

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF RURAL



CANADIAN RURAL REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION

2025 Conference
Technology, Data Governance, & Capacity Building

By: Nicole Breedon

BRANDON MANITOBA | THE HEART OF THE PRAIRIES
SEPTEMBER 23 - 26, 2025

www.crrf2025.org

Brandon, Manitoba is located on Treaty 2 Territory, the traditional shared land of Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Anishinaabe, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

As current inhabitants of, and visitors to, this region, we recognize the harmful histories of colonization, and work towards a future with Truth and Reconciliation. We want to continue taking steps forward, and working with the First Nation, Metis and Inuit Peoples in a good way.

We invite you to situate yourself in place throughout your time within this region.



BRANDON
UNIVERSITY



Journal of Rural and
Community
Development

SSHRC  CRSH

WELCOME

“CRRF is delighted to be working with Brandon University and returning to Manitoba for our 2025 annual conference. We believe highlighting the importance of the foundations for the future of rural will collectively build the capacity, policy, and research agenda of our local, regional, national, and international colleagues and result in an exciting four days of dialogue and networking to enhance the quality of life for rural Canadians.”

- Dr. Joshua Barrett



CONFERENCE THEME

The *2025 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation: Foundations for the Future of Rural Conference* will facilitate conversations that foster the development of new networks, allowing attendees to share insights and build new relationships with specialists from across the nation.

All conference participants will be diving into the following topics — outlining both community strengths, and barriers to be addressed:

Technology & Artificial Intelligence

- Digital Infrastructure and AI: Transforming Rural Communities
- Applications of Community Data through Knowledge Sharing
- Emerging Technologies and Fostering Community Development

Data Governance

- Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Embedding OCAP Principles in Practice
- Rural, Remote, and Northern Data: Storage, Access, and Use
- Leveraging Data and Informing Policy

Capacity Building

- Building Skills and Showcasing Strengths
- How Governing Boards Work: Strategic Community Planning
- Economic vs. Social Development

EXCURSION DETAILS

As part of the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to visit one of three unique destinations across southwestern Manitoba! These excursions aim to offer insights into beautiful areas - situated both rurally and remotely - to better understand themes of community development.

1. Brandon Downtown History and Brewery Tour: In this excursion, guests will walk in the Brandon Downtown to learn about the town's history, the thriving businesses, and visit two locally owned breweries!

2. Rivers and Riding Mountain National Park Tour: In this excursion, guests will visit the community of Rivers where they will learn more about the Sekine Bike Factory. Guests will also be brought to the Riding Mountain National Park where they will learn about the history of the area as well as visit beautiful and scenic points.

Busses and shuttles will be departing from the Clarion Inn at 12:00pm - make sure to be ready at the front doors of the Clarion Inn with all that you may need at 11:55am!

VENUES

All conference activities (besides the excursions) will take place at one of two venue spaces!

On Tuesday, the New Researchers Forum and the Welcome Reception will be taking place at Brandon University - located at 270 18th Street. The evening will be filled with informative presentations and an opening panel, with the facilitation of networking opportunities for attendees.

From Wednesday to Friday, the remaining conference activities will be taking place at the Clarion Inn and Suites - located at 3130 Victoria Avenue.

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**

Brandon University has contributed to the success of this event through a myriad of avenues, including the Office of Research Services and the Faculty of Arts. We want to extend our thanks BU for the event spaces, knowledge mobilization resources and overwhelming support for the conference and the SSHRC project embedded in the conference events and activities.



**Internet Society
Manitoba Chapter**

ISOC-MB has sponsored the event, promoted the conference, and is contributing a hands-on workshop for attendees. ISOC-MB is also research partner with RDI, co-hosting the ConnectedMB podcast and contributing to research and conceptual discussions related to digital in Manitoba's rural spaces. The chapter's workshop will focus on key elements of that digital focus in rural spaces, showcasing internet accessibility, digital inclusion, and community work across the province.



