



**Alberta Centre for
Sustainable Rural
Communities
Annual Report
May 2018 – May 2019**



ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Annual Report 2018/2019

Contents

ABOUT 3

 VISION 3

 MISSION..... 3

 VALUES 3

 GOALS 4

 CHALLENGES 4

PROJECTS 5

 NEW PROJECTS..... 5

 ONGOING PROJECTS 7

 COMPLETED PROJECTS 11

CENTRE OPERATIONS..... 12

 STAFF 12

 COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING 13

 PRESENTATIONS..... 16

 EVENTS 17

 PUBLICATIONS 18

 SERVICE..... 19

 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PARTNERSHIPS 19

 NON-UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PARTNERSHIPS 20

FINANCIAL REPORT 20



ABOUT

Established in 2008, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) is a partnership between the Augustana Faculty and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Alberta. The ACSRC fills the gap for research and policy in rural areas by fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships between the University of Alberta and rural communities in Alberta and beyond.

For more information, please visit the ACSRC's website: www.acsrc.ca

Vision

The vision of the ACSRC is of resilient rural communities across Canada linked closely to the discovery, dissemination, and application of new knowledge at the University of Alberta through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement, and partnerships. Such resilient rural communities will hinge on informed citizens actively participating in community governance and development in order to support and sustain the people, livelihoods, regional and local capital, economic development and long-term social viability of rural communities as a key element of the Canadian economy, the natural environment and as home to many Canadians.

Mission

The mission of the ACSRC is to link the research, outreach and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

Values

- **Collaboration:** The ACSRC recognizes the contributions and capacity of individual citizens, private, public, community and other non-governmental organizations, faculty, staff and students of post-secondary institutions in Alberta, in collectively advancing the development and sustainability of rural communities.
- **Methodological and Theoretical Rigour and Pluralism:** The ACSRC encourages both theoretical and methodological pluralism, and the critical reflection upon the suitability and implications of the theories and methods used.
- **Capacity Building:** The ACSRC is committed to supporting the ability of rural communities via research, outreach and knowledge transfer; to not only govern themselves, but to participate in a meaningful and efficacious manner at and with all levels of government and administration.
- **Transparency:** The ACSRC seeks to adopt best practices in all of its activities in order to ensure fair and open operations, and to comply with the appropriate FOIPOP legislation, etc.



- **Local Knowledge:** The ACSRC recognizes that the sustainability of rural communities in Canada varies from region to region, from community to community, and that factors such as culture, geography, natural environment, socio-economic context and political history can all lead to varying outcomes. The ACSRC, therefore, recognizes that the knowledge, experience and expertise present within communities has equal value and standing to that generated within an institution (university or college) setting.
- **Evidence-informed decision-making:** While keeping to all other values listed here, the ACSRC supports the application of systematically gained knowledge to guide the decisions, policies and programs of (1) the Centre; (2) rural communities; (3) regional, provincial and national policy-makers.

Goals

The ACSRC has established 5 goals which, through their accomplishment, will move the Centre toward achieving its mission in a fashion consistent with its vision and values. Each goal is supported by key objectives (bulleted) which, in turn, will guide the day-to-day operations of the Centre:

- 1) **Research-** Stimulate, support and conduct research on the multiple elements of rural community sustainability.
- 2) **Education-** Stimulate and support innovative education in rural community development, sustainability and policy.
- 3) **Outreach-** Generate greater interaction and collaboration with rural community stakeholders.
- 4) **Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange (KSTE)-** Stimulate, support and conduct KSTE to support evidence-informed decision-making and governance at multiple levels, from the local to the international.
- 5) **Sustainable Operations-** The ACSRC strives to have internally sustainable operations through stable funding sources. To support the ACSRC please contact the Office of Advancement at the University of Alberta.

Challenges

The ACSRC has four challenges:

- 1) to provide research leadership, profile and coordination to the University's commitment to rural engagement;
- 2) to foster research of relevance to rural communities, including interdisciplinary and inter-Faculty collaborative research, that may be regional, national, or international in scope;
- 3) to think respectfully and reciprocally with, not just for, rural communities, and to facilitate knowledge transfer;
- 4) to develop collaborative relationships with other university-based rural centres in Canada and elsewhere in the world.



PROJECTS

New Projects

Pillar 1: Communities Planning and Policy

Regional Business Network Best Practice Study

Funding Source: Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED)

Funding Amount \$20,000

Role of ACSRC: Project Investigator

Project Dates: March 2019 - July 2019

Description: The ACSRC is completing a regional business network analysis and synthesis on behalf of BRAED. This project includes an examination of how regional business networks are formed, their functionality, effects, successes and common challenges. A feasibility assessment and recommendations will be provided in the final document.

