



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL COMMUNITIES



ACHIEVEMENT RECORD
2009 - 2013

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Fostering resilient sustainable rural communities via research and collaboration.



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The design of this document is based on the Joohnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Achievement Record, found at http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/_documents/_other/2013.03.07_Achievement%20Record_FINAL_WEB.pdf

1. MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As is often the case, I write this while occasionally looking out my window at the now every-second-day downpour that has come to characterize summer 2013 in Camrose. This rain, and the flooding it has sparked to the south and east of us, is a reminder of how vulnerable we, our possessions, and even our lives can be. The City of Calgary is just beginning to recover from the tragic flooding there, and communities like High River, Black Diamond, Canmore and Okotoks will take years to fully return to normal. Indeed, for some who have lost homes, family members (thankfully a VERY small number) and property, there will never be a return to normal.

In light of this tragedy, the work of a research centre at a university seems insignificant. However, as I think about the challenges this flooding has raised, and the significance they will have for the smaller communities affected, it does strike me that the work of the ACSRC has some relevance. In addition to identifying water as a critical issue for rural communities (although the original impetus for such a priority was drought, not flooding), a second theme through-out the work of the last 4 years has been sustainability planning, and the opportunities that it may present for rural communities to move beyond just thinking about sustainable infrastructure, and the importance of social, cultural and governance structures for community sustainability and resilience.

For many communities, whether here in Alberta or elsewhere, the question they will face when the floodwaters recede will be one of resilience - should they try to return to normal, and rebuild? Or, is this an opportunity to rethink and reconsider how they are structured and function? Both are valid options, and both should be informed by public engagement, deliberation, evidence-informed decision-making and collaboration. These are all values, and activities, that the ACSRC has supported since becoming operational in July 2009.

I returned to Alberta that summer after almost 15 years away from the province. Since then, I have been proud to develop the relationships and projects that have formed the core work of the Centre. We have worked with dozens of faculty members (at multiple institutions here and in other provinces), dozens of rural communities and community organizations, and have contributed to local, provincial and national projects, events and activities in support of rural policy and development.

Despite the budgetary challenges of recent years (and most notably Budget 2013), the Centre continues to garner funding and support from multiple sources, and to develop projects and outputs that we hope have some meaning for rural communities.

Among the many successes of the past 4 years, I am particularly proud of the 2010 "Taking the Next Steps" conference held in Camrose. In addition to producing a book (which will be published by the University of Alberta Press), this project has produced multiple legacy projects, including the Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (the largest and most comprehensive, and only fully-searchable inventory of plans in Canada), the analysis of the plans and their related community data, and most recently the award of a Killam Cornerstone grant to Dr. Glen Hvenegaard to continue this work. I am also extremely pleased to have been able to support the Alberta Rural Development Network over the past 4 years, and to contribute to the funding and implementation of the Rural Research Workshop - a national event that is a collaborative undertaking by different rural centres and institutes across the country.

Looking to the future, I hope to see the ACSRC consolidate its position as a leading research and knowledge exchange centre in Canada. We have started to engage with international partners on issues of aging and workforce planning, as well as national initiatives targeting the implementation of rural sustainability plans, the determinants of community capacity, and the importance of comparative policy work for rural communities. We continue to find ways to connect with rural communities and organizations, and to link the students, research and knowledge resources of the University of Alberta with rural communities in meaningful ways, and to support the social, environmental, cultural, institutional and economic sustainability of rural Canada.



Lars K. Hallström, PhD.
Director, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

2. CENTRE OVERVIEW

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) has a core operating budget and staff supported by two faculties of the University of Alberta, Augustana and Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES). Project funds are derived from research and other grants, contribution agreements and contracts with agencies such as the Tri-Council, provincial government and similar bodies.

2.1 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.

2.2 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.



2.3 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

Stimulate, support and conduct research on the multiple elements of rural community sustainability.

Evidence-informed decision-making

Stimulate and support innovative education in rural community development, sustainability and policy.

