

# Regional Collaboration: Why Do Communities Come Together?

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*presented by*

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**WaterWolf Regional Round Table**

# Overview

- **Communities planning, coordinating & working together regionally**
- **A multi-community collaboration model developed in Manitoba & taken elsewhere in Canada**
- **The application of this model in Saskatchewan – WaterWolf Regional Round Table**
- **Challenges for regional planning & governance**
- **Discussion**

# Communities Planning, Coordinating & Working Together Regionally

*Harold Baker's findings from his 1991-92 study on multi-community collaboration in the US, Ireland, France & Spain:*

- Multi-community activity appears to be undertaken in order for smaller communities to survive in difficult times and to enhance development opportunities under these circumstances.
- There is a place in the community for both competition and collaboration, if they are kept in appropriate balance.
- Central resource agencies have important policy, facilitating, resource, and education functions to play.
- Although local government bodies should be considered important...it is equally important to involve other civic, private and voluntary groups.
- Community leaders will need time and patience to convince communities that it is beneficial to work together.

# Communities Planning, Coordinating & Working Together Regionally (continued)

- Leaders...should be selected with care, with attention to the scope of their vision and their collaborating skills.
- It is essential that a leadership development program be initiated as an integral and ongoing feature.
- The most difficult period in the formation...is the “formation period”, especially during the second to fifth year.
- The success of the microregion that is involved in multi-community collaboration appears quite dependent on the support of other developmental entities, especially the more central sub-province, province and national levels.
- Multi-community collaboration experience...appears to have had little influence on local government boundaries.
- The conventional sectorial development approach should be balanced appropriately with the territorial development which is fostered by multi-community collaboration.

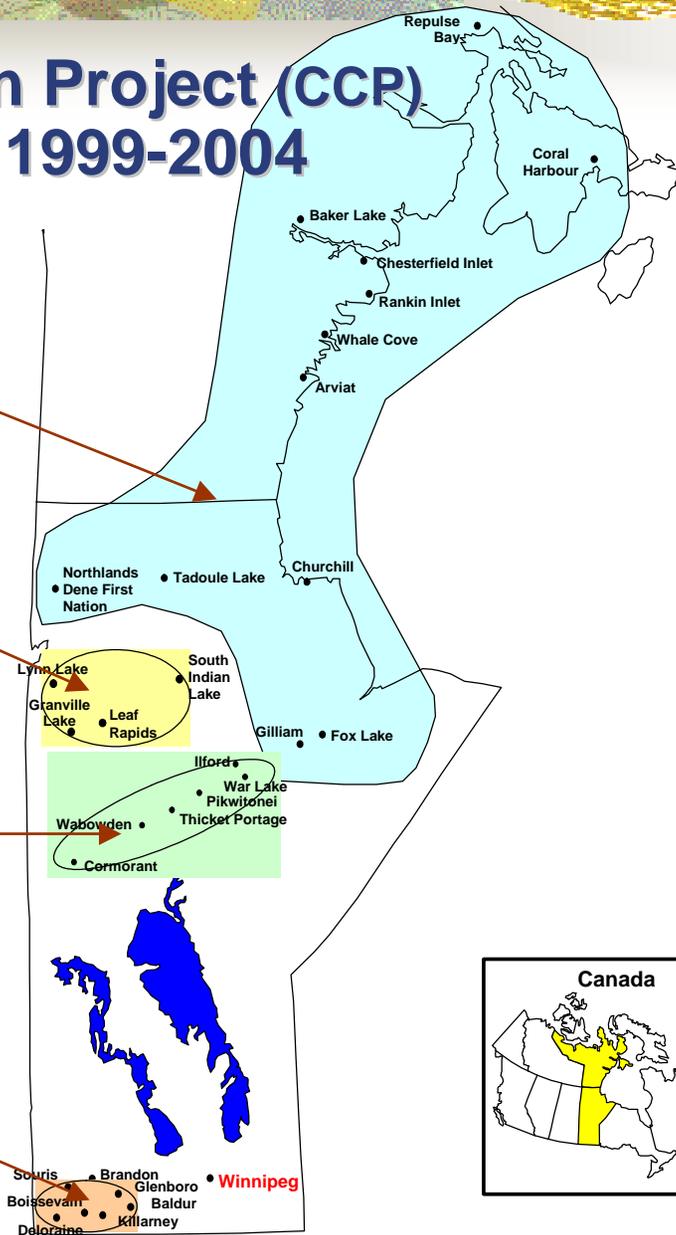
# Community Collaboration Project (CCP) in Manitoba/Nunavut 1999-2004