Emerging Technologies Economic Impact Assessment

Funding Source: Government of Alberta Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) Grant w/City of Camrose

Funding Amount \$43,500

Project Lead: Malcolm Boyd, City of Camrose

Role of ACSRC: Co-applicant

Project Dates: June 2019 - May 2020

Description: Artificial intelligence, machine learning and other emerging technologies are expected to have a significant effect on the agriculture, health and manufacturing sectors that currently provide the economic base for Camrose. This project will gather data from up to one hundred Camrose businesses to ascertain: (a) the degree to which businesses are anticipating, planning and/or preparing for technology-driven disruptions; (b) new and existing business models that business owners and managers predict will become the basis of the future rural economy; and (c) workforce reskilling needs that should be introduced into the current workforce.

Non-wage household workers on Alberta farms: Risks, attitudes and policy

Funding Source: Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

Funding Amount: \$45,000

Project Lead: Emily Reid-Musson (University of Waterloo, School of Public Health)

Role of ACSRC: Co-investigator

Project Dates: 2018 – 2020

Description: This study employs advanced qualitative health methodologies to analyze farmer attitudes towards OHS regulation and to assess appropriate pathways for the regulation of family and household worker OHS in Alberta.

There are two key components in the study's research design:



1. An international inter-jurisdictional scan to identify and compare multiple approaches from Canadian and international (US, EU) jurisdictions to assess and compare how governments have regulated the health and safety of child and household farm workers.
2. In-depth qualitative interviews with farmers, family members, farm association representatives, labour representatives, policy makers, and lawmakers will be conducted to collect and analyze attitudes towards OHS regulation in Alberta's agriculture sector, with a specific focus on household farm worker OHS vulnerabilities and regulation.

Pillar 2: Communities and Ecosystems

No new projects for this pillar.

Pillar 3: Communities and Society

Building Inclusive Communities for Rural Alberta

Funding Source: Alberta Culture and Tourism

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Project lead: Clark Banack

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: January - December 2019

Description: This project is directed by the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities and implemented by a "Rural Anti-Racism Coordinator" who will oversee the wide dissemination of concrete advice for "best practices" related to countering racism in rural communities drawn from recent academic research; the engagement of rural citizens in "community conversations" about racism in their communities; the facilitation of cross-cultural dialogue in rural communities; and the continuation of an ongoing academic research agenda aimed at better understanding appropriate methods to address racism in rural communities across Alberta. This project will deliver training and education on racism in rural communities, drawn from recent academic research, to rural citizens, municipal workers, teachers and school administrators, religious organizations, and community groups via workshops, community conversations, and the development and dissemination of information resources. This project will increase several rural communities' capacity to address incidents of racism and hate crimes.

Food Security and Rural Seniors Living Independently

Funding Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Research Grant

Funding Amount: \$134,000

Project lead: Al Lauzon

Role of ACSRC: Co-applicant Organization

Project Dates: June 2018-2021

Description: This research project examines the issue of food security/insecurity for rural seniors living independently, a population and context that has largely been ignored. It will take place in Grey, Bruce,



Perth and Huron Counties in Ontario. This study is exploratory and will look to engage multiple perspectives by engaging primary care providers, public health professionals, home care workers, service providers, municipal planners and seniors through interviews and/or focus groups. Interview and focus group data will be analyzed through a constant comparison methodology and triangulation will be conducted by comparing the emergent themes among the various stakeholders. In addition, the services currently providing support as it relates to food security in the four counties will be identified, mapped and service gaps identified. Once the research is completed webinars will be conducted for each of the audiences identified in the letter of intent in addition to the various stakeholder groups with a focus on the four counties.

Ongoing Projects

Pillar 1: Communities Planning and Policy

Boom/Bust in Canada: Tempering Canadian Experiences of Resource Dependency

Funding Source: Cluster Grant

Project Lead: Leith Deacon

Role of the ACSRC: Co-Applicant

Funding Amount: \$81,322

Project Dates: April 2017 to April 2019

Description: The central research goal is to examine the concept of resiliency within the context of Resource-Based Communities (RBC) to address the problematic relationship(s) between resource reliance, community well-being, and adaptive capacity. This will be addressed by using the Municipality of St. John's, NL, The Municipality of Yellowknife, NT and Yellowknife's Dene First Nation, NT as 'regional hubs' to begin to develop case studies to examine resource dependency in Eastern and Northern Canada. Using a series of qualitative semi-structured interviews, there are three objectives.

