



BRANDON
UNIVERSITY



Rural Development Institute

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT





Rural Development Institute

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

Introduction

This annual report is in accordance with the Brandon University Senate policy on Research Centres Policy and Procedures. The past year has been busy and novel. This annual report covers research projects, financial information, publications, community outreach, and teaching and learning activities for the 2019-2020 year. The novel part of this year occurred in the last quarter, January to March, 2020. First, under fiscal constraint Brandon University decided to permit my 6 month sabbatical (July to Dec, 2020) but not to fund a replacement. Dr. Steven Robinson, VP and the Acting Dean Dr. Lisa Robson, have said we can make this work, and they have indeed pulled through, and we have a 'plan'. Our second novel aspect of this last quarter has been the global COVID-19 pandemic. By early March, I made a commitment to find ways to keep folks employed and we did. I will report on how this turns out in our next annual report.

RDI's five strategic research directions are rural immigration, rural economic development, rural infrastructure, governance and capacity building, and rural innovation. Our projects this year work towards new knowledge along these directions.

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 publications and presentations both in Manitoba and other parts of Canada as well as internationally.

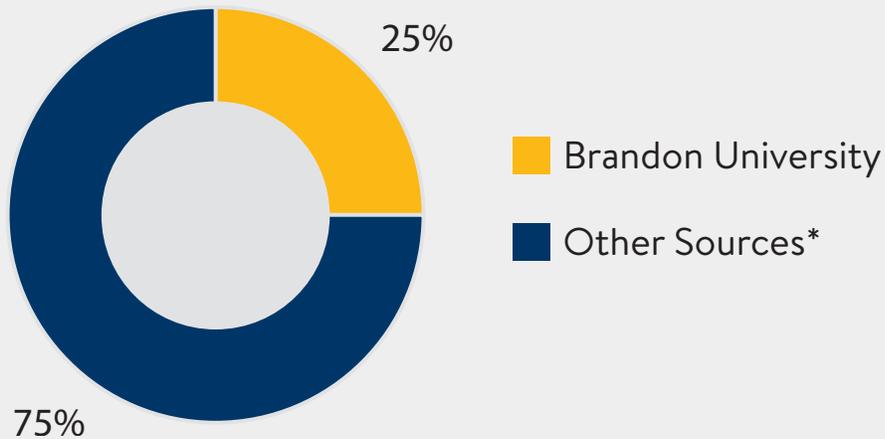
FINANCE

April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

	2019 - 2020	
Brandon University	\$218,674.06	25%
Other Sources*	\$642,300.49	75%
Total	\$860,974.55*	100%

RDI leveraging Brandon University financial support 2.94 times, which means for every dollar Brandon University 'spent' on RDI, we generated another \$2.94.

2019-2020 Funding Sources



*In addition to this funding, RDI contributes to Brandon University via the Research Support Fund paid by SSHRC because of the Partnership grant.

Motivation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Hiring Newcomers

COMPLETED

The *Motivation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Hiring Newcomers* project aims to understand employer perspectives and motivations in the practice of hiring newcomers (landed immigrants who came to Canada within the last five years) in Canada. The project seeks to inform public policies from employers' perspectives in order to encourage the employment of newcomers across the Prairies and sustain a dynamic rural life.

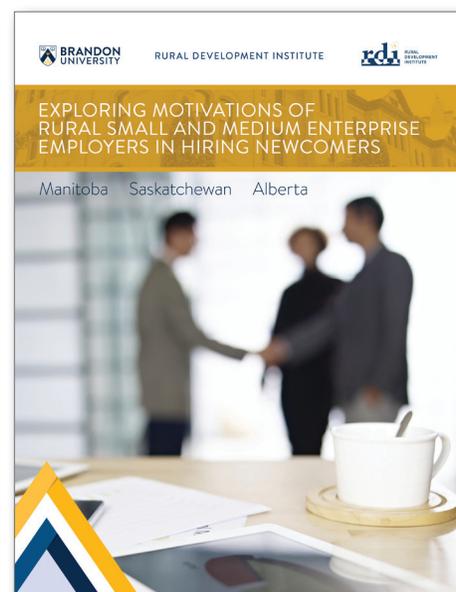
Successful immigration depends on newcomers finding jobs within the Canadian labour market. Since Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the predominant businesses and job creators for rural and small centres in Canada, their receptiveness to hiring newcomers is central to successful settlement, business prosperity, and the economic development of rural and small centres (areas with a population below 100 000).

