

# RESEARCH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

SPRING 2019

## Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy



The Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University partnered with the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) to research and document Indigenous economic contributions to the broader Manitoban economy. First Nations, Metis, and Inuit contributions were combined and analysed. First Nations contributions were then analysed in isolation.

This research quantified the Indigenous economy in Manitoba by

- ▶ Collecting publicly available data related to Indigenous businesses and employment, expenditures (e.g. band, tribal council, business, and household levels), and investments in infrastructure;
- ▶ Analyzing data using an economic input-output model; and
- ▶ Presenting results in terms of GDP, employment positions, labour income, and government revenues.

The project also

- ▶ Profiled seven urban reserves in Manitoba by interviewing First Nations leaders about their experiences using them as tools for economic development
- ▶ Made projections for Indigenous population and labour force in Manitoba to 2026.

*Continued on page 2*

## Five Strategic Research Directions

To respond to rural trends, challenges, opportunities, the needs of various stakeholders, and the necessity to sustain a viable institution, RDI is committed to pursuing five strategic research directions:

**Rural Immigration.** RDI examines the capacity of rural services providers and rural communities to absorb and support newcomers, which is of vital importance in all of rural and northern Canada.

**Regional Economic Development.** RDI continues to undertake applied research projects and papers focused on promoting and enhancing the potential for economic development in rural areas and the north. Governments, communities, Aboriginal groups and the agricultural sector require evidence-based research, which supports innovations and policy decisions.

**Governance and Capacity Building.** RDI is interested in strengthening local leadership and equipping provincial and federal officials with the tools and knowledge they need to make effective, data-driven decisions to benefit rural and Indigenous communities.

**Rural Infrastructure and Services.** RDI is committed to conducting research that assesses how rural communities are using infrastructure and services, and how communities benefit from increased capacity. Rural broadband is one such example.

**Rural Innovation.** RDI is interested in research that clarifies the path to successful commercialization for rural innovators by studying rural entrepreneurs, innovators, business people, and support services.

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## RDI Team

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**Indigenous Economy  
Contributions to Manitoba**  
*Continued from page 1*

This report addressed two broad geographic areas, Manitoba’s North and South, as well as spending on and off reserve.

The data collection, data analysis, and sharing of research findings among the stakeholders followed OCAP™ principles. Gabriela Jimenez of SCO and Clyde Flett of MKO joined the RDI Research Team for the project, with the aim of three-way knowledge sharing and capacity building.

The report was released at a press conference, led by SCO, on Long Plain First Nation’s Madison Reserve in Winnipeg on January 10. Featured speakers included SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels; MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee; Long Plain First Nation Chief Dennis Meeches; RDI’s Bill Ashton, Hon. Eileen Clarke, Manitoba’s Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations; and Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

The report, and the economic potential of urban reserves, was also the focus of a Brandon University event at the end of February, which featured Chief David LeDoux of Gambler First Nation, Mayor Rick Chrest of Brandon, Aimee Coueslan of RDI, and Jason Gobeil of the Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples’ Council.

This project was funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Manitoba government’s department of Indigenous and Northern Relations.

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**Exploring Employers’ Motivations to hire  
Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies**

Continuing with its past investigations into rural immigration, RDI has just completed a new research project focused on rural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that employ newcomers to fulfill labour needs. For this study, businesses were considered SMEs if they had 1-499 employees, and “rural” was defined as municipalities with a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants.



This project recognizes a number of important factors around the issue of SMEs and newcomer employment. First, SMEs are the predominant businesses in rural areas and create most of the new jobs. Second, by some estimations, Canada’s natural growth will approach zero by 2032. As such, Canada’s population growth will depend on immigration. Third, successful immigration depends on newcomers finding jobs; therefore, successful immigration depends on SMEs being receptive to hiring newcomers. Ultimately, understanding SMEs’ motivations for hiring newcomers is central to rural business prosperity and community economic development.

Given this context, this project had two main goals: 1) gain a better understanding of the SME owners’ motivations to hire newcomers, and 2) elicit SME owners’ perspectives on the benefits and challenges of employing newcomers.

To achieve these goals, the project team worked with members of the Prairie provinces’ umbrella settlement organizations (Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations [MANSO], Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies [SAISIA], and Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies [AAISA]) and Settlement Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) in each province to recruit SMEs to complete an online survey.

The online survey of rural SME employers was conducted between August 2018 and January 2019 and 112 responses were received. These exploratory results show that employers

are motivated to hire newcomers because of the related positive community impacts, newcomers’ skills, financial reasons, and newcomers’ behaviours. These results also show that these motivations are activated by motivators related to self-worth, emerging values, integrated values, and, less frequently, by external rewards.

