



BRANDON
UNIVERSITY



Rural Development Institute

2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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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Introduction

This annual report is submitted in accordance with the Brandon University Senate policy *Research Centres, Institutions, and Groups - Policy and Procedures*. This annual report covers research projects, financial information, publications, community outreach, and teaching and learning activities for the 2018–2019 year.

RDI's five strategic research directions are rural immigration, rural economic development, rural infrastructure, governance and capacity building, and rural innovation. In the 2018–2019 year, RDI focused on the first three of these. In the area of rural immigration, RDI has two projects underway. One, to be released soon, investigates the motivations of small and medium enterprise employers' in hiring newcomers. The other, still in its early stages, is a two-year project assessing the success of the Aurora Project, which aids newcomer entrepreneurs in business development.

Looking at rural economic development, RDI has completed four projects this year. The *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy* report focused on the economic impacts of Indigenous spending in Manitoba, as well as profiling urban reserves in this province. The *Look North Indigenous Economy Report* summarized northern Indigenous contributions in Manitoba and calculated a GDP for northern Manitoba for the first time. The other two projects focused on soybean processing. The *Westman Soybean Processing Plant Initiative* involved the creation of an investment-readiness community self-assessment tool. The *Bridging the Soybean Supply Chain on the Prairies* report describes the soybean supply chain on the Canadian Prairies and assesses the market opportunities for a world-class soybean crushing plant.

In the area of rural infrastructure, our main work was on the Manitoba Rural Broadband project, which surveyed 130 households in three communities across Manitoba to learn about rural Manitobans' use of digital technologies in their daily lives.

Our research is relevant to people who live and work in rural areas of Canada and to rural policy makers. RDI's research is funded by a wide variety of organizations from both the non-profit sector and government. Such funding ensures we continue to strive to build new partnerships. In addition, RDI has continued to demonstrate its capacity to share knowledge and research findings with multiple publications and presentations both in Manitoba and other parts of Canada as well as internationally.

This year also saw Dr. Ashton, director of RDI, in leadership roles off campus. He completed his term as chair of Community Futures Westman and now sits as a director. He also accepted an appointment to the Manitoba Agriculture Research and Innovation Council from the Hon. Ralph Eichler, Minister of Agriculture.

Highlights of 2018–2019

FINANCE RDI leveraged Brandon University support 2.5 times, raising over \$600,000 in external funding.

APPLIED RESEARCH with community and government partners enables RDI to inform discussions on rural and regional issues and opportunities.

- 5 applied research projects completed in rural economic development and rural infrastructure
- RDI's largest project, the Rural Policy Learning Commons, completed its fifth year
- 2 research projects on-going in the area of rural immigration

Creating **NEW KNOWLEDGE** is key to RDI's mandate to advance understanding around rural policy and issues.

- 4 Journal articles
- 2 Chapters in books – 1 international
- 2 Publically available research reports
- 4 Journal of Rural and Community Development issues published with a total of 24 articles and 5 case studies
- 8 letters for support for local, regional, and international institutions and organizations

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION enables RDI to share our research findings and gather important perspectives.

- 9 Presentations at provincial and national conferences
- 2 Conference posters at national conferences
- 25 Webinars, with a total of 74 presenters, 957 registered, 761 attendees, and 1035 Youtube views
- 1 Video on Indigenous Economy report launch, including Indigenous leaders and provincial and federal ministers
- 1 Podcast
- 1 Infographic on Indigenous Economy report
- 1 Brandon University launch of a research report
- 7 RDI blog posts with over 1,000 opens and approximately 428 complete reads
- 3 Fact sheets for research projects
- 1 BU Research Connection article
- 1 RDI Research Update
- 94 media-rich Tweets
- 94 Instagram posts
- 14 Facebook posts
- Website analytics:
 - Users up by 4% over previous fiscal period.
 - New users up by 9.5%.
 - Over 10,000 website visits with over 23,000 webpage views
 - 3,626 file downloads, including 407 downloads of the Indigenous Economy report and infographic
 - Website visitors arriving via Facebook up by 34%.
 - Website visitors arriving via Twitter up by 114%.