The **Hudson Bay Neighbours** Regional Round Table (RRT) formed in 2002 and is a unique partnership among northern Manitoba and Nunavut communities. <http://hbn.cimnet.ca>.

Formed in October 1999, the **Northern Vision** Regional Round Table was the first RRT: <http://northernvision.cimnet.ca>.

Formed in 2001 **Bayline** Regional Round Table took its name from the Bayline rail line which connects the communities: <http://baylinerrt.cimnet.ca>.

The **Southwest** Round Table emerged as an agro-Manitoba RRT in April of 2000: <http://swrrt.cimnet.ca>.





**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION PROJECT:  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING CAPACITY  
2005 - 2008**



# CCP Model

## Collaboration

*Inclusion*

*Equal partnership*

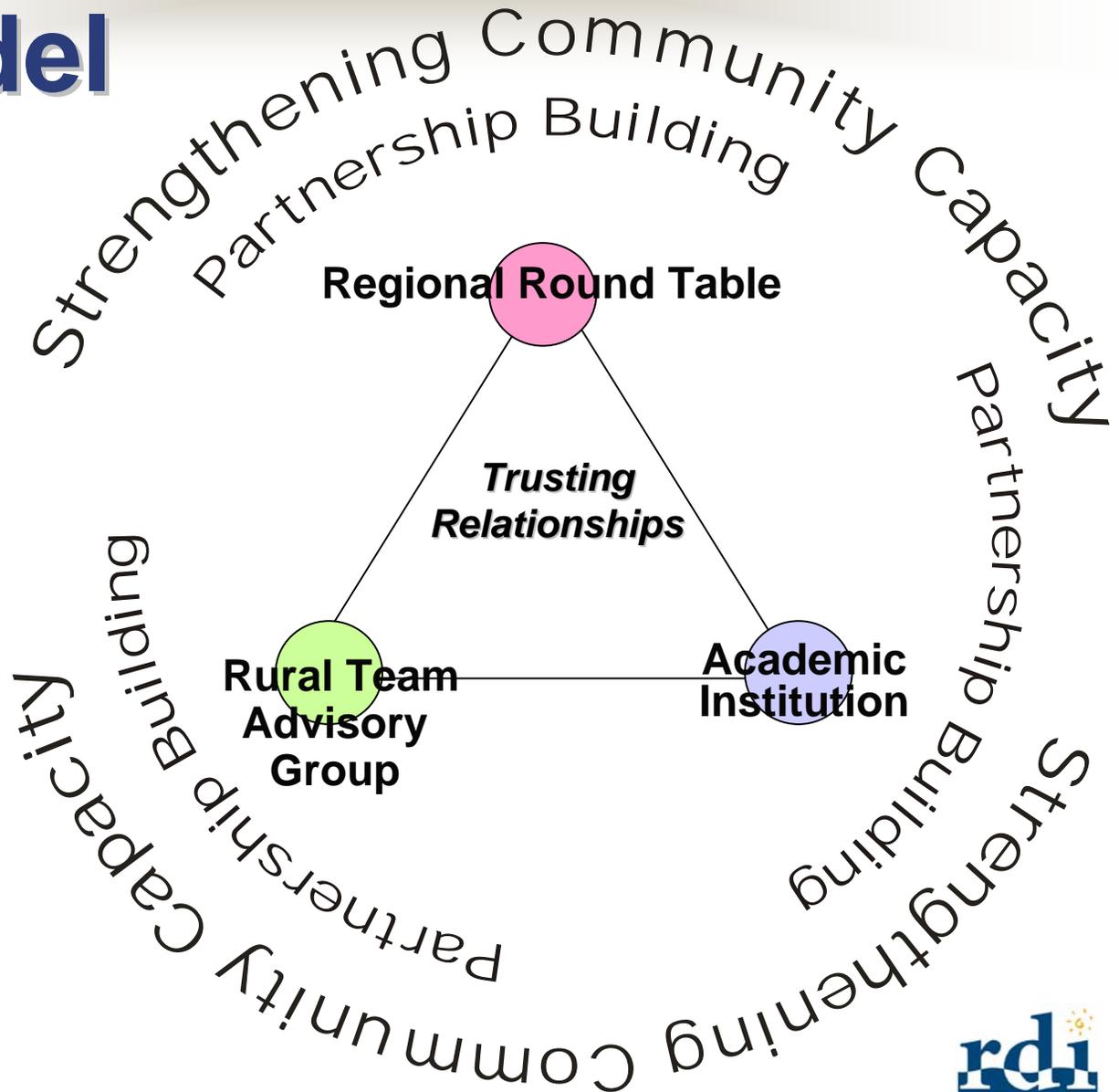
*Shared power*

*Shared responsibility*

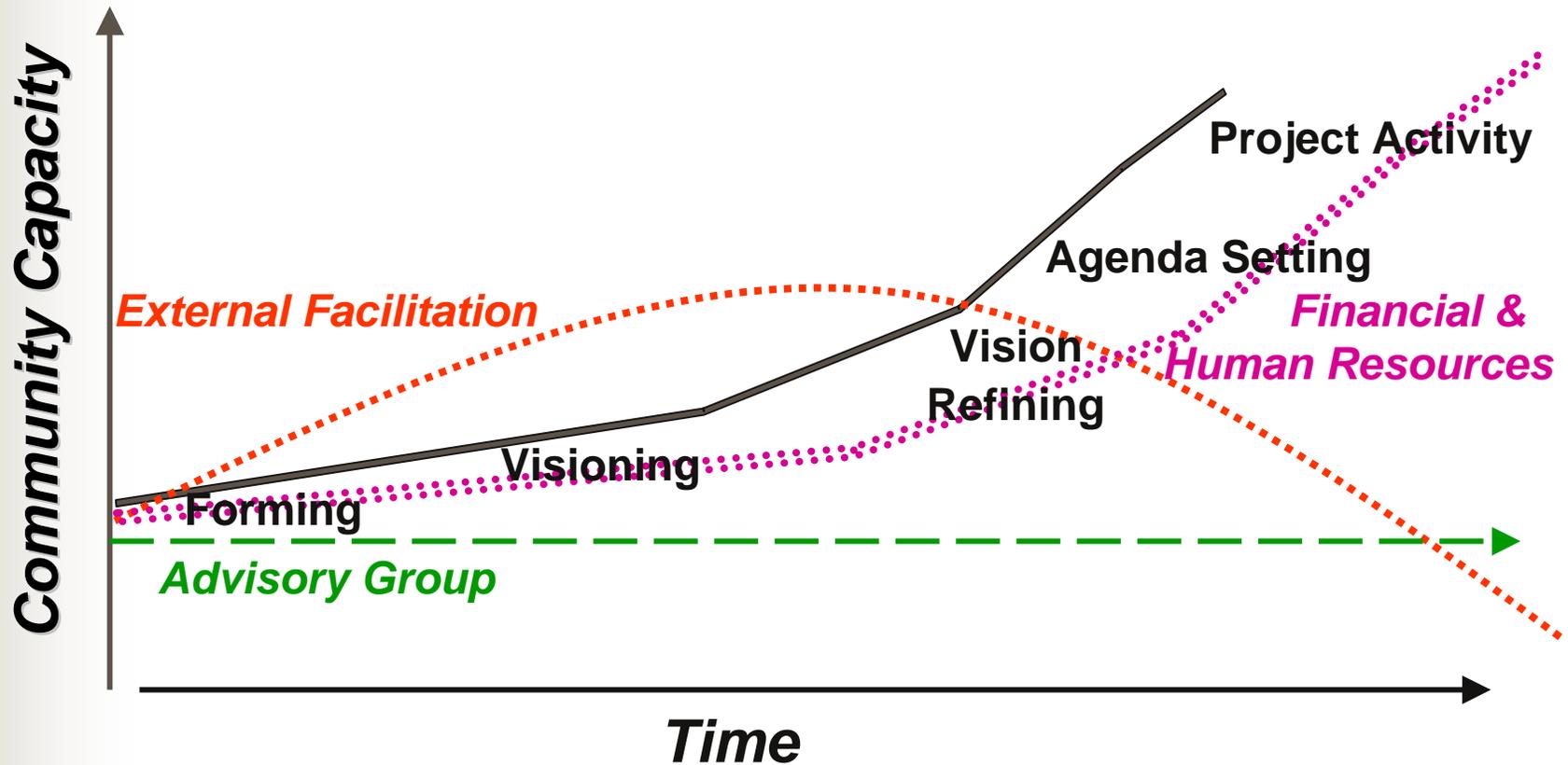
*Encouragement*

