

# RESEARCH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

FALL 2016

## Examining Broadband with Rural Communities



Based on a previous RDI investigation we join with Function Four Ltd., a private research and development company, to map impacts of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) on rural communities. The team's main goal is to determine how effectively rural communities in Manitoba are currently using broadband and how to increase economic and social benefits within a capitals assessment framework. With a community-based research approach, local stakeholders will be engaged throughout the research process from design, data collection,

analysis and dissemination as well as in recognizing community ownership of data. The project will use both an assessment tool to quantitatively analyze ICT data, and qualitative analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of broadband use and potential in those communities.

This project is made possible through funding provided by MITACS and Function Four Ltd.

**For more information on this project, contact:**

Wayne Kelly, MRD, (*Project Co-Supervisor*): [kellyw@brandonu.ca](mailto:kellyw@brandonu.ca)

## Innovation in the Manitoba Agri-Food Sector



After the first twelve months, this applied research project is closing the "knowledge gap" clouding our understanding of complex issues and barriers in commercialization in the Manitoba Agri-Food sector. Rural Innovation in Manitoba (RIM) builds on RDI's last four years to understand the nature, timing and added value of innovation in this sector. This project is unique in that it focuses on innovation in rural Manitoba, a less studied area, where limited information exists about the commercialization aspects of innovation. The project is identifying and addressing systemic barriers impacting on commercializing innovation, and investigating the innovation culture and risk-adversity in southwest Manitoba.

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## RDI Team

Wm. (Bill) Ashton, <i>Director</i>	Wayne Kelly
Michael Adiyia	Gary McNeely
Michael Blatherwick	Sarah Minnes
Sarah Breen	Marco Pagani
Sara Breittkreutz	Lonnie Patterson
Sarah Cook	Rachael Pettigrew
Meghan Miller Cronkrite	Gillian Richards
Naomi Finseth	Mesha Richard
Eleni Galatsanou	Eileen Silvius
Orthist Adu Gyamfi	Sarah Woods

[www.BrandonU.ca/RDI](http://www.BrandonU.ca/RDI)

# 101 Ideas for Innovation and Entrepreneurship



This RDI internship project is letting others know about successes of rural enterprises. It is identifying and documenting the business's product line, the business owner's motivation as well as their challenges moving their business forward. Eight innovators from across all reaches of Manitoba have already been interviewed with more to come. The range of products varies considerably from exercise supplements, dairy products, non-timber forest foods, to wild rice berry bars, organic seed snacks, birch syrup and honey.

This project makes these business snap-shots publically accessible to inspire innovation and rural entrepreneurship. Many of the enterprises echo similar sentiments and concerns: believing in themselves and in their product or service as well as seeking outside help and advice are of paramount importance.

Rural innovators that are interested in participating as a featured company, or parties that would like to find out more about helping fund this project, are asked to contact us.

This project was a student Internship supported through Manitoba Growth, Enterprise, and Trade.

For more information on this project, contact: Naomi Finseth (RDI, Student Researcher): 204-571-8551, finsethn@brandonu.ca

## Innovation in the Manitoba Agri-Food Sector Continued...

The project researchers have:

- Conducted literature reviews and visited nine innovation centres and organizations supporting innovators and entrepreneurship development;
- Conducted 5 in-depth case studies, following five product/process innovations from idea to production and sales; that is, commercialization of the innovation. Interviews were conducted with the innovating food processing companies and selected stakeholders who supported them through the commercialization process;
- More than 200 rural entrepreneurs, community leaders and service providers were surveyed to find their attitudes to business, risk adversity, community assets, gaps, challenges and barriers to businesses; and
- An inventory of supports for food processing and other businesses in South West Manitoba has been compiled, and is in the process of validation.

Reports on the above research activities, including a cross-case study of the 5 innovation case studies, are underway.