1. Theoretical: to investigate how an RBC that has been experiencing rapid growth (or decline) is able to adapt, prepare for, and become resilient to change (e.g. decreasing oil prices).
2. Practical: to work with the communities of St. John's, Yellowknife, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation to identify additional case study communities to conduct qualitative interviews to understand areas of resident concern to inform municipal policy to help ensure long-term resiliency of the community.
3. Empirical: to gain experience and understanding of RBCs in order to develop an 'online toolbox' of advice, experiences, and stories as a resource that is publicly and freely accessible to enable RBCs to improve their own resiliency, and in turn, the overall resiliency of the Canadian economy.



Rural Policy Learning Commons Building Rural Policy through International Comparative Analysis

Funding Source: SSHRC Partnership Grant

Funding Amount: \$2,493,435

Project lead: William Reimer, Brandon University

Role of ACSRC: Co-applicant, Member of the steering committee

Project Dates: 2014-2020

Description: Designing and implementing policy for rural and northern regions has long been a contentious issue, particularly since the challenges are variable and complex. Remote locations, lower populations, and place-based identities that characterize these regions create unique challenges compared with urban centres. The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) is designed to meet these challenges by networking international scholars with policy-makers and citizens -- in a manner that will expand and nurture future generations of policy analysts and practitioners.

The RPLC builds on these activities by adding research, exchanges, institutes, policy form, distance learning activities, and social media such as webinars and blogs to generate new policy insights and strengthen comparative research collaboration among faculty, students, practitioners, and policy-makers. Research and policy activities within the RPLC are guided by critically examining and advancing comparative policy analyses as applied to pressing rural and northern policy challenges and opportunities such as climate change, food security, immigration and labour, natural resource development, and telecommunications.

Intersectoral Collaboration (Jasper Collaborative Team)

Funding Source: Policy Wise Grant

Funding Amount: \$40,000

Project lead: Jill Konkin

Role of ACSRC: Co-Principal Investigator

Project Dates: September 1 2017 – September 1 2019

Description: Inspired by the eight principles of the Canadian population health approach, healthcare and social services professionals in Jasper, AB began a paradigm shift fifteen years ago by setting up an intersectoral collaboration (IC) for community development through the implementation of the Jasper Collaborative Team (JCT). This collaboration now includes 36 partners. Jasper's model is one of the earliest ICs developed in Canada. It is the most comprehensive and enduring IC known worldwide. The focus of the Jasper IC is on wellness in all age groups in the community. To this end, the community delivery model is inclusive of acute and chronic care along with health promotion, maternal and child health, teen and senior health, and care of vulnerable populations.

Other communities have expressed interest in adopting the Jasper model. However, they require evidence from a systematic evaluation of long-term functionality and details of the developmental and implementation processes, and outcomes to take the next step. An earlier grant allowed for Stage 1 of this evaluation process to take place. Stage one (held in 2012 and 2013) helped identify validated instruments to use in stage 2 of the evaluation process. Stage 2 (the subject of this grant proposal) evaluation will



contribute knowledge to the theory and practice of intersectoral collaboration and has the potential to both inspire and inform other community collaborations in rural Alberta, if not across Canada.

Pillar 2: Communities and Ecosystems

The ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory): Strengthening Intersectoral Capacity to Understand and Respond to Health Impacts of Resource Development

Funding Source: CIHR

Funding Amount: \$2,083,753

Project lead: M. Parkes

Role of ACSRC: The ACSRC is the rural and Alberta hub for the ECHO activities (hub in each member province).

Project Dates: 2016-2021

Description: Health is influenced by resource development through interrelated socioeconomic, ecological, cultural, and political pathways, which demand upstream, intersectoral responses. These relationships are especially important in Canada, where the economy remains tightly coupled with the development of natural resources and where the rate and scale of social and environmental change occurring in resource-rich regions is fueling debate regarding health impacts, especially for rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Our project, titled "The ECHO Network (Environment, Community, Health Observatory): Strengthening intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development", aims to:

1. Make evidence-based recommendations on the form and function of a cross-jurisdictional ECHO that will foster understanding of the complex dynamics of resource development and health.
2. Trial and evaluate intersectoral strategies to address the cumulative determinants of health that interact over time and space, targeting actions and responses that cannot be achieved by the health sector alone.

The ECHO Network team has several key features:

1. Our research team is informed by experienced health, environmental and social science researchers.
2. The research program is also anchored in four regional cases (New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Northern BC). In each regional case, knowledge-users have identified decision-support needs or issues that demand a better integration of environment, community and health impacts.

The ECHO will provide a platform of integrative tools and processes that connect people to a network of information, practices and people in order to develop a shared perspective and more effective responses to the cumulative impacts of resource development. The research will involve four components, each linked to specific objectives, mentorship and capacity building processes over five years.