Based on survey responses from 112 SME owners in rural and small towns across the prairies, the key findings suggest that business owners are equally motivated by:

- Finances | reducing operating costs, increased sales
- Attracting skilled workers | employment readiness, talent
- Productive newcomer behaviours | hard work, new perspectives
- Generating community impacts | socio-economic development, population growth

These various considerations illustrate the complexity of what motivates SME owners. These variables also speak to motivation as a complex term with many definitions, though extrinsic and intrinsic factors seem fundamental to many explanations of motivation. Given the difficulty encountered in this research in surveying SME owners (lack of engagement), further study is needed to examine the approaches and practices of others who conducted successful surveys with this hard-to-reach population.

This research was supported and funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada through the Immigration Research West (Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Chair, University of Manitoba).



Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program

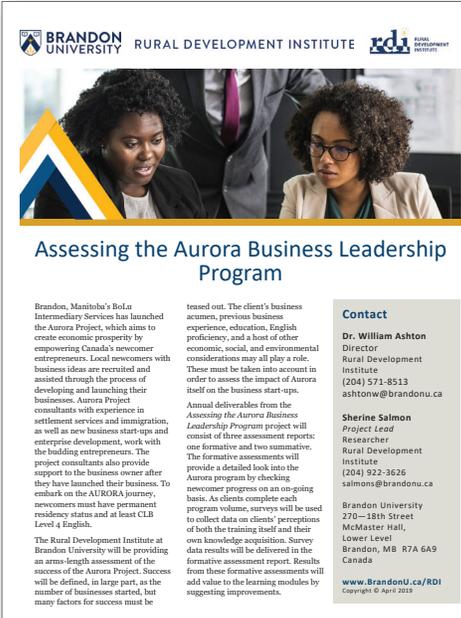
YEAR ONE COMPLETED

The first year of the *Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program* is coming to a close. Over this time, the Rural Development Institute prepared for an arm's-length assessment of the Aurora program. Immigrant are recruited in western Manitoba and assisted in developing and launching their businesses through the Aurora program.

The main goal is assessing the learning and application of the Aurora program with the aim of continuous improvement. The assessment is intended to support the project's success by suggesting revisions where needed. The success of the Aurora project, meanwhile, will be beneficial for the regional economy as new businesses are created and newcomers are employed. This research will also be valuable as the success of the Aurora project models best practices for others assisting with business start-ups.

In the first year we have

- Reviewed publications and reports and data about the intricacies of business start-up success and prepared a draft report;
- Connected Aurora leadership with valuable knowledge experts in the community and across Canada; and



BRANDON UNIVERSITY RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program

Brandon, Manitoba's BOLA Intermediary Services has launched the Aurora Project, which aims to create economic prosperity by empowering Canada's newcomer entrepreneurs. Local newcomers with business ideas are recruited and assisted through the process of developing and launching their businesses. Aurora Project consultants with experience in settlement services and immigration, as well as new business start-ups and enterprise development, work with the budding entrepreneurs. The project consultants also provide support to the business owner after they have launched their business. To embark on the AURORA journey, newcomers must have permanent residency status and at least CLB Level 4 English.

The Rural Development Institute at Brandon University will be providing an arm's-length assessment of the success of the Aurora Project. Success will be defined, in large part, as the number of businesses started, but many factors for success must be

tended out. The client's business acumen, previous business experience, education, English proficiency, and a host of other economic, social, and environmental considerations may all play a role. These must be taken into account in order to assess the impact of Aurora itself on the business start-ups.

Annual deliverables from the *Assessing the Aurora Business Leadership Program* project will consist of three assessment reports: one formative and two summative. The formative assessments will provide a detailed look into the Aurora program by checking newcomer progress on an on-going basis. As clients complete each program module, surveys will be used to collect data on clients' perceptions of both the training itself and their own knowledge acquisition. Survey data results will be delivered in the formative assessment report. Results from these formative assessments will add value to the learning modules by suggesting improvements.

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- Prepared arm's-length assessments through three sets of surveys (for the Aurora's three sets of learning modules) for clients to discover the viability of the project going forward. There has been insufficient business owners completing the survey at this time, so no reporting is available.

Currently, RDI is in discussions with Aurora leadership to determine next steps and the role of RDI's assessment interests.