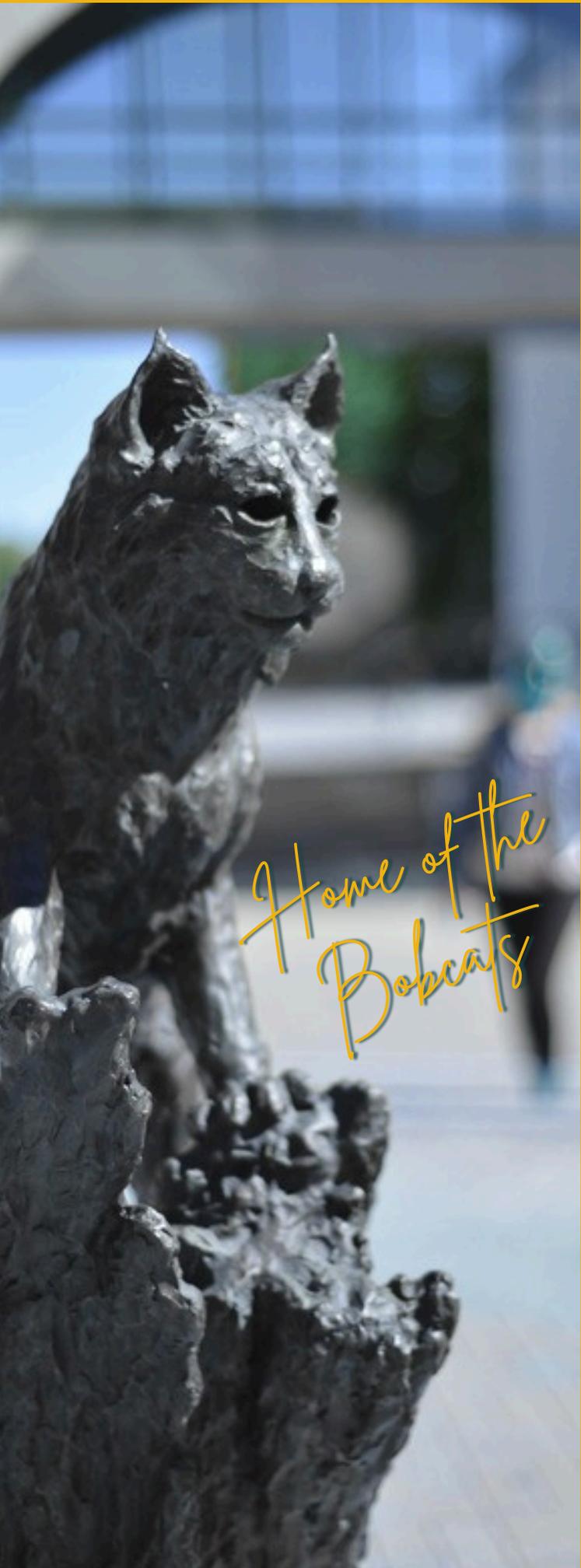
RMED

The Rural Manitoba Economic Development Corporation (RMED) has sponsored the conference and is contributing a workshop for attendees. RMED supports economic innovation and development across rural Manitoba through data tools, strategic planning, and community capacity-building. RMED has emerged as a leader in providing and analyzing local data and is partnering with RDI to deepen the exploration of rural data and realities. RMED will be showcasing their data, toolkits and case studies in their workshop to illustrate how local data can empower municipalities and community leaders.



With the support of Donna Morken - Chair of Rivers Train Station Committee and Co-chair of Riverdale Community Development Corporation - the conference was able to align one of the field trips with an exciting excursion for attendees to witness the unveiling of an international mural commemorating a unique community development story that reaches all the way to Japan. Donna and the Train Station Committee are sponsoring the participation of conference attendees at this special event in Rivers, Manitoba.





*Home of the
Bobcats*

THANK YOU, PLANNING COMMITTEE

Nicole Breedon
Fallon Brook
Dr. Wayne Kelly
Dr. Doug Ramsey
Joshua Barrett
Joelena Leader
Samantha Mark
Diogo Oliviera
John Dale
Kyle Rich

&VOLUNTEERS!

Adebowale Yusuf
Adwoa Kankam
Akua Osei
Alamin Ademide Dada
Alexa Nicolle
Awali Mustapha Osabutey
Gary McNeely
Jessica Amarachi Ehirim
Kwabena Amoateng
Melody Fagelogo
Shirlyn Kunaratnam

GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday

New Researcher Forum Presenters:

Dr. Doug Ramsey
Dr. Wayne Kelly
Nicole Breedon

Opening Ceremony:

Susie McPherson-Derendy | Cree Knowledge Keeper

Welcome Reception Guest Speakers:

Dr. Joshua Barrett
Dr. Doug Ramsey
Dr. Wayne Kelly
Dr. Ashleigh Weeden

Wednesday

Opening Plenary:

Mayor Jeff Fawcett
Dr. Gregory Kennedy

Excursion Collaborators:

Dr. Doug Ramsey
Dr. Ian Puppe
Donna Morken

Thursday

Banquet Speakers:

Fran Shaver
Bill Reimer Legacy Award Recipient

Friday

Opening Plenary:

Words from MLA Glen Simard

Closing Plenary:

Dr. Joshua Barrett
Dr. Kelly Vodden
Matthew Perrier | Mi'kmaw Community Liasson
Dr. Wayne Kelly
Dr. Doug Ramsey

Closing Ceremony:

Susie McPherson-Derendy | Cree Knowledge Keeper



KEYNOTE

Countryside at the Crossroads: Understanding Place, Power, and Policy for the Future of Rural Canada