This project, funded by Growing Forward 2, relies on the participation and expertise of partners, including: Southwest Regional Development Corporation, Community Futures Westman, Westman Agriculture Diversification Organization, Innovate Manitoba, Life Sciences Association of Manitoba, and Manitoba Food Development Centre. The consultation process that will conclude this project will bring in other organizations that support entrepreneurs in rural Manitoba.

For more information on this project, contact:

Gillian Richards, PhD (RDI, Project Lead):  
204-571-8554, richardsgi@brandonu.ca

## Fall Food Festival

This project comes out of a partnership between the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba and Assiniboine Community College, who are investigating with RDI the possibility of creating a fall food festival in Southwestern Manitoba. Many will undoubtedly be involved, including farmers, food processors, restaurateurs, tourists, and residents. It is still too early to tell, but looking elsewhere food festivals often build on existing events and can result in new ones.

The research has looked at models for other food festivals and multi-community events across the country. RDI is conducting interviews with individuals and organizations to gather their thoughts and impressions. The collaborative approach to developing and implementing this idea will be continued through the hosting of two forums to bring interested people together to have a more in-depth discussion about establishing a pilot festival.

For more information on this proposal, contact:

Gillian Richards, PhD:  
204-571-8554, richardsgi@brandonu.ca



# Settlement Services for Immigrants and Refugees



Since November 2015, when a national initiative was undertaken to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees across Canada, more than 1000 refugees have resettled in Manitoba. In response, this study was interested in the 90 who made their way into rural communities outside of Winnipeg. The goal of this research was to learn from the current experiences in five rural communities in Manitoba and to examine the community and settlement organizations' capacities to respond to refugee needs, both in the short and long term.

Researchers from RDI conducted 30 interviews with senior officials of service providers and representatives of refugee sponsorship groups in the five communities of Boissevain-Killarney, Dauphin, Morden-Winkler-Altona-Carman, Portage la Prairie, and Steinbach-Kleefeld. The project inventoried the immigration settlement services available in the five communities and examined gaps in services offered.

The project's findings are informative:

- Each community's capacity to settle refugees was different based in part by their location, population, and history,
- The larger of the five communities offered more services for newcomers, but affordable housing was often an issue,
- Language, including access to interpreters or opportunities to learn English, was a common problem for both immigrants and refugees,
- Transportation, whether to reach employment or other services, was a concern given the communities locale, and
- Success stories were also acknowledged, including the heartfelt efforts of volunteers and the friendly and welcoming nature of community members.

These findings are laying the groundwork for developing new strategies for integrating newcomers, whether immigrants or refugees, and enabling community stakeholder to address problems and issues. The full set of reports is available online at: [brandonu.ca/rdi/publication/immigration-in-5-rural-manitoba-communities-with-a-focus-on-refugees/](http://brandonu.ca/rdi/publication/immigration-in-5-rural-manitoba-communities-with-a-focus-on-refugees/).

In conjunction with this project and RDI's long-standing research commitment to immigrants and welcoming communities,

the Project Lead, Eleni Galatsanou, and RDI Director, Bill Ashton, made two presentations at The Canadian Institute for Identifies and Migration and Immigration Research West Symposium in Winnipeg, October 21-23. The first one identified the key challenges but also important successes reported in the communities during the refugee settlement process. This was followed by a round table session where representatives from the settlement service sector in Manitoba, federal and provincial government and academics explored ways to address the challenges faced in the settlement of refugees in the five Manitoba communities and reviewed lessons learned from this process.

The second presentation discussed the research findings about how big data is used in studies of immigration and migration. The scoping review and thematic analysis of the research examined ways in which big data can be better packaged for use by academics, policy makers and additional immigration stakeholders who seek to enhance the use and application of big data within immigration and settlement policy-making.