2.4 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:

Research

Stimulate, support and conduct research on the multiple elements of rural community sustainability.

Education

Stimulate and support innovative education in rural community development, sustainability and policy.

Outreach

Generate greater interaction and collaboration with rural community stakeholders.

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.

Sustainable Operations

2.5 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.

2.6 PRIORITY AREAS

The ACSRC work is evenly focussed by three priority areas:

Communities and Ecosystems – Current Focus on Water

Alberta's water challenges are global water challenges. Alberta is a microcosm of the planet's water challenges. Quality, supply, access and use are all issues. As a result, the University of Alberta and the ACSRC strive to address these challenges. Effective and sustainable solutions to water challenges require integrated scientific, technological and socio-economic discovery, insight and innovation.



Communities and Society – Current Focus on Aging & Youth

Rural communities in Alberta and beyond continue to experience considerable challenges in the areas of aging and youth. The ACSRC strives to address these challenges. Effective and sustainable solutions to aging and youth challenges require deliberate engagement, innovation, and integrated evidence based approaches.

Communities, Planning and Policy – Current Focus on Integrated Community Sustainability Planning, Policy and Sustainable Development

Sustainability in rural communities of Canada has received increased attention at the local and national scales. The ACSRC strives to foster collaboration and information exchange among the many and diverse rural communities in Canada, so that they may learn from and support each other in their quest for sustainability.



2.7 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council provides on-going research, education, and policy direction to the Director and the Deans. The Director is accountable to the Deans; and both the Director and Deans shall receive direction and advice regarding the operations of the Centre from this Council.



Dr. John Kennelly

Dean
Faculty of Agricultural, Life &
Environmental Sciences



Dr. Allen Berger

Dean
Augustana Faculty



Dr. Karsten Mündel

Director, Learning and Beyond
Assistant Professor, Global &
Development Studies
Augustana Campus



Dr. John Parkins

Associate Professor, Resource
Economics and Environmental
Sociology, Faculty of Agricultural, Life
& Environmental Sciences



Dr. Jeremy Mouat

Chair, Department of Social
Sciences
Professor, History
Augustana Campus



Dr. Lars K. Hallstrom (ex officio)

Director, Alberta Centre for
Sustainable Rural Communities
Associate Professor, Political Studies
(Augustana) and
Resource Economics and
Environmental Sociology (ALES)

2.8 MILESTONES & HIGHLIGHTS

MILESTONES

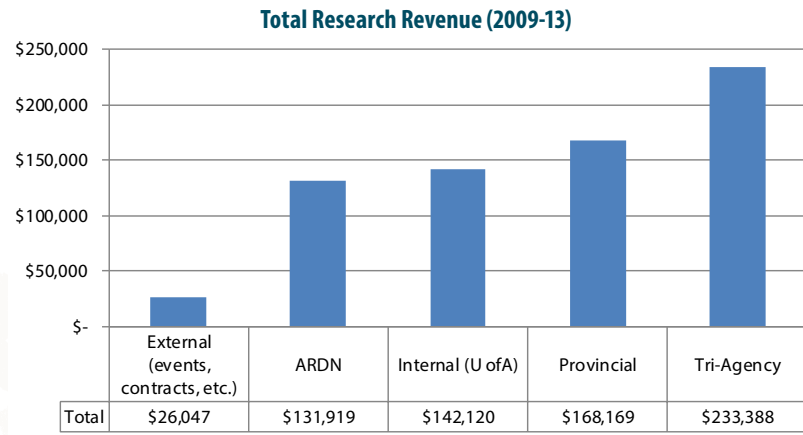
- 2008** | February - Centre Established
- 2008** | October – Host First Guest Lectures with Darin Barney, Canada Research Chair in Tech & Communication, McGill University on Augustana & North Campuses
- 2009** | July - Inaugural Director Appointed
- 2010** | April – 1st Successful Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Grant, “Taking the Next Steps”
- 2010** | May - Launch of Rural Capacity Intern Pilot Program (3 Interns)
- 2010** | May - First Continuing Support Staff Hired
- 2010** | October – Host National Rural Sustainability Conference in Camrose, AB, “Taking the Next Steps”
- 2011** | April - Sustainability Plan Collection begins
- 2012** | August – Hosts National Water Event in Camrose, AB, “Integrating Water Innovation Forum”
- 2012** | December – Special Edition Publication of Journal of Rural and Community Development, “From Rural Research to Policy and Back Again” – Director served as guest Editor
- 2013** | January – Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory Goes Live