Knowledge Mobilization and Parks

Funding Source: SSHRC Partnership Development Grant

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Additional Partnership Funding: \$232,587

Project lead: Elizabeth Halpenny

Role of ACSRC: Co-applicant

Project Dates: 2018-2020

Description: Parks are considered one of the most effective approaches for protecting key ecological processes and slowing biodiversity loss. However, parks play other essential roles such as provision of fresh water and source material for biomedical innovation; mitigation of the effects of climate change by reducing the impacts of disease migration, droughts and storm events; and delivery of restorative and developmental benefits to humans.

Park-related knowledge mobilization (KM) is needed for effective park management, and human factors should be accounted for, the goal of this project is *to enhance the generation and use of knowledge, especially social science, local and Indigenous knowledge, for parks and protected areas policy, planning, and management*. By extending established park agency-researcher relationships and creating new connections, this project will create a multidisciplinary, inter-institutional, cross-sectoral partnership to elevate park-related KM in Canada and globally.

Pillar 3: Communities and Society

Building Mental Health Resiliency for a Sustainable Campus Community

Funding Source: University of Alberta Sustainability Enhancement Fund

Funding Amount: \$26,963

Project lead: ACSRC

Project Dates: 2017-2019

Description: “Building Mental Health Resiliency for a Sustainable Campus Community” is a pilot project that is the first step to systematically understanding and supporting the mental health and wellness of students attending the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus and in rural communities more broadly at the high school level.. The long-term goal of this project is find innovative ways to decrease the prevalence of stress, anxiety and depression in undergraduate students, including the upstream factors that precede moving into post-secondary education. . As a first step to achieving this long term goal, the project will use an adapted health promotion model PRECEDE/PROCEDE (‘PRECEDE’ Predisposing, Reinforcing, and Enabling Constructs in Educational/Environmental Diagnosis and Evaluation and ‘PROCEED’ Policy, Regulatory, and Organizational Constructs in Educational and Environmental Development) to identify predisposing, enabling and reinforcing factors that may determine and influence mental health resiliency in the student population. Expected outcomes include:



- 1) A systematic methodology for the identification of and increased knowledge of mental health resilience.
- 2) Programming resources for, and evaluation of, proximal and distal drivers of mental health and wellness at the University of Alberta.
- 3) Evaluated resources for strategies to improve mental health and resilience at the undergraduate level that respond and build upon 1 & 2.

The data gathering stage of this project completed in March 2019. As part of this process, ten art therapy sessions were facilitated with the goal of researching resiliency in students. These sessions involved both university and secondary school students. The report writing phase of this project has begun.

Completed Projects

BRAED Internships

Funding Source: Battle River Alliance for Economic Development

Funding Amount: \$7,500

Project Lead: ACSRC

Project Location: Battle River Region

Project Dates: Summer 2018

Description: Four students undertook a discrete applied research and/or knowledge mobilization project between June and September, 2018. Each of these projects supported rural community economic development in Alberta, but with a particular focus upon communities, priorities and challenges within the BRAED catchment. Research areas included:

- a) Rural broadband investment, programming and decision-support portal;
- b) Welcoming and inclusive communities for economic and social diversification
- c) Identifying and assessing the BRAED/Camrose functional economic region
- d) Developing a youth employability framework and implementation plan for rural youth



CENTRE OPERATIONS

Staff

Director: Lars K. Hallström, PhD.

Administrative/ Research staff and seasonal FTE

FTE based on a 40 hour work week	Summer 2018 FTE	# of staff (summer) 2018	Fall 2018 FTE	# of staff (fall) 2018	Winter 2019 FTE	# of staff (winter) 2018/19	Spring 2019 FTE	# of staff (Spring) 2019
Director (0.6FTE)	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	1
Research Assistants	2.2	7	2.2	4	3.2	10	3.5	6
Executive Assistant	.4	1	.4	2	.7	1	.7	1
Research Associate	.3	1	0	0	.6	2	.5	1
Total Complement	3.5	10	3.2	7	5.1	14	5.3	9