Abstract: Rural places represent the nexus of significant and accelerating local and global transformations during the current era of ‘polycrises’, including increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, vulnerabilities in social safety nets, overburdened, under-resourced, or simply non-existent infrastructure, and the consequences of growing socioeconomic inequality and inequity. Despite these realities, much public policy reduces rural regions to locations for exploitation: whether that is as the location of food production, resource extraction, or sites of leisure and tourism. This has produced double-edged framings of rural regions as simultaneously places of great value (in terms of what can be extracted or consumed) while also being treated as inherently disadvantaged by social, economic, and political agendas. However, the rural/urban binary is increasingly unproductive for tackling the complex challenges we face today and threatens to keep us stuck in toxic feedback loops. How do we move forward? In this keynote address, Dr. S. Ashleigh Weeden will highlight the critical role of place-based approaches to reshaping power dynamics and creating new policy agendas capable of supporting the diverse realities and ongoing evolution of rural regions as vital to our collective futures.

Dr. Ashleigh Weeden

S. Ashleigh Weeden ('Dr. Weeden' if you're hiring) is an award-winning writer, researcher, and rural futurist whose roots intermingle with Southern Ontario's fields of corn and push up from the bedrock of the Niagara Escarpment. Dr. Weeden delights in helping communities see that the 'impossible' is possible as long as they make the 'invisible' visible by crafting meaningful maps of where they hope to go together. For more than fifteen years, she has developed a body of work that is fundamentally concerned with the interplay of place, power, and policy and that is rooted in the geography of the land and the heart in equal measure.



PANEL Immigration, Technology, Data Governance and Capacity Building through a Rural Lens

Abstract: This roundtable discussion will invite academic researchers from Canada and Japan and community-oriented practitioners to speak to the themes of the conference in terms of their expertise on immigration. A structured series of questions will be presented to the participants to elicit their reflections on how the conference themes and immigration intersect, and how we may approach the needs that communities exhibit in these areas through a 'rural lens.' The workshop is timely given the multifaceted challenges that communities face towards achieving community well-being amidst increased skepticism on the role of immigration for social and economic development. The participants will be invited to reflect upon present rural and small centre realities and how we can contribute to productive national discussions in both Canada and Japan on immigration and community well-being, and what role technology, data governance, and capacity building can play in the process.

Chair:

Dr. Ray Silvius is a scholar of migration and global political economy who researches the Canadian newcomer settlement sector, how immigrants and refugees access social and economic resources, and large scale transformations in the global political economy. He specializes in community-engaged research on immigration and settlement in small centres. Dr. Silvius is the lead of the Migration in Remote and Rural Areas Network (MIRRA Network - mirranetwork.ca), within which he is involved in collaborative research on newcomer settlement in Canada and Japan.

Don Boddy has been the Manager of Small Centre Support of the Manitoba Association Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO) for more than 8 years. This means Don supports rural organizations and communities that do settlement, integration and immigration work. Don has lived in various communities in rural Manitoba for most of his life. Also, he is a basketball official and this takes him everywhere throughout rural and remote Manitoba. Don is grateful to work alongside newcomers and they continually teach him and make his life and perspectives bigger and better.

Dr. Satomi Tozawa is an Assistant Professor at Akita University of Art. She holds a Ph.D. in Education, with research focused on Socially Engaged Art as a means of fostering community collaboration. Her dissertation explored how creative practices can build social infrastructure and promote equitable relationships in diverse communities. She is currently developing the Center for Foundation Studies in Art and Design at her university and leading a project in Portage la Prairie that connects newcomers and long-time residents through creative activities.

PANEL Immigration, Technology, Data Governance and Capacity Building through a Rural Lens

Dr. Tsuyoshi Tokuda is a Professor at the Department of Sociology, Otani University, Kyoto, Japan. He holds a Ph.D.(Kobe University). He is a member of the Migration in Remote and Rural Areas Network (MIRRA Network). His current research focuses on immigration policy and support activities for immigrants in Japanese rural areas.

Dr. Junichiro Koji is an Associate Professor at the Department of International and Regional Studies, Hokkaido University of Education in Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science with specialization in Canadian Studies (University of Ottawa). He is a member of the Migration in Remote and Rural Areas Network (MIRRA Network). His current research focuses on immigration and diversity management policy and governance in small centers and rural areas in Canada and Japan.

Shirlyn Minoja Kunaratnam (MA) is a recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Rural Development from Brandon University, and is currently working as Immigration Research Coordinator at the Rural Development Institute and as a consultant for Community Futures Westman. She is currently working on research related to immigrant and newcomer entrepreneurship, newcomers' integration challenges and Pulse of Rural Manitoba. She is conducting these researches in collaboration with local organizations in Brandon and Manitoba.