While attending the R2R: Rural Talks to Rural symposium, Sept. 28-30th in Blyth, Ontario, MRD student, Naomi Finseth, had an opportunity to contribute to discussion on the immigration and refugee settling experience in rural Manitoba. This yearly event aspires to invigorate rural creativity so participants can share ideas, forge new partnerships, network, and offer innovative strategies for rural health and wellbeing. As noted in The Western Producer's profile of the conference, Ms Finseth was firm in commenting that Manitoba has been more successful than other provinces in attracting immigrants to settle in rural areas striving to remain enterprising and thriving. It is a testament to Manitoba's efforts at establishing welcoming communities.

**These findings are laying the groundwork for developing new strategies for integrating newcomers, whether immigrants or refugees, and enabling community stakeholder to address problems and issues.**

**For the full story, see: <http://www.producer.com/2016/10/immigration-programs-target-rural-canada/>**

The five case studies were carried out in conjunction with the Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO). Funding was made available from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The Rural Policy Learning Commons funded the presentation at Rural2Rural Conference.

**For more information on both projects, contact:**

**Eleni Galatsanou, MSc (RDI, Project Lead):**  
204-571-8552, galatsanouh@brandonu.ca

## Rural Policy Learning Commons

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) continues to evolve after two years of activities. One expected change over the last six months is the appointment of a number of new Leads for the Research Theme and Knowledge Dissemination Teams, replacing those who have served in these roles from the project's inception. Two recent additions include: Philomena de Lima from University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness, Scotland, who becomes the Team Lead for Migration in Remote and Rural Areas, while Kathleen Kevany from the University of Dalhousie in Halifax takes over as the Governance Team Lead. A number of other leads are expected to change over the next few months.

A second change includes the addition of RPLC team supports who assist in the teams' various activities. These positions provide an enriching learning experience for the assistants by putting each in touch with rural researchers from across the globe connecting to the RPLC network. Sarah Breen provides support for the RPLC's Natural Resources Team, while Sara Breitskreutz acts as support for the RPLC's newest team, Transformations in Indigenous Communities. Sarah Cook assists the RPLC with its social media development and the Rural Routes podcasts, and Sarah Minnes is support for the RPLC's Governance Theme. Sarah Woods continues as one of the RPLC's Liaison Officers and is responsible for the RPLC's website development, the team support network, and European partnership development.

Exchanges and collaborations within and between the RPLC's 12 Research Teams and Knowledge Dissemination Teams continue. Faculty and students have made use of RPLC networks to share insights at a number of venues and conferences addressing rural issues, whether organizing sessions or presenting research findings. A few events that stand out include the meetings of the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) and the International Rural Sociology Association's (IRSA) World Congress held in Toronto in August; the 2016 Canadian Association of Food Studies Conference in Toronto in June; and the IAMO Forum 2016 Rural Labour in Transition this June in Halle, Germany.

The RPLC remains very active on the social media front. Since April, five webinars have been hosted, attracting over 120 national and international participants. The topics have ranged from rural seasonal labour, challenges of rural medicine, diversity and multiculturalism in rural Australia, planning around climate change, and an overview of The State of Rural Canada. Technical support offered through the RPLC presence was put to especially effective use by broadcasting 11 sessions presented at the recent CRRF conference in Guelph. Close to 850 people tuned in for these presentations. This use of social media provides such events with a new capacity for a continuous outreach, putting new meaning to the theory and practice of research and exchange in the RPLC.

Financial and logistical support through the RPLC has been provided for learning events and activities such as the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute as well as the national conference with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), and travel funding for students.

Support for this project is provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and over 30 partners, including Brandon University and the Rural Development Institute.