RDI IN THE PRESS


- 4 Press releases
- 26 Print newspaper or online news articles on RDI reports & 3 media mentions
- 7 Interviews with media representing TV, radio, magazines, and online news

TEACHING AND LEARNING are central to RDI’s mandate, as is student and faculty engagement in Manitoba, across Canada, and internationally.

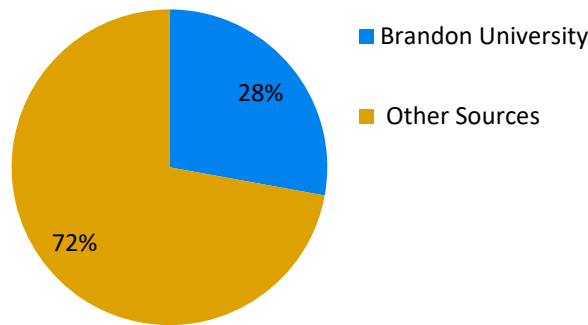
- Successfully deliver new Policy Design course (Course # 88 – 574) for graduate students at Brandon University.
- 68 students participate in 7 Service Learning projects for 6 organizations for a total of over 1300 volunteer hours.
- 1 PhD student’s advisory committee at Royal Roads University
- 2 Master’s degree students’ thesis advisory committees at University of Manitoba.

Finance

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018

Brandon University	\$ 237,443.52	28%	
Other sources - eg. Government, NGO, etc.	\$ 614,802.99	72%	
Total	\$ 852,246.51 *	100%	

2018 - 2019 Funding Sources



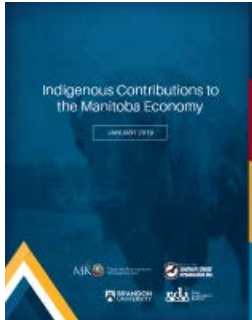
RDI leveraged Brandon University financial support 2.5 times

* In addition to this funding, RDI contributes to Brandon University via the Research Support Fund that SSHRC pays due to the RPLC Partnership grant. Brandon University receives funding for every year of the seven year project (ending in 2021).

Applied Research Projects

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy



In partnership with the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), RDI quantified the Indigenous (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) economy in Manitoba by calculating spending and conducting an economic impact analysis. Results were analysed for Manitoba's North and South, Indigenous combined and First Nations in isolation, and on and off reserve. The report also profiled seven urban reserves in Manitoba and made labour force and population projections to 2026. The project followed OCAP principles and was funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Manitoba government's department of Indigenous and Northern Relations.

Look North Indigenous Economy Report

Contributions of Northern Indigenous People to the Manitoba Economy

This project summarized Indigenous contributions in northern Manitoba and calculated a GDP for northern Manitoba for the first time. This project was supported by ISC, MKO, and the Look North initiative.



Westman Soybean Processing Plant Initiative

Researchers at RDI designed a Community Investment-Readiness Self-Assessment Tool for municipalities to assess their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the construction of a world-class soybean-processing facility in their jurisdiction. The tool offered a framework to facilitate the promotion of their community as a location and/or a potential contributor for such a facility. Funding for this project was provided by the City of Brandon. The Westman Opportunities Leadership Group (WOLG) was a key supporter.

Bridging the Soybean Supply Chain on the Prairies: Taking the Lead in Manitoba



This report describes the soybean supply chain on the Canadian Prairies and provides an assessment of the market opportunities for a world-class soybean crushing plant on the Prairies, as defined as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and North Dakota. Results show clear advantages of locating a soybean facility in Manitoba. This project was supported by the City of Brandon, the Town of Carberry, the Town of Virden, the Neepawa Area Development Corporation, and many other municipalities, as well as the Manitoba Pork Council and WOLG.

Manitoba Rural Broadband

This project launched in Fall 2016 with the goal to highlight the opportunities and constraints that rural Manitobans experience in their daily lives regarding their use of digital technologies. This project was supported by Function Four Ltd., MITACS, the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), and EcoWest. It focused on four communities: La Broquerie, Powerview-Pine Falls, St. Claude, and Hamiota. Over 130 households were surveyed.

Rural Policy Learning Commons

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) is a partnership project that engages in capacity building, networking, knowledge mobilization, engaging policymakers, and creating rural policy impacts. This seven-year project is beginning its sixth year. The RPLC is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and over 30 institutional partners from OECD member countries, including Brandon University and the Rural Development Institute.