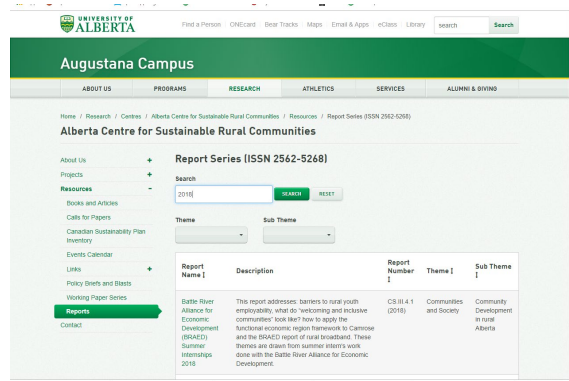
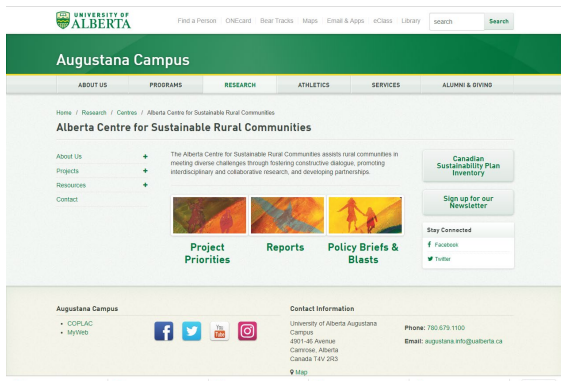
Summer 2018 (May 1 – August 31)	Fall 2018 (Aug 31 – Dec 4)	Winter (Jan 3 – March 2019)	Spring April –May 30 2019)
Research Associate- Clark Banack Research Assistants- April Heinrich Nathanael Skagen Catlen Rae Huseby Emily Merklinger Payton Grant Ethan Knudslie Trish Macklin Executive Assistant- Teresa Calihoo Leslie Lindballe	Research Assistants- April Heinrich Payton Grant Landon Redelbach Madison Pearson Admin Assistant- Krista Larocque Leslie Lindballe	Research Associate- Clark Banack Elizabeth Vergis Research Assistants- April Heinrich Payton Grant Landon Redelbach Madison Pearson Brelan Athies Jessica Dostie Melissa Wilk Grace Humphrey Nathanael Skagen Heather Marshall Executive Assistant Carole Preston	Research Associate- Clark Banack Research Assistants- April Heinrich Payton Grant Landon Redelbach Madison Pearson Nathanael Skagen Heather Marshall Executive Assistant Carole Preston



Communications/Marketing

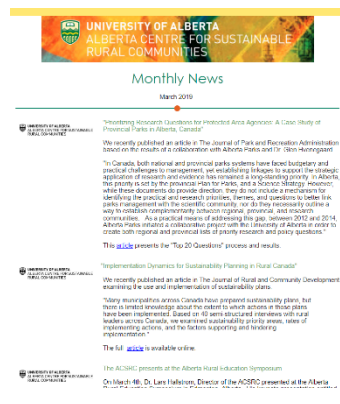
Website

In this past year the website had 2,464 unique visitors to the site, the longest viewed pages in 2018/2019 were “Reports”, “Contact”, and the “Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory”. The ACSRC Report Series now has an ISSN and in early 2019, the report webpage was updated to include a search functionality with currently 90 reports available. In 2020, the University of Alberta will undergo a web platform change, as such acsrc.ca will be updated accordingly.



Newsletter


The monthly e-newsletter currently has 802 subscribers and contains information regarding the ACSRC's most recent publications, projects and successes. Additionally, the newsletter promotes related conferences, webinars, education and training, calls for papers and employment opportunities. The open rate for our newsletter is 35% and the click through rate is 13.97%. Our newsletter is hosted through Constant Contact (CC). CC publishes an Industry Chart that includes statistics for all newsletters distributed through their site. As of March 2019, the average open rate of CC newsletters was 16.74 % and an average click through rate of 7.43%. Our rates open rate is twice the average. Our click through rate is just below twice the average. (https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/articles/KnowledgeBase/5409-average-industry-rates?lang=en_US)

