

**OVERVIEW OF RURAL RESEARCH
CENTRES IN CANADA**

14 October 2008

Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

Brandon University established the Rural Development Institute in 1989 as an academic research centre 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.

For more information, please visit www.brandonu.ca/rdi.

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14 October 2008

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Introduction

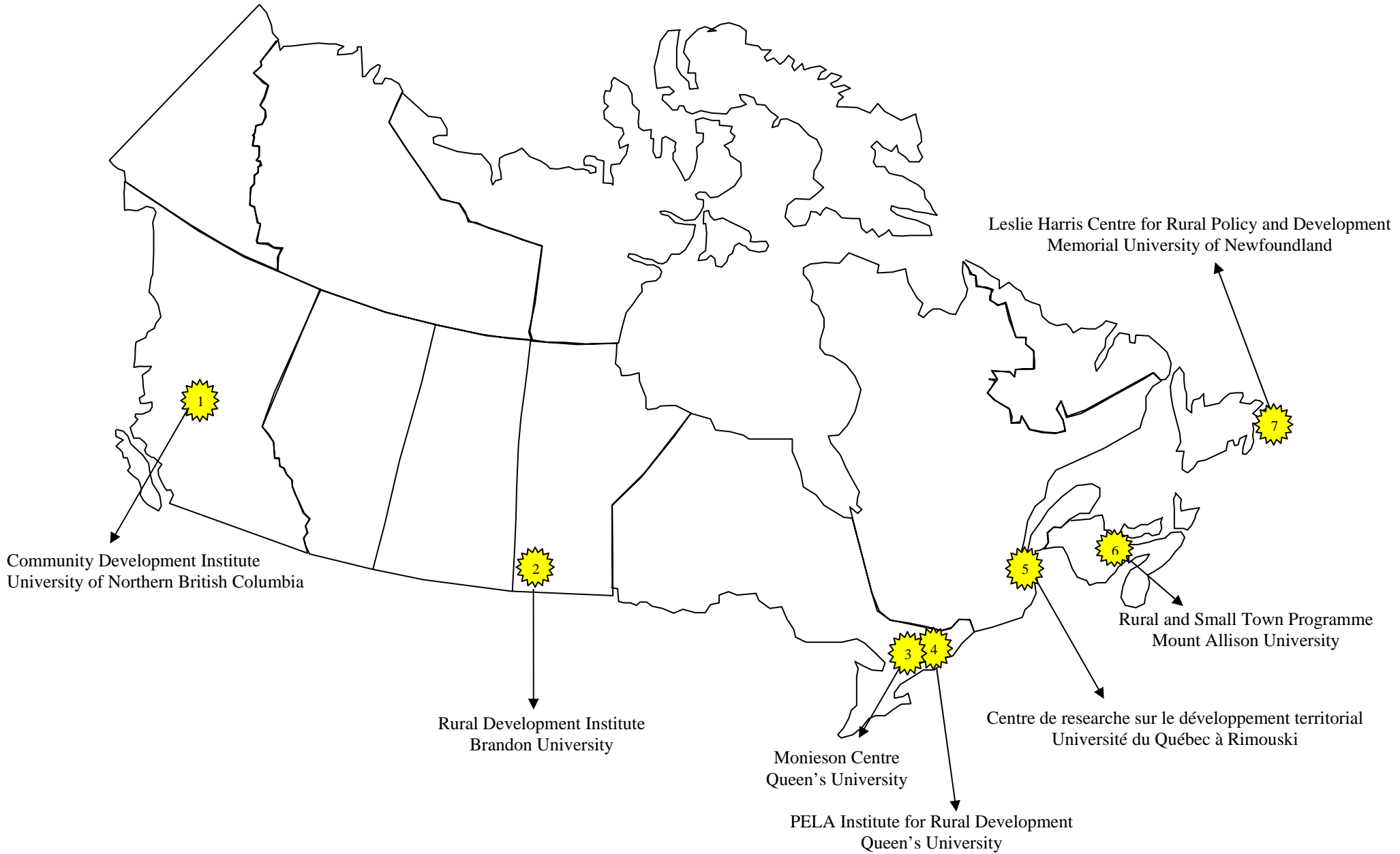
Throughout Canada, a small number of university-based research centres have been working with rural and northern communities to increase the understanding of rural development, policy, and practice. Great diversity exists among these rural research centres. The purpose of this working paper is to increase the understanding of university-based rural research centres across Canada. It is anticipated this paper will facilitate discussions of university-based rural research centres, their connection to communities, and the diversity that exists throughout centres across Canada.