The survey also asked respondents to identify the main benefits and challenges to hiring newcomers. Results show that the language barrier is still a major challenge when recruiting newcomers, suggesting that putting additional resources into language instruction could support newcomer recruitment and retention. Employers identified many newcomer strengths, including reliability, high-quality work, and a good work ethic. They shared their need for supports in recruiting newcomers and going through the immigration process.

Project lead Mikael Akimowicz presented a poster entitled An Exploration of Rural Small and Medium Enterprises Employers’ Motivations to hire Newcomers at the 21st Metropolis Canada Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in late March.

This project was funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via University of Manitoba - Immigration Research West (IRW).

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## Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program

RDI is providing an arm's-length assessment of the success of BoLu Intermediary Services' Aurora Project, which recruits newcomer with business ideas in Westman and assists them through the process of developing and launching their businesses. It also provides support to the business owner after they have launched. The mission of the organization is to create economic prosperity by empowering Canada's newcomer entrepreneurs. If the Aurora Project is successful, it will enhance the regional economy as new businesses are created and newcomers are employed.

Over the course of the two-year Assessing the Aurora Program project, annual deliverables will include one formative and two summative assessment reports. The formative assessment will provide a detailed look into the Aurora program by checking newcomer progress on an on-going basis. Aurora Project clients complete a number of learning modules organized into volumes. As clients complete each program volume, surveys will be used to collect data on clients' perceptions of both the training itself and their own knowledge acquisition. Results from these formative assessments will add value to the learning modules by suggesting improvements.

The two annual summative assessments will look at the impact of the Aurora project after clients have reached the final stage of the program, in which they are operating their businesses and Aurora consultants are involved in an advisory capacity. The first summative assessment will use surveys to examine clients' perceptions of the impact of the Aurora program—from the first module to the final stage—on the client's business success. An emphasis will be placed on economic/financial impact.

The second summative assessment will use in-depth interviews with clients to better understand the social processes accompanying



newcomer identity transformation. Specifically, this assessment will be framed by the sociological notion of status passage, or the transitional phase through which the client passes as he or she acquires new attributes and/or social positions. A simple example is a client moving from self-identifying as a newcomer to self-identifying as a community member and business owner. In addition, clients' own notions of value and success, in all its experiential, cognitive, and economic aspects, will be examined.

A final report in 2021 will provide key findings on the project's success, as well as its economic, financial, and social impacts. Ideally, it will prove the validity of the Aurora Project and its process, informing best practices for other not-for-profits.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is providing support for this project via the Aurora Project.

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Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



## Integration of Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies

The Integration of Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies project builds on fourteen years of immigration and integration work by the Rural Development Institute (RDI)—from 2005's Manitoba Rural Immigration Community Case Studies to 2019's Exploring Employers' Motivations to Hire Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies.

Immigrants to Canada diversify Canadian society and grow the economy, and so it is no surprise that key government policies aim to increase and control immigration. But it is not enough just to have newcomers arriving in Canada, with no plan for helping them to settle in their new home. The integration of newcomers into society is a critical element of nation building as well as community building. The Integration of Newcomers project aims to enhance integration activities in rural areas by examining the key factors and processes involved in successful integration.

This one-year project will examine integration by comparing the lived experiences of immigrants with the experiences of those who are new-to-town (intra or interprovincial migrants) in rural communities (communities with a population below 100,000 inhabitants) in the Prairie provinces. Two communities in each province—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—will be investigated, one with a Local Immigrant Partnership (LIP) and one without. LIPs bring together key public, private, and NGO-sector stakeholders in their region to facilitate two-way change—newcomer integration into the community and community adaptation to newcomers. In each community, researchers will interview three

participants in each of four categories: immigrants, representatives from welcoming organizations that work with immigrants (for example, Settlement Provider Organizations [SPOs]), non-immigrant newcomers, and representatives from welcoming organizations (for example, Welcome Wagon). In order to appreciate the dynamic nature of integration over time, one immigrant and one non-immigrant newcomer will be selected to be interviewed from each of the following three categories: those who arrived within the last two years, between two and five years, and those who arrived longer than five years ago.

Data will be assembled into two case studies: one that looks at immigrants and respective welcoming organizations and the other that looks at non-immigrant newcomers and respective welcoming organizations. The case studies will be analysed in order to identify possibilities for strengthening integration models and practices in rural communities for both immigrant and non-immigrant newcomers. The project will produce a publically available report as well as an article in a scholarly journal.

This research is funded through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via the University of Manitoba's Immigration Research West (IRW).

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## Soybean Processing Projects – Supply Chain and Community Readiness Tool



In May 2018, the City of Brandon contracted the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University (BU) to conduct two inter-connected research projects under the umbrella of the Westman Soybean Processing Plant Initiative: an analysis of the soybean supply chain on the Prairies and the design of a community investment-readiness assessment tool. Both projects are intended to advance efforts by the Westman Opportunities Leadership Group (WOLG) to attract a world-class soybean processing facility to Manitoba. Currently, Manitoba is Canada’s second largest producer of soybeans, after Ontario.