For more information about this project, check the website at <http://rplc-capr.ca>, or contact:

**Bill Reimer, PhD** (RPLC Project Director): [Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca](mailto:Bill.Reimer@concordia.ca)

**Bill Ashton, PhD** (RDI Director): 204-571-8513, [ashtonw@brandonu.ca](mailto:ashtonw@brandonu.ca)

**Wayne Kelly, MRD** (RPLC Project Coordinator): 204-872-0269, [kellyw@brandonu.ca](mailto:kellyw@brandonu.ca)

### RPLC Theme Teams and Knowledge Mobilization Teams

Governance 	Personnel Exchanges 
Migration 	Institutes 
Infrastructure & Services 	Policy Fora 
Natural Resources 	Distance Learning 
Transformations in Indigenous Communities 	Publications 
Digital Information Hub 	Social Media 

### Deliverables

Policy Briefs	Conferences
Learning Institutes	Presentations
Publications	Workshops/Webinars
Opportunities	Newsletter
Job Notices	Research Reports

### Audience

Faculty	Community Groups
Students	General Public
Government	& YOU
Policy makers	

## New Directors, CRRF AGM

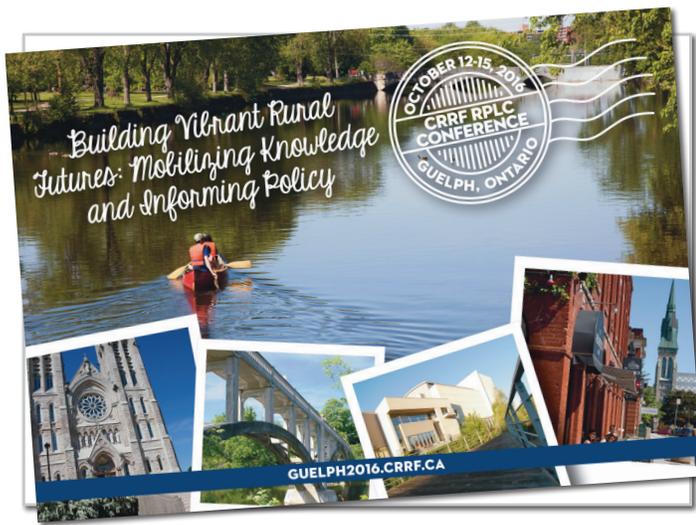
A shout out to the new Board of Directors for the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation:

Sarah Breen, President; Al Lauzon, Past President; Ruth Mealy, Treasurer; Valencia Gaspard, Secretary; Laurie Brinklow, Bojan Furst, Carol Kenny, Sarah Minnes, Angela Pollak, and Craig Pollett, with Bill Ashton, Associate Treasurer.

See: <http://crrf.ca/board-members/>



# National Rural Policy Conference at Guelph



This year Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and RPLC hosted the national conference: “Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy” from October 12-15, 2016. Through 38 sessions and 9 keynote addresses and workshops, participants examined five subthemes: Local and regional economic development; Labour force development and training; Climate change and the impacts on rural communities infrastructure, economies, and lifestyles; Rural data, information, and harnessing digital data; and Aboriginal transformations/issues. The conference’s four Keynote speakers offered diverse narratives of their rural passions and experiences. Andrée Cazabon and Angelica Mckay provided a strong Aboriginal voice to the conference proceedings drawing attention to the need for reconciliation and respect for culture. Erlend Moster Knudsen and Keith Roulston highlighted the importance of earnest communication as a means of addressing challenges such as climate change or rural governance.

RDI’s contingent to this learning and exchange event included, Bill Ashton, RDI Director, Wayne Kelly, RPLC Project Coordinator, as well as Michael Blatherwick, Mike Adiyia and Orthist Adu Gyamfi, all three of whom are MRD students and members of the RPLC Secretariat. Others from the RPLC Secretariat who served as supports at the conference included Sarah Breen, Sara Breitreutz, Sarah Cook, Sarah Minnes, Marco Pagoni, Mesha Richards, and Sarah Woods.

Wayne Kelly played a major role on the steering committee. He also moderated and presented at a number of sessions examining the importance of rural broadband and its applications as crucial rural infrastructure.

Bill Ashton engaged conference attendees at two events. First, continuing a tradition at the CRRF national conference, he hosted and facilitated discussions at the New Researches’ Forum for students and those interested in research. Drawing on experiences around the

table, this breakfast session offered an opportunity to share perspectives and learn from others about the range of research methods used in rural research. For upcoming conferences RDI with the Rural Policy Learning Commons hopes to continue this tradition.