HIGHLIGHTS

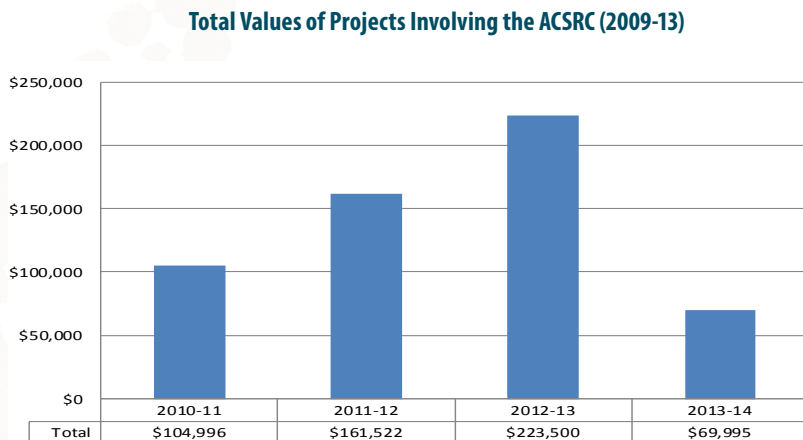
- 2010** | September - Host First Community Service-Learning Placements (8 undergraduate students)
- 2011** | May – Host 1st Continuing Care Networking Event is held in Fort McMurray, AB
- 2011** | May – Year 2 of Rural Capacity Intern Pilot Program (11 Interns)
- 2011** | May - 1st Annual Rural Research Workshop – Director served on Steering Committee and provided financial support via a SSHRC grant
- 2011** | May – Host Research Priorities for Alberta Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) Workshop in Red Deer, AB
- 2011** | June – Host Rural Aging Workshop in Camrose, AB
- 2012** | February – Host Alberta Priority Rural Policy Research Questions Workshop
- 2012** | February – Complete Final Rural Capacity Intern Pilot Program Reports, Guidebook & Outcomes Report
- 2012** | October – Complete Water Scoping Review
- 2012** | November – Host 1st Alberta Parks Top 20 Research Questions Workshop
- 2013** | April - Open Door Needs Assessment begins

3. THE WORK OF THE CENTRE

3.1 A RESEARCH CENTRE



Total Combined research revenue broken down by funding streams (includes PI research revenue and revenue to which the Centre's Director have claim by virtue of being either a co-applicant or collaborator on a grant) administered through the University of Alberta.



Total project value of new research that the ACSRC belongs to (as a co-applicant or collaborator) but that doesn't necessarily flow through the University of Alberta.

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUT EXAMPLES

<i>Output Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Journal Articles	5
Book Chapters	1
Reports	24
Lectures	13
Guest Editorships	1
Conference & Seminar Participation	31

INVITED LECTURES

“Emerging Scarcity in a Land of Plenty: Water and Water Policy in Canada” Lecture presented to the Woodrow Wilson Centre, Washington, DC. April 17, 2012

“Partnerships and the Fourth Way: Integration, Collaboration and Capacity in Rural Canada” (Keynote Lecture) Rural Linkages: Inter-collaborative Practice for Safe and Healthy Communities. Edmonton, AB. Sept. 28, 2012.