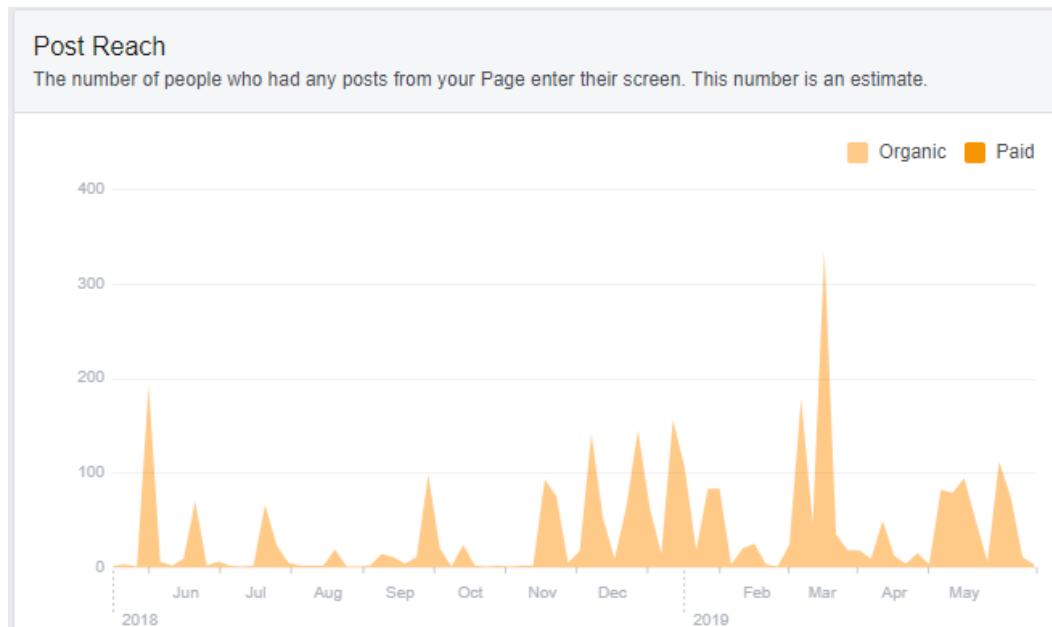




Social Media

The ACSRC maintains a Facebook and Twitter account. Both pages disseminate information related to the work of the ACSRC and rural community development.

 The Facebook handle is @UofA.ACSRC. Currently 907 individuals follow the ACSRC Facebook page. The graph below displays post reach from the past year May 1, 2018 to May 30, 2019. Posts with the best reach included pictures.



The Twitter handle is @ACSRC. Currently 1,142 individuals follow the ACSRC Twitter feed.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Tweets	Following	Followers	Likes	Lists	Moments
2,559	993	1,142	76	2	0

ACSRC
@ACSRC

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. Fills the gap for research and policy in rural areas. Facebook: facebook.com/UofA.ACSRC?ref...

Augustana Campus - U of A
augustana.ualberta.ca/centres/acsrc/
Joined May 2010
152 Photos and videos

Tweets | **Tweets & replies** | **Media**

ACSRC @ACSRC · Jun 4

A Town Hall on Frailty and Resilience in an Aging Alberta: CFN Cross...
On Tuesday, June 11, 2019 together with the University of Calgary's



Sponsorship

The ACSRC supports a select number of events and organizations that have a related mission and vision through monetary and/or in-kind sponsorship for marketing purposes.

This past year, the ACSRC provided support to:



Rose City Roots Music Society, Camrose, Alberta (Value \$500)

Rose City Roots Music Society (RCRMS) is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the arts and culture community in rural Alberta by bringing exciting live-music to downtown Camrose.



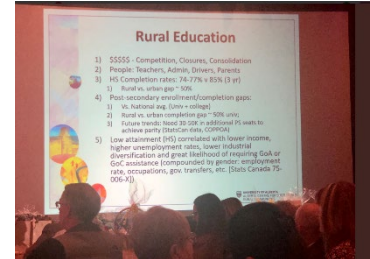
Organic Alberta's Young Agrarians (Value \$250)

Young Agrarians (YA) is a network for new and young ecological and organic farmers. The network is made up of a diverse array of food growers: rural and urban farmers, market gardeners, seed savers, food activists, bee keepers, community gardeners, food/farmer organizations - working to steward land and soil, and grow local food systems. The ACSRC sponsored, in part, the Young Agrarians Central Alberta Winter Mixer. The annual event connects and supports new farmers by creating a community of peers, and providing resources and educational workshops. The event took place in Alix, Alberta from January 12 to 13, 2019.



Presentations

1. Keynote speaker, “Rural Development in Alberta: Policy, Education, Design and Futures Thinking” for the Elk Island School Board Trustees and Leadership Team, Sherwood Park, AB. April 24, 2019 and May 22, 2019.
2. “Innovation and Adaptation: The Failures of Policy Responses to Climate Change in Rural Canada” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. San Diego, CA. April 18 to 21, 2019.
3. Keynote Speaker, “Rural Communities, Demography and Education in Alberta” Rural Education Symposium, Edmonton, AB. March 4, 2019.
4. Invited Presenter, “Rural Economic Development and Tourism” Growing Rural Tourism, Camrose, Alberta, February 11 to 13, 2019.
5. Keynote Speaker, “Rural Communities and Development in Alberta” Federation of Gas Co-operatives Annual Meeting, Edmonton, AB. Nov. 28, 2018.
6. Invited Panelist, “Perspectives from Coal Communities” The Jackson Hole Centre for Global Affairs, “Climate Solutions, Coal Communities and Economic Diversification” Nov 8 and 9, 2018.
7. Guest Speaker, “Land Use and Rural Governance” Rotary Club West, Edmonton AB. Sept 17, 2018.
8. Invited Speaker, Ministry of Transportation “Rural Transit Pilot Program” Augustana Campus, June 28, 2018.
9. Invited Moderator, Conference Board of Canada “Automated Vehicles 2018” Conference. Edmonton, AB, June 6 and 7, 2018.