The Integration of Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies

PREPARING FINAL REPORT

Building on fourteen years of immigration and integration research by the Rural Development Institute (RDI)—from 2005 Manitoba Rural Immigration Community Case Studies to 2019 Exploring Employers' Motivations to Hire Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies—this project investigates the intricacies of newcomer integration.

Immigrants diversify Canadian society and grow the economy, so it is not surprising that key government policies aim to increase and manage immigration. Yet it is not enough just to have newcomers arriving in Canada without plans to help them to settle in their new home. The Integration of Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies project is a critical element of nation building as well as community building. This project aims to enhance integration activities in rural areas by examining processes and key factors involved in successful integration.

Two important questions guided this research:

- What is successful integration in rural areas across the Canadian prairies?
- What are the key factors contributing to successful integration?

This one-year research project investigated the lived experiences of newcomers, including both immigrants and those new-to-town (intra or interprovincial migrants) in rural communities throughout the prairie provinces. By looking at two communities from each province – Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta – in each community, researchers interviewed three participants in each of four categories: immigrants, representatives from welcoming organizations that work with immigrants (for example, Settlement Provider Organizations [SPOs]), new to town newcomers, and representatives from welcoming organizations (e.g., Welcome Wagon). In order to appreciate the dynamic nature of integration over time, one immigrant and a new to town newcomer was interviewed from each of the following three categories: those who just arrived (the last two years), recently arrived (two and five years), and those settled (five years).

The data and analysis inform the ongoing conversation about integration and retention in rural communities in the Canadian prairies. It also provides evidence of the importance for immigrants and new to town newcomers of the first couple years of belonging and that the majority (upwards to 75%) do it on their own with friends and cultural groups. The importance of settlement services is key for about 25% of immigrants. Based on the project's findings, this research could be followed up with other Canadian experiences to understand what integration looks like across the country. The final report is expected to be released in the spring of 2020.



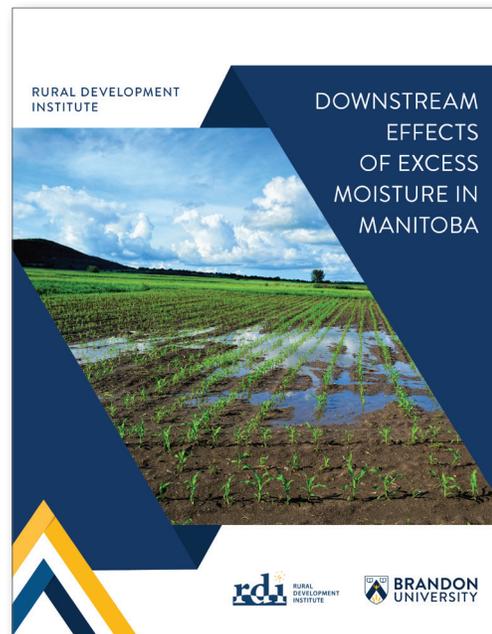
An Economic Estimation of Costs and Benefits for Farm-Level Management of Excess Moisture

COMPLETED 1ST YEAR OF TWO YEAR PROJECT

This project examines individual investment options to assess farm-level and regional-level downstream impacts during periods of excess moisture. Manitoba's rapidly changing climate conditions are characterized by increased frequency and intensity of excess moisture events. Excess moisture in the Prairies have occurred as a result of major rainfall events in summer and fall and also the impact of high volumes of snowmelt runoff in spring.

This research aims to provide farmers and decision makers knowledge to make and support on-farm investment decisions related to managing times of excess moisture. This research analysis includes two phases. In the current phase (Phase One), three objectives are being pursued. First, the selection of on-farm strategies to manage excess moisture events, including tile drainage, dugouts, landscaping to remove hills, and crop coverage, to assess the impacts of excess moisture events. Second, a practical and versatile farm model is selected (AquaCrop) and calibrated with Manitoba conditions for generating scenarios of excess moisture events. The third objective inventories the costs and benefits of downstream impacts at a more regional level, using the Assiniboine River as the case study area and the 2011 flood as the excess moisture event.

In Phase 2, and after talking with producers and downstream experts, their input will help shape the final products for assisting with on-farm investment strategies and estimating downstream impacts. We expect the results will be available late in the first quarter of 2021.