WORKSHOP

Fundamentals of Technology, E-Waste, and Rural Connectivity

Session 1: Understanding the Basics and E-Waste

Introduction and welcome from Joel Templeman

- Tech Fundamentals & Hands-On Demo
- Basic anatomy of a computer: What's inside the box?
- Hands-on: Identifying hardware components

E-Waste and Environmental Impact

- What happens to old electronics?
- Environmental considerations and e-waste is a challenges: Refurbishing vs. recycling

Role of Computers for Schools Manitoba

- C4S Manitoba's support for communities



Session 2: Internet Connectivity and Rural Solutions

Internet Connectivity Basics

- How the internet works: Fiber optics, wireless, and satellite
- Examples of connectivity equipment and/ or data travel

Challenges in Rural Connectivity

- High costs and regulatory issues in Canada
- Pros and cons of solutions: Fixed wireless, low-earth orbit satellites, and fiber

Showcasing the Internet Society - Manitoba Chapter

- How ISOC-MB is involved in rural connectivity initiatives
- Initiatives and how to get involved

Presenters:

Joel Templeman, CD, MPA, MEd, is the Project Manager and Chief Technology Officer for North End Connect, an experienced independent consultant specializing in leadership, IT & network security, and IT project management. He currently serves as Executive Director at Internet Society Manitoba Chapter Inc. Joel served for over 13 years full-time in the Canadian Armed Forces as an IT Project Manager and Technician. Joel holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Public Administration from the Royal Military College of Canada, and a Master of Education from the University of Calgary. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Learning Sciences with a focus on Heutagogy in Digital Equity at the University of Calgary.

Justin Menard is the Executive Director of Computers for Schools Manitoba, where he leads initiatives focused on digital inclusion, youth skills development, and environmental responsibility through technology reuse. As a supporting member of North End Connect, he helped incubate and grow the not-for-profit, supporting community-led projects that build capacity and opportunity in Winnipeg's North End.

PANEL LINCZ: A Canada-Zimbabwe Case Study of Nature Based Solutions to Rural Climate Adaptation

Abstract: In this panel, members of our international and interdisciplinary team will discuss the integration of emerging technologies, Indigenous practices, gender inclusion and knowledge sharing, drawing lessons relevant to rural adaptation in Zimbabwe, Canada and beyond. We will share methodological insights, early research findings and reflect on the strengths and challenges involved in building cross-cultural partnership through the LINCZ project (Locally-Led Indigenous Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe). LINCZ brings together Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada with MCC Zimbabwe and three local implementing partners across different tribal regions. The objective of the project is to practically improve rural food security through implementing conservation agriculture practices, while strengthening local adaptive capacity. Members will discuss their roles in the project highlighting the use of geospatial data and analytics alongside both mental health, policy level research, and the processes involved in responsible data governance.

Chair:

Dr. Jobb Arnold is an associate professor of Psychology and Conflict Resolution Studies and Canadian Mennonite. His work examines the psychological dynamics of change and persistence such as personal resilience, social cohesion and coalition building during times of social and environmental upheaval including multi-level political conflicts and programs of reconciliation. Using mixed method field research, Arnold is involved with ongoing comparative and cross-cultural case studies, including post-genocide family formation in Rwanda, inter-religious cooperation in Northern Ireland, Indigenous, Settler and Newcomer relations in Canada, and psychosocial responses to climate change in rural Zimbabwe. Arnold's research program combines applied psychology with the practical approaches to social intervention, including the monitoring, evaluating, and making meaningful contributions to strategies for sustainable adaptation during uncertain times.

Presenters:

Chika (Chikaodili) Iwobi is a legal professional, mediator, and peacebuilding practitioner with over a decade of experience in legal administration, conflict resolution, and cross-cultural engagement. As a researcher on the LINCZ project's Psychosocial Adaptation to Climate Change stream, she conducted qualitative data analysis and drew cross-contextual insights linking rural adaptation experiences in Zimbabwe with lessons from Nigeria's Niger Delta. A graduate of Peacebuilding and Collaborative Development from Canadian Mennonite University, Chika is currently a Legal Services and Mediation Facilitator with Iphie Law Office in Winnipeg. She is preparing for PhD studies exploring how food cultures, shared meals, and commensality can foster climate adaptation, strengthen resilience, bridge divides, and nurture social cohesion and peaceful interactions in conflict-affected settings.

PANEL LINCZ: A Canada-Zimbabwe Case Study of Nature Based Solutions to Rural Climate Adaptation

Amy Martens [she/her] is Climate Change Adaptation Program Lead at Mennonite Central Committee Canada. Amy has spent the past 10 years with Mennonite Central Committee working in various capacities, including as a food security and sustainable livelihoods program coordinator. In her role as Climate Change Adaptation Program Lead, she works closely with MCC staff in Zimbabwe in overseeing the implementation of the Locally-led Indigenous Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe (LINCZ) project, which is funded in partnership with Global Affairs Canada. Amy is based in Winnipeg, Canada.