Events

1. The ACSRC Ten Year External Review

In March of 2019, the ACSRC underwent an external review process. Professor Emeritus Dr. David Douglas of Guelph, Ontario performed the review through a series of workshops and interviews. His review focused on the identification of key strengths and important weaknesses in the ACSRC evident over its first ten years of operation, and the identification of strategic opportunities.

“Congratulations to ACSRC on getting to this point!” - project collaborator

2. Environment, Community, Health Observatory (ECHO) Network Annual Meeting 2018

The ECHO Network Annual Meeting was hosted by the ACSRC at Augustana Campus from July 30 to August 3, 2018. The meeting brought together researchers informed by health, environmental and social science to collaborate on the four regional cases (New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Northern BC) served by the Network. The ECHO Network’s goal is to strengthen intersectoral capacity to understand and respond to health impacts of resource development, and the annual meeting allowed for the specific objectives of mentorship and capacity building to evolve.



3. Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada

On November 1-2, 2018, a group of 14 scholars from across Canada participated in an interdisciplinary workshop entitled “Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada” at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta. Meeting within the context of both a seeming rise in xenophobic and anti-migrant sentiment across the Western world as well as the recognition that much more work must be done to ensure authentic Reconciliation between settlers and the indigenous peoples of Canada is occurring in rural areas, workshop participants discussed a variety of ongoing research projects that touched on the reality of cultural and religious diversity in rural Canada, with a focus on building more inclusive rural communities. Specific topics of discussion included “hate group” activity in rural Canada, the role played by both rural schools and rural religious organizations with respect to acknowledging and accepting diversity in rural communities, ongoing work to ensure positive integration for refugees in rural locations, settler – indigenous relations in rural Canada, and the importance of “rural identity” as a factor in both understanding citizen attitudes and addressing issues of racism or intolerance. The workshop concluded with a commitment by participants to continue working collaboratively on these projects in directions both academic and practical. Future plans involve a co-authored working paper, an edited volume





based on our academic work, and a more thorough plan to bring aspects of this work into rural communities across the country.

4. Augustana Extended Education: Rural Outreach Courses

Augustana Extended Education (AEE) is the professional development provider of the U of A - Augustana Campus. Since its launch just four years ago, AEE has provided advanced education and training to over 300 elected officials, municipal administrators, NGO staff, economic development officers, rural planners, and community leaders from 63 rural Alberta communities. In addition, it has generated \$148,400 in revenue for the university.

As part of these outreach courses three Grant Writing workshops were facilitated in between May 1 2018 to May 31, 2019:

- a. Augustana Campus, May 15, 2019
- b. Augustana Campus, November 15, 2018
- c. Innisfail, AB. July 12, 2018
- d. Lakeland College, May 12, 2018
- e. Augustana Campus, May 16, 2018

Publications

1. "Citizen Engagement in Sustainability Planning: Patterns and Barriers from Hinton and Wood Buffalo, Alberta, Canada" w/N. Dipa and G. Hvenegaard in the Journal of Rural and Community Development (Spring 2019).
2. "Implementation Dynamics for Sustainability Planning in Rural Canada" in the Journal of Rural and Community Development w/G. Hvenegaard et al. (Spring 2019).
3. "Addressing the Environmental, Community and Health Impacts of Resource Development: Challenges across Scales, Sectors, and Sites" w/M. Parkes et al. in Challenges (March 20, 2019).
4. "Rural Governmentality in Alberta: A Case Study of Neoliberalism in Rural Canada in Revue Governance (March 18, 2019).
5. "Prioritizing Research Questions for Protected Area Agencies: A Case Study of Provincial Parks in Alberta, Canada" w/J. Gould et al. in the Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration (Winter 2018).
6. "Opportunities for better use of collective action theory in research and governance for invasive species management" w/S. Graham et al. in Conservation Biology (December 11, 2018).
7. "Continuing Care in Northern Alberta: Capacity and Collaboration" w/ E. Dymchuk and S. Woodhead-Lyonsin in Journal of Rural and Community Development (Fall 2018).
8. "Continuing Care in Rural Alberta: A Scoping Review" with J. Brassolotto, C-A Haney and D. Scott in The Canadian Geographer (Fall 2018).
9. "Collective action for invasive species management: Opportunities for scaling up, down and out" w/ S. Graham et al. in Conservation Biology (Summer 2018).



Service

Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station Advisory Committee (2015 – present)

The Director sits on this committee.

Augustana Extended Education Committee (2014 – present)

The Director sits on this committee.

Rural Policy Learning Commons Evaluation Committee (April 2014-present)

The Director sits on this committee.

Community-wide response to sexual assault (April 2017 – present)

This project is partnered with the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus and the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services.