In year five, RPLC produced 25 webinars with 74 presenters and 760 participants. As well, RPLC members produced 89 publications and RPLC’s new Rural Policy Assistant supported the development of five student policy briefs currently under review. RPLC supported members to attend 21 conferences and other events and supported six Canadian faculty to attend international conferences. \$185,000 went to pay students or provide student stipends or travel support. <http://rplc-capr.ca/>



RPLC YEAR 5 DASHBOARD UPDATE

BUILD A COHORT OF HQPS	INCREASE EXCHANGE OF INSIGHTS																								
<p>STUDENT \$ for Travel, Hiring & Stipends</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>YR 5 \$184,702</p> </div> <div> <p>PROJECT TOTAL \$473,439</p> </div> </div> <p>STUDENTS</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Hired & Stipends</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(79)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supported for Travelling</td> <td style="text-align: center;">92</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(126)</td> </tr> </table>	Hired & Stipends	45	YR 5 34	(79)	Supported for Travelling	92	YR 5 34	(126)	<p>RPLC WEBINARS:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td style="text-align: center;">58</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 25</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(83)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presenters</td> <td style="text-align: center;">126</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 74</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(200)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participants</td> <td style="text-align: center;">915</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 760</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(1675)</td> </tr> </table> <p>CONFERENCES & EVENTS that RPLC has sponsored/ supported members to attend</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">37</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(58)</td> </tr> </table>	Totals	58	YR 5 25	(83)	Presenters	126	YR 5 74	(200)	Participants	915	YR 5 760	(1675)		37	YR 5 21	(58)
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ADD TO RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE	INCREASE MOBILIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE																								
<p>PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY RPLC MEMBERS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>YR 5 89</p> </div> <div> <p>PROJECT TOTAL 548</p> </div> </div> <p>POLICY, LITERATURE & KNOWLEDGE BRIEFS PRODUCED BY RPLC</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>YR 5 ?</p> </div> <div> <p>PROJECT TOTAL 27</p> </div> </div>	<p>TWITTER METRICS</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">PROJECT TOTAL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tweets</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,609</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,497</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impressions</td> <td style="text-align: center;">774,100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,367,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>RPLC WEBSITE rplc-capr.ca</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Visits</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8,443</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 4,909</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(13,352)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Page Views</td> <td style="text-align: center;">37,253</td> <td style="text-align: center;">YR 5 29,683</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(66,936)</td> </tr> </table>		YR 5	PROJECT TOTAL	Tweets	1,609	5,497	Impressions	774,100	1,367,000	Visits	8,443	YR 5 4,909	(13,352)	Page Views	37,253	YR 5 29,683	(66,936)							
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CANADIANS IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS	STRENGTHEN NETWORKS AND INSTITUTIONS
<p>CANADIAN FACULTY Supported to attend International Conferences</p> <p>45 publications/webinars co-produced by Canadian and International RPLC members to date</p> <p>21 YR 5 6 (27)</p>	<p>RPLC Supported Rural Policy/Research Events</p> <p>10 RPLC Partner projects have received letters of support and contributions to date</p> <p>6 out of 11 RPLC Networks will continue partnership activities post RPLC</p> <p>13 YR 5 3 (16)</p>

CURRENT PROJECTS

Exploring Employers' Motivations to Hire Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies

This project is an examination of the motivating factors driving rural employers to hire newcomers in the Prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, where the recent immigrant population doubled between 2001 and 2016. Perceived benefits and challenges in hiring newcomers are also explored. The research team worked with provincial associations of newcomer-serving organizations (the Manitoba Association of Newcomer-Serving Organizations, the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies, and the Alberta Association of Immigrant-Serving Agencies) and local settlement and integration agencies in each province. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provided support for this project through University of Manitoba's Immigration Research West (IRW). This project will be completed in Spring 2019.

Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program

RDI is providing an arm's-length assessment of the success of the Aurora Project, which recruits newcomer entrepreneurs in Westman and assists them through the process of developing and launching their businesses. Over the course of this two-year project, annual reports will add value to the Aurora Project's learning modules and assess client perceptions of the overall impact of the program on their business and their identity. A final report in 2021 will provide key findings on the project's success, as well as its economic, financial, and social impacts. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provided support for this project via the Aurora Project.