Alrika Imasami Rojas (she/her) is an Andean-Mennonite woman with lived roots in both Bolivia and Canada dedicated to the journey of decolonization and the creation and support of spaces that encourage cultural and Indigenous expression. As Learning and Research Hub Coordinator for the Locally Led Indigenous Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe (LINCZ) project at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), Alrika coordinates CMU's LINCZ-associated research and manages the Research and Learning Hub, a website through which interested academics and practitioners are invited to respond to climate challenges impacting communities in Zimbabwe.

Bulisani Mlotshwa is an environmental researcher and development practitioner from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, with more than seven years of experience in ecosystem management, climate adaptation, and rural livelihoods. He currently serves as the Learning & Research Hub Coordinator for the Locally Led Indigenous Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation (LINCZ) Project with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Zimbabwe, where he coordinates research and learning within the project.

Dr. Ndakaitei Makwanise holds a PhD in Peacebuilding (Durban University of Technology), a Master's in Peace and Governance (MPG), (Africa University), a BA Gen (University of Zimbabwe) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Education (PDTE) (MSU). He has vast experience in researching rural communities and has written some articles based on his experience. Some of his experiences include research in Northern Mashonaland, Esigodini in Bulawayo as well as in war-affected Northern Uganda. Currently, he is involved in the LINCZ research, which covers three selected districts in Zimbabwe, namely Binga, Gwanda, and Mwenezi. He is lecturing at Midlands State University in the Department of Peace and Security Studies. Main research areas include Governance, Conflict, Gender, and School violence.

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Time	Activity
3:30	New Researchers Forum at 104 Clark Hall
6:00	Doors Open for the Welcome Reception at the Evan's Theatre
6:30	Opening Ceremony with Cree Knowledge Keeper, Susie McPherson-Derendy

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: CLARION INN

Time	Activity
8:30	Breakfast (provided at venue)
9:00	Opening Welcome
10:00	Presentation Session 1
11:00	Presentation Session 2
11:45	Break
12:00	Leave Venue for Excursions

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: CLARION INN

Time	Activity
8:30	Breakfast (provided at venue)
9:00	Opening Plenary
10:00	Presentation Session 3
11:00	Poster Presentations
12:00	Lunch (provided at venue)
1:15	Presentation Session 4
2:15	Presentation Session 5
3:15	Presentation Session 6
4:15	CRRF Annual General Meeting
6:30	Banquet Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: CLARION INN

Time	Activity
9:00	Breakfast (provided at venue) and Words from MLA Glen Simard
10:00	Workshop
11:00	Closing Plenary
11:30	Closing Ceremony with Cree Knowledge Keeper, Susie McPherson-Derendy

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Time	Activity	Room
3:30	New Researchers Forum	Clark Hall Room 104
6:00	Welcome Reception	Evan's Theatre
6:30	Opening Welcome with Cree Knowledge Keeper Susie McPherson-Derendy	Evan's Theatre
6:45	<u>Keynote Speaker: Ashleigh Weeden</u>	Evan's Theatre

The New Researcher Forum (NRF) is designed for new and emerging scholars to engage with one another and long-standing CRRF members. This year's NRF will focus on sharing insights on key features of research, such as strategies in grant funding applications, knowledge mobilization, and tips and tricks for journal publications procedures.