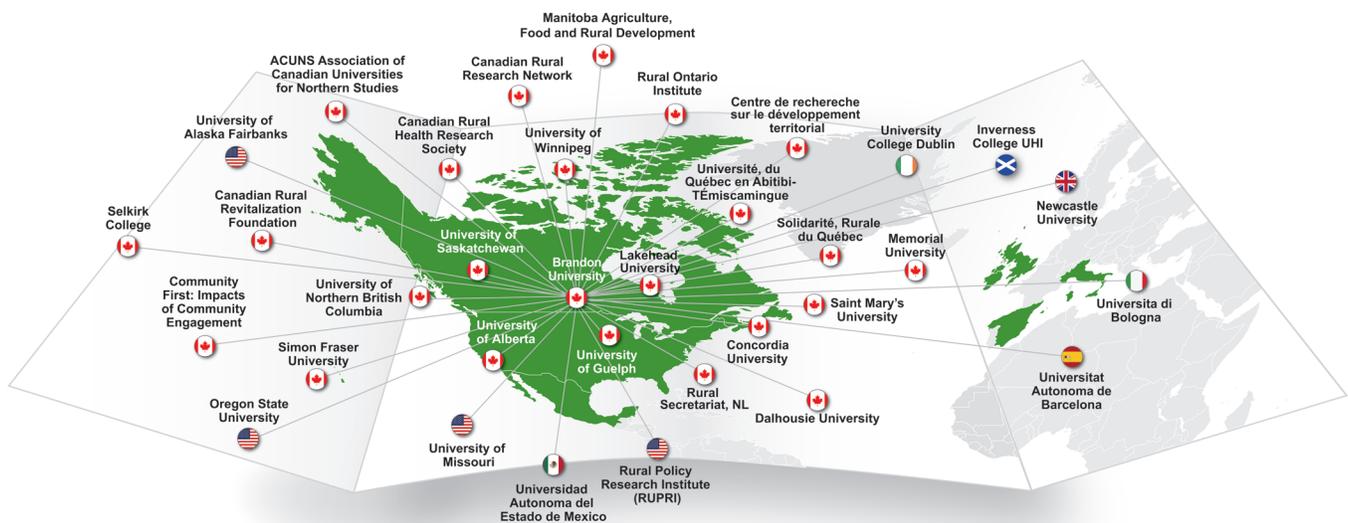


An International Partnership Project

YEAR SIX COMPLETED OF A SEVEN-YEAR PROJECT

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) is a \$2.5M partnership grant funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) and Brandon University.

The Rural Policy Learning Commons is a network of academics, NGO, and government agencies who specialize in rural policy and research. We partner to share information with the goal of enhancing rural prosperity for all. Our project has partners in the following locations:



RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS



Two major objectives of the RPLC are to build rural capacity and strengthen relationships to inform rural research and policy. Some members focus on provincial and regional research while others concentrate on international comparative analysis through working relationships among institutions and other organizational partners.

- \$350,079 in new project funds were transferred to Brandon University in year 6
- More than \$140,000 spent on wages at Brandon University. This includes more than \$45,000 spent on employing students at Brandon University
- \$46,000 in funds spent supporting student learning and research opportunities (ICRPS & Research and Exchange funds in year 6)
- \$58,500 in funds provided to different networks to focus on building, connecting and mobilizing activities related to rural policy
- \$62,000 in funds dedicated to supporting Ph.D. research related to rural policy

- \$18,500 dedicated to supporting and attending the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's 2019 international rural conference. In addition to the four-day conference activities, the St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador event included an in-person RPLC Steering Committee planning session.

RPLC in transition & teaming up with national rural organization

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) will take on legacy items as RPLC transitions to the end of the 7-year project. RPLC and CRRF are working together to coordinate this transition. A timeline and plan for the transition was developed in collaboration and approved by both the RPLC Steering Committee and the CRRF board as part of year 6 planning activities. Specifically, the transition will focus on migrating knowledge mobilization activities

and RPLC resources over to CRRF by March 2021. RPLC's social media accounts are all being aligned with CRRF's to transition in fall of 2020. The RPLC will remain static after the end of year 7 but key resources will be moved to CRRF's website and the RPLC site will remain live for two more years to ensure that content is not lost during the transition. Several of the networks developed through RPLC will also be ongoing and the Rural Research Centres Network is planning to partner with CRRF after RPLC is completed as well. Coordinated events are also planned with a January/February 2021 Rural Policy Event in Ottawa to highlight and support the transition to CRRF.