University of Alberta Partnerships

Augustana Faculty

Clark Banack, Lecturer, Social Sciences

Glen Hvenegaard, Professor, Environmental Science and Geography

Karsten Mündel, Director, Learning and Beyond & Professor, Global and Development Studies

Jane Yardley, Assistant Professor, Physical Education

Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, Associate Professor, Psychology

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

John Parkins, Professor, Dept. of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology (REES)

Debra Davidson, Professor, Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology

Brent Swallow, Professor, Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology

Extension

Mary Beckie, Associate Professor, Government Studies

Kevin Jones, Research Director City-Region Studies Centre

Kristof Van Assche, Professor, Planning, Governance and Development

Monica Gruezmacher, Adjunct Professor, Natural Resources and Development

Rob McMahon, Assistant Professor, Community Engagement

Nursing

Wendy Duggleby, Professor, Endowed Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life

Physical Education and Recreation

Elizabeth Halpenny, Associate Professor, Physical Education and Recreation



Howie Harshaw, Professor, Physical Education and Recreation

Science

Robert Summers, Assistant Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER)

Sandra Woodhead Lyons, Executive Director

Law

Cameron Jefferies, Assistant Professor, Law Faculty

School of Public Health

Nick Ashbolt, Professor, School of Public Health

Medicine and Dentistry

Jill Konkin, Associate Dean, Family Medicine

Non-University of Alberta Partnerships

Battle River Alliance for Economic Development

Battle River Watershed Alliance

Canadian Rural Research Network

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

City of Camrose

Environment and Parks, Government of Alberta

Rural Development Institute

Rural Development Institute (RDI) Selkirk

Rural Policy Learning Commons

Individual Partners (Provincial/National)

Emily Reid-Musson, University of Waterloo, School of Public Health

Margot Parkes, University of Northern British Columbia

Al Lauzon, University of Guelph

Leith Deacon, University of Guelph



Projects in Trust

The Director of the ACSRC is the Principal Investigator on numerous research projects. The budgets for these projects are administered by the ACSRC.

Open Projects	Project Dates	Total Award	2018-19 Revenue	2018-19 Expenditure	Year End
RAIL Commons Sponsorship	2017-2019	\$45,500.00	\$3,078.30	\$204.25	\$2874.05
RAIL Commons Registrations	2017-2019	\$27,843.09	\$25,631.83	\$40.56	\$25,591.27
Environment, Community, Health, Observatory Network	2016-2021	\$277,591.00	\$180,495.60	\$69,847.54	\$110,648.06
Sustainability Enhancement Fund	3028-2019	\$26,963.00	\$17,191.82	\$7,075.80	\$10,116.02
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development	2019	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Governance and Equality (Banack)	2017-2022	\$11,200.00	\$5,384.67	\$1,643.12	\$3,741.55
Building Inclusive Communities (Banack)	2019	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Closed Projects					
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development Internships	2018	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Total Project Funding			\$284,282.22	\$86,311.27	\$197,970.95



Affiliated Projects

The Director of the ACSRC is a co-applicant, and/or co-principal investigator on research projects across the country. The budgets for these projects are administered by other institutions.

Projects	Project Dates	Total Award	2018-19 Revenue
PolicyWise Jasper Grant	2018-2020	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
Environment, Community, Health, Observatory Network	2016-2021	\$2,083,753.00	\$416,750.60
Rural Policy Learning Commons	2015-2022	\$2,493,435.00	\$415,572.50
Knowledge Mobilization and Alberta Parks	2018-2021	\$200,000.00	\$66,666.67
Food Security and Rural Seniors Living Independently	2018-2021	\$134,000.00	\$44,666.67
Occupational Health and Safety Futures Grant	2018-2020	\$45,000.00	\$22,500.00
Boom and Bust Cluster Grant	2017-2019	\$81,332.00	\$40,661.00
Total Affiliated Project Funding		\$5,077,510.00	\$1,026,817.43

Projects under Review

Projects	Project Dates	Total Award	2018-19 Revenue	2018-19 Expenditure	Year End
Emerging Technologies Economic Impact Assessment	June 2019-May 2020	\$21,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,250.00



Operating Budget and Expenditures

The operations budget of the ACSRC is funded through a partnership between the Augustana Faculty and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Alberta.

		Augustana	ALES	External Revenue	Total
Annual Operating Budget		\$45,990.00	\$17,397.00	\$12,354.75	\$75,741.75
Expenditures	Human Resources and Benefits	\$51,274.44	\$12,397.00	-	\$63,671.44
	Operations	\$6,998.88	\$5,000.00	-	\$11,998.88
	Total Expenditures	\$58,273.32	\$17,397.00	-	
Expenditures/Revenue					+\$71.43