New Knowledge

Refereed Publications

- Ashton, W. (2019). The nature of innovation in food processing in Manitoba, Canada. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 14(1), 35–53.
- Akimowicz, M., & Képhaliacos, C. (2018). Coordonner la construction territoriale par une vision du futur : Les dynamiques d'investissement agricole dans l'InterSCoT toulousain. *Economie Rurale*, 365, 27–47. Available at <https://journals.openedition.org/economierurale/5851>
- Akimowicz, M., Vyn, R. J., Cummings, H., & Landman, K. (2018). An introduction to mixed-methods research in agricultural economics: The example of farm investment in Ontario's greenbelt, Canada. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 61, 162–174. Available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016718300652>
- Bollman, R., & Ashton, W. (2018). Rural policy in Canada. In T. Josling (Series Ed.) & W. H. Meyers & T. Johnson (Vol. Eds.), *Handbook of International Food and Agricultural Policies: Vol. 1. Policies for Agricultural Markets and Rural Economic Activity* (pp. 149–180). New Jersey, USA: World Scientific.
- Kelly, W. & Hynes, M. (2018). Remotely connected? A comparative analysis of the development of rural broadband infrastructure and initiatives. In Halseth, G., Markey, S. & Ryser, L. (Ed.), *Service provision and rural sustainability: infrastructure and innovation*. Oxon, NY: Routledge.
- McNeely, G., & Ashton, W. (2018). Critical gaps in public policy programs in Canada: Identifying subject areas for graduate training in rural policy, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, DOI: 10.1080/15236803.2018.1473024

Journal Issues

- Ramsey, D. (Ed.). (2018). *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 13(2). Available at <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/40>
5 articles and 3 case studies
- Ramsey, D. (Ed.). (2018). *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 13(3). Available at <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/41>
9 articles and 1 case study
- Ramsey, D. (Ed.). (2018). *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 13(4). Available at <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/42>
6 articles, 1 case study, and 1 research note
- Ramsey, D. (Ed.). (2019). *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 14(1). Available at <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/43>
4 articles and 1 policy evaluation

Reports

- Akimowicz, M., & Thompson, N. (2019). *Bridging the soybean supply chain on the Prairies: Taking the lead in Manitoba*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.
- Ashton, W., Coueslan, A., Flett, C., & Jimenez, G. (2019). *Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute. Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/projects/indigenous-economy/>
- Ashton, W., Coueslan, A., Flett, C., & Jimenez, G. (2019). *Look North Indigenous economy report: Contributions of northern Indigenous People to the Manitoba economy*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute. Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/projects/look-north-indigenous-economy-report/>
- Salmon, S., Akimowicz, M., & Ashton, W. (Forthcoming 2019). Exploring employers' motivations to hire newcomers on the Canadian Prairies. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Knowledge Mobilization

Publications

- Abdul Salam, A. (2018, November 9). My First CRRF Conference: Reflections and Takeaways on Rural Policy [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/my-first-crrf-conference-reflections-and-takeaways-on-rural-policy-eaf0382a4a57
- Abdul Salam, A. (2018, December 15). Manitoba Matters VIII - A Policy Event: Communication, Accountability, and Policy Development [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/manitoba-matters-viii-a-policy-event-communication-accountability-and-policy-development-86934cfd4273
- Akimowicz, M. (2018). Maintaining agriculture in urban-influenced areas. *Brandon University Research Connection*, 4(1). Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/research-connection/rc-article/maintaining-agriculture-in-urban-influenced-areas/>
- Akimowicz, M. (2018, September 12). Some news from the oilseed industry [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/some-news-from-the-oilseed-industry-af2a0c05139a
- Akimowicz, M., & Salmon, S. (2018, August). Motivation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in hiring newcomers – Fact sheet. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute. Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/publication/motivations-of-smes-in-hiring-newcomers-factsheet/>
- Ashton, W., & McNeely, G. (2018). *RDI Research Update – Fall 2018*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute. Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/files/2019/01/RDI-Newsletter-Fall-2018-FINAL.pdf>
- Coueslan, A. (2018, August 29). Best practices for community-campus engagement [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/best-practices-for-community-campus-engagement-7369379200cd
- Coueslan, A., & Akimowicz, M. (2018, November). Soya Processing Plant Initiative – Fact sheet. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Coueslan, A., & Salmon, S. (2019). Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program – Fact sheet. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Diaz Cruz, G., & Cassone, B. (2018, August 2). An innovative technology for early detection of foliar soybean diseases in Manitoba soybean [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/an-innovative-technology-for-early-detection-of-foliar-soybean-diseases-in-manitoba-soybean-84a41e18613d