“Rural Communities in Alberta and Canada: Planning, Participating and making Public Policy for Sustainability” presented at the Calgary Centre, University of Alberta. Calgary, AB. March 21, 2012

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PARTICIPATION

“Assessing Rural Capacity in Alberta: Indices and Clusters” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. Portland, ORE. March 22-24, 2012

“Modeling Capacity in Rural Alberta: Results from the 1st Provincial Community Capacity Survey” paper presented at the 2nd Annual Rural Research Workshop. Ottawa. May 2012.

EDITORSHIPS

Guest Editorial (with B. White and H. Dolan) “From Research to Policy and Back Again” in the Journal of Rural and Community Development 2012. Vol. 7, Issue 3, 238 pgs.

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUT EXAMPLES CONTINUED

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS: PLANNING, PARTICIPATION AND POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL CANADIAN COMMUNITIES EDITED VOLUME

In light of the challenges facing rural communities in Canada, in 2010 the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities at the University of Alberta hosted a national conference focused on sustainability planning, policy and participation in rural communities. Created with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Environmental Outreach Program, the “Taking the Next Steps” conference was different from most rural research conferences in a number of ways. In addition to being held in Camrose, a rural city (population: 17,000) approximately 100 kilometers from Edmonton, AB, a key requirement for attending and presenting at this conference was that participants include the formal research community, as well as rural communities themselves (broadly defined to include NGOs, community groups as well as municipalities, etc.). More specifically, when the call for submissions was issued, a condition of acceptance was that presentations come from dyads of researchers and communities.

Held in October of 2010, and with a follow-up event in January 2012, over 100 delegates from across the country shared their data and findings, but also shared their experiences, perspectives, challenges and success stories. While oriented broadly toward the theme of sustainability and sustainability planning, what emerged was consistent with rural Canada more generally – a heterogeneous collection of collaboration, research projects and interventions that covered the gamut of sustainable communities questions, and extended across the pillars of sustainable development. These presentations form the content of this volume.



“FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY AND BACK AGAIN” IN THE JOURNAL OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Targeted research can have both instrumental (i.e., direct) impacts on policy or practice, and conceptual (i.e., indirect) impacts on the knowledge, understanding, and attitudes of decision-makers (Nutley, Walter, & Davies, 2007; Rigby, 2005; Rudd et al., 2010). It can contribute to policy formulation, when research on problem definition, causality and alternative solutions can make problems both identifiable and more manageable, as well as during decision-making itself, when both analyses and policy design can help minimize risk and manage political values by hedging against adverse future economic, social, and political consequences (Bobrow & Dryzek 1987; Dobell, 2002; Howlett & Ramesh, 2003). As in fields such as health and medicine (Howlett et al., 2003; Nutley et al., 2007), evidence-based or informed policy-making is increasingly being advocated for in terms of rural development and sustainability, yet there are limited mechanisms for making knowledge transfer and fostering the presence of research in rural policymaking.

This special edition, therefore, offers a timely and important opportunity to connect researchers from across the country working in the complex domain of “rural Canada.” In addition to presenting individual research, it will hopefully provide an opportunity for building connections and common understanding about the research needs, strengths and opportunities in rural Canada across multiple policy domains.

This issue is particularly timely given the growing recognition and awareness of the importance of rural Canada. While there are certainly new and historical pressures upon rural landscapes and populations, there are also new initiatives, events and opportunities that speak to both the forces of change and the ways in which policy and populations can respond. Events and initiatives such as the SSHRC-funded “Taking the Next Steps” conference and the RDI conference in October 2010, the activities of the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat and funds such as the Rural Alberta Development Fund speak to the growing attention that rural issues garner from both research and policy circles, and this is further reflected federally. The Rural Development Network has evolved to consist of over 200 federal civil servants with an interest or engagement with rural public policy across many ministries, and served as a foundational audience for the conference from which these articles are drawn.