RPLC Planned Events

RPLC had planned two key events to start Year 7 and the RPLC Secretariat team has spent substantial time and effort during year 6 to prepare these events. Unfortunately, both the Imagining Rural Futures Conference and the 2020 International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) Summer Institute have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scheduled for June of 2020 the conference was going to be hosted in Winnipeg while the ICRPS Summer Institute was to be hosted in Brandon with field trips throughout western Manitoba.

Both of these events engaged Brandon University, CRRF and RPLC partners like the government of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. Focusing on the future of rural, these events had generated substantial interest and sponsorship in Manitoba and across Canada. The RPLC students and staff have been working with partners, presenters and faculty members (Brandon University, national and international faculty) to develop the program, format and content for both events. While the cancellation of both of these events due to the pandemic is unfortunate, the level of interest and support for the events has led RPLC staff to explore opportunities to continue the discussion of the futures of rural online and in digital formats. If faculty and

organizations are able to participate, RPLC hopes to still engage students, faculty and policy makers in webinars, online discussions, podcasts and other digital activities related to the Future of Rural in year 7.

RPLC Policy Briefs

RPLC supported four student policy briefs in year six of the partnership project. One of the policy briefs has been completed and is posted on RPLC's Migration in Remote and Rural Areas network page. This brief focuses on factors and activities attracting migrants to remote areas in Japan. Three other year six policy briefs are in the works through the governance network, which just closed their policy brief competition in January 2020, and will be posted on the RPLC website when complete.

RPLC Evaluation

The RPLC project has started planning the summative evaluation activities for the seven-year SSHRC partnership project. The evaluation will constitute 4 pillars of focus (Knowledge Mobilization, Governance, Capacity Building and Policy Impacts) to examine the impacts and outcomes of the Rural Policy Learning Commons project. The Evaluation Committee is determined to develop reports and journal articles for each pillar. The committee is wanting to ensure that evaluation activities contribute to the project's mobilization knowledge, impact policy makers and capacity building in addition to providing summative overviews and insights. Content analysis of all RPLC reporting and meeting notes took place in the second half of year six to identify initial insights and data gaps for each pillar. Year seven will focus on data collection, analysis and writing, coordinating these activities to realize efficiencies and to ensure that RPLC members and partner institutions are engaged in a systematic and strategic fashion for the project evaluation. The final report is expected to be completed by project end with the journal articles being finalized shortly afterwards

ICRPS Summer Institute in Rovaniemi, Finland 2019

The sixteenth International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) Summer Institute took place in Rovaniemi, Finland, from June 16 to 29, 2019. The institute took place for fourteen days and involved approximately 25 graduate students and numerous faculty members from universities around the world. Classroom sessions were supplemented with field trips, group work and student presentations.

The ICRPS Summer Institute provides a unique opportunity for students to meet and work together on comparative rural policy issues and make invaluable research and networking contacts. The expertise of the faculty involved in ICRPS span across the disciplines of anthropology, business, economics, environmental studies, geography, indigenous studies, planning, policy studies, political science, and sociology.

Each yearly institute connects faculty and international students in a dedicated learning environment. In addition, each institute is a combination of new and returning students, which enhances the mutual learning experience of both years. The program includes advanced topics and is an opportunity to develop Masters and PhD research programs

From RDI, Bill Ashton and Sherine Salmon took in new knowledge surrounding this year's theme "Enhancing Smart Ecosystems in Rural Areas". Engaging classroom learning accompanied by field trips did not disappoint. Field trips included the Loue Education Center, located in Tervola municipality. By definition, Loue means a light weight, easy built shelter made out of cloth to get out of the rain and wind when one is hiking or backpacking. Considering this meaning, it is no surprise that the education possibilities were closely related to nature and



agriculture. Other field trips were to Vaattunkiköngäs, famous for its pack backing adventures as well as visiting Kemijärv. Here, in the arctic circle, some participants re-kindled deep childhood dreams in meeting Santa, his reindeers and elves.

An exciting time for RDI and Brandon University involved announcing ICRPS2020 to be held in Brandon, MB. The announced theme centred on "Futures of Rural". The last time this summer institute was held in Brandon by RDI was in the summer of 2006.

RDI and Faculty of Arts awarded Summer Institute 2020

In June 2019 in Finland, Brandon University's Arts Faculty and RDI were awarded the hosting of the ICRPS 2020. By fall, the folks at RDI got to work envisioning, engaging and planning. We engaged international ICRPS faculty as well as local stakeholders and other in our network in discussions about continuing the self-funding, two-week summer institute for graduate students. The beginning of the 2020 summer institute benefitted from re-thinking it, to include a conference to kick off it off. And both events shared a them about rural futures.

