.
Moses Nyongwa, CUSB, University of Manitoba
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/MetropolisSymposium2010/NyongwaPresentation.pdf

Rodolphe Adikpeto, Immigration francophone Nouvelle-Ecosse
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/MetropolisSymposium2010/
Adikpéto_FR_presentation.pdf
English Version
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/MetropolisSymposium2010/
Adikpeto_EN_presentation.pdf

Canadian "Northern Francophone Communities" in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Between Establishment and Transition.
Christopher Traisnel, Université de Moncton
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/MetropolisSymposium2010/Traisnel_FR_presentation.pdf
English Version
http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/MetropolisSymposium2010/Traisnel_EN_presentation.pdf