The community investment readiness assessment tool was based on a list of facility requirements, including location, utilities, transportation, employment, amenities, and municipal incentives. This tool assisted five Westman communities—Brandon, Carberry, Neepawa, Russell, and Virden—in assessing their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the construction of a soybean processing facility in their jurisdiction. The tool, completed

in summer 2018, facilitated the analysis of municipal assets and the description of the advantages unique to each community. Economic development officers (EDOs) can use these reports to attract investors to their community.

The soybean supply chain analysis describes the main links of the supply chain on the Prairies and estimates the potential market for a soybean crushing facility. Upon comparing the opportunities of building such a facility in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, or North Dakota, results indicate a clear advantage to locating the plant in Manitoba.

Funding for these projects was provided by Westman Opportunities Leadership Group via financial contributions from a large stakeholder group and in-kind contributions from the City of Brandon.

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## Look North Indigenous Economy Report

In northern Manitoba, 73% of the population self-identifies as Indigenous and 52% of the population lives on a First Nation. And yet, little is known about how and how much Indigenous people are contributing to the economy of the North and to all of Manitoba.

This report

- ▶ *quantifies spending amounts by Indigenous people in northern Manitoba in order to calculate their contributions to the provincial economy and the economy of the North;*
- ▶ *calculates the GDP of northern Manitoba for the first time;*
- ▶ *examines northern Manitoba’s existing urban reserves, which are growing in importance as a revenue source for First Nations; and*
- ▶ *creates projections for First Nations population and labour force in the North.*

**This project was supported by Indigenous Services Canada, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and the Look North initiative.**

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## International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute (ICRPS) 2019



The International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) program will hold its 16th Summer Institute from June 16–29, at the edge of the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, Finland. The theme of this year’s institute will be “Enhancing Smart Ecosystems in Rural Areas.” The institute, hosted by the University of Lapland, will feature sessions on governance in the Arctic; rural governance; food security; local food processing; renewable energy; circular economies and the bioeconomy; race, gender, and social justice; agriculture and natural resource management education in rural areas; reindeer management; land use; forestry; and regional tourism.

The lectures will be supplemented with numerous field trips, including trips to a

forest education centre, a local ice cream factory, Tornio Brewery, a training centre for producing natural products, a Santa Claus Village, a local history museum, and, of course, a Finnish sauna.

This year’s contingent from RDI will include Ray Bollman (Research Affiliate) and Bill Ashton (RDI Director). Ray Bollman will be providing a lecture on ruralities and rural policy as well as a lecture on data sets in the session on Research Methods. Bill Ashton will be presenting on the Indigenous economy and rural economic development. He will also be inviting attendees to ICRPS 2020, which will be hosted at Brandon University, with the theme of “Futures of Rural.”



# 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. That brings the cumulative totals to 83 webinars, 200 presenters, and 1675 participants over the course of the project to date. Also in year five, RPLC's new Rural Policy Assistant supported the development of five student policy briefs currently under review.

As well, RPLC supported members to attend 21 conferences and other events in year five (for a total of 58 to date) and supported six Canadian faculty to attend international conferences (for a cumulative total of 27).

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

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## RPLC 5 Year 5 Dashboard Update

### BUILD COHORT OF HQPs



### INCREASE EXCHANGE OF INSIGHTS



### INCREASE MOBILIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE



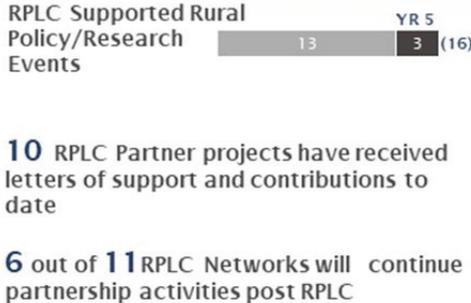
### ADD TO RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE



### CANADIANS IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



### STRENGTHEN NETWORKS AND INSTITUTIONS



## New Knowledge

### Journal Articles and Book Chapter

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., & K ephaliacos, 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>

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.

### Publications

Salmon, S., Akimowicz, M., & Ashton, W. (Forthcoming 2019). Exploring employers' motivations to hire newcomers on the Canadian Prairies. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Ashton, W., Coueslan, A., & Flett, C., & Jimenez, G. (2019, April). 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/>

Akimowicz, M., & Thompson, N. (2019, March). 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, January). Indigenous Contributions to the Manitoba Economy. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute. Available at <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/projects/indigenous-economy/>

## Knowledge Dissemination

### Presentations

Ashton, W., & Coueslan, A. (2019, April 10). Look North Indigenous Economy Report: An overview. Northern Urban Reserve, Municipality & Economic Development Forum, Thompson, MB.