*Cooperation*

*Empowerment*



# CCP Process

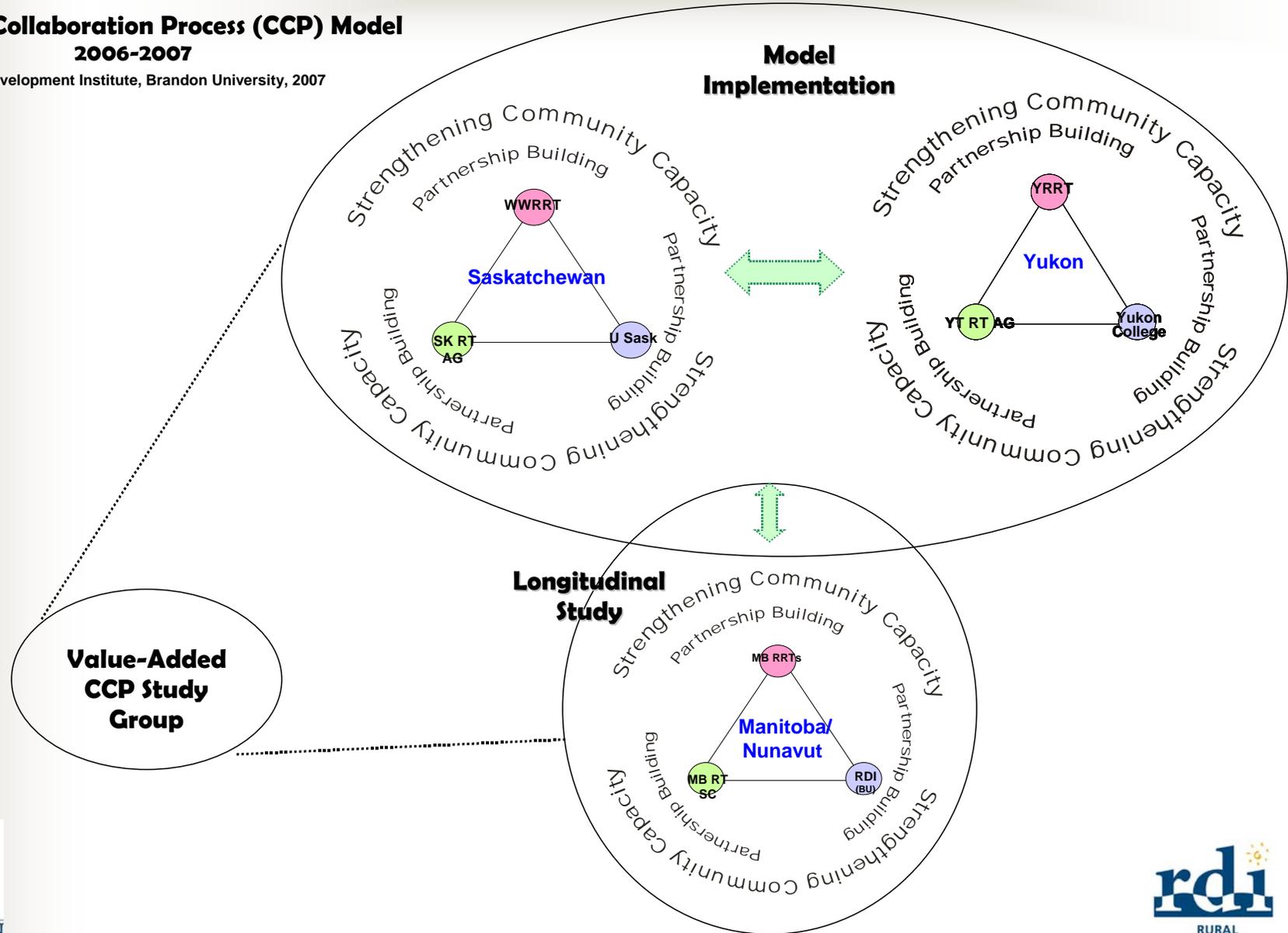


## Building Community Capacity

# Community Collaboration Process (CCP) Model

2006-2007

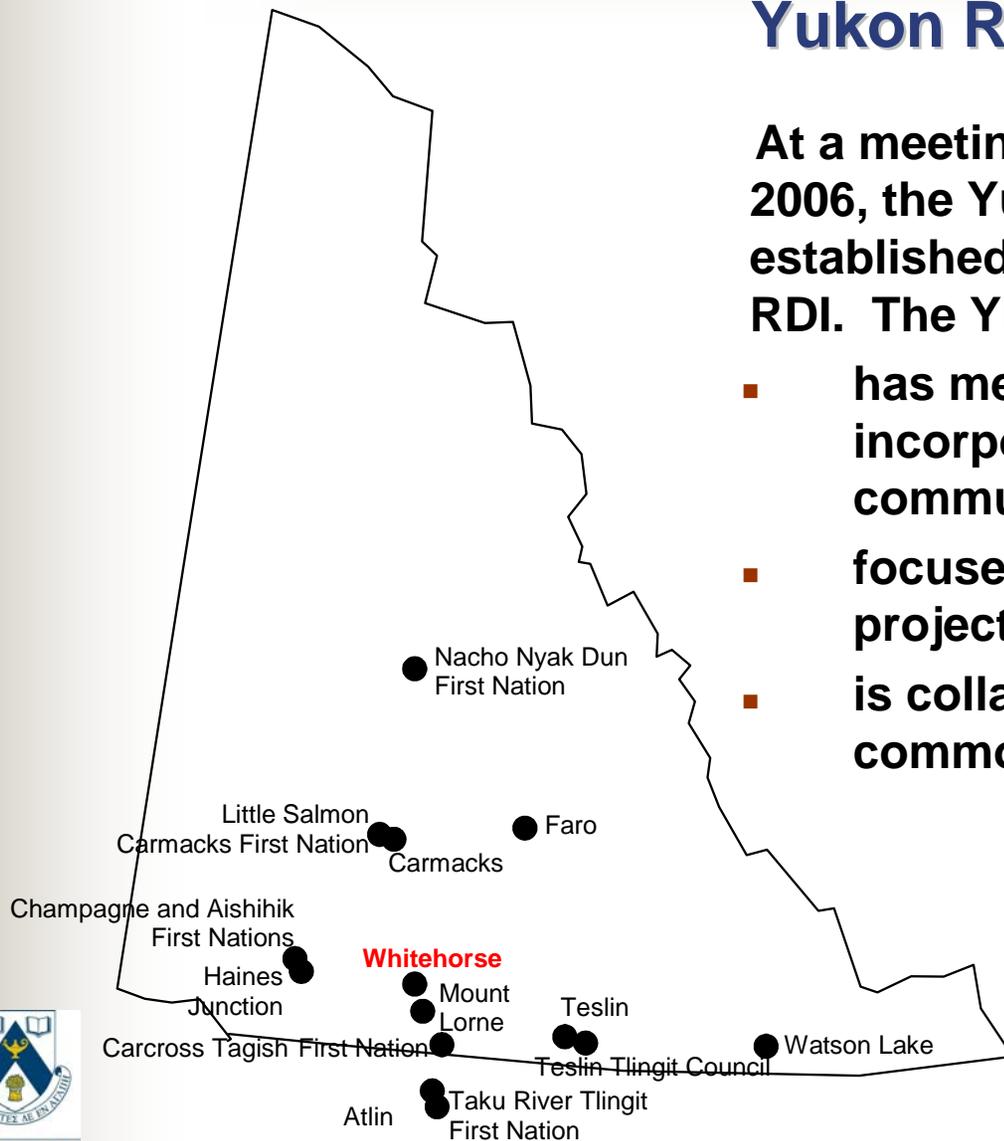
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# Yukon Regional Round Table