This document has been arranged in preparation of two conferences: *Reversing the Tide: Strategies for Successful Rural Revitalization* (October 6-8, 2008 in Prince George, British Columbia) and *Knowledge in Motion* (October 16-18, 2008 in St. John's, Newfoundland). The paper contains information from seven rural research centres (see Figure 1) and four national rural networks/organizations in Canada. Information is presented in the primary language of each centre.

Across Canada, numerous university researchers are actively engaged in rural and northern research projects. For the purpose of this report, a university-based research centre is defined as a formal group of researchers with an institutional mandate to conduct rural research and community development projects. This report does not attempt to include reference to individual researchers or their respective projects. It is also recognized that a number of Canadian researchers have formal and informal connections to rural research centres throughout the world; however, only Canadian university centres are listed below. This report will be revised on a regular basis with updated information. We apologize for any oversights or omissions.

Comments and suggestions for inclusion are welcomed and can be forwarded to gibsonr@brandonu.ca. In late 2008, a revised report will be posted on the Rural Development Institute's website at www.brandonu.ca/rdi.

Figure 1. Rural Research Centres in Canada



University-Based Rural Research Centres

Eight university-based rural research centres are profiled. Information has been collected through a review of each centre's website and through communications with the Director of each centre.

Centre de Recherche sur le Développement Territorial, Université du Québec à Rimouski

Directeur: Bruno Jean

300 allée des Ursulines, CP 3300, Rimouski, Québec, G5L 3A1

www.uqar.qc.ca/crdt/



Le Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial est un regroupement stratégique reconnu depuis mai 2003 par le Fonds québécois de recherche sur la société et la culture. Il regroupe des chercheurs et des chercheuses oeuvrant dans le domaine du développement territorial.

Les activités du le Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial visent l'accroissement des connaissances sur les différents aspects du développement territorial et régional au Québec et ailleurs dans le monde.

En utilisant des méthodologies variées, les recherches effectuées peuvent ainsi soutenir des prises de décisions de même que l'évaluation de politiques, programmes ou projets de développement et d'aménagement territorial et régional. Les travaux des chercheurs et chercheuses du le Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial sont principalement supportés par des subventions et des contrats, et les résultats diffusés au moyen de publications et de colloques, séminaires et conférences.

Le Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial constitue un milieu d'accueil stimulant et hautement créatif pour la formation, l'encadrement ou le perfectionnement d'étudiants, de chercheurs, d'analystes ou de personnes intéressées par le domaine du développement territorial et régional.

Pour les chercheurs et les chercheuses du le Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial, le développement territorial constitue une perspective scientifique commune. Il correspond à la fois à un courant de recherche en émergence et à un foisonnement d'initiatives, surtout publiques, visant à mieux comprendre et maîtriser les facteurs qui déterminent les performances économiques d'ensembles territoriaux plus ou moins vastes. Ces facteurs sont d'ordre économique, culturel, politique, et liés aux caractéristiques des territoires où interviennent des acteurs sociaux.

La recherche sur le développement territorial renouvellera la compréhension du rôle et de l'influence réciproque tant des structures que des acteurs sur la formation et la recomposition des espaces socio-économiques et politiques. Le territoire y est considéré comme une ressource fondamentale, il s'inscrit en toute cohérence avec le courant du développement durable.

Le développement territorial s'impose comme une perspective de ré-articulation tant des savoirs (issus de plusieurs disciplines) que des territoires, pour le progrès réel de l'humanité : répartition équitable de la richesse, poursuite de l'expérience démocratique, préservation et épanouissement des cultures.