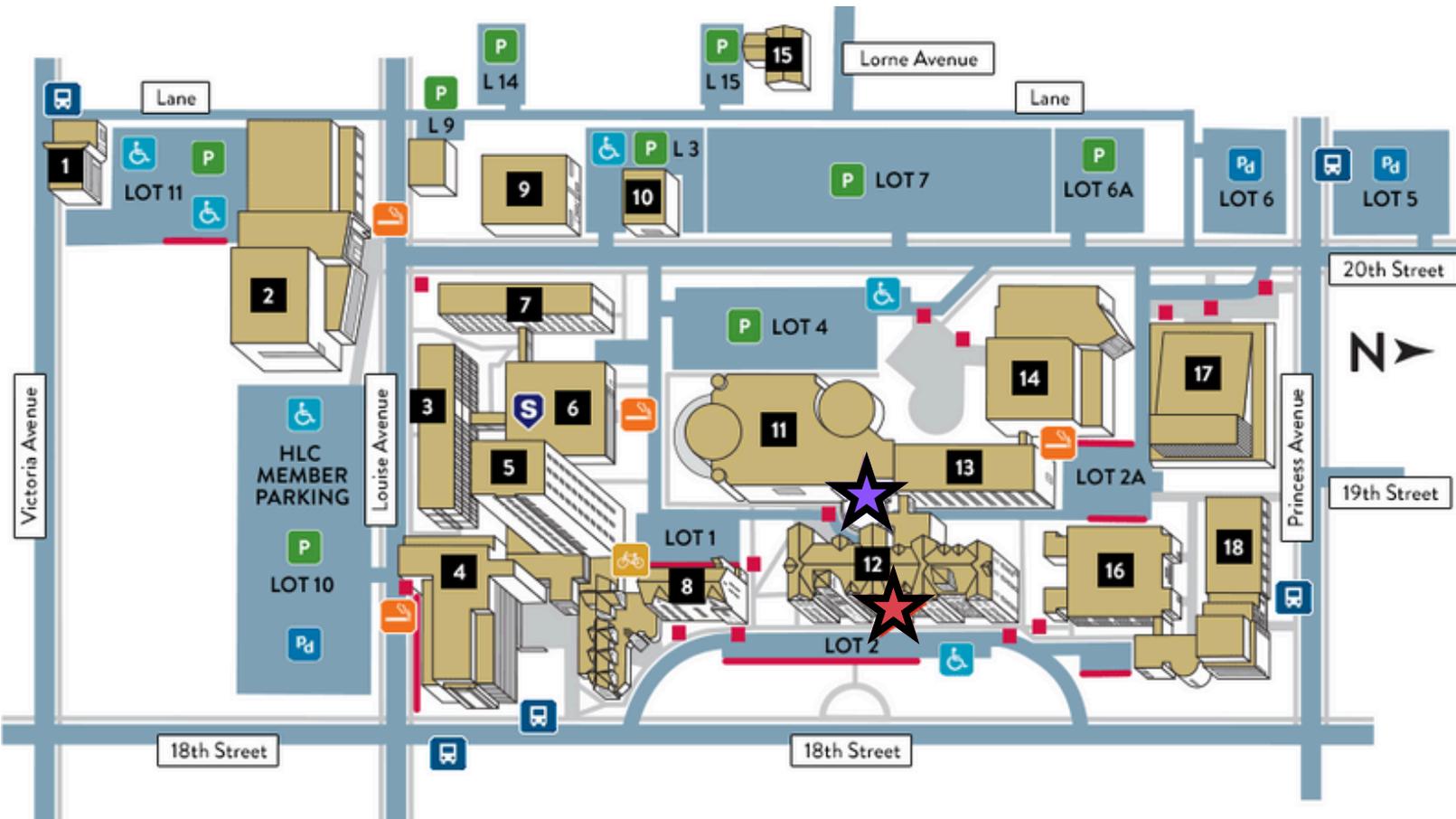
Doors for the Welcome Reception (located at the Evan's Theatre) will open at 6:00pm and begin with a Welcome from Cree Knowledge Keeper, Susie McPherson-Derendy. Following the opening reception, Dr. Doug Ramsey will be sharing words in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Journal of Rural and Community Development. We will then welcome keynote speaker, Dr Ashleigh Weeden for her presentation, *Countryside at the Crossroads: Understanding Place, Power and Policy for the Future of Rural Canada*.



PROGRAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Campus Map



12 (Red Star) – Clark Hall: Enter front doors off 18th street. Turn right, room 104 is on the left handside and has large wood double doors.

11 (Purple Star) – Evans theatre: From Clark Hall, leave towards the back of the building, walk across courtyard to George T Richardson Centre. Immediately after entering doors, you will see signage for JRC Evan’s Theatre off to the right.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: CLARION INN