ALBERTA’S PRIORITY RURAL POLICY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In 2012, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities adapted the approach taken by Sutherland, Fleishman, Mascia, Pretty and Rudd to create a list of Alberta’s Priority Rural Policy Research Questions. This method has primarily been used in the field of environmental conservation, however it was noted that it could be “transferable to a wide range of policy or research areas” (Sutherland et al., 2011, pp. 238). Here, it was adapted to identify what research questions, if answered, would substantially advance the policies and management strategies for the sustainability and development of rural Albertan communities. This project and process were designed to aid rural communities in identifying their needs and priorities, while creating a list of policy research questions that could be taken on by researchers. These questions were then broken into themes based on the five dimensions of sustainability, including the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental), governance and culture.

3.2 AN EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

RURAL CAPACITY INTERN PROGRAM

Rural and agricultural-based communities play important economic and social roles in Canadian society. These roles are often undermined as communities grapple with limited capacity to research, engage citizens, and make decisions relating to the sustainability challenges they face.

In an effort to assist communities in addressing these issues and to create meaningful rural-based undergraduate student experiences, the ACSRC and the Augustana Campus' Experiential Learning office, Learning and Beyond (LaB), partnered to create and administer the Rural Capacity Intern Program. Spanning three summers (2010-12), this pilot program provided 15 interns with comprehensive rural experiences where they were exposed to multiple aspects of rural municipal planning, administration, and program development. In addition to working with their host municipality or community-based organization, interns also worked under the guidance of Augustana faculty members in developing and researching community-based projects that support rural capacity and sustainability issues.

COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL HOSTS (2010-12)

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association	Return to Rural (Special Areas No. 2)	Greenwood Neighbourhood Place (Sundre)	U of A Augustana Campus Learning & Beyond Office
Village of Hay Lakes	Town of Heisler	City of Camrose	Village of Hardisty
Village of Forestburg	Sturgeon County	Village of Edgerton	Smoky Lake County
Community Futures/ Boomtown Trail (Mirror)	Wainwright & District Family and Community Services	Maskwacis Justice Society (Hobbema)	Wetaskiwin Parent Link Centre

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

<i>Intern Name</i>	<i>Placement/Year</i>	<i>Current Position</i>
Jeremy Smith	Smoky Lake County/2011	Planning & Development Assistant, Smoky Lake County
Paul Gauthier	Town of Heisler/2010	Senior Program Analyst, Government of Saskatchewan
Shay Barker	Wainwright & District FCS/2010	Executive Director, Battle River Alliance for Economic Development
Healthier Holte	Village of Hardisty/2010	Speech-Language Pathologist, Vegreville, AB
Naomi Finseth	Village of Edgerton	Graduate Candidate, Briercrest College & Seminary
Larae Pierson	Return to Rural/2011	Small Business Advisor, Rural Alberta Business Centre, Hanna

INTERN REFLECTIONS

My summer working as a Rural Capacity Intern with the Maskwacis Justice Society in Hobbema has been an amazing experience. My highlights include being able to work in an aboriginal community where I witnessed first hand the culture and issues facing the community. The majority of my summer was spent working with preventative programming for youth, this includes Girl Guides, Girl Power, Boys Circle, and the Traditional Cultural Camp. Being involved in these programs was great, I could see the results and the effects that these programs had on individual youth's lives.

- Alison Bortolon, Maskwacis Justice Society, Hobbema, AB



Having spent some of my childhood in the village of Hay Lakes and having strong family ties to the village I was excited to be placed in this rural community. One of the highlights of this summer has been getting back to my roots and having the ability to contribute to the village in my own way. As a Rural Capacity Intern I have discovered more about the unique opportunities that exist in our rural communities and have broadened my understanding of rural sustainability.

- Shara Harke, Village of Hay Lakes, AB

EVALUATION

In addition to the internships, this program also embarked on a two prong evaluation process.

1. Capacity Surveys: The ACSRC conducted a study to assess how communities in Alberta are able to self-motivate and create capacity to implement change to meet their goals. 150 communities across the province participated in this study via a web-based and paper survey.
2. Program Evaluation: For the duration of the Fall 2011 academic term, two ACSRC/LaB staff members conducted an intern program evaluation. This review produced a community university collaborative capacity building handbook and evaluative outcomes report.

