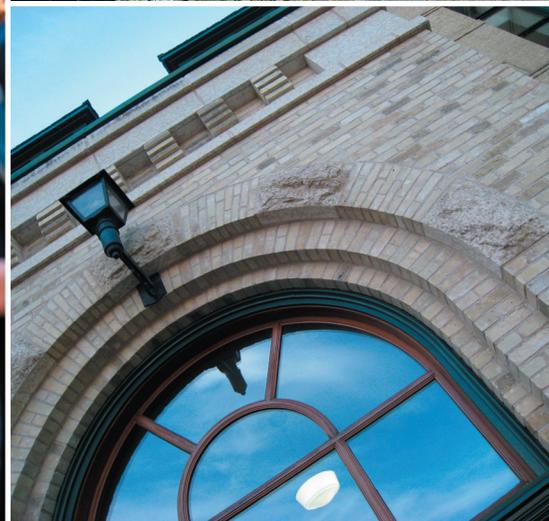


CANADIAN UNIVERSITY BASED RURAL RESEARCH CENTRES



Prepared by:

Diana Rocío Rodríguez Triana



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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Preface

The impetus behind updating a list of university-based research centres focused on more rural than urban affairs, is worth mentioning. Diana Rodríguez, a visiting graduate student from Colombia, found out about the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University in Bogota. While it would have been easy to send Diana back with RDI materials, which we did, she also identified other centres, including those from our website (see: <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/links/>). In the end, Diana updated this list with a focus on centres in Canada, which included, having each centres review their entry.

This list is really an important resource for anyone looking at rural issues, challenges, and opportunities. Being located in a Canadian university with a focus on rural research helped shape this list. Already this list has been useful in my own meetings with agencies, companies, and indeed other academics. The list helps identify who is involved in the enterprise of rural development among our various universities in Canada. When assembled, it also reveals both aspects of scale and scope of the centres. They reach across Canada and the topics are as varied as the regions that host the centres. Topics include, for example, entrepreneurship and innovation, demographics and labour markets, health, infrastructure, along with immigration, governance, and community development. We know it is not a definitive list, but a reasonable start as a 'working' list.

Diana also thought it useful to provide a list of rural, economics development organizations, and added a list of think tanks in Canada. There will certainly be some centres missed, and we apologize in advance. If one compares this list with the previous one (circa 2007-8), well-established centres, like Mount Allison University's Rural and Small Town Program, are closed; and there have been new ones added like the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. We will endeavor to update this list on RDI's website.

Thank you Diana for your efforts and interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wm. A.', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bill Ashton, MCIP, PhD,
Director, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University



Source: Google Maps

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities – Alberta University

Lars K Hallström

Director

lars.hallstrom@ualberta.ca
acsrc@ualberta.ca

**University of Alberta -
Augustana Campus**
4901 - 46th Avenue
Camrose, Alberta
T4V 2R3

www.acsrc.ca

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) is a joint-initiative of the Augustana Campus and Faculty of ALES, and has a core operating budget and staff supported by both of these faculties. Project funds are derived from research and other grants, contribution agreements and contracts with agencies such as the Tri-Council, provincial government and similar bodies. The ACSRC assists rural communities in meeting diverse challenges through fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships.

The mission of the ACSRC is to link the research, outreach and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

The vision of the ACSRC is of resilient rural communities across Canada linked closely to the discovery, dissemination, and application of new knowledge at the University of Alberta through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement, and partnerships. Such resilient rural communities will hinge on informed citizens actively participating in community governance and development in order to support and sustain the people, livelihoods, regional and local capital, economic development and long-term social viability of rural communities as a key element of the Canadian economy, the natural environment and as home to many Canadians.

The ACSRC projects seek to create resilient rural communities across Canada. The ACSRC focuses on collaborating on projects that fall within the three priority areas:

- a) Communities and Ecosystems
- b) Communities and Societies
- c) Communities, Planning and Policy

Research Chair in Community Development Chaire de recherche du Canada en développement des collectivités – Université du Québec en Outaouais

Louis Favreau

Director

louis.favreau@uqo.ca
crdc@uqo.ca

**Université du Québec
en Outaouais**
Pavillon Alexandre-Taché
local A-1103
C.P. 1250, succursale Hull
Gatineau (Québec)
J8X 3X7

[http://w3.uqo.ca/crdc/index.
php](http://w3.uqo.ca/crdc/index.php)

[http://jupiter.uqo.ca/ries2001/
carnet/](http://jupiter.uqo.ca/ries2001/carnet/)

The CRDC was born in 1996 and has been a Canada Research Chair for seven years (2002-2008). The CRDC holder did not consider it appropriate to apply for a renewal, preferring to work on the development of a Research Alliance, the CURA Social Innovation and Community Development (ARUC-ISDC), which carried out its research program 2006 to 2012. With the end of this program, the CRDC will remain active from the endowment fund of the University of Quebec in the Outaouais which it has since its beginnings. Its holder is Professor Louis Favreau, sociologist. Its purpose is to contribute to the advancement of community development theory and practices: community development, community organization, development of cooperatives and other collective enterprises in Quebec and elsewhere in the world. Activities: research, training, dissemination of knowledge and services to the community.

The Chair's research activities are carried out throughout Quebec, the Americas and internationally in a North-South perspective. They relate to the place of the local economy in the territories, particularly the register of innovative practices of wealth creation (in cooperative and social and solidarity economy, local development and regional development) and social movements, especially the ecological movement, the trade union movement, the community movement and the farmers movement.

The CRDC's organizes its program of research and intervention around several projects:

- a) Local and regional development: strategies for local development; Cooperative, community and public development schemes.
- b) Community organization: advocacy and promotion of social rights; Local democracy; Community movement.
- c) Cooperative and SSE initiatives: cooperatives and local development; Cooperatives and Sustainable Development; National and international cooperative movement.
- d) Social and political ecological practices: renewable energies; Ecological conversion of the traditional economy (trade unions); Ecological movement.

Canada Research Chair in Regional and Territorial Development

Chaire de recherche du Canada en développement régional et territorial – l'Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR)

Marie-José Fortin

Titulaire

marie-jose_fortin@uqar.ca

Campus de Rimouski

300, allée des Ursulines,
C.P. 3300, succ. A
Rimouski (Québec)
G5L 3A1

www.uqar.ca/recherche/la-recherche-a-l-uqar/unites-de-recherche/developpement-regional-territorial/presentation-objectifs-et-mission-chaire-drt

The Canada Research Chair in Regional and Territorial Development is interested in new relationships between the economy, territories and local communities.

In order to do this, the research examines very current phenomena such as the social dynamics, often conflicting, surrounding the implantation and the territorialisation of large equipment projects, focusing mainly on non-metropolitan regions. The work thus challenges notions at the heart of public issues and debates, such as social acceptability, territorial governance and citizen participation. Particular attention is paid to the interactions and practices of the actors who guide the development trajectories, as well as the consequences of their decisions on the quality of inhabited territories.

In the current context of globalization, industrial modernization and affirmation of new social demands (eg environment, landscape, quality of life), the work aims at a better understanding of the issues and problems facing non-metropolitan regions, to improve knowledge of the determinants of development dynamics and to propose critical reflections to improve planning and management instruments and public policies for regional development.

In order to achieve these objectives, the new scientific program is structured around three complementary lines of research aimed at understanding the links between the economy, society and territory. They are:

- a) the construction of productive resources and systems
- b) their registration in local communities
- c) their impact on the quality of inhabited territories

Hence, the lines are articulated with the following research axis:

- Resources, mobilizations and productive systems
- Large projects, territorial governance and social acceptability
- Impact evaluation and territorial quality

Drawing on different literatures, the ambition is to better link and even integrates these fields of knowledge through the examination of the same cases. For example, the wind energy sector in Québec will be considered both as an economic system and as an object of social disputes and as a source of impacts.

Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies – University of Northern British Columbia

Greg Halseth

greg.halseth@unbc.ca

**University of Northern
British Columbia**
3333 University Way
Prince George,
British Columbia
V2N 4Z9

[www.unbc.ca/greg-halseth/
canada-research-chair-rural-
and-small-town-studies](http://www.unbc.ca/greg-halseth/canada-research-chair-rural-and-small-town-studies)

Rural and small town places now confront a range of social, economic, environmental, and political restructuring pressures. These include:

- a) population aging
- b) the development of the next generation workforce to meet demands for skilled labour
- c) increasingly mobile capital and labour, aging infrastructure
- d) demands for shared or integrated services
- e) employment uncertainty as industries rapidly start and wind down in response to changing commodity markets
- f) blurred jurisdictional boundaries as local governments and stakeholders partner with senior levels of government or assume responsibilities for supports that have been off-loaded or contracted out in order to reduce government expenditures

While these trends are challenging the transformative capacity of small communities, it is also providing opportunities to renew and mobilize their competitive place-based assets in the new rural economy. This CRC program addresses these fundamental issues with results that are generalizable with other similar communities across Canada and abroad.

Canadian Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship (CIRE) – Olds College

Bonnie Ireland

Executive Director, CAC

bireland@oldscollege.ca

Olds College

4500 - 50th Street
Olds, Alberta
T4H 1R6

www.oldscollege.ca/

The Olds College campus is a historical landmark. In the year 1911, Olds College was nothing but a demonstration farm. It was in November 21, 1913 when it opened as the Olds School of Agriculture and Home Economics, with W.J. Elliot as the principle. Each facility at Olds College has its own story and contribution to the history behind Olds College.

The mission is to create an environment for learning, inquiry, partnership and communication that supports our students, our employees and our communities in the service of society. Olds College shall be the premier Canadian integrated learning and applied research community specializing in agriculture, horticulture, land and environmental management.

The Canadian Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship (CIRE) at Olds College is committed to ensuring students develop an entrepreneurial mindset and understanding. Entrepreneurship at Olds College is integrated, hands-on, inspirational and world-changing. Activities that supported entrepreneurship at Olds College in 2015-16 included:

- a) Entrepreneurial partnerships
- b) Learning enterprises
- c) Training
- d) Support for innovation and entrepreneurship

Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research – Laurentian University

Wayne Warry
Director

wwarry@laurentian.ca
cranhr@laurentian.ca

Laurentian University
935 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 2C6

www.cranhr.ca/

The Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR) is an academic and applied research centre at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario.

CRaNHR's mandate is:

- To conduct interdisciplinary research on rural health with a view to improving health services, access to health care, particularly in rural and northern communities, and enhancing their understanding of the health care system.

CRaNHR is committed:

- To timely dissemination of research findings to the health care community and to use research and evaluation to support health care decision-makers, planners, providers, and consumers

Working under the auspices of CRaNHR and with the support of research staff, investigators from various faculties at Laurentian University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and the health care community conduct studies and evaluation on the organization, delivery, and effectiveness of rural and northern health services, as well as on various health workforce issues. CRaNHR welcomes opportunities to work with professional associations, health care agencies, government ministries, and other research centres.

Some current projects are:

- Strategy for Patient Oriented Research: Improving health equity for northern Ontarians
- Issues in Dementia Care for Indigenous Populations (CCNA Team 20)
- Age-well rural/remote Indigenous technology needs explorations (RRITE)
- Examining the Access to and Quality of French Language Primary Health Care Services in Ontario
- Multi-Year Tracking Study of the Students and Graduates of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Centre for Sustainable Community Development – Simon Fraser University

Mark Roseland
Director

roseland@sfu.ca

Simon Fraser University
TASC2 8800
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5A 1S6

www.sfu.ca/cscd.html

The Centre for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD) is a research unit of Simon Fraser University. The Centre uses the resources and talents of the University to research and encourage sustainable community development (SCD).

The Centre aims to integrate economic, social and environmental objectives in community development. SCD is based on a consideration of the relationship between economic factors and other community elements such as housing, education, the natural environment, health, accessibility and the arts. SCD has emerged as a compelling alternative to conventional approaches to development: a participatory, holistic and inclusive process that leads to positive, concrete changes in communities by creating employment, reducing poverty, restoring the health of the natural environment, stabilizing local economies, and increasing community control.

Our mandate is to serve communities by: stimulating the study of SCD in BC and elsewhere; collecting and providing information about SCD within and outside the province; carrying out projects on SCD in partnership with communities and agencies outside the university, facilitating effective use of the university's resources (people and departments) in responding to requests for assistance on SCD problems; creating opportunities for professional development experience and programs for SCD practitioners and establishing working relations with similar centres internationally, particularly in developing countries.

The CSCD's current opportunities include:

- a) **Education:** The Sustainable Community Development program offers an undergraduate certificate and post-baccalaureate diploma (also available through distance education), graduate study, and a non-credit professional program designed for those already working in the field. Education is also delivered through publications, events, workshops, website, and through project-specific programs.
- b) **Research:** The Centre is committed to developing practical, effective solutions for environmental, social and economic challenges, and possesses a unique understanding and approach to support businesses and communities in their transition to sustainability. Research is conducted by Centre faculty and staff, graduate and undergraduate students, and associates.
- c) **Community Mobilization:** The Centre's approach to sustainable community development is based upon a "community capital" framework (Roseland 2012) that has community mobilization at its heart. All of our education and research programs are thus community- and project-oriented; we also engage in a variety of outreach and technical assistance activities.

Centre for the Study of Co-operatives – University of Saskatchewan

Murray Fulton

Director

murray.fulton@usask.ca
coop.studies@usask.ca

**Centre for the Study
of Co-operatives
University of Saskatchewan**
196 Diefenbaker Building
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5B8

<http://usaskstudies.coop/>

[http://words.usask.ca/
thinkingaboutcoops/](http://words.usask.ca/thinkingaboutcoops/)

Established in 1984, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institute located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. The Centre is formally affiliated with the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and is supported financially by major provincial and national co-operatives and the University of Saskatchewan. The centre is interdisciplinary and provides people with conceptual and informal tools to understand co-operatives and to develop them as solutions to economic and social needs.

The Centre's work has two main aspects: the creation of knowledge, and its dissemination. The tasks are not separable, since interaction with students, co-operative members, and the public raises questions and problems that spur new research and unlocks local knowledge that deepens their understanding of co-operatives.

- 1) **Creation of knowledge:** The Centre works to create new, original knowledge about co-operatives through four main areas. One, theoretical and conceptual research is important because urgent problems arise when traditional ways of thinking no longer work. Two, postgraduate research and education will train students who will go on to careers in co-ops, government, or educational institutions where their knowledge will be useful. Three, the Centre's applied research will assist the co-op sector and community groups and contribute significantly to their knowledge base. Fourth, the research library developed by the Centre supports analysis and reflection on co-ops and other related topics; it is now housed in Special Collections at the university's main library.
- 2) **Dissemination of knowledge:** The Centre works to disseminate knowledge about co-operatives to those who can use it through undergraduate, graduate, and extension education; information and communications strategies using a full range of delivery methods; and by working co-operatively with partner organizations, other co-operatives, provincial and federal agencies, and other academics and institutions involved in co-operative research and education.

The Centre envisions a future in which people are empowered through co-operatives — among other solutions — to develop an economy and society that are democratic, participatory, responsive, creative, diverse, productive, and sustainable. In pursuing this vision, they are guided by the co-operative values of voluntarism, mutualism, egalitarianism and equity, solidarity, practicality, and transparency.

Community Development Institute – University of Northern British Columbia

Marleen Morris

Co-Director

marleen.morris@unbc.ca

Greg Halseth

Co-Director

greg.halseth@unbc.ca

University of Northern British Columbia

3333 University Way
Prince George,
British Columbia
V2N 4Z9

www.unbc.ca/community-development-institute

The CDI was established in 2004 with a broad mandate in community and economic development. The institute provides programs and services in four broad areas: community transformation and renewal, research, education, and dialogues and policy discussions.

According with the CDI's vision it is necessary to believe in the power of people and the potential of communities. For this reason, they are committed to working with communities, industry, business, and government to identify strengths, pursue collaboration, and encourage innovation that will help co-create strong and diversified communities and economies.

Their work focuses on the non-metropolitan communities across British Columbia's northern and central regions – communities where more than 80% of the province's export wealth is generated from natural resources. The sustainability of these communities is a key factor in the prosperity of the province as a whole. Furthermore, the Community Development Institute is committed to working with all communities – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – to help them further their aspirations in community and regional development.

The CDI realizes that for long-term community and economic transformation to be successful, all stakeholders involved must be actively engaged in planning the way forward. The CDI will continue to be inclusive of all stakeholders with the goal of broadening understanding and creating common plans for the future.

Areas of Expertise

- Community transformation and renewal
- Research
- Education
- Dialogues and policy discussions

The CDI's current research priorities include:

- a) Understanding and realizing the potential of BC's non-metropolitan communities in a changing global economy.
- b) Preparing students and practitioners for leadership roles in community and economic development.
- c) Creating a body of knowledge, information, and research that enhances understanding and ability to deal with the impacts of ongoing transformation.

Desjardins Small Business Development Chair – Chaire Desjardins en développement des petites collectivités (UQAT)

Patrice LeBlanc

patrice.leblanc@uqat.ca
chaire.desjardins@uqat.ca

Campus de Rouyn-Noranda

445 boul. de l'Université
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec)
J9X 5E4

Local F-102

[http://uqat.ca/
chairedesjardins/](http://uqat.ca/chairedesjardins/)

The Desjardins Chair in small community development at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue is concerned with the social vitality, economic viability and political validity of small communities, particularly in rural areas. His work aims to develop knowledge of the problems specific to small communities and to enrich the expertise on strategies of revitalization of these communities.

It shares its energies between three fields of activity, all interrelated, namely research, support and training. To do this, it favors a work carried out in synergy with the environment. The Chair is also responsible for disseminating its research findings and proposals for action at various regional or national events.

The research and intervention lines of the Chair are as follows:

- a) Population and living conditions of small communities
- b) Community services in small communities
- c) Natural Resources and Small Communities
- d) Small Aboriginal Communities
- e) Cooperative and social economy in small communities
- f) Small community development models

International Centre for Northern Governance and Development – University of Saskatchewan

Lorna Butler

Executive Director

lorna.butler@usask.ca

info.icngd@usask.ca

University of Saskatchewan

117 Science Place,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5C8

www.usask.ca/icngd/

Formally launched in January 2009 the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD) was built to enhance the capacity of Saskatchewan's northern communities through northern-tailored education programs and an extensive community-applied research program.

ICNGD's research and outreach activities currently focus on:

- a) northern governance
- b) health and social development
- c) innovation
- d) entrepreneurship and economic development
- e) capacity building
- f) resource development
- g) environmental management

The ICNGD seeks to draw on its institutional, provincial, national and international partnerships to contribute to the prosperity and sustained economic growth and social development in Northern Saskatchewan.

The International Centre for Governance and Development refocused its mission and mandate to concentrate on the Circumpolar North and its relationship to Northern Saskatchewan in the winter of 2008-09. With an emphasis on innovation, the goal of the newly formed International Centre for Northern Governance and Development (ICNGD) is to further research, graduate training, and capacity building around the issues of governance and development – economy, environment, social and health – in partnership with northern and Aboriginal communities, industry, and government.

The ICNGD draws together an impressive network of researchers from not only the University of Saskatchewan, but also the Circumpolar world, to address questions of governance and development in the North. They examine everything from models of First Nations self-government, to innovation and wealth-generation strategies, to finding new ways to manage resource development and ensure environmental stewardship.

The Centre provides a powerful forum for partnerships among northern communities, including First Nations and municipal; provincial, and federal governments; industry stakeholders; and the university community. The North has often led the way in developing partnerships, from local to international, that foster mutual understanding, cooperation and capacity building which together seeks prosperity for all.

Institute of Island Studies – University of Prince Edward Island

Jim Randall

Chair, Executive Committee

jarandall@upei.ca

**Institute of Island Studies,
University of
Prince Edward Island,
Steel 124
550 University Avenue,
Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island
C1A 4P3**

<http://projects.upei.ca/iis/>

Since its founding in June 1985, the principal activity of the Institute has been the initiation and co-ordination of research projects and public engagement activities. Areas of special interest have included Island culture, sustainable development, land use, and the knowledge economy. The topics dealt with have ranged from the present state of the Gaelic language on Prince Edward Island to a profile of traditional agricultural practices.

The Institute has a four-point mandate:

- To encourage a deep knowledge, understanding, and expression of Prince Edward Island
- To serve as a bridge between the University and Island communities
- To contribute to the formulation of public policy in Prince Edward Island
- To undertake comparative studies of Prince Edward Island and other islands

In partial fulfillment of its public policy mandate, the Institute organizes public forums and lectures on major contemporary issues such as environmental policy, water quality, land use, economic development, and electoral reform. The Institute also sponsors workshops, seminars, and conferences. An integral part of its work focuses on the fourth part of their mandate, which links the local and the global. While firmly rooted in Prince Edward Island, the IIS has become a global centre for small islands research and development.

Institute of Urban Studies – University of Winnipeg

Jino Distasio

Director

j.distasio@uwinnipeg.ca

ius@uwinnipeg.ca

Offices:

Institute of Urban Studies

3rd Floor,

599 Portage Ave.,

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3B 2G3

Mailing Address:

University of Winnipeg

515 Portage Ave.

Winnipeg, Manitoba,

R3B 2E9

www.uwinnipeg.ca/ius/

The Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) is an independent research arm of the University of Winnipeg. The IUS is both an academic and an applied research centre, committed to examining urban development issues in a broad, non-partisan manner. The Institute focuses on inner-city, housing, Indigenous, and urban development issues and frequently partners with government, the private sector, and community-based organizations. Since 1992, the IUS has produced *The Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, a multidisciplinary scholarly journal dedicated to publishing articles addressing a wide range of issues relevant to urban studies. In addition to its ongoing involvement in research, IUS brings in visiting scholars, hosts workshops, seminars and conferences, mentors new scholars and acts in partnership with other organizations in the community to effect positive urban change.

Over nearly 50 years, the Institute of Urban Studies has created a significant legacy. It has played a role in many of Winnipeg's largest urban interventions from municipal amalgamation and urban revitalization to community social housing and housing provision for homeless people. It has been a training ground for planners, policy makers, and academics with many alumni serving at municipal, provincial and federal postings across Canada. As a part of sharing this legacy with the community the IUS has recently undertaken a two-year archiving project that has resulted in the digitization all research the Institute has produced since 1969. This collection of more than 450 historic and contemporary works is now available digitally on the Institute's website. Many reports are also available to download from the archive at the University of Winnipeg's WinnSpace community.

Areas of expertise include:

- a) housing and housing market dynamics
- b) homelessness and homeless sector policy
- c) neighborhood and demographic analysis
- d) urban development issues
- e) downtown revitalization
- f) urban Aboriginal issues
- g) urban poverty
- h) municipal government
- i) program and policy analysis
- j) sustainable urban development

Martin Prosperity Institute – University of Toronto

Roger Martin

Institute Director

assistant@martinprosperity.org

**The Martin Prosperity
Institute,
Rotman School of
Management,
University of Toronto**
105 St. George Street,
Suite 9000,
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 3E6

The Martin Prosperity Institute explores the necessary requirements to achieve a prosperous future for all – one in which democracy and capitalism work in support of each other. Housed at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, the mission is to develop a new understanding of the broader public conversation around shared and sustainable prosperity, an essential piece of democratic capitalism. Led by world leading thinkers Roger Martin, Richard Florida, and the renowned Fellows, the team seeks to create an enduring prosperity for all.

Nowadays, the world is in historic inflection point, one that parallels the transition from agrarian feudalism to industrial capitalism. New modes of production are emerging, along with new models of success, new societal divides, and new models of governance. The mankind existing system is simultaneously teetering – the underpinnings of contemporary democratic capitalism, the very tenets that govern modern society, are increasingly exploited, strained, and unbalanced. If the world is to produce shared prosperity, a positive agenda for the next stage of democratic capitalism is required.

<http://martinprosperity.org/>

Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge (NORDIK)

Gayle Broad

Research Director

Gayle.Broad@algomau.ca

**NORDIK Insitute,
Algoma University**

1520 Queen St. E.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

P6A 2G4

www.nordikinstitute.com/

NORDIK is a community based research institute affiliated with the Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program at Algoma University and since 2007, has been an incorporated non-profit. The institute's mandate is to conduct research and development within Northern Ontario and with Indigenous communities. Its vision is:

To promote more vibrant, caring and sustainable communities through research, dialogue, analysis and reflection dedicated to the practice of holistic community development.

NORDIK has established strong links with other research institutes, universities, and colleges. NORDIK is committed to further developing its own research capacity by working closely with its community partners and providing mentoring to new researchers. To date, it has completed over 90 research projects at the local, regional, and national levels, and currently has many research projects underway.

The goals and objectives are:

1. Build Northern Ontario's capacity to conduct research
2. Conduct research that contributes to social and economic justice for Northern Ontario communities
3. Provide evidence for informed policy and decision-making
4. Focus on Indigenous, rural and Northern communities

Projects developed by the institute are focus on:

- a) Agriculture and Food
- b) Arts and Culture
- c) Community Development
- d) Environment
- e) First Nations
- f) Metis and urban Indigenous issues
- g) Passenger Rail Services
- h) Social economy, social entrepreneurship and social enterprises

Rural Development Institute – Brandon University

William (Bill) Ashton

Director

ashtonw@brandonu.ca

rdi@brandonu.ca

Rural Development Institute Brandon University

270-18th Street

Brandon, Manitoba

R7A 6A9

www.brandonu.ca/rdi/

Brandon University established the Rural Development Institute (RDI) in 1989 as an academic research center and a leading source of information on issues affecting rural communities in Western Canada and beyond.

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. Fosters community development and resiliency through research and information sharing on issues and opportunities unique to rural, remote and northern communities. RDI 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. Projects are characterized by cooperative and collaborative efforts of multi-stakeholders.

RDI establishes new partnerships; conducts multi-disciplinary research; promotes the development of new community projects; shares findings, and nurtures new generations of rural researchers among students, community members and rural stakeholders.

RDI has diverse research affiliations, and multiple community and government linkages related to its rural development mandate. RDI disseminates knowledge and 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, webinars, and social media.

The RDI's mandate is, applied research, knowledge dissemination, learning. Furthermore, to respond 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:

- a) Rural immigration
- b) Regional economic development
- c) Governance and capacity building
- d) Rural infrastructure and services
- e) Rural innovation

Rural Research Centre – Dalhousie University

Kathleen Kevany

Director

deborah.stiles@dal.ca

Rural Research Centre
56-58 Rock Garden Road
Faculty of Agriculture
P.O. Box 550
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E3

www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/research/centres-and-labs/rural-research-centre.html

The Rural Research Centre (RRC) is a small research institute focused on rural research and making connections between research and the people who shape rural life. They do this through multi-disciplinary rural research, and a variety of endeavours and activities rooted in “the rural” – whether that rural reality is here in Atlantic Canada or elsewhere in the world.

With a mandate to serve the rural community of Atlantic Canada first and foremost, the RRC conducts or facilitates rurally focused Atlantic research and outreach on a variety of subjects, including agrarian movements (and present-day cooperatives and policy), rural disaster resilience, health knowledge and home remedies, rural women’s volunteerism, wool value-chain development.

The central research program, Changing Paradigms in Atlantic Agriculture, funded in part by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), has been examining the changing (local to global) state of Atlantic agriculture.

The RDC research projects are:

- Young Farmers’ Access to Capital in Nova Scotia
- Changing Paradigms: A Research Initiative
- Women’s Health in Rural Communities
- ‘The Lives of Rural Girls and Women’: Health, Underdevelopment, Gender and Sustainability (HUGS)
- Wool Value Chain Development Project
- The Rural Disaster Resilience Project

The Harris Centre – Memorial University

Rob Greenwood

Executive Director

rob@mun.ca

harriscentre@mun.ca

The Harris Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland

220 Prince Philip Drive,
1st Floor, Spencer Hall,
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 3R5

www.mun.ca/harriscentre/

The Harris Centre mandate is to co-ordinate and facilitate Memorial University's activities relating to regional policy and development, and advise on building the University's capacity and identify priority themes and projects relating to teaching, research and outreach. The Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development has two primary goals:

- To assist in the responsible development of the economy and society of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- To stimulate informed discussion of important provincial issues.

The Mission of the Harris Centre is to encourage informed public policy and regional development in Newfoundland and Labrador by supporting communication and collaboration between Memorial University and the people of this province. The Harris Centre's vision for Newfoundland and Labrador is of a vibrant democracy with informed citizens actively engaged in realizing a prosperous and sustainable society which values individual and collective responsibility for decision-making and development, true to the unique culture and identity.

A key part of Memorial University, the Centre helps diverse groups and individuals connect with the research resources of Memorial, through teaching, research, and outreach initiatives. The Centre works through the following projects:

- a) Public policy forums
- b) Regional workshops
- c) Vital signs
- d) Regional Population projections
- e) Rural Routes podcast
- f) RAnLab

The Wilson Centre – University of Saskatchewan

Stephanie Yong

Director

yong@edwards.usask.ca
info_wilsoncentre@usask.ca

**The Wilson Centre –
University of Saskatchewan**
Suite #129, 116 Research Drive,
Innovation Place,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 3R3

www.usask.ca/wilsoncentre/

The Wilson Centre was established in 2007 with a \$1 million gift from entrepreneur & philanthropist, W. Brett Wilson, University of Saskatchewan alum. The Centre was founded as a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan to promote entrepreneurship among all disciplines. The centre is a meeting place for creative thinkers from across different backgrounds and industries. They offer hands-on opportunities to start generating, building and testing new ideas through facilitated learning and work space.

The driving force behind entrepreneurship is innovation. Innovation adds value (i.e. job growth) to societies and economies. It is hard to imitate and an inexhaustible source that can sustain competitive advantage in knowledge based economy. Creative thinkers, problem solvers and the collision of disciplines are innovation's core contributors. Without it, only minor shifts may occur, robbing an economy of its numerous wonderful possibilities. The Centre is tapping in and encouraging leaders and thinkers of tomorrow through education, research, training and nurturing.

Centre's mission is to provide inspiration and tools to generate and build bold new ideas. The vision is to be a leading educator in ideation and create a culture of innovative thinkers.

The Centre has had strategic impact at two levels:

- a) within the University they have witnessed a broad class of stakeholders, ranging from undergraduates to postgraduate students and faculty, seeking out and engaged with the Centre to add value to their activities and/or interests.
- b) within the larger community (i.e. business, finance, research institutes, government and nongovernmental organizations), the Centre has become a source of talent, ideas and wealth creating opportunities, routed primarily in innovation and industry academia collaboration.

Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate: entrepreneurial research by Wilson Scholars, promoting entrepreneurship minors, experiential learning for students through the i3 idea challenge and Aboriginal Youth Idea Challenge, a new venture creation competition; conceived and host, Saskatchewan's largest networking event called Pitch Party; outreach to high schools and K-8 with Lemonade Day; hold workshops and seminars for graduate students; engage business community to mentor aspiring entrepreneurs.

The centre is open to everyone: students, alumni, and members of the community and works closely with all organizations in support of innovative thinking & entrepreneurship.

Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI) – Selkirk College

Terri McDonald

BC Regional Innovation Chair

**Columbia Basin Rural
Development Institute,
Selkirk College,
301 Frank Beinder Way
Castlegar, British Columbia
V1N 4L3**

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

www.cbrdi.ca

The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support.

The RDI is governed by an 8-year partnership agreement between Columbia Basin Trust—the RDI's primary funder—and Selkirk College, which provides support in the form of infrastructure and specific capabilities, including the Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development (RIC), who serves as the RDI's lead researcher. The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre also provides complementary expertise, access to data, and GIS support to the RDI.

The RDI's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan defines the Institute's priorities, which include:

- Build and consolidate knowledge on the region, and identify important data gaps
- Undertake applied rural-developed focused research that serves regional information needs
- Support access to, and use of, information and decision making tools
- Support meaningful collaboration between organizations that undertake applied research in the region
- Help grow the research capacity of the region.

The RDI's current research priorities include:

- State of the Basin
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Regional Food System
- Non-Profit Social Sector
- Workforce Innovation

APPENDIX 1: Northern Research Centres

Aurora Research Institute / Aurora College

Pippa Seccombe-Hett

Vice President Research

pseccombe-hett@
auroracollege.nt.ca

P.O. Box 1450
191 Mackenzie Road
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
X0E 0T0

<http://nwtresearch.com/>

Jane Arychuk

President, Aurora College

jarychuk@auroracollege.nt.ca

P.O. Box 1290,
50 Conibear Crescent,
Fort Smith,
Northwest Territories
X0E 0P0

[http://www.auroracollege.
nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/
home.aspx](http://www.auroracollege.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/home.aspx)

The Aurora Research Institute has roots dating back to 1964, when a research centre in Inuvik was developed by the federal government to provide support for scientific research in the NWT and Northern Yukon. In 1995, the research centre merged with Aurora College and became the Aurora Research Institute (ARI).

As the research division of Aurora College, ARI's mandate is to improve the quality of life for NWT residents by applying scientific, technological and Indigenous knowledge to solve northern problems and advance social and economic goals.

ARI supports, facilitates and conducts research at its three regional offices: the Western Arctic Research Centre in Inuvik, the South Slave Research Centre in Fort Smith and the North Slave Research Centre in Yellowknife. ARI is also responsible for licensing research in the NWT in accordance with the NWT Scientists Act and its associated administration regulations.

As the territorial post-secondary institution, Aurora College is focused on student success, and is committed to supporting the development of Northern society through excellence in education, training and research that is culturally sensitive and responsive to the NWT community.

Aurora College delivers programs and courses as close to the communities as possible. This is achieved through a network of three regional campuses, as well as Community Learning Centres in many other NWT communities. A broad range of programming is offered, from Developmental Studies to certificate, diploma and degree programs. These programs and services give students the vocational, professional, communications and life skills they need to succeed in their chosen careers.

Nunavut Research Institute

Mary Ellen Thomas

Senior Research Officer

maryellen.thomas@
arcticcollege.ca

Nunavut Research Institute

P.O. Box 1720, Building 959
Iqaluit, Nunavut
XOA OHO

www.nri.nu.ca/

In 1984, the Government of the Northwest Territories established the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories to administer research licensing in the territories and to advise the Territorial government on matters related to science and technology. In 1988, SINT assumed responsibility for the operations of the Government of Canada's field laboratories in Iqaluit and Igloolik that had been established in the late 1970s to support marine research. The Eastern branch of SINT was then amalgamated with Arctic College in 1995 and became the Nunavut Research Institute.

NRI licenses and coordinates scientific research in the health, natural, and social research fields, as required under Nunavut's Scientists Act. We act as a clearing house for information on research in Nunavut and we provide mentorship, guidance, and support to scientists working throughout the territory. NRI ensures that Nunavummiut are consulted and engaged in research and we help to broker research partnerships that address needs and concerns of Nunavummiut. As the science arm of Nunavut Arctic College, we also provide unique training opportunities for Nunavummiut to gain hands-on skills and experience in applied science.

The Nunavut Research Institute's mandate is to develop, facilitate, and promote scientific research as a resource for the well-being of people in Nunavut.

The NRI is responsible for:

- Administering scientific research licensing in Nunavut, in accordance with Nunavut's Scientists Act
- Facilitating collaborative research to address Nunavut's needs and priorities
- Promoting the development and application of new technology to improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut
- Providing advice on matters related to scientific research in Nunavut
- Providing a clearing house of information on scientific research conducted in Nunavut
- Coordinating Nunavut Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program

NORTHERN STUDIES

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Monique Bernier

President

Hugo Asselin

Director

awards@acuns.ca

ACUNS

32 Colonnade Rd

Suite 200

Ottawa, Ontario

K2E 7J6

www.acuns.ca/

For over 30 years the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) has successfully promoted the advancement of northern scholarship through its mandate and programs. Established in 1978, ACUNS is a registered charitable organization operating with an office in Ottawa, and active volunteer representatives at over 30 member institutions across the country. ACUNS' governing body is a Council of representatives from each member university, who meet annually to oversee the work of the Association.

An elected Executive and Board of Directors are responsible for the activities of the Association between general meetings. As part of the Association's organization and communications strategy, each member institution appoints an individual as its ACUNS Council representative. Council members receive and distribute information from the Association and, in turn, represent their institution or organization at Association meetings.

The association's vision is contributing to the well-being of Canada's North, its communities, and its inhabitants by sharing knowledge gained through leadership in northern research and education. Furthermore, the mission is to play a leadership role in promoting a diverse and comprehensive understanding of the North through facilitation of collaborative research, knowledge mobilization, and education.

Churchill Northern Studies Centre

Grant MacNeil

Executive Director

cncsc@churchillscience.ca

Churchill Northern Studies Centre

P.O. Box 610

Churchill, Manitoba

R0B 0E0

www.churchillscience.ca/

Founded in 1976, the Churchill Northern Studies Centre is an independent, non-profit research and education facility located 23 km east of the town of Churchill, Manitoba. The centre provides accommodations, meals, equipment rentals, and logistical support to scientific researchers working on a diverse range of topics of interest to northern science (auroral research, climate change, climatology, greenhouse gas emissions, inland water quality, marine ecosystems, community sustainability, tourism resilience, northern ecology, peatland and treeline dynamics, lake ice formation and wildlife management). In addition to research include the Centre facilitates a wide range of educational programming ranging from general interest courses for the visiting public to university credit courses for students.

The Centre is ideally situated along the Hudson Bay seacoast at the meeting of three major biomes: marine, northern boreal forest, and tundra. To the east lies Wapusk National Park which protects the inland denning area of the polar bear. Farther to the southeast lies the Hudson Bay Lowland, the largest peatland in North America. Because of this complex of biomes, one can see a tremendous diversity of plants, birds, mammals and human cultures.

According with the centre's vision is to understand and sustain the North. The mission is:

- Promote and facilitate northern research, toward an understanding of the physical environment, social issues and economic development including sustainable resource development and use
- Promote and facilitate university credit education and public interest educational opportunities
- Promote and facilitate north/south understanding by providing a forum for dialogue on significant northern issues
- Provide accommodation, logistical, and service support for independent researchers

REGIONAL - ECONOMIC

Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement – Carleton University

Nicole Bedford

*Project Manager and
Communications Coordinator*

ccci@carleton.ca

2112 Dunton Tower,
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5B6

Peter Andrée

Principal Investigator

B640 Loeb Building
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5B6

[https://carleton.ca/3ci/
projects-and-initiatives/
community-first-impacts-of-
community-engagement/](https://carleton.ca/3ci/projects-and-initiatives/community-first-impacts-of-community-engagement/)

[http://carleton.ca/
communityfirst/](http://carleton.ca/communityfirst/)

CFICE is an action research project that aims to strengthen Canadian non-profits, universities and colleges, and funding agencies to build more successful, innovative, resilient and prosperous communities.

Combining community-based demonstration projects with critical policy analysis, CFICE aims to answer the question: How can community-campus engagement be designed and implemented in ways that maximize the value created for non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs)?

The project carries out its research through the work of five self-managing research hubs, on:

- a) **Poverty Reduction (PR):** PR evaluates community-campus partnership models to understand how stakeholders can work together to address the multiple root causes and evolving manifestations of poverty. In collaboration with several community partners, the PR hub funds community-driven demonstration projects and provides research support aimed at reducing poverty.
- b) **Community Food Security:** it examines the community-campus partnership models and best practices used to advance the food security and food sovereignty agenda of their lead community partner, Food Secure Canada. Through different demonstration projects, they seek to research and strengthen food security networks in Canada, and advance progress on attaining food security in communities across the country.
- c) **Community Environmental Sustainability:** the hub funds community-driven community-campus demonstration projects focused on increasing community environmental sustainability, reducing individual and collective ecological footprints, and strengthening local community resilience.
- d) **Violence Against Women:** this hub assesses models of best practice in community-academic partnerships, with the goal of convening a pan-Canadian community-academic partnership focused on developing an agenda and implementation strategy for reframing the legal and public policy approach to violence against women in Canada.
- e) **Knowledge Mobilization (KMb):** the hub works is two-fold for the CFICE project. Not only does the KMb hub seek to provide knowledge mobilization services to the CFICE project as a whole, they also lead demonstration projects focused on articulating the role of knowledge mobilization within a variety of community-campus partnerships. The KMb hub works from the position that knowledge mobilization is an evolving field with an underlying goal of increasing the usability and use of research results.

PELA Institute for Rural Development

Info Director

info@pelacfdc.ca

Picton Office

280 Picton Main Street
Suite 103
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.

The PELA Institute for Rural Development has identified a variety of issues that are barriers to rural economic development. Some of these issues are a lack of relevant, recent and specific data to rural Eastern Ontario areas, lack of cooperation between the communities of Eastern Ontario, and a lack of attention paid to Eastern Ontario by academics, researchers and politicians. The creation of an institute will provide a central repository responsible for providing and encouraging research topics specific to economic development within PE/LA Counties. Topics of study are likely to include amenity migration, skills training of the labour force, rural innovation, the creative economy related to demographic changes and rural healthcare.

The PELA Institute has identified four research themes that it will consider funding:

- a) Human Capital: skills and education of the labour force migration, demographic changes
- b) Place: What/Where: entrepreneurship, rural innovation, creative economy in rural communities

Environment

- c) Systems/Organization for Rural Development: ICT Infrastructure, Governance, Urban/Rural interaction, regional approach to rural development
- d) Other Areas of Study: Integrative studies, new areas for consideration.

APPENDIX 2

Rural Development Organizations

Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)

<https://www.ardn.ca/>

Canadian Consortium for Health Promotion Research

<http://sites.utoronto.ca/chp/CCHPR/introe.htm>

Canadian Rural Research Network

<http://rural-research-network.blogspot.ca/>

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

<http://crrf.ca/>

Community Based Research

<http://www.communitybasedresearch.ca/>

Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)

<https://ccednet-rdec.ca/en>

Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program (CEDTAP)

http://www3.carleton.ca/cedtap/home/index_e.html

Community Futures Pan West

<http://communityfuturespanwest.ca/>

International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS)

<http://icrps.org/>

Rural Opportunities network

<http://www.ruralnetwork.ca/>

**Territorial Development Research Centre - Centre de Recherche
Sur le Développement Territorial (CRDT)**

<http://crdt.ca/>

APPENDIX 3

Think Tanks and Organizations

C.D. Howe Institute

Toronto, ON
<http://www.cdhowe.org/>

Atlantic Institute for Market Studies

Halifax, NS
<http://www.aims.ca/>

Atlantic Provinces Economic Council

Halifax, NS
<http://www.apec-econ.ca/>

Canada West Foundation

Calgary, AB
<http://cwf.ca/>

Canada's Ecofiscal Commission

Montreal, QC
<http://ecofiscal.ca/>
<http://www.ceocouncil.ca/>

Canada 2020

Ottawa, ON
<http://canada2020.ca/>

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Ottawa, ON | Offices across Canada
<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>

Caledon Institute of Social Policy

Ottawa, ON
<http://www.aledoninst.org/>

Canada's Public Policy Forum

Ottawa, ON
<http://www.pppforum.ca/>

Canadian Council of Chief Executives

Ottawa, ON

Canadian Council on Social Development

Kanata, ON
www.ccsd.ca

Canadian Economics Association

Montréal, QC
<http://economics.ca/>

Canadian Energy Research Institute

Calgary, AB
<http://www.ceri.ca/>

Canadian Global Affairs Institute

Calgary, AB | Ottawa, ON
<http://www.cgai.ca/>

Canadian Institute of Advanced Research

Toronto, ON
<http://www.cifar.ca/>

Canadian International Council

Toronto, ON
<http://opencanada.org/>

Canadian Tax Foundation

Toronto, ON | Montreal, QC
<http://www.ctf.ca/>

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Waterloo, ON
<http://www.cigionline.org/>

Centre for the Study of Living Standards

Ottawa, ON
<http://www.csls.ca/>

Centre for Foreign Policy Studies

Halifax, NS
<http://www.dal.ca/dept/cfps.html>

Centre for Trade Policy and Law

Ottawa, ON
<http://carleton.ca/ctpl/>

Chantier de l'économie sociale

Montréal, QC
<http://www.chantier.qc.ca/>

Conference Board of Canada

Ottawa, ON | Offices across Canada
<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/>

Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs

Toronto, ON
<http://www.couchichinginstitute.ca/>

Council of Canadians

Ottawa, ON | Offices across Canada
<http://www.canadians.org/>

Council of Canadian Academies

Ottawa, ON
<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en.aspx>

Centre de Recherche en économie de l'Environnement, de l'Agroalimentaire, des Transports et de l'Énergie

Quebec, Quebec
<http://www.create.ulaval.ca/>

Centre canadien d'étude et coopération internationale

Montréal, QC
<http://www.ceci.ca/>

Centre for International and Defence Policy

Kingston, ON
<http://www.queensu.ca/cidp/>

Fraser Institute

Vancouver, BC | Offices across Canada
<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/>

Frontier Centre for Public Policy

Winnipeg, MB
<http://www.fcpp.org/>

George Morris Centre

Guelph, ON
<http://www.georgemorris.org/>

GPI Atlantic

Glen Haven, NS

<http://www.gpiatlantic.org/>**Human Security Report Project**

Vancouver, BC

<http://www.hsrgroup.org/>**Institut de politiques alternatives de Montréal**

Montréal, QC

<http://ipamontreal.org/>**Institut national de la recherche scientifique**

Québec, QC

<http://www.inrs.ca/>**Institute for Citizen-Centred Service**

Toronto, ON

<http://www.iccs-isac.org/Social>**Research and Demonstration Corporation**

Ottawa, ON | Offices across Canada

<http://www.srdc.org/>**Institute of Health Economics**

Edmonton, AB

<http://www.ihe.ca/>**Institute of Public Administration of Canada**

Toronto, ON

<http://www.ipac.ca/>**Institute for Research on Public Policy**

Montréal, QC

<http://www.irpp.org/>**International Development Research Centre**

Ottawa, ON | Offices across Globe

<http://www.idrc.ca/>**International Institute for Sustainable Development**

Winnipeg, MB | Offices across regions

<http://www.iisd.org/>**Institute on Governance**

Ottawa, ON | Toronto, ON

<http://iog.ca/>**Macdonald-Laurier Institute**

Ottawa, ON

<http://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/>**Mackenzie Institute**

Toronto, ON

<http://www.mackenzieinstitute.com/>**Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues**

Vancouver, BC

<http://www.ligi.ubc.ca/>**Mowat Centre**

Toronto, ON

<http://www.mowatcentre.ca/>**Munk School of Global Affairs**

Toronto, ON

<http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/>**Montreal Economic Institute**

Montréal, QC

<http://www.iedm.org/>**Northern Policy Institute**

Thunder Bay, ON | Sudbury, ON

<http://www.northernpolicy.ca/>**Parkland Institute**

Edmonton, AB

<http://parklandinstitute.ca/>**North-South Institute**

Ottawa, ON

<http://www.nsi-ins.ca/>**Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy**

Ottawa, ON

<http://www.pearson-shoyama.ca/>**Pembina Institute**

Calgary, AB | Offices across Canada

<http://www.pembina.org/>**Parliamentary Centre**

Ottawa, ON

<http://www.parlcent.org/Unisféra>**International Centre**

Montréal, QC | Offices across regions

<http://www.unisfera.org/>**Vanier Institute of the Family**

Ottawa, ON

<http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/>**Work Research Foundation**

Hamilton, ON | Offices across Canada

<http://www.cardus.ca>



Contact Us

Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

270-18th Street, McMaster Hall, Lower Level

Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A9

Phone: 204-571-8515

Email: rdi@brandonu.ca

www.BrandonU.ca/RDI