Passcode for
Room A
CRRF2025

Time	Activity	Room
8:30	Breakfast	Room E/ D
9:00	Opening Plenary	Room E/ D

Time	Room A (Remote Option)*	Room B	Room C	Room D
10:00 am		<p>Capacity Building and the Rethinking of Strengths</p> <p>Presenters: Kristof Van Assche, Kelly Vodden, Monica Gruezmacher</p>	<p>Local Governance reform in New Brunswick- How it has impacted communities in Kent County</p> <p>Presenters: Paul Lang</p>	<p><u>Policy Framing, Participation and Adaptive Governance: A Comparative Analysis of Water Governance and Agricultural Climate Adaptation in the Canadian Prairies</u></p> <p>Presenters: Glenice Deterville</p>
10:25 am	<p><u>Beyond the City Limits: Shifting Federal Funding for Public Transit in Rural Canada</u></p> <p>Presenters: Sarah Breen, Ryan Gibson, Hannah Main Elzabieta Mastej</p>	<p>Technological Challenges for 6G-Networked ML Trained UAV: Paralleling the Existing Supply Chain Management Tier Architecture for Canada's NWT Beaufort Delta Region</p> <p>Presenters: Fayyaz Ahmed</p>	<p>Empowering Communities <> Innovative Rural Capacity Building</p> <p>Presenters: Sarah Sinclair</p>	<p><u>A Complex Migration Story: As Told by the Youth of Tumbler Ridge, BC</u></p> <p>Presenters: Jessica Froese</p>
10:45 am	Break			
11:00 am	<p><u>Facilitating access to information for decision making in rural communities</u></p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Jasmine Muszik</p>	<p>Expanding Community Capacity for Exercise Programming for Indigenous Older Adults in Rural Canada</p> <p>Presenters: Wendy Verity, Leona Mitsuing</p>	<p>Philanthropy in Atlantic Canada: Connecting research, policy and practice to build resilient communities</p> <p>Presenters: Joshua Barret, Kelly Vodden, Ryan Gibson, Edmund Yirenkyi</p>	<p>Panel Presentation</p> <p><u>Building Capacity through Co-operatives: Community-Owned Solutions for Childcare and Housing in Rural Manitoba</u></p> <p>Presenters: Candice Minott, Dr. Susan Prentice, Nigel Mohammed</p>
11:25 am	<p><u>Place Narratives that Energize: Using Persuasive Storytelling to Develop a Multifunctional Toolkit for Northern Ontario's Small-Town Plans and Reposition Planners as Market Stimulators in Sustainable Community Economic Development and Blended Financing</u></p> <p>Presenters: Daniel Mercer</p>	<p>Data, Governance, and the Rural Edge: What Ontario's Gaps Reveal</p> <p>Presenters: Rheann Qunneville, Leith Deacon</p>	<p>Rural Capacity Building and its role in supporting the competitiveness of Agrifood SMEs</p> <p>Presenters: Nazir Mohammed Habibu, Gary McNeely</p>	

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: CLARION INN

Time	Activity	Room
8:30	Breakfast	Room E/ D
9:00	Opening Plenary	Room E/ D

Passcode for
Room A
CRRF2025

Time	Room A (Remote Option)	Room B	Room C	Room D
10:00 am	<p><u>How can right to development approach reducing health care disparities? An in-depth qualitative case study in the rural Ontario Canada</u></p> <p>Presenters: Amal Jawad</p>	<p>Community Building Through Social Engaged Art in Culturally Diverse Contexts</p> <p>Presenters: Satomi Tozawa</p>	<p>Empowering Rural IT Workforce Development Through Heutagogy and Community-Driven Learning</p> <p>Presenters: Joel Templeman</p>	<p><u>Adapting to Change: Evolving Roles and Knowledge Needs of Rural Economic Development Practitioners in Ontario</u></p> <p>Presenters: Ryan Gibson, Taylor Wilson, Jayden Cole</p>
10:25 am	<p><u>Bridging the data gap: Access to justice for tenants in Nova Scotia</u></p> <p>Presenters: Hannah Main</p>	<p>Athabasca Grown: Harnessing the Sun and Community Will for Local Food</p> <p>Presenters: Cara Shan</p>	<p>Unlearning the Story: How Ecosystems Remind us who we are (and the lessons for rural policy)</p> <p>Presenters: Roly Russel</p>	<p><u>Co-Creating a Community Knowledge Framework with Manitoba Community Foundations</u></p> <p>Presenters: Wayne Kelly, Gary McNeely, Richard Adu, Courtney Feldman,</p>
11:00 am	Celebration of CRRF'n the Archives, followed by Walking Poster Session & Mingling			
12:00 pm	Lunch Break			
1:15 pm	<p><u>Indigenous cultural heritage policies as a pathway for Indigenous sovereignty and the role of local governments: an example with K'ómoks First Nation, British Columbia</u></p> <p>Presenters: Mary Kelly, Sean Markey, Dana Lepofsky</p>	<p>What Makes the Rains? Integrating Satellite Precipitation Data Alongside Rural Farmer's Perspectives on Indigenous Rain Making Ceremonies</p> <p>Presenters: Jobb Dixon Arnold, Natalia Wiederkehr</p>	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Fundamentals of Technology, E-Waste, and Rural Connectivity</p> <p>Presenters: Joel Templeman (Internet Society Manitoba Chapter), Justin Menard (Computers for Schools)</p>	<p><u>A Case Study of Policy and Regulatory Frameworks to Support Bioenergy from Forest Biomass in Manitoba</u></p> <p>Presenters: Shamin Anowar</p>
1:40 pm		<p>Assessing Psycho-Social Adaptation and Conflict Resolution Capacities Among Rural Farmers in the Context of Extreme Drought (2023-2025)</p> <p>Presenters: Jobb Arnold</p>		<p><u>Exploring relational dimensions of rural values and character on Southern Vancouver Island, Canada</u></p> <p>Presenters: Deanna Woods</p>