At a meeting held in Teslin on April 4th 2006, the Yukon RRT was officially established and a MOU was signed with RDI. The YRRT

- has membership from First Nation, incorporated and unincorporated communities with no size limit
- focuses on action and implementing projects
- is collaborative and based on common interests



# Saskatchewan

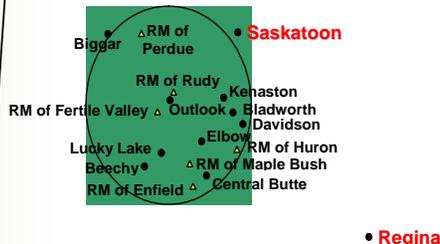


## Regional Round Table

In 2005, WaterWolf RRT was created as a regional services delivery model to increase capacity to assess needs and deliver services from a community-led approach.

RRT committees were then established for 5 projects:

- A river valley association
- A regional water technician
- Danielson Park pilot project
- Infrastructure & investment development & tax sharing
- GIS and land use planning





# **WaterWolf**

## **Regional Round Table**

### **A CCP RRT**

# CCP Model Outcomes

**Communities and governments are collaborating in new and different ways to:**

- **create new and different partnerships and trusting relationships between and among communities and governments,**
- **strengthen capacity in the RRTs, communities and regions,**
- **strengthen leadership capacity,**
- **explore new decision-making and governance models, and**
- **evaluate, document and communicate progress.**

# CCP Study Group

## Purpose and Opportunities

- Provide feedback on the evaluation frameworks that were developed by the RRTs and Advisory Groups.
- Provide feedback on the roll-up of all the evaluation frameworks of the CCP Model project.
- Explore linkages to existing and future research in multi-community collaboration and regional governance.
- Provide a forum for researchers to discuss multi-community collaboration and regional governance.



# CCP Study Group

## Membership

**Ken Bessant** (Brandon University)

**David Douglas** (University of Guelph)

**Mark Drabenstott** (Rural Policy Research Institute, USA)

**Tom Johnson** (University of Missouri-Columbia)

**Diane Martz** (Prairie Women's Centre of Excellence, Saskatoon)

**Bill Reimer** (Concordia University, Montreal)

**Nicole Vaugeois** (Malaspina University-College, Nanaimo)

**Robert Annis** (Rural Development Institute, Brandon University)

**Marian Beattie** (Rural Development Institute, Brandon University)

**Ryan Gibson** (Rural Development Institute, Brandon University)

# Challenges for Regional Governance

- What are the 'voids' that serve as trigger conditions for emergent regional systems?
- What are the critical phase change(s) factors in rural regional governance systems?
- What is the influence of negotiated power-sharing process(es) for local governments?
- How do rural regional governance systems design decision-making processes in rural regional governance systems?
- How does tension and resolution between legacy and emergent negotiated power of rural regional governance get resolved?
- How are assets, conditions, initial contexts and changes of communities collaborating together and/or involved in new governance systems measured?

# References

## RDI Publications

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- Gibson, R. & Annis, R. C. (2006). *Regional round table overview.*
- Walsh, D., & Annis, R. C. (2004). *Reflections on Manitoba's community collaboration project, 1999-2004.*

## Websites

RDI: [www.brandonu.ca/rdi](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi)

WaterWolf: [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org)

Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat: [www.rural.gc.ca](http://www.rural.gc.ca)

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