As is typical, a summer institute brings together international¹ students and faculty to learn about rural issues and policy responses and community actions from lectures and field trips. Experiential learning opportunities included Riding Mountain National Park, City of Brandon, Town of Minnedosa and Neepawa, Farmery Brewery and the National Indigenous Peoples Day. We were also pleased to be offering a Blanket Exercise about history here in Canada and the realities faced by indigenous people.

Brandon University is all in for this summer institute with support for a President's Reception, Research Cafe



for students talking about their research topics, and plans also involved knowledge exchanges in several communities, along with visits to the International Peace Garden and Spruce Woods.

It is significant understatement of disappointment to all those involved in planning, in sponsoring , in lecturing and in attending when this summer institute had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ International means from universities in countries like Canada, namely those that are members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development – OECD. See:

Imagining Rural Futures Conference in Winnipeg

This conference, conceived nearly 24 months earlier, gained support from and peaked interest in a variety of individuals from rural communities, educational institutions, across multiple government levels of municipal, provincial and federal, as well as attracted businesses and financial institutions.

Royal Bank of Canada stepped up as a major sponsor with John Stackhouse confirmed as the keynote speaker to discuss their “Future Launch” program and their critically important future oriented analysis of the Canadian agriculture and food sector, entitled: “Farmer 4.0”. In addition, commitments for experts from the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and other faculty in RDI’s network were made.

Conference themes were purposely wide ranging, including Futures of Inclusion, Innovation, Food and Agriculture, Climate Adaptation, Economic Development, and Workforce. Sessions and speakers aimed to move quickly from facts about the past and present to then initiate conversations reaching out to the year 2040. The conference was to showcase presenters in Manitoba who are already talking and taking action to be future ready, such as Bioscience Association of Manitoba, Community Futures, Food Development Centre, Town of Neepawa, and Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, as well as students and faculty from the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies summer institute. Central to the conversation in every session included audience participation with questions answered in real time through Mentimeter technology.

After nearly eight months of planning, it was truly disappointing but necessary to cancel this important conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rural by Design Art Contest

This year's Rural By Design Art Contest has a theme of Rural Futures, as a lead up to RDI's Imagining Rural Futures Conference and 14 day summer institute for the graduate program of the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies 2020. The promotion on campus engaged students to think about their own meaning and ideas about the future of rural through art. Promotion included an email to all students and postings on RDI's website as well as through social media channels of Facebook. A promotional poster ran on closed circuit campus TV. Unfortunately, the contest was cancelled due to insufficient entries. Future student engagement contest ideas include social media/online options, opening the contest to ICRPS students and offering larger prize money to better motivate students to participate. For social media, paid boosts could also help promote the contest. At student gathering spots and related events, displaying a contest banner with handouts, like pens, can create interests.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Rural by Design ART CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 21, 2020

Show us what "Imagining Rural Futures" means to you!

Leading up to our Imagining Rural Futures Conference held this June, we are hosting this year's art contest with the same theme.

RULES:

- All submissions must be original works.
- Contestants must be Brandon University students (full time or part time).

HOW TO SUBMIT:

- Submit your work to the Rural Development Institute office by Friday, February 21, 2020.
- Include a 100 - 200 word description of how your submission represents the future of rural.
- Include your name, email address and phone number.

WINNERS:

- Submissions will be judged and winners notified by March 20, 2020.
- Chosen submissions will be displayed by the Rural Development Institute.

Prizes are as follows:

- 1st Place - \$250 book store gift card.
- 2nd Place - \$100 book store gift card.
- 3rd Place - \$50 book store gift card.

3 WINNING PRIZES
Book Store Gift Cards

For more information or to submit an entry, email hammam@brandonu.ca or stop by our office in the lower level of McMaster Hall.

BRANDON UNIVERSITY RDI RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Professional in Residence

NEW RDI INITIATIVE

A member of Brandon University alumnus, David A Huberdeau-Reid CPA, M.Acc, needed a place to study and willingly discussed RDI projects and activities. As RDI's first 'professional in residence', he valued the available workspace provided by RDI through over the fall of 2019. A graduate of Business Administration program, David prepared not only for the CFA examination but also for the General Management Admission Test (GMAT) during his time at RDI. This preparation resulted in him gaining entrance into a joint JD/MBA at Cornell University in the fall of 2020. These achievements add to his consulting career in New York City.