He also presented on a strategy that calls for economic development to be more regional in light of the recent municipal amalgamation across much of Manitoba. Presented as an idea experiment, he asked what steps might be required to include regional aspects in otherwise local initiatives. The session considered such pressing topics as: the geographic footprint of a livable region where people currently live and work; enhancing and sustaining relations with public, private, and NGO sectors; enhancing multi-municipal governance options while maintaining local autonomy; all the while understanding the region and implications of such practices as business retention and expansion, attraction of new investments, and promotion of innovation. The enabling roles of various provincial agencies were identified also as central to success, yet it may take a generation.

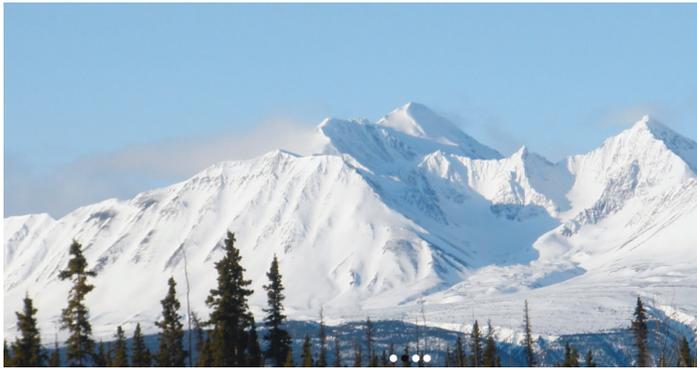
The conference provided an important opportunity to showcase the MRD students’ thesis research:

Michael Blatherwick’s thesis will examine the relationship between recreation facilities and population retentions in rural communities in Southwest Manitoba. With a mixed methods approach, it incorporates qualitative and quantitative data and focuses on smaller rural communities. The regional scan is investigating a relationship between population growth and proximity to larger regional centres. Disadvantages will be detected with higher costs per capital for operating recreation facilities. Further research will be identified at the conclusion of his thesis.

Michael Adiyia’s thesis focuses on mining operations in Ghana. The mining sector remains a key economic driver, yet its activities also have environmental, social and economic impacts. One response of companies includes the use of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a strategy to mitigate impacts. A case study approach examined the CSR activities of Newmont Ghana Gold Limited (NGGL) and identified policy measures to enhance how CSR can contribute to local development. This project affirms that CSR can serve as an avenue for the private sector to supplement government efforts in infrastructure provision to aid in rural community growth and development.

Orthist Adu Gyamfi’s research tackles entrepreneurship as an approach to community development. While entrepreneurship has been seen as a prudent means to alleviate poverty and improve a country’s social conditions, it poses a major problem for micro-entrepreneurs who lack access to capital. His study examines a holistic approach towards micro-financial assistance. Results analyzed from the 292 respondents indicate the positive impacts of microfinance in creating sustainable livelihoods.

## International Comparative Rural Policy Studies



The ICRPS 2016 Summer Institute was hosted by the University of Alaska in Fairbanks with a goal to put a “Northern Perspectives on Global Challenges.” The institute convened for thirteen days to focus attention on a number of critical issues impacting on the rural north. Topics included: the food, water, and energy nexus; health; environmental justice; renewable energy; climate change; and multiple ways of knowing. The program’s 47 sessions adopted a variety of

lectures, interactive workshops, panel discussions, and supplemental field trips. Approximately 30 graduate students, including Naomi Finseth, a student in Brandon University’s Masters of Rural Development program and numerous faculty members from universities around the world participated. More information about this summer institute can be found at: <http://2016.icrps.org/>

For the first time, organizers at ICRPS developed a YouTube posting of the event, offering students and faculty to comment and reflect on their experience. You are invited to follow the link: [https://youtu.be/Que\\_y7dgXccw](https://youtu.be/Que_y7dgXccw)

