

REGIONAL ROUND TABLE OVERVIEW

**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION PROJECT: EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING CAPACITY**

April 2006



Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

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.

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

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Community Collaboration Project Success Factors

Community Collaboration Project: Empowering Communities and Building Capacity

Communities collaborating together in community development processes can increase their capacity to improve quality of life, better manage change and sustain long-term well-being. The *Community Collaboration Project (CCP) Empowering Communities & Building Capacity* project (hereafter referred to as the CCP Model Project) provides opportunities for new forms of collaboration and governance. With access to the appropriate tools, resources and information, individuals living in rural and northern communities can engage in self-sustaining, informed, local decision-making and meaningful dialogue between and among communities, organizations and governments. The CCP in Manitoba and Nunavut, initiated in 1999, was a collaborative arrangement between communities in four regions of Manitoba and the Kivalliq region of Nunavut, federal, provincial and territorial government departments and agencies, non-government organizations and Rural Development Institute (RDI) of Brandon University. Four regional round tables (RRTs) emerged from this process, each with unique and different priorities goals and projects, yet similar in how they underwent community collaboration. Outcomes of the CCP experience in Manitoba/Nunavut included: the building of relationships among CCP stakeholders; the development of trusting relationships and increased communication between the community members and government officials; leadership development within the RRTs and the steering committee; capacity building among the RRTs and steering committee members; and exploration into new models of decision-making and governance among communities and governments.

The purpose of Brandon University's Rural Development Institute's CCP Model project is to test the applicability and replicability of the CCP model. Through the Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat, RDI has funding to support the development of three regional round tables (RRTs) in other provinces/territories. A project steering committee has been established and includes representation from the Rural Secretariat and RDI. Rural Teams are involved as partners in the project. Rural Teams are provincial/territorial teams of federal, provincial, local government departments and agencies and community-serving organizations who have an interest in rural and northern Canada. In collaboration with the Rural Secretariat, RDI met with the Rural Teams in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon to discuss the feasibility of implementing RRTs in their province or territory. The Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Yukon Rural Teams committed to becoming actively engaged in the CCP process and with the site selected in their province/territory. Each Rural Team initiated a subcommittee, the CCP advisory group. RDI met with potential community stakeholders and funding partners in each of the provinces/territory, and in collaboration with the Rural Secretariat, selected the RRT sites. Site selection criteria included:

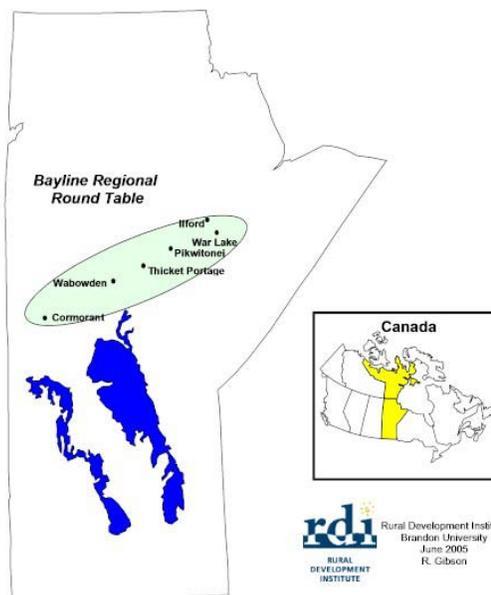
- the group of communities had the desire and a commitment to work together in new and different ways to achieve common goals,
- the group of communities is located in a rural or northern area,
- leaders within the communities are prepared to actively engage in the creation of the RRT, and
- the communities and organizations that serve them agree to commit in-kind and cash resources to the process of forming and organizing RRTs.



The Community Collaboration Project (CCP): Empowering Communities & Building Capacity is financially supported, in part, by the Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat

Bayline RRT

Bayline Regional Round Table joined the CCP in November 2001 with four member communities, Pikwitonei, Ilford, Cormorant and Wabowden. In December, Thicket Portage joined the group and War Lake First Nation became part of the round table in 2002. The Bayline rail line, which is the primary mode of travel in the wintertime, connects all of the communities and with the exception of War Lake First Nation, the communities are under the jurisdiction of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. Given transportation obstacles and the difficulty to coming together as a region, the RRT has become an important venue for communication among communities, government and non-government officials, as well as the private sector.