Community Development Institute, University of Northern British Columbia

Director: Greg Halseth

3333 University Way, Prince George, British Columbia, V2N 4Z9

www.unbc.ca/cdi/

In February 2004, the University of Northern British Columbia's Board of Governors approved the Northern BC Community Development Institute (CDI).

The CDI is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting educational outreach, the CDI is an important partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.

Through its work, the CDI emphasizes:

- **Research:**
 - Applied and basic work
 - Academic integrity
 - Community relevant

- **Information Exchange:**
 - Information on tools/practices
 - Community needs guide our research
 - Supporting networks for sharing information

- **Capacity Building:**
 - Education role in community capacity building
 - Community based skills/training transfer

The CDI's research mandate is well developed. A wide range of research projects are profiled on our website. Project areas include regional development, community and regional economic development, community development, First Nation's community and economic development, and a range of health care and seniors needs topics.

The CDI employs a wide set of tools to assist with its work, including:

- Community Publications Series
- Community Speakers Series
- Website
- Quarterly Newsletter

In accordance with University of Northern British Columbia's founding vision, and with our Mission "as a university in the north, for the north", the CDI fills a crucial information gap and plays a significant role in northern British Columbia as people, places, and economies restructure in response to change.

Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University of Newfoundland



Director: Robert Greenwood

1st Floor, Spencer Hall, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7

www.mun.ca/harriscentre/index.php

The Harris Centre is tasked with co-ordinating and facilitating the university's educational, research and outreach activities in the areas of regional policy and development. It works with all faculties and departments within the university and serves as a reliable point of access for all stakeholders seeking to work with the university in activities related to regional policy and development.

The Harris Centre was formed through the merger of the Public Policy Research Centre and the Centre of Regional Development Studies.

The Harris Centre will build on the solid foundation of research, teaching and outreach established by the Public Policy Research Centre and Centre of Regional Development Studies.

The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development (The Harris Centre) was approved by Memorial University Board of Regents on September 8th, 2004. It is named in honour of Memorial University scholar and former president, Dr. Leslie Harris. Dr. Harris exemplifies the contribution of Memorial University to regional policy and development in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Monieson Centre, Queen's University

Director: Yolande Chan

Goodes Hall, Queen's University, 143 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6

www.business.queensu.ca/centres/monieson/index.php

With generous funding from Melvin R. Goodes (former Chairman and CEO of Warner-Lambert), The Monieson Centre, formerly the Queen's Centre for Knowledge-Based Enterprises, was established in November 1998 at Queen's University within Queen's School of Business. The Centre is named after the late Dr. David Dan Monieson who was renowned for his inspirational teaching and leadership at Queen's School of Business. The Monieson Centre works with researchers, organizations and industry to explore how to generate value through knowledge.

The Monieson Centre invites Queen's School of Business and other Queen's University faculty and graduate students to participate in its projects. It also recruits academics at other leading educational institutions who have expertise not available at Queen's. These academic teams help organizations and communities discover how to harness and enhance their knowledge capital. Research teams conduct custom, applied research, focusing on complex knowledge-based organizational and industry issues. Faculty and graduate students gather empirical data to address important research questions. They work in high performing teams, sharing ideas, discussing findings and identifying management implications.

The Centre employs a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research model that upholds the standards of academic rigour while offering significant value to practitioners. The Centre administers these research projects and actively shares new knowledge through academic and industry channels. Its staff have expertise in knowledge translation, transfer and mobilization. Research findings are translated into effective, practice-based recommendations. The goal is to bridge the gap between business theory and practice.

Current knowledge-based regional economic development projects include the SSHRC- funded Knowledge Impact in Society project (see easternontarioknowledge.ca), a SSHRC community-university research alliances proposal for funding for new research to address Eastern Ontario development challenges, and a project funded by the Prince Edward/Lennox and Addington (PELA) Community Futures Development Corporation that is focused on creative economy and knowledge worker challenges in the PELA counties.