Next year’s summer institute is already in the planning stages for hosting at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain in June 2017. To inquire about the program and scheduled events, contact the event coordinator: Dr. Lourdes Viladomiu, Department of Applied Economics, Autonomous University of Barcelona, [lourdes.viladomiu@uab.es](mailto:lourdes.viladomiu@uab.es)

**For more information about ICRPS, check out:**  
<http://www.icrps.org/>

## Learning Outcomes in Rural Policy

The Rural Policy Learning Commons aims to sustain an open dialogue between researchers, students, policy practitioners, government agencies and community stakeholders on issues of comparative rural policy. The RPLC included a graduate certificate in international comparative rural policy as a deliverable to promote and facilitate critical learning for graduate students and practitioners. Since teaching and learning are central to Brandon University, RDI took on this deliverable as a new project, whose central question is: what subject areas could constitute a graduate certificate in rural policy analysis for an increasingly globalized world? This project team has completed two major activities to help resolve this question:

- A comparative case analysis of 22 Canadian Masters of Public Policy (MPP) and Public Administration (MPA) programs and the learning undertaken at the 2015 International Comparative Rural Policy Study (ICRPS) Summer Institute in Ireland.
- A consultation with rural policy experts from Canada, the USA, and the EU to inform the design and delivery of this certificate.

The case study revealed a number of key findings that could inform discussions leading to this graduate certificate:

- Close to 75% of the learning outcomes in the ICRPS institute correspond to the 16 core competency subject areas in the 22 graduate programs across Canada organized similarly into four domains (Analysis & Skills, Institutions & Context, Management Functions, Policy Sectors),

- Significant differences between the subject areas in the four domains suggests the relative importance of subject areas in the 22 programs compared to learning advanced in the ICRPS institute (i.e. 50% of learning in the 22 programs focus on Analysis and Skills whereas 54% of learning outcomes in ICRPS address Policy Sectors),
- Study of rural issues appeared incidental in the 22 graduate programs even in subject areas such as agriculture and resources, or the environment and sustainability, and
- Study concerned with policy issues relating to Indigenous peoples are near to non-existent.

The Canadian round of consultations focusing on identifying the core subject areas of study in rural policy and resolving key pedagogical concerns has been completed. The researchers are currently in discussions with faculty members at Brandon University to gauge interest and alignment with existing courses to explore how a new certificate might be launched.

Funding for this research was provided by RDI and the RPLC.

**For more information about this project, contact:**

**Bill Ashton, PhD** (*RDI Director, Project Lead*):  
204-571-8513, [ashtonw@brandonu.ca](mailto:ashtonw@brandonu.ca)

**Gary McNeely, PhD** (*RDI Researcher*):  
204-727-7300, [mneelyg@brandonu.ca](mailto:mneelyg@brandonu.ca)

# Community Foundations Impact the Economy

Community foundations in Manitoba invest in hundreds of projects in many different sectors from education, health, social services, environment, recreation, and arts and culture. Such funding results in direct and indirect impacts. In addition community foundations also provide seed money to leverage funds from other organizations. This study created a snapshot using 2014 data to calculate any changes in economic impacts to the community. This report adds to other studies completed by the Rural Development Institute in the area of community foundations and philanthropy.

**For more information about this project, contact:**

**Bill Ashton, PhD** (RDI Director, Project Lead):

204-571-8513, [ashtonw@brandonu.ca](mailto:ashtonw@brandonu.ca)



# Prairie Shelterbelts: Working Trees



Prairie Shelterbelts: Working Trees is a program aiming to encourage renovation, retention, planting and use of shelterbelts on the prairies. More specifically, the program aims to: Increase the number of producers who have, and use, shelterbelts in their fields; and Raise awareness about, and support for, the use of shelterbelts.

