

RDI RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Team

- ★ 2 Faculty & 2 Staff
- ★ 8 Graduate Students
- ★ 1 Post-Graduate Researcher
- ★ 4 Undergraduate Students

Partnerships



2025 provided so many opportunities to foster partnerships with a variety of researchers, practitioners and community leaders!

- ★ 11 on-campus partnerships
- ★ 13 off-campus organizational partnerships
- ★ 4 international partnerships

RDI has conducted research and project work with **5 communities** throughout 2025



RDI Research Pillars & Projects



Throughout 2025, RDI Launched our 4 Research Pillars

Capacity ★ Climate ★ Digital Rural ★ Immigration

These Research Pillars mark the primary points of interests that will guide future projects and research activities.

Throughout 2025, RDI conducted 5 Projects in line with the RDI Pillars:

- ★ Co-Creating a Community Wellbeing Framework
- ★ Community Capacity Development: Summer Practicum
- ★ Changing Nature of Rural
- ★ Does AI Have a Place in Rural Governance?
- ★ Digital Horizons: Shaping Manitoba's Integrated Policy Future



Funding Success

This year, RDI successfully secured **\$167,764** in funding for RDI and Brandon University through the submission of **5 different applications**

\$340,000 of funding is pending from 2 other applications

Knowledge Mobilization

2 Podcasts Produced



Small Towns, Big Stories



ConnectedMB



1 Book Chapter

- ★ To Prompt of Not Prompt: Using AI to Generate Community Engagement Plans for Resource Projects



2 Journal Articles

- ★ Recognizing Prior Learning in the Context of Rural Community Economic Development
- ★ Sisyphus's Broadband: Exploring Models of Rural Community Participation in Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity



3 Reports

- ★ Co-Creating a Community Knowledge Framework
- ★ Foundations for the Future of Rural: Technology, Data Governance & Capacity Building
- ★ Accommodations in Manitoba: Assessing the Role and Impacts of Accommodations in the Rural and Remote Tourism Sector of Manitoba



14 Public Presentations at 7+ Events

- ★ Community Capacity Building in Rural Manitoba
- ★ Building Capacity in Rural Manitoba: Research Travel Log
- ★ Recognizing Workforce Learning in the Context of Rural Community Economic Development
- ★ Exploring entrepreneurship among immigrant women in Brandon, Manitoba
- ★ Community or Community-Based Projects: Buzz Words vs. Best Practices
- ★ Community Engagement & Community-Based Data Collection: Contextualizing the Rural Development Institute
- ★ Accommodations in Manitoba: Assessing the Role and Impacts of Accommodations in the Rural and Remote Tourism Sector of Manitoba
- ★ Conversation about Data Standardization and Formalization



Events

Throughout 2025, RDI was fortunate to be a part of two major knowledge mobilization events:

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference: Foundations for the Future of Rural

In collaboration with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), and the Journal of Rural and Community Development, RDI worked to organize and facilitate the **2025 CRRF Conference** here in Brandon, Manitoba!



With over 80 attendees from across Canada and beyond, we were able to foster networking and rural research knowledge exchange.

Exploration into Community-Based Data Collection and Knowledge Mobilization for Sustainable Rural Development

In collaboration with the Brandon University Department of Rural Development, RDI worked to organize and host a **Knowledge Translation Summit** with research partners from Brasilia University (UnB) and the State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP)! Four visiting researchers from Brazil were able to share insights on emerging technologies and applications of community-based data collection - the DataLuta.



And many more!