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.

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]

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.

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.

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.

Akimowicz, M., Cummings, H., K ephaliacos, C., & Landman, K. (2018, October 10–12). Foncier et coordination agricoles : des actifs ins eparables pour la construction territoriale dans les espaces p eri-urbains. Presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Federation (CRRF) Health and Shared Prosperity Conference, Saskatoon, SK.

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.

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.

### Webinars

O'Keeffe, B., Douglas, D. J. A., & Navarro, F. (2019, April 10). Governance in Rural Contexts: Concepts & Challenges [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxok3wHhTeA&feature=youtu.be>

Weeden, A. (2019, March 19). What's the Evidence on Evidence-Based Policy? Reflections on Knowledge Mobilization in Provincial Rural Policy [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpqnS5S2oUg>

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=j3kSZqY5VDQ&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=r9JTFNEpgg>

White, K. (2019, January 22). Good Governance in Practice: Examples from the Co-operative Sector [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR5OQtACS28&feature=youtu.be>

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>

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>

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>

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>

Hellstrom, M., Cosgrave, C., Golestani, R., & Beatty, B. (2018, October 11). Rural Health [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_k5ZDgy5Jo&t=10s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_k5ZDgy5Jo&t=10s)

Looker, D., Gariscsak, S., & Harvey, T. (2018, October 11). Rural Resilience [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDPb63Cr1rY&t=1783s>

Qualman, D. (2018, October 11). Lunch Keynote: Farming and the Rural Economy: The Past, Present, and Future [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H1WqCE4xpl&t=22s>

Vittuari, M., Leveque, P., Gibson, R., Atterton, J., & Assche, K. (2018, October 11). Putting Rural on the Agenda: The Prominence and Priority of Rural Issues and Opportunities in Policy Making [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRo-ietAZGc&t=18s>

Lorning, P., Breen, S., Baulch, H., Bharadwa, L., Patrick, R., & Strickert, G. (2018, October 12). Plenary Panel -Water Governance: A Prairie Perspective [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPI\\_53EdFMQ&t=22s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPI_53EdFMQ&t=22s)

Sasakamoose, N., Soonias, S., Orb, R., & Nelson, T. (2018, October 12). Plenary Panel - Reconciliation and Rural Development [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons CRRF Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4X64s8vuFo&t=21s>

Robinson, D., & Penner, S. (2018, October 4). Understanding Food Sovereignty and Policy Through a Community Lens: Food Systems in Rural and Indigenous Canada [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFNT89GzTq0&t=4s>

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmbRHUIh_n8&feature=youtu.be)

Jackson-Smith, D., Ragetlie, N., & Shortall, S. (2018, September 12). Putting Rural on the Agenda: The Prominence and Priority of Rural Issues and Opportunities in Policy Making [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series. Available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phzga1y\\_YI0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phzga1y_YI0&feature=youtu.be)

Hill, S., Amon, E., & Blake, J. (2018, August 29). Bringing the University to Rural Ontario: Brokering Campus & Community Engagement in Haliburton [Webinar]. In Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glDnVUEjIcY&feature=youtu.be>



## Our Future: Our Vision...

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

Visit us online at  
[www.brandonu.ca/rdi/](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/)





## New Leaders at Brandon University

The Rural Development Institute warmly welcomed Dr. David Docherty to Brandon University, as he assumed the roles of President and Vice Chancellor on May 1. Dr. Docherty comes to Brandon from Mount Royal University in Calgary, where he served as President from 2011. Dr. Docherty holds a PhD in political science and has a background as an accomplished academic and administrator who has led institutions through times of transformative change.

Dr. Steve Robinson, who has been Interim President since August 2017, now returns to his role as Vice-President (Academic & Provost). As Vice-President, Dr. Robinson led many of the University's community-engagement and enrolment growth strategies, including offering first-year university courses in Dauphin. He was also deeply involved in the Campus Master Plan and downtown initiative. Dr. Robinson has been a long-time philosophy professor at Brandon University.

Brandon University also welcomes Dr. Jean (John) Moraros as the incoming Dean of Health Studies. Dr. Moraros, an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of epidemiology, public health, and preventive medicine and an experienced administrative leader in higher education, will assume the role on Aug. 1 for a five-year term. He comes to Brandon from the University of Saskatchewan.

Coming from closer to home, Dr. Lisa Robson will take on the role of Acting Dean of Arts on June 1. Dr. Robson will hold the position of Acting Dean through 2019–20 while the University conducts a



thorough search for a new permanent Dean of Arts. Dr. Robson is currently an Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing at Brandon University and also the coordinator of the Gender & Women's Studies program. She has previously served several years as Chair of English and Creative Writing. She holds a Bachelor's degree with a major in English from BU, as well as a master's and PhD from the University of Saskatchewan.

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