The Working Trees program came about as a result of research supported by the Canadian government's Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Program. More than 10 organizations support this initiative, including numerous Conservation Districts. The completion of a new-look, updated website and planting of the first shelterbelts is supported by Manitoba Hydro.

We are seeking additional funding support for the full Working Trees program to support producers in the maintenance and planting of shelterbelts and actively promote the program through its partners, the website and the media.

**For more information on this proposal, contact:**

**Gillian Richards, PhD:** 204-571-8554, [richardsgi@brandonu.ca](mailto:richardsgi@brandonu.ca)

**Ryan Canart, District Manager, UARCD:** 204-567-3554, [uarcd@mymts.net](mailto:uarcd@mymts.net)

*We are seeking additional funding support for the full Working Trees program to support producers in the maintenance and planting of shelterbelts and actively promote the program through its partners, the website and the media.*



## Knowledge Dissemination

A significant part of RDI's mandate is the dissemination of RDI research and promotion of its community involvement and activities. Over the past 6 months, RDI continued to report on its activities in various modes of publication and in presentations, including 6 publications and reports, 1 journal article submission, 1 issue of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* (JRCD), and 19 conference presentations. In addition, RDI worked in concert with the Rural Policy Learning Commons to host 5 webinars.

### Webinars

Linamar Campos Flores (June 15, 2016). Geographies of Immobility: emotions and human rights of Latin-American seasonal agricultural workers in Quebec and their families.

Mike Sullivan, Gary Willson, & Henry David (Hank) Venema (June 21, 2016). Planning for Climate Change: an oxymoron?

Dr. Paul Dhillon (August 4, 2016). The Surprising Lives of Small Town Doctors: practicing medicine in rural Canada.

Sean Markey, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Al Lauzon, Robert Greenwood, Chris Southcott, & William (Bill) Ashton (September 20, 2016). The State of Rural Canada: Panel Discussion.

David Radford (October 6, 2016). Diversity in Rural/Regional Australian Communities: Everyday Multiculturalism and Resilience in Bridging Difference.

### Publications and Reports

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Case Studies*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [Immigration-in-5-Rural-Manitoba-Communities-with-a-Focus-on-Refugees-Case-Studies-August-2016.pdf](#)

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Boissevain-Killarney Case Study*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [5mb-boissevain-killarney-case-study-2016](#)

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Dauphin Case Study*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [5mb-dauphin-case-study-2016](#)

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Portage la Prairie Case Study*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [5mb-portage-la-prairie-case-study-2016](#)

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Steinbach-Kleefeld Case Study*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [5mb-steinbach-case-study-2016](#)

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Immigration in 5 Rural Manitoba Communities with a Focus on Refugees: Winkler-Altona-Morden-Carman Case Study*. Rural Development Institute, Brandon Manitoba, available at: [5mb-winkler-case-study-2016](#)

### Journal Articles

Ashton, W., Galatsanou, E., Miller Cronkrite, M., & Pettigrew, R. (2016). *Assessment of Settlement Services Systems in Western & Northern Canada: Perceptions of Settlement Provider Organizations*. *Canadian Ethnic Studies*. Submitted.

### Presentations

Adiyia, M. (2016). *Assessing the Effects of Corporate Social Responsibility Activities on Beneficiaries: A Case Study of Newmont Gold Ghana Limited*. Poster session at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Ashton, W. (2016). *Including Regional in Local Economic Development: A Next Step in Manitoba*. Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Ashton, W. (2016). *New Researchers Forum*. Session Facilitator at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Ashton, W. & Galatsanou, E. (2016). *Refugees in Manitoba: Small Centre Settlement*. Session co-moderators at The Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration Research West Regional Symposium: Migration and Refuge in Western Canada, Winnipeg, MB. Oct. 21-23.