Indicator	
Membership	2 members per community, one of which is an elected official (Mayor/Chief or councillors)
Voting Procedures	One vote per community
Meeting Frequency	Quarterly
Meeting Cost Coverage	Project funding
Paid Staff of the RRT	Yes – 3 (1 full-time, 2 part-time)
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	Project funding
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	Wabowden Community Council
Funding Supports (illustrative)	Public Health Agency of Canada, Northern Healthy Foods Initiative – Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Incorporated	Yes

Website

<http://baylinerrt.cimnet.ca>

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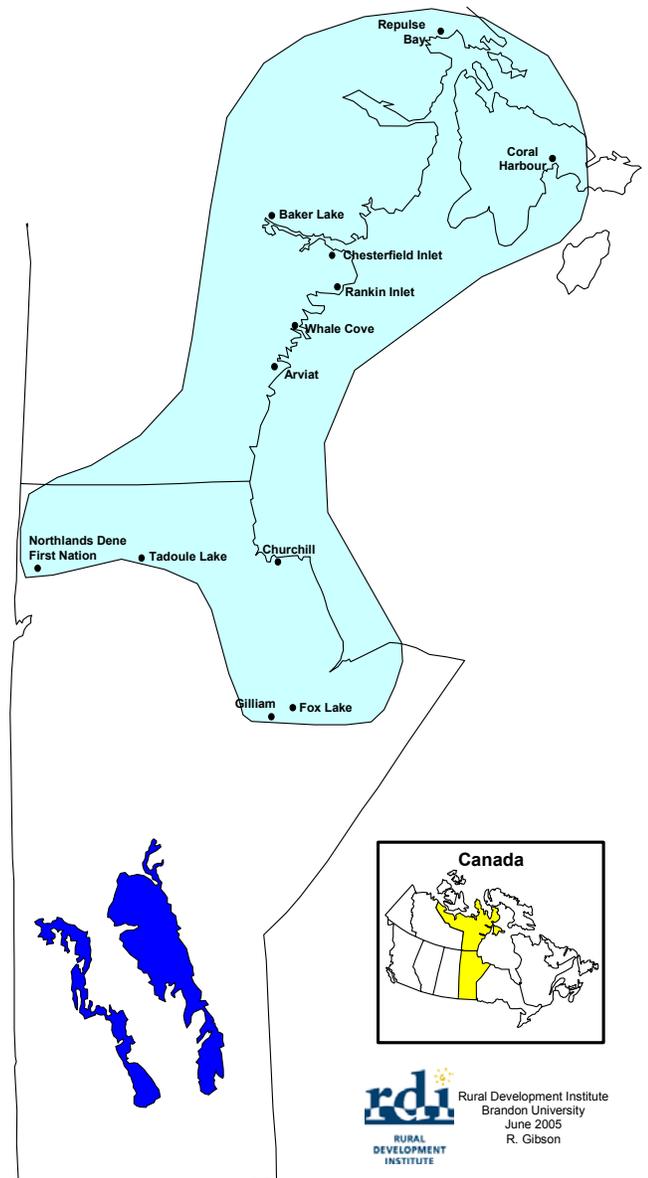
Hudson Bay Neighbours RRT

The Hudson Bay Neighbours (originally known as the Northern Manitoba-Kivalliq RRT) is a unique partnership among five Northern Manitoba communities and seven communities in Nunavut that began in January 2002. Given the geographical, political, and cultural differences present in the region, and the fact that, unlike other RRTs, it must function with dispersed agencies of government based in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, the HBNRRT strives to use the round table as a vehicle for coordinating regional priorities.