He notes, "Coming from Brandon, Manitoba there is a general lack of office space locations for post-graduates to continue their studies or undertake other productive activities. In this situation the Rural Development Institute was able to step in and make a significant contribution to my future success."

New Knowledge

Book Chapter

Ashton, W. & Kelly, W. (2019). Innovation, Broadband and Community Resilience. Chapter in: *The Routledge Handbook of Comparative Rural Policy*. Eds. Vittuari, M, Devlin, J., Pagani, M. & Johnson, T. Routledge, Oxon, New York.

Journal Articles

Ashton, W. (2019). Nature of innovation in Food processing in Manitoba, Canada. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*. 14:1. 35-53.

Reports

Friesen, S. (2019). *Business Plan: Red Dog Enterprises Ltd*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Salmon, S., Akimowicz, M., & Ashton, W. (2019). *Exploring Motivations of Rural Small and Medium Enterprise Employers in Hiring Newcomers*. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Journal of Rural and Community Development

RDI publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of Rural and Community Development* and our longstanding editor is Dr. Doug Ramsey, professor in the Rural Development Departments of Brandon University. He continues to deliver quality and excellent research in four issues of this scholarly journal. In this reporting year,, the JRCD produced 21 articles, 4 case studies, 1 policy evaluation and review and 3 research notes.

Issue1 includes 4 published articles along with one policy review. Topics included How the Rural Context Influences Social Capitol, Nature of Innovation, Implementation Dynamics for Sustainability Planning, Language Education for Newcomers, and Living with Livestock. Countries featured in this journal are Canada and China. See: <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/43>

Issue 2 features published articles focused on the Philippines, Canada, Tanzania and Ethiopia. With 5 articles and one case study, topics included Adaptation to Climate Change, Experiences of Rural Immigrants, Citizen Engagement, Using Shared Services to Mitigate Boomtown Impacts, Practitioners Perspectives. and Challenges to Rural Livelihoods. See: <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/44> Issue 3 includes 5 articles, 2 case studies and 3 sets of research notes. Authors examine topics such as the Food, Water, Energy nexus, Political Ecology, Factors Influencing Community, Women Tourism Entrepreneurs, and Critical Thinking for Sustainable Development. Countries included in this work are the United States, South Korea, England and Canada. See: <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/45>

Issue 4 includes 7 articles and 1 case study. Countries included are Canada, United States and Costa Rica. Topics include Informal Planning Practices, Manufacturing Consent for an Extractive Regime, Oil and Gas, Rural Based Tourism, Young Adults Choosing Rural, Farmers Stressors and Responses to Change, Experiences of Female Long Distance Commuters from Kelowna to the Oil Fields of Alberta, and What Makes Customers Satisfied with the Local Government Agency. See: <https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/issue/view/46>

Knowledge Mobilization

Publications

Coueslan, A & Akimowicz, M. (2019). Integration of Newcomers on the Canadian Prairies – Fact Sheet. Brandon, MB: Rural Development Institute.

Dauphinais, J., & Hamm A. (2019). Farmer 4.0. [blog post]. RDI Blog.

Presentations

Nyankson, G, Kelly, W, & Abdul-Salam A. (2019) *Portrait of Tips and Steps of Preparing a Policy Brief*. Presented at Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, St Johns, NFL.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Technical briefing on Economic Impact Calculations and data sets*. Presented at Immigration West-Indigenous Services, Winnipeg, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Overview of RDI's immigration research topics*. Presented at Immigration Research West Board Meeting, Winnipeg, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Training opportunities supporting land and financial investments in urban reserves*. Presented at Assiniboine Community College & Thompson River College, Winnipeg, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Linkages with Brandon University and strategic discussions*. Presented at Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve, Brandon, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *International Regional Economic Development – Teams Workshop*. Presented at International Comparative Rural Policy Studies, Summer Institute, Finland.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Research methods in policy analysis – Modified Delphi Technique*. Presented at International Comparative Rural Policy Studies, Summer Institute, Finland.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Summative assessment facilitated and on line*. Presented at International Comparative Rural Policy Studies, Summer Institute, Finland.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Governance in rural areas & options*. Presented at Augustina Campus, University of Alberta, Alberta.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Strategic discussions about joint research and institutional relations*. Presented at University College of the North, Brandon, MB

Ashton, W. (2019). *Orientation to new Dean of Health Studies about Rural Development Institute*. Presented to Dr. John Moraros, Brandon, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *Orientation to Rural Development Institute for new President*. Presented to Dr. David Docherty, Brandon, MB.