Prince Edward / Lennox and Addington Institute on Rural Development, Queen's University

Director: Craig Desjardins

43 Picton Main Street, Picton, Ontario, K0K 2T0

<http://pelaird.ca>

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

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

However, several barriers to rural economic development were identified. From a lack of relevant, recent and specific data for Rural Eastern Ontario to a lack of cooperation between communities in Eastern Ontario to a lack of attention paid to Eastern Ontario by academics, researchers and government officials. These barriers are what the PELA Institute, through such tools as the central repository of information, intends to break down, allowing for further future economic development.

Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

Director: Robert C. Annis

270 18th Street, Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 6A9

www.brandonu.ca/rdi



Rural Development Institute, as a centre for excellence in rural development, helps foster rural community development and community resiliency through research and information on issues unique to rural areas. Established in 1989, Rural Development Institute's principle activities are designing and conducting multi-disciplinary academic and applied research on rural issues; and communicating this information to rural community stakeholders. While its primary focus is on rural and northern areas of Western Canada, the Institute maintains relationships with other researchers in Canada and abroad.

Priding itself on a collaborative approach, the Rural Development Institute encourages a multi-disciplinary research environment and promotes the development of projects with rural community stakeholders. The Institute has diverse research affiliations and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate. Rural Development Institute 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, conferences and website.

Rural Development Institute's rural research is relevant to rural policy-makers and to the people who live and work in rural areas. Ideas for the research activities undertaken by Rural Development Institute research and project teams are developed through contact with rural groups, towns, rural municipalities, villages, governments, international researchers and observers of rural situations. Research domains are directly linked to rural development issues including: community economic development; community leadership; environment and agro-economic issues; information management and technology utilization; policy and program research and development; rural adaptation and change; rural health; and rural tourism.

Rural Development Institute's collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach has led to strong university, community and government linkages. The Institute has diverse research affiliations, and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate.

As a resource for communities, researchers and students, Rural Development Institute encourages academic, policy, government and community interest in rural research. As a conduit of information to rural policy-makers and rural community stakeholders, Rural Development Institute's research and project team attend meetings, make conference presentations, prepare publications, participate in or lead forums and discussion groups and facilitate community development discussions.

Rural Development Institute assists researchers internal to Brandon University as well as external researchers from other organizations with proposal development, establishment of project teams, information management, as well as publication and dissemination of research findings.

Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University

Director: David Bruce

144 Main Street, Sackville, New Brunswick, E4L 1A7

www.mta.ca/rstp/



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

Geographic Areas of Research

Primarily Atlantic Canada. We work in all parts of Canada on rural development issues in partnership with other research centres.

Areas of Expertise

- Affordable housing, housing needs
- Aboriginal communities
- Community economic development
- Migration and mobility
- Community health
- Governance
- Indicators and measurements of community well-being and progress

National Rural Organizations and Networks

Four national rural organizations and networks are profiled. Information has been collected through a review of each centre's website and through communications with the President/Director of each organization or network.

Canadian Rural Health Research Society

President: Judith Kulig

103 Hospital Drive, P.O. Box 120, R.U.H., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W8

<http://crhrs-scrsr.usask.ca/>



The Canadian Rural Health Research Society offers the opportunity for researchers and their collaborators to network with new and established researchers of many disciplines engaged in rural, remote and northern health research. Each year, at our annual scientific meetings in October, we discuss current findings and seek to build new and extend existing networks among those with common research interests and goals. In the autumn of 2002, we changed our name to the Canadian Rural Health Research Society from the Consortium for Rural Health Research.

Since 1999, we have worked to advance the cause of rural and remote health research in Canada. We have been successful in providing opportunities for new multi-disciplinary groupings of health researchers to meet and create new working relationships. Several research groupings, including groups in rural and remote nursing, community health, and environmental and occupational health, have gone on to achieve national research funding. We are now finding new ways to link the developing groups and networks for knowledge development and capacity building under the title of the “Canada Rural and Remote Health Studies”.