Nyankson, G. (2018, October 29). CRRF Conference 2018: How I Spent my First Week on the Job [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/crrf-conference-2018-how-i-spent-my-first-week-on-the-job-2e154caf4ea3

Nyankson, G. (2018, December 15). Impress the Press tips [Blog post]. *RDI Blog*. Available at https://medium.com/@rdi_77976/impress-the-press-tips-56111a67294c

Conference Presentations

Akimowicz, M., Ashton, W., Coueslan, A., Herron, R., & Kelly, W. (2018, November 24). Why Rural Matters. Presented at the Liberal Party of Canada's Manitoba Matters VIII: A Policy Event Communication, Accountability, and Policy Development, Winnipeg, MB. [Attendance: 60+]

Akimowicz, M., Ashton, W., & Salmon, S. (2019, March 21–23). An exploration of rural small and medium enterprises employers' motivations to hire newcomers. Poster presented at the 21st Metropolis Canada Doing Things Differently Conference, Halifax, NS.

Akimowicz, M., Cummings, H., Képhaliacos, C., & Landman, K. (2018, October 10–12). Foncier et coordination agricoles : des actifs inséparables pour la construction territoriale dans les espaces péri-urbains. Presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation (CRRF) Health and Shared Prosperity Conference, Saskatoon, SK. [Attendance: 20]

Akimowicz, M., Kelly, W., & Salmon, S. (2018, October 10–12). You win some, you lose some: Lessons learned from a community-based research project on digital technologies in rural communities. Presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation (CRRF) Health and Shared Prosperity Conference, Saskatoon, SK. [Attendance: 25]

Akimowicz, M., & Salmon, S. (2018, October 10–12). Catching the train? Digital technologies usage in rural Manitoba. Poster presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation (CRRF) Health and Shared Prosperity Conference, Saskatoon, SK.

Akimowicz, M., & Salmon, S. (2018, September). Employment: Perspectives on Recruitment and Retention. Presented at Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO) Integration Summit, Winnipeg, MB.

Ashton, W. (2018, April 26). *Successful immigrant settlement in rural Manitoba*. Presented at University of Toronto – Mississauga's Planning for Healthy Immigrant Settlement in Rural Areas, Mississauga, ON. [Attendance: 38]

Ashton, W. (2018, May 5). *Businesses & rural economic development: looking back to move forward*. Presented at Manitoba Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, Wasagaming, MB. [Attendance: 110]

- Ashton, W. (2019, January 10). Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy: overview. Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy report launch, Long Plain Madison Urban Reserve, Winnipeg, MB. [Attendance: 40]
- Ashton, W., & Coueslan, A. (2019, April 10). Look North Indigenous Economy Report: An overview. Northern Urban Reserve, Municipality & Economic Development Forum, Thompson, MB. [Attendance: 80]
- Ashton, W., Coueslan, A., Flett, C., & Jimenez, G. (2019, January 10). Urban reserves: increasing own-source revenues for First Nations in Manitoba. Presented at the Intergovernmental Federal Working Group on Indigenous in Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB. [Attendance: 25]
- Coueslan, A. (2018, October 13). RDI Research Overview. New Beginnings: A Community Connective Conference, Brandon University, Brandon, MB. (via video)
- Coueslan, A. (2019, February 28). Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy: An Introduction. Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy – Brandon University launch, Brandon, MB. [Note: Organized, hosted, and presented] [Attendance: 35]
- Coueslan, A. Linkages in Northern Economic Development, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, MB. November 7–8, 2018. [Note: attended]