Ashton, W. (2019). *New innovative products and making linkages on campus*. Presented to Robert Scales, Brandon, MB.

- Ashton, W. (2019). *Strategic relations and existing University policy regime*. Presented to Brandon University Research Directors, Brandon, MB.
- Ashton, W. (2019). *Orientation and linkages with RDI and applied research*. Presented to Endow MB, Winnipeg, MB.
- Ashton, W. (2019). *New Researchers' Forum*. Presented at Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, St. John's, NFL.
- Ashton, W. (2019). *Invitation at banquet to RDI's Imagining Rural Futures Conference June 18-19'20*. Presented at Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, St. John's NFL.
- Ashton, W. (2020). *Challenges of recruiting small business owners as survey participants*. Planned for Metropolis International Pre-conference, Winnipeg, MB. Cancelled COVID19.
- Ashton, W. (2020). *Why rural businesses hire immigrants*. Planned for Metropolis International Conference. Winnipeg, MB. Cancelled COVID19.
- Ashton, W. (2020). *Integration of newcomers, Roundtable – facilitator*. Planned for Metropolis International Conference, Winnipeg, MB. Cancelled COVID19.
- Friesen, S. (2019). *Using the Business Model Canvas to Increase Agriculture Innovation*. Presented at Community Futures Westman, Brandon, MB.
- Kelly, W. (2019). Bridging the Gap in Broadband. Economic Development Association of Manitoba Forum 2019 Keynote Panel. Selkirk, Manitoba.
- Kelly, W. (2019). Exploring the participation of rural youth in a digital society. Rural on Purpose Rural Youth Engagement Murmuration Webinar. October 23, 2019
- Kelly W. (2019). Community Capitals 2.0: the Digital Capital update. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, St. John's, Newfoundland.
- Kelly W. (2019). Portrait of Digital Rural Youth. Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference (Poster Presentation Competition – 2nd place winner), St. John's, Newfoundland.

Webinars

- Apedaile, P. (2019, October 21). Nurturing Ethics in Governance: Taming Our Rascals Within Recommendations [Webinar]. In *Rural Policy Learning Commons Webinar Series*. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK1wtMLsSS4&feature=youtu.be>
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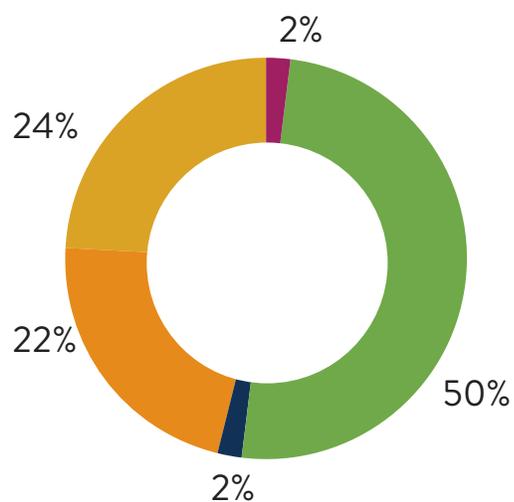
Student Service Learning: 2019-2020

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.

Students

Forty-Six (46) students participated in the Student Service Learning Program.



Faculties

Faculty	Number of Students
Arts	23
Education	1
Science	10
Health Science	11
Music	1

Programs

Students' volunteer roles included Brandon University Bobcats Student Leader, Parent Child Home Program volunteer, Brandon University Student Leader Program volunteer, Peer Wellness Educator Program, and The World University Service of Canada.

Organizations

Students volunteered for a diverse number of organizations including the Brandon Humane Society, Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, the Daly House Museum, Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba, Mental Health on the Prairies Conference, and BU CARES.

Hours

Students volunteered for a total of over 900 hours.



The Team

Thanks to all those that have contributed to RDI directly and many more indirectly.

For the current folks at RDI see: <https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/about-rdi/team/>

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methodology outreach knowledge
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infrastructure contribution growth
process innovation directions
community governance strategic
perspective organizations
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demography integration benefit
future welcome support
sponsorship comparative
sociology imagine
integration success analysis
policy partnership integration
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