Vision statement of the HBNRRT is “*Neighbours of all ages in HBNRRT collaborate and use their abundant resources to secure a strong, self-reliant, region containing self-sufficient communities. Success is evident in cooperative economics, community development and employment to guarantee healthy families and healthy environment.*”

Website <http://hbn.cimnet.ca>

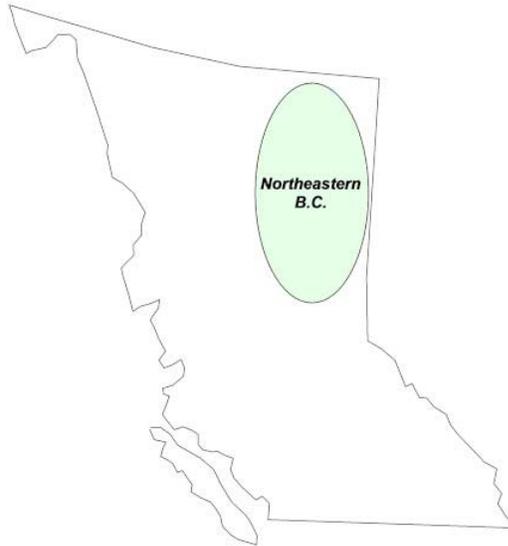
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Indicator	
Membership	2 members per community (usually the Mayor and CAO/SAO)
Voting Procedures	Only Mayors vote
Meeting Frequency	2 per year (approximately)
Meeting Cost Coverage	Through funding applications
Paid Staff of the RRT	Yes – 1 (part-time)
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	Through grant applications
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	Each member community, translation services
Funding Supports (illustrative)	Community Initiatives Program (Government of Nunavut), Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Incorporated	Yes

Northeastern BC RRT

The Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association (NRAHTA) is an association in northeastern British Columbia that has represented the interests of tourism within northeastern British Columbia for over twenty-five years. NRAHTA has initiated the *Alaska Highway Community Initiative* a community-based project that is supported by thirteen communities from British Columbia, Yukon and Alaska. RDI met with the NRAHTA board in late September 2005 and discussed the feasibility of forming a RRT that would have a broader vision. Subsequent to those meetings, NRAHTA submitted an Expression of Interest to be considered as a RRT. In early November, RDI met with representatives of Rural Team British Columbia, who also endorsed the formation of a RRT, and initiated an advisory group. At the time of this writing, the RRT is in the formation phase.



Indicator	
Membership	Signatories of Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association
Voting Procedures	<i>To be determined</i>
Meeting Frequency	3 meetings per year
Meeting Cost Coverage	CCP project funding
Paid Staff of the RRT	Yes
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	CCP project funding, Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	
Funding Supports	---
Incorporated	No

Website

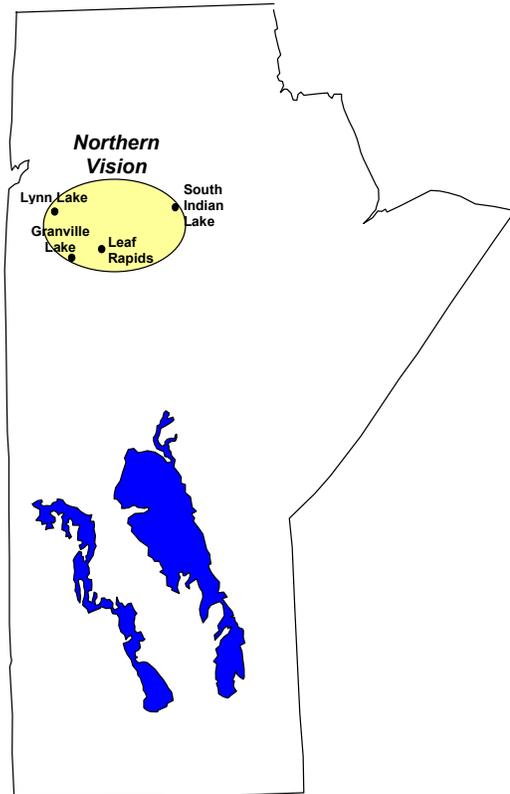
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Northern Vision RRT

In October 1999, NVRRT became the first Regional Round Table of the CCP. At that time, it included the communities of South Indian Lake, Leaf Rapids, and Lynn Lake but grew in 2000 with the addition of the Village of Granville Lake. Northern Vision's purpose "to strengthen our (Northern Region) by coordinating and implementing culturally sensitive goals that are identified through action oriented partnerships" is addressed through their emphasis on a regional approach, recognition of cultural diversity and an awareness of citizens' power to affect change and develop areas based on community-based decision making. The Northern Vision RRT is currently re-examining their membership, activities, and structure.