The Canadian Rural Health Research Society's mission is to facilitate research and knowledge translation aimed at understanding and promoting the health of people living in rural and remote Canada. The goals of the Society are to build inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, mutually supportive and community-focused research networks concerned with rural and remote health; and to develop health research that is responsive to the needs of people living in rural and remote communities.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

President: Mike Stolte

460 Torbay Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1A 5J3

www.crrf.ca



The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's mission is to revitalize rural Canada. Strong rural economies across Canada are needed by the rest of Canadians for the 2000s. The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation achieves its mission through education and research for rural leaders in the community, the private sector and in government. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation seeks to broker mutually beneficial relationships built on improved understanding of common interest at all levels, to advance the fortunes of all partners and reduce rural dependency.

Economic and social restructuring, accelerated by globalization, is compressing the time between information, learning and action needed to sustain rural development. This presents extreme challenges to rural populations accustomed to trial and error styles of learning, seasonal timetables, and complex institutional strategies to manage uncertainty. The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation assembles creative minds from rural communities, governments, universities and businesses to enable rural populations to succeed with these challenges. Specifically, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation addresses: the need for jobs and wealth generating activities.

- the need for institutional flexibility within the private sector, and within social and governing organizations in rural Canada.
- the need for urban and rural people to help each other find ethical environmental and economic solutions to the problems of sustainability and rural dependence.
- the need for continuing learning to enable rural populations to participate actively in the economic life of their country.

Fulfilling these needs is important to rural people, their firms and farms, and to the Nation. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and its pre-incorporation group have established a fourteen-year track record of commitment to long-range solutions to the urgent rural economic and social needs for rural Canadians.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation is results oriented. Researchers have practical and academic backgrounds in industry, resource management and rural development. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has delivered consistently annual innovative workshops and conferences in rural venues in every province but one in Canada since 1989. Over 150 papers have been published from Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation activities, including three books, a special edition of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, and a Working Papers Series. A national rural sampling frame has been created to improve the comparative quality of policy studies. A 32-site rural observatory has been put in place. Research topics have included: revitalization of rural communities; location, commuting and multiple livelihood strategies; resource dependent rural places; communications and the knowledge economy; capacity-building; rural social capital; globalization and trade liberalization; manufacturing and rural diversification; rural services; social cohesion and economic development; governance; and low level economic trapping.

National Rural Research Network

*President: Robert Greenwood
Ottawa, Ontario*

<http://nrrn.concordia.ca/nrrn.htm>



The National Rural Research Network is an important new means of supporting rural research and making rural information more easily available. By bringing current and prospective rural researchers together with users of rural research findings, the Network will enhance shared understanding of the benefits of rural research for rural and remote communities, and will contribute to improved rural and remote policy and program choices across Canada.

The Network is funded by the Government of Canada's Community Capacity Building program of the Rural Secretariat as a 3-year contribution agreement with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.

Overall project management is provided by a Steering Committee of representatives from the Rural Secretariat and Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.

National Rural Research Network activities will include information dissemination to share research data and event information; opportunities for personal interactions to help members consolidate and extend ties to other network members; learning events to provide opportunities for exchange of ideas and information among researchers and users of research. Activities so far have included a first planning workshop in February 2005 which set out the parameters for the Network.

National Rural Research Network's first significant activity and success was the Think Tank on Rural Immigration held in conjunction with the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University.

The biggest event of the year will be the national conference An Overview of Rural Research in Canada in Twillingate, Newfoundland and Labrador in October 2005, coinciding with Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's national conference. For this first conference over 75 abstracts and expressions of interest were received. 18 sessions on a range of rural topics are planned from both academic and applied research point of view. Another National Rural Research Network venture is the development of a Web-based data base of research information on rural and remote Canada that will provide users an opportunity to share work with others in the field as well as those seeking information.

