



## BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, October 25, 1989  
saw the grand opening of Brandon University's Rural Development Institute. It took courage to declare rural as worthy of investigation.

### Motion: that the Board of Governors approve in principle the establishment of a Rural Development Institute at Brandon University and that the funding for the Institute be requested from the Manitoba Universities Development Fund.

Thursday, July 16, 1987,  
Open Session minutes of the Board of Governors



The Honourable Jack Penner

**Jack Penner** was elected in 1988 and served as the MLA for Emerson until 2007. In 1988, he was appointed the Minister of Natural Resources and moved into the role of Minister of Rural Development in 1989. It was as Minister of Rural Development that Mr. Penner signed the agreement between the Government of Manitoba and Brandon University to establish Rural Development Institute, including funding for operations and projects.



Dr. John Mallea  
President Emeritus  
S.J. McKee Archives

**Dr. John Mallea** is President Emeritus at Brandon University and served as the President and Vice-Chancellor of Brandon University from 1985 until 1990. It was during his time as President that the Brandon University Senate made the decision to enact the policy and administration framework for Rural Development Institute. After his time at Brandon University, Mr. Mallea continued his work in the education field.

## A new agenda for rural Manitoba

Premier addresses rural seminar

### Relations with Ottawa at crossroads

by Tim Plett

Manitoba is at a crossroads in its relationship with the federal government, Premier Gary Filmon told about 300 municipal officials and community leaders at a seminar in Neepawa Thursday.

Filmon, addressing a New Agenda for Rural Manitoba, co-sponsored by the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association and the provincial government, noted the government is working closely with municipal governments on assessment issues, the provision of social assistance, education, tax collections as well as regional economic planning.

A similar relationship must be established with the federal government.

"A new agenda for rural Manitoba"  
The Carillon,  
March 22, 1989

### The RDI

The administration at Brandon University deserves credit for steady lobbying which ensures that start-up funds for its Rural Development Institute were in the new Manitoba budget.

There will be \$100,000 forwarded to the university through the Agriculture department and this will help the academics set up study models for all sorts of subjects with special emphasis on how rural depopulation affects the social and economic base of rural communities.

Corporate funds have also been advanced and the institute must now begin to prove its worth by providing valuable research which can help people at the grassroots in communities make educated decisions about the future.

The Rural Development Institute must show its value by providing timely, independent, non-political studies into rural issues. If it does that, it will gain broad support for future government support.

"The RDI" - Brandon Sun,  
August 12, 1988

### Spread public sector around, gov't. urged

by Tim Plett

Decentralization of the provincial civil service was proposed as vital to the health of rural communities at a seminar for rural municipal officials in Neepawa Thursday. It was called, however, the process will be difficult for any government by the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association and the provincial government, saw municipal officials and speakers argue with ways of countering the growing concentration of Manitoba's population in Winnipeg.

described Manitoba, which has 60 percent of its population living in one city, as unique for its concentration of political and economic power.

The allocation of rural Manitoba from Winnipeg parallels the allocation of the West from central Canada. Reason: "It goes beyond individual problems and comes to grips with how we want to build our province."

Needed is a really understood policy statement indicating the provincial government's determination to reverse the trend, he said. An appropriate statement might be to say "decentralization of the population in Winnipeg is bad for the social, political and economic future of Manitoba."

The development of computer and communications systems have eliminated the need for provincial employees to be based in Winnipeg, he said, suggesting the process of decentralization can be done if the political will is there.

Government has difficulty because politicians have to win elections, he suggested.

Rural base  
"There has never been a better time to go to a government" he said, noting the Conservative government has a rural base and the opposition Liberal party is hoping to gain rural support.

Such action would "the preservation of Manitoba and preventing the great hinterland from being a human desert."

However, former NDP cabinet

Brian Ransom  
Harry Marston

"If we don't allow each community equal say we will always have a problem... If we leave it to the politicians it won't get done."

could be moved out of Winnipeg to selected rural communities, Marston suggested, writing the government not to "crumble under pressure from civil service unions."

"They have to go where the public wants them and the Manitoba public wants them dispersed around the province."

People identify a problem and express the belief "government has to do something... government won't do something about it."

It is taken for granted government

will arise above special interest groups. Ansett suggested, writing, however, "government is more of a special interest group than anyone else."

"Politicians are not going to risk and choose winners," Ansett said, suggesting a strategy for decentralization will have to be developed by a broadly-based coalition of federal, provincial and local governments.

Charles, MLA for Selkirk, said decisions to decentralize the bureaucracy can only be made by a non-political board with representation from across the province.

"If we don't allow each community equal say we will always have a problem... If we leave it to the politicians it won't get done."

Charles, who called on the establishment of a department for rural life, said the need to get an election makes it nearly impossible for politicians to make the difficult decisions decentralization would demand.

"You can have the strongest politicians you want, but you very quickly learn you have to say what gets you elected."



Andy Ansett  
Gwen Charles

### University approves research program

by DENISE DUGUAY  
Sun Staff

Brandon University unveiled a research and development program Thursday, hoping to strengthen rural and northern ties while also cultivating more research contributions.

The board of governors approved the creation of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at last night's meeting.

University president John Mallea said the RDI is a logical extension of existing rural and northern connections including rural research studies and the Project for the Education of Native Teachers.

"University approves research program"  
Brandon Sun,  
July 17, 1987

"All communities in the area are really suffering. They're starting to realize that much of the picking up will be done by the communities themselves. The RDI will help them help themselves," said Mr. Smith.

Dr. Mallea said the university will apply for funding from the Universities Grants Commission immediately and hopes to have the program running soon.

The university estimates the program will cost \$91,000 in its first year of operation and \$403,550 over five years.

The RDI will employ two full administrators and operate from the university.

regional cooperation by Forbes included "favours" in the awarding of grants by higher levels of government.

The department of industry, trade and tourism, for instance, gave grants totalling \$101.3 million to Winnipeg last year while giving only \$36.6 million to the rest of the province, he pointed out.

Insulating rural Canada "must ed the city."

Further it's "time to stop if something about it," McGinness wrote of the Neighbourly News.

The time has also come to correct the "massive ignorance" regarding the costs of rural depopulation, he suggested.

"The awesome social costs of

### Now is the time to ease inequities, officials told

by Tim Plett

There may never be a better time than the present to correct Manitoba's urban-rural inequities, a seminar in Neepawa Thursday.

Reg Forbes of WestArc Group Inc. of Brandon speaking to the conference, suggested the provincial government may be the best person to lead the way.

"You have a high to expect caucus to correct" existing rural inequities, Forbes told the audience of municipal officials.

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Superintendent John Moss responds to question as fellow panelist and Brandon author Fred McGinness look on.