Indicator	
Membership	Community members (including Mayor/Chief)
Voting Procedures	Five votes per community
Meeting Frequency	Quarterly (approximately)
Meeting Cost Coverage	Town office in host community
Paid Staff of the RRT	No
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	---
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	Member communities
Funding Supports (illustrative)	Eco-Action – Environment Canada
Incorporated	No

Website

<http://northernvision.cimnet.ca>

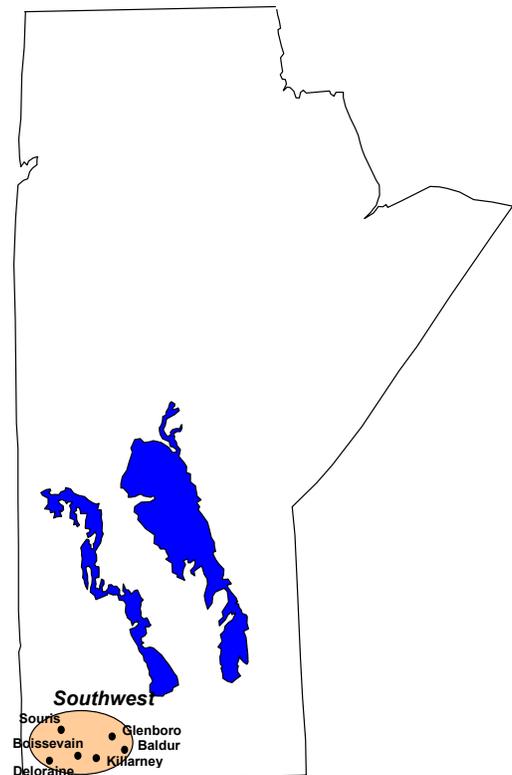
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Southwest RRT

The Southwest RRT emerged as the agro-Manitoba RRT in April of 2000 with four original member communities including Boissevain, Deloraine, Killarney and Souris. Later that year, Baldur, Wawanesa and Glenboro joined the RRT. In 2006, the Southwest RRT expanded with the inclusion of the Village of Cartwright. With the exception of Wawanesa, all communities remain part of the RRT.

The Southwest RRT has been active in pursuing projects related to youth inclusion and business retention and expansion. The members of the RRT also serve as an informal support network for each in relation to their positions as Economic Development officers.



Indicator	
Membership	Economic Development officers
Voting Procedures	1 vote per community
Meeting Frequency	Monthly
Meeting Cost Coverage	
Paid Staff of the RRT	Yes (part-time, contract-based)
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	Southwest Regional Development Corporation, Environment Canada,
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	Each community
Funding Supports (illustrative)	Southwest Regional Development Corporation, Environment Canada
Incorporated	No

Website

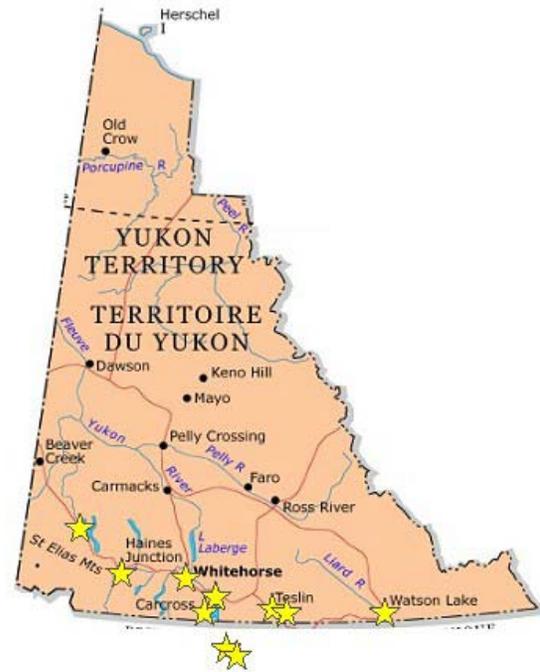
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Yukon RRT