New Rural Economy Project

Director: Bill Reimer

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd Ouest, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8

<http://nre.concordia.ca>



The New Rural Economy Project Phase 2 is a research and education program studying rural Canada since 1998. It is a collaborative undertaking bringing together rural people, researchers, policy-analysts, the business community, and government agencies at all levels to identify and address vital rural issues. It is conducted at the national level with historical and statistical data analysis, and at the local level with case studies involving community and household surveys. The New Rural Economy's mandate has been extended through 2006 with the help of a major grant from the Initiative of the New Economy Program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

The New Rural Economy Project Phase 2 project will study the capacities of rural Canadian communities along four themes relevant to rural society. Each theme will be investigated by a team composed of New Rural Economy Project Phase 2 researchers from across Canada who specialize in that particular aspect of social studies. A Central Team, working out of New Rural Economy Project Phase 2 Headquarters located at Concordia University in Montréal, will coordinate the activities of the entire project, as well as conduct research of a broader nature.

Additional Rural Research and Resources

Four additional organizations are profiled below. Information has been collected through a review of each centre's website. The list of additional rural research and resources will continue to be populated. Suggestions can be sent to gibsonr@brandonu.ca.

Rural Alberta's Development Fund

Managing Director: Terry Keyko

Site 3, Box 17, RR#4, Tofield, Alberta, T0B 4J0

www.ruralalbertasfund.com



Rural Alberta's Development Fund is a not-for-profit company incorporated in 2006 under Part-9 of the Companies Act (Alberta). It was created to fulfill a commitment by the Government of Alberta to support communities, regional alliances, government departments and not-for-profit organizations in kick starting community-building projects that would contribute to the growth and prosperity of rural Alberta.

The \$100 million provided to the Fund by the Government of Alberta is used to invest in projects that stimulate economic growth and address rural challenges and opportunities. Read our latest Update and 2007-2008 annual report. The Fund is a key implementation initiative of the province's Rural Development Strategy, released in 2005.

Rural Alberta's Development Fund seeks to inspire and act as a catalyst for innovative, collaborative, community-led projects which promote the growth, prosperity and quality of life in rural Alberta.

The Fund's priorities for projects include:

- rural economic and community development
- community capacity
- rural health
- education programs and services
- rural youth and seniors
- Participation of Aboriginal people in rural development
- Technology and communication

Regional Innovation Chair in Regional Economic Development, Selkirk College

Contact: George Penfold

301 Frank Beinder Way, Castlegar, British Columbia, V1N 3J1

<http://selkirk.ca/research/ric/>



The Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development was formally established on November 15, 2006 to conduct a program of research in rural economic development. The work of the Chair is based on community needs and on partnerships with local and regional organizations and businesses. The Selkirk Geospatial Research Center provides complementary expertise, access to data and state-of-the-art Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other research tools and skills.

The goals of the Regional Innovation Chair program include:

- Work with organizations in the Kootenay & Boundary region to improve decisions on matters related to economic development by providing relevant research data and analysis, and related training, skills and organizational development.
- Assist in diversification of the regional economy through promotion of innovation and technology transfer in existing and new enterprises and initiatives.
- Support and participate in provincial and national networks that undertake research on the revitalization of rural communities and regions.

The objectives of the Regional Innovation Chair program for the first five years are:

- Enhance the culture, skills and capacity to develop and apply information and research outcomes to key decisions.
We have established a community based Advisory Committee to provide input into the activities of the Chair and develop a collaborative strategic plan for research, training and education related to economic development in the region. We will develop a better understanding of economic trends and possibilities within the Kootenay & Boundary region in regards to diversification, key drivers, opportunities, and the environment needed to encourage economic development.
- Provide data and analysis related to key decisions that will be made by public and private sector organizations.
We will gather and analyze data related to the information needs of local and regional economic development initiatives and partner organizations. We will establish a data base, and use it to assess and make available information on key aspects of the regional economy including key drivers, strengths, weaknesses and gaps in sectors and services. In collaboration with the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, we will develop tools data and analysis for decision-making in the municipal, not for profit and private sectors.
- Help in the development of a network for research on regional and rural economic development.
We are participating in the rural economic development network with key BC and other Canadian post secondary educational institutions and other economic development organizations. We are participating in national or provincial committees, conferences or other activities related to the needs and priorities of the Kootenay & Boundary region.