This project received support from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and the Augustana Faculty.

CONTINUING CARE NETWORKING EVENTS

The ACSRC and the Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (IC CER) partnered to present networking events in multiple locations across Northern Alberta (Fort McMurray – May 10 & 11, 2011, Grande Prairie – May 17, 2011, and Slave Lake – April 3, 2012). These events brought together local post-secondary institutions (Keyano College, Northern Lakes College, and Grande Prairie Regional College), IC CER and its affiliated organizations (including the University of Alberta and NorQuest College), and the ACSRC together to discuss issues related to continuing care with local community groups. These events assisted the ACSRC and IC CER in reaching out to the larger community and helped to identify gaps in the rural regions and to link the rural communities and post-secondary institutions with researchers and



educators from elsewhere. The networking also gave the ACSRC the opportunity to extend its mandate, which includes research, education, knowledge transfer and collaboration with rural communities, on the ground in northern Alberta, and to foster collaboration of faculty from both the University of Alberta and NorQuest College within the broader principals and contexts of social justice, community engagement, deliberative and evidence-based decision-making and practice, the social determinants of health and integrated public policy and programming that contributes to the sustainability, resilience and quality of life in rural Albertan communities.

Event summary reports can be found at <http://www.iccer.ca/>

3.3. AN ENGAGED CENTRE

A COMING TOGETHER OF TWO FACULTIES

The Centre's Director holds a joint appointment within two University of Alberta Faculties —one in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology (REES) within the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) and the other in the Department of Social Sciences (Political Studies) within the Augustana Faculty.

The Centre receives cash and in-kind support from both host faculties. While the Centre's day to day operation are located at the Augustana Campus in Camrose, the Director has an office in Edmonton within REES and travels to Edmonton on a weekly basis to support outreach efforts amongst Edmonton based faculty and staff.

Collaboration with other University of Alberta units

The Centre partners with other units on both campuses through a number of ways:

- grant applications
- research projects
- guest lectures
- joint representation on the Centre's Executive Council

University of Alberta Faculty members who have collaborated with the Centre:

Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

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

Dr. Brenda Parlee, Assistant Professor, REES & Assistant & Assistant Professor, Native Studies Faculty

Dr. Norah Keating, Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Dr. Debra Davidson, Associate Professor, REES & Dept. of Renewable Resources

Dr. Naomi Krogman, Associate Professor, REES & Academic Director, Office of Sustainability

Dr. Lee Foote, Professor, Dept. of Renewable Resources & Director, Devonian Botanic Garden

Dr. Janet Fast, Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Dr. William Shotyky, Professor & Bocock Chair, Dept. of Renewable Resources

Dr. Pushpanjali Dashora, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Dr. Janet Fast, Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Augustana Faculty

Dr. Glen Hvenegaard, Professor, Environmental Science and Geography

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

Dr. Glynnis Hood, Associate Professor, Environmental Science

Dr. Jeremy Mouat, Chair, Social Sciences & Professor, History

Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, Assistant Professor, Psychology

Rev. Dr. Dittmar Mündel, Professor, Religion & Global and Development Studies

Dr. Tim Parker, Professor, Psychology

Faculty of Extension

Dr. Mary Beckie, Assistant Professor, Government Studies

Dr. Kevin Jones, Research Associate (holds cross appointment with REES)

Dr. Kyle Whitfield, Assistant Professor (holds cross appointment with
School of Public Health: Centre for Health Promotion Studies)

Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Dr. Jill Konkin, Associate Professor, Family Medicine & Associate Dean, Community Engagement

Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr. Albert Cook, Professor, Speech Pathology & Audiology & Special Advisor to the Provost

Faculty of Nursing

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

Dr. Solina Richter, Associate Professor

Faculty of Arts

Dr. David Kahane, Professor, Political Science

Faculty of Science