On April 4th, 2006, the Yukon RRT was officially established. With the support from Rural Team Yukon, communities and First Nations from across the Yukon decided to pursue a collaborative approach on common opportunities and challenges. The Yukon RRT has met on three occasions and currently each member community and First Nation is receiving local support for the initiative through means of a council resolution. It is anticipated that by June, the Yukon RRT will have approximately 12 member communities and First Nations.



Indicator	
Membership	Open to all communities and First Nations in the Yukon
Voting Procedures	One vote per community
Meeting Frequency	Bi-monthly (currently)
Meeting Cost Coverage	CCP project funding
Paid Staff of the RRT	No
Source of Funding for Paid Staff	---
In-kind Contributions to the RRT	
Funding Supports	To be determined
Incorporated	No

Website

www.brandonu.ca/rdi/yrrt.html

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Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

Brandon University's 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, RDI'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, RDI maintains relationships with other researchers in Canada and abroad.

Priding itself on a collaborative approach, RDI 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. 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, conferences and website.

Our Research

RDI's rural research is highly relevant to rural policy-makers and to the people who live and work in rural areas. Ideas for the research activities undertaken by RDI 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
- Rural tourism

Tools for Community Development

Currently, RDI is involved in a number of projects directly related to community social and economic development issues. Examples of this work include the *Community Adjustment Handbook and Toolkit*, designed to aid community organizations in developing effective community-based action plans, as well as the *Rural Community Health and Well-Being: A Guide to Action* guidebook, designed by researchers and communities involved in a Determinants of Health Project.

Project Facilitation

RDI encourages the development of research activities and projects. Through the Brandon University Community Outreach Service, projects are facilitated and connections made between communities, researchers and students. Funded by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and administered by RDI, the Community Outreach mandate is to match community needs to faculty and student interests both on a voluntary basis and through the Annual Call for Proposals. For more information on the service, consult the Web site at <http://outreach.brandonu.ca>.

Collaboration

RDI's collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach has led to strong university, community and government linkages. The RDI Advisory Committee plays an important role in fostering collaborative activities. Membership of the Committee includes rural community stakeholders, provincial and federal government representatives and Brandon University faculty. Its role is to act as a sounding board concerning the future development and advancement of the Institute.

The Institute has diverse research affiliations, and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate. Faculty members from the Department of Rural Development join with colleagues from other Brandon University academic departments and from across Canada to undertake rural research and policy development. RDI also has research linkages with a number of major research institutions and research networks. These research affiliations include:

- Canadian Community Economic Development Network
- Pan-West Community Futures Network
- Canadian Consortium for Health Promotion Research
- National Rural Research Network
- Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)
- Canadian Consortium for Health Promotion Research
- Canadian Rural Health Research Society
- Community Economical Development Technical Assistance Program (CEDTAP), Carleton University
- Manitoba Research Alliance on Community Economic Development in the New Economy
- National Rural Research Network (NRRN)
- New Rural Economy Research Project (NRE) (Concordia University)
- Rural Team Manitoba
- Rural Team Saskatchewan

A Resource for Communities, Researchers and Students

As a resource for communities, researchers and students, RDI encourages academic, policy, government and community interest in rural research. As a conduit of information to rural policy-makers and rural community stakeholders, RDI'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.

RDI 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.

RDI's close affiliation with Brandon University's academic Department of Rural Development and other university departments provides a unique inter-disciplinary learning and working environment for students across a number of disciplines. RDI launched a Student Internship Program, which provides graduate and undergraduate students opportunities to apply theory to practice. Student interns are working on various RDI projects.

For more information about RDI contact Dr. Robert Annis, Director, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, 204-571-8513 or annis@brandonu.ca. Additional information about the Rural Development Institute is available from:

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