Rural Development Initiatives Inc.

Executive Director: Kathi Jaworski
2620 River Road, Suite 205, Eugene, Oregon, 97404
www.rdiinc.org



Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. is an Oregon-based nonprofit committed to assisting rural Northwest communities face today's challenges and create vitality. The Rural Development Initiatives, Inc is dedicated to building the capacity of rural leaders and to facilitating the development of collaborative partnerships that undertake economic and community development initiatives. The Rural Development Initiatives, Inc works with local community leaders, volunteers, and partners to proactively address opportunities and challenges. In the process, we facilitate the development of social capital by helping communities build on their own assets, and linking them to resources they need to succeed.

Rural Development Initiatives, Inc has successfully helped more than 200 towns and rural partnerships develop and diversify their economies by creating inclusive, long-term strategies and in identifying and managing crucial projects. The Rural Development Initiatives, Inc's work is focused in Oregon but also reaches six western states and British Columbia.

Rural Development Initiatives, Inc has a 13 member board of Directors, 10 staff members in the main office in Eugene, Oregon and 13 field staff positions throughout the state. Rural Development Initiatives, Inc's annual budget is \$3.1 million and comes from foundations, the state and federal sources, and user fees.

Rural Policy Research Institute

Board Chair: Alan Baquet
214 Middlebush Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia,
Columbia, MO, 65211
www.rupri.org



The Rural Policy Research Institute provides unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America. The Rural Policy Research Institute's aim is to spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the rural impacts of public policies and programs.

The Rural Policy Research Institute was founded in 1990 to address a concern of members of the Senate Agricultural Committee -- including Senator Kit Bond (Missouri), Senator Dale Bumpers (Arkansas), Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa), and Senator Bob Kerrey (Nebraska) -- that no objective non-governmental source of external data, information, and analysis, regarding the rural and community impacts of public policy decisions was available.

Today, the Rural Policy Research Institute is housed within the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a joint program of Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska. The Rural Policy Research Institute's reach is national and international and is one of the world's preeminent sources of expertise and perspective on policies impacting rural places and people.

The Rural Policy Research Institute's activities encompass research, policy analysis and engagement, dissemination and outreach, and decision support tools. The work of the Rural Policy Research Institute is conducted through a small core team based in Missouri, Washington DC, and Texas, and through four centers and a number of joint initiatives and panels located across the United States.

The Rural Policy Research Institute's mission in support of this vision is to:

- Provide unbiased analysis and information on the challenges, needs, and opportunities facing rural America.
- Spur public dialogue and help policymakers understand the impacts of public policies and programs on rural people and places.

The Rural Policy Research Institute in pursuing this mission commits to:

- Provide timely, empirically-based, and non-partisan advice and assistance to policymakers on the rural impacts of public policies and programs and on options for improving the prospects for rural people and places.
- Foster understanding of and the search for effective solutions to the challenges of rural America by providing safe venues for people with a stake in the future of rural America to discuss openly concerns, issues, and opportunities.
- Encourage collaboration and common purpose among scholars to pursue research that supports effective policy and practice, and among institutions and agencies that have the expertise, resources, and responsibilities to impact rural people and places.
- Promote innovative, collaborative, and systems-based approaches to rural issues that engage decision-makers and rural people at local, regional, state, national, and international levels

RDI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Scott Grills, Chair
Brandon University
Brandon, MB

Mona Cornock
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Brandon, MB

Larry Flynn
Public Health Agency of Canada
Winnipeg, MB

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Frank Thomas
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Brandon, MB

Larry Wark
MTS Communications Inc.
Brandon, MB

Dion Wiseman
Brandon University
Brandon, MB

Robert Annis, Director
RDI, Brandon University
Brandon, MB

The role of the RDI Advisory Committee is to provide general advice and direction to the Institute on matters of rural concern. On a semi-annual basis the Committee meets to share information about issues of mutual interest in rural Manitoba and foster linkages with the constituencies they represent.