Ashton, W., & Reimer, B. (2016). *Rural Policy Learning Commons Dialogue Session Rural Policy Learning Commons – Advancing Rural and Northern Agendas*. Session Organizers at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Ashton, W., Wilkinson, L., Galatsanou, E. & Bhattacharyya, P. (2016). *How Big Data is used in Immigration Studies in Canada: A Scoping Review*. Presented at The Canadian Institute for Identities and Migration Research West Regional Symposium: Migration and Refuge in Western Canada, Winnipeg, MB. Oct. 21-23.

Blatherwick, M. (2016). *Rural recreation infrastructure sustainability and effects on population retention and in-migration in South West Manitoba*. Poster session at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Bollman, R. (2016). *Rural Youth Migration in the Context of Rural Labour Shortages*. Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Bollman, R. (2016). *Where to find community-level data available from Statistics Canada and other federal departments*. Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Bollman, R. (2016). *Accessing Rural Data*. Panel Organizer at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Gyamfi, O. A. (2016). *Entrepreneurship: A Financial Support Approach to Community Development*. Poster session at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Regional and Rural Broadband in Canada: A Longstanding Dilemma with Unfettered Optimism*. Panelist at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Bridging the Knowledge Deficit: Infrastructure Renewal for Rural Canada*.

Panelist at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Digital Communications for Organizational Development: The Case of Rural Networks*. Panel Organizer at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Rural Data*. Session Chair at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Rural Open Data*. Session Chair at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct. 12-15.

Kelly, W. (2016). *Talking to Ourselves: Why Rural People Need to Communicate Within and Between their Communities and How the System is Breaking Down*. Session Moderator at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation, Building Vibrant Rural Futures: Mobilizing Knowledge and Informing Policy Conference, Guelph, ON. Oct 12-15.

Pettigrew, R., Galatsanou, H., & Ashton, W. (2016). *Immigration Settlement Services in 5 Rural Manitoba communities: An inventory and opportunity assessment with a Focus on Refugees*. Manitoba Lessons Learned Meeting organized by Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, Winnipeg, MB. June 30.

Richards, G. (2016). *From Farm to Food*. Panel presentation at Take the Leap: A Manitoba Rural Entrepreneurship conference. Dauphin, MB. Oct. 17.

## Journal of Rural and Community Development

RDI continues to take an active role in supporting the publication and distribution of the Journal of Rural and Community Development (JRCD). Dr. Doug Ramsey, Chair of BU's Department of Rural Development, remains chief editor of the JRCD.

Volume 11(1) was published with 4 articles, and 1 policy evaluation. Two articles addressed opportunities and challenges with volunteerism in rural communities from a European context. Another paper examined attitudes towards government support in rural areas, while the fourth reported on welcoming newcomers in rural resource-based communities. The policy evaluation examined the Hanokstay program in South Korea, as an example of community development policies of traditional cultural accommodations from the perspective of creative tourism.

**For more information, see:**  
<http://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/>



## Our Future: Our Vision...

With partners in communities, agencies, and among academics and students, RDI continues to initiate new outreach activities, research, and learning options, and contributes to addressing rural development issues and responding to opportunities. The Institute builds on a strong history of collaborative activities while enhancing resource capabilities and programming. As a leading source of information on rural areas, RDI continues to deliver new knowledge of rural issues and helps create opportunities for vibrant rural communities and regions.

## Upcoming Events

November 22, 2016

John C. Lehr - The Hutterites in North America: Confronting the Digital Age

December 14, 2016

Matteo Vituari and Paulo Azzurro - Food Waste in the EU; From Evidence to Policy Interventions (Governance Team)

Summer Institute 2017, June

International Comparative Rural Policy Studies  
Hosted by the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

## Strategic Research Direction

To respond to rural trends, challenges, and opportunities, the needs of various stakeholders, and the necessity to sustain a viable organization, RDI is committed to pursue five strategic research directions: rural immigration, regional economic development, governance and capacity building, rural infrastructure and services, and rural innovation. These directions build on both past and current 20 research initiatives, and will also incorporate emerging research needs and contribute both directly and indirectly to BU's strategic plan, academic plan, and research plan.

## Contact Us

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