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: CLARION INN

Passcode for
Room A
CRRF2025

Time	Room A (Remote Option)	Room B	Room C	
2:15 pm	<p><u>Housing and Homelessness - Social Investment Creates Economic Investment</u></p> <p>Presenters: Trisha Hampton</p>		<p>Workshop</p> <p>Internet Connectivity and Rural Solutions</p> <p>Presenters: Joel Templeman (Internet Society Manitoba Chapter), Justin Menard (Computers for Schools)</p>	
2:40 pm	<p><u>Empowering Rural Communities in Zambia through Solar-Powered Vertical Farming</u></p> <p>Presenters: Mwila Mwila</p>	<p>Rural Small Business and Community Capacity Building</p> <p>Presenters: Karen Foster</p>		<p><u>Manitoba Municipal Climate Approach: Analyzing Local Climate Action Plans with respect to sustainable development goals</u></p> <p>Presenters: Glenice Deterville, Olamide John</p>
3:00 pm	Break			
3:15 pm	<p><u>Harvesting Power: Corporate Control in Agricultural Repair Practices</u></p> <p>Presenters: Jasvinder Mann, Alissa Centivany</p>	<p>Climate resilience and Innovation in Rural Infrastructure</p> <p>Presenters: Mark Custance</p>		<p><u>The Complexities of Farm Succession Planning and Rural Development in Canada</u></p> <p>Presenters: Clark Banack, Sydney Shirreff</p>
3:40 pm	<p><u>A new mobility concept for remote communities</u></p> <p>Presenters: Elham Boozarjomehri</p>	<p>Adapting Rural Climate Cultures: The Role of Culture in shaping Adaptation in Rural Canada</p> <p>Presenters: Bryanne Lmoureux, Ryan Bullock, Shirlyn Kunaratnam, Sara Sawatsky, Wayne Kelly</p>		<p><u>Collective Waste, Shared Gains: Optimizing Rural Waste Management through Community Collaboration</u></p> <p>Presenters: Isabelle Godin</p>
4:15 pm	<u>CRRF Annual General Meeting (Hybrid Option Available)</u>			
6:30 pm	<p>Banquet Dinner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of the Bill Reimer Legacy Fund, as well as this year's recipient 			

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: CLARION INN

Passcode for
Room A
CRRF2025

Time	Activity	Room
9:00	Breakfast with MLA Glen Simard, Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations	Room E/ D

Time	Room A (Remote Option)	Room B	Room C	Room D
10:00 am	<p><u>LINCZ: A Canada-Zimbabwe Case Study of Nature Based Solutions to Rural Climate Adaptation:</u></p> <p>Presenters: Natalia Wiederkehr, Alrika Rojas, Chika Iwobi, Jobb Arnold, Ndakaitei Makwanise</p>		<p>Advancing Rural Development Through Strategic Resources and Local Leadership: A rural Manitoba perspective on supporting economic growth with practical toolkits, data access, and community readiness</p> <p>Presenters: Margot Cathcart</p>	<p><u>How does Artificial Intelligent view rural areas: A rural sociological perspective</u></p> <p>Presenters: Ian Merrell, Ashleigh Weeden</p>

Time	Activity	Room
11:00	Closing Plenary: Kelly Vodden and Matthew Perrier	Room E/ D
11:45	Closing Ceremony with Cree Knowledge Keeper Susie McPherson-Derendy	Room E/ D

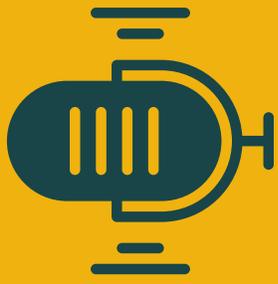
The logo for the Journal of Rural and Community Development features a vertical red bar on the left side. To the right of this bar, the journal's title is written in a black serif font, stacked in three lines: "Journal of Rural and", "Community", and "Development". A thick black horizontal bar is positioned below the text, extending from the left edge of the red bar to the right.

Journal of Rural and Community Development

The Journal of Rural and Community Development (JRCD) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this fall. We welcome you all to this year's CRRF conference and to celebrate this anniversary.

In April 2002, a proposal to develop a new journal focused on rural and community development was presented to a SSHRC-funded (Initiative on the New Economy) research project workshop with connections to CRRF. Well-received, a formal journal proposal was developed and distributed to social scientists working in Canada, the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom between 2002 and 2003. The feedback was extremely positive. The first issue was published in October 2005 with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at BU as the JRCD publisher, providing financial assistance, organizational support, and marketing. RDI was the core funder and administrator until the JRCD received SSHRC support through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme in 2011. We look forward to the next 20 years, hopefully with a CRRF member at the helm!

The Call-for-Papers will be launched in the coming weeks - stay tuned for details and please visit the [JRCD](#) for access to more amazing articles!



Small Towns,

BIG STORIES

Podcast Series

As part of the 2025 CRRF conference, RDI researchers have put together a podcast series exploring community development in rural Manitoba!

With your hosts:

Nicole Breedon, Melody Fagelogo, Adwoa Kankam



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