Webinars

- Baxter, C., & Fontaine, L. (2019, February 28). A Collaborative Approach to Recruitment and Retention of Registered Nurses in Rural Manitoba, Canada: Outcomes and Policy Implications [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3kSZqY5VDQ&feature=youtu.be>
- Connelly, S., Halseth, G., Hanlon, N., Markey, S., & Ryser, L. (2019, February 21). Service Provision and Rural Sustainability: Infrastructure and Innovation [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9JTFFNEpgg>
- Favel, D., Dyck, K., & Reynolds, M. (2018, October 10). Plenary Panel – Rural Mental Health [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqmAO4nratU&t=3s>
- First Nations Information Governance Centre. (2018, May 29). Research Principles for Working with First Nations [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttKxhDhZyMY&feature=youtu.be>
- Foster, K., Main, H., & Bollman, R. (2018, October 10). Is Rural Youth Outmigration a Problem [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3TYJJBcz2k>
- Goldsborough, G. (2018, November 21). Mapping Historic Sites in Rural Manitoba: Development, Themes, and Applications [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrJvp1S6EHk&feature=youtu.be>
- Harvey, T. (2018, September 27). Transitioning to the New Rural Cannabis Economy [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmbRHUIh_n8&feature=youtu.be

- Hellstrom, M., Brinklow, L., & Williams, R. (2018, October 10). Rural Labour Force Development [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otrHJ6lT95s&t=15s>
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Brandon University Student Service Learning

RDI has the responsibility for administering and submitting completed applications for the Student Service Learning Program to the Brandon University Registrar.

The Student Service Learning Program, which started in 2005, encourages students to volunteer by recognizing their contributions to the community on their Brandon University transcripts. Upon receiving approval from the Service Learning committee and completing a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service, Brandon University students can receive a Service Learning Annotation (recognition statement) on their transcript. Students may volunteer for a government agency, non-profit organization, or school, and their service should meet the needs of the community organization and the education goals set by the student.

In 2018–2019:

Students

Sixty-eight (68) students participated in the Student Service Learning Program.

Programs

Students' volunteer roles included Brandon University Bobcats Student Leader, Surgical Suite Assistant, Parent Child Home Program volunteer, Brandon University Student Leader Program volunteer, and Peer Wellness Educator Program volunteer.

Organizations

Students volunteered for a diverse number of organizations including the Brandon Humane Society, the Brandon Regional Health Centre, the Daly House Museum, Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba, the BU Healthy Living Centre, and BU Student Services.

Hours

Students volunteered for a total of over 1300 hours.

International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute



The International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) hosted its 15th Summer Institute from June 24–July 7 in Tuskegee, Alabama, on the grounds of history-rich Tuskegee University. Under the theme “Social Justice, Rural and Natural Resource Policy,” the Institute attracted students and professors from Canada, France, Jamaica, Italy, Spain, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, and the USA. The institute sought to emphasize issues of social justice as it relates to the acquisition of land in the American South and the black belt counties there. Attendees learned of injustices embedded and entrenched in the legal system with regard to black and minority farmers accessing jobs, land, education, and other opportunities. Food security and community waste systems were also highlighted. Lectures from mayors, state government representatives, and professors painted a picture of how policy can harm or improve people’s lives.

The lectures were supplemented by numerous field trips: the Legacy Museum, the Selma Interpretative center, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and many other historical landmarks of the Civil Rights Movement in the South. The history lessons were raw, real, and not sugar coated; the information moved faculty and students, bringing fresh meaning to historical events that are still shaping life in the Southern US. Overall, this summer institute was an eye-opener that challenged attendees to change their perspectives on policy and how it can impact millions of people. It challenged students, as upcoming policymakers, to consider the language of policy and how it includes or excludes specific groups of people in a town, community, city, or country.

This year’s contingent from RDI included Ray Bollman (Research Affiliate), Sherine Salmon (MRD student), Mikaël Akimowicz (RDI Research Fellow), and Wayne Kelly (RPLC Project Coordinator). Ray Bollman lectured on rural and rural policy, as well as data sets in research. Wayne Kelly presented on the Canadian approach to rural policy. He also spoke on the importance of youth engagement and community resilience and co-chaired a session on “Rural, Community and Economic Development and Strategic Planning.” Mikaël Akimowicz lectured on the Enterprise Zone program in France and “Social Justice in the Food Supply Chain.”

RDI was one of the summer institute’s founding organizations. The ICRPS summer institute is designed to support graduate students in their rural research and to encourage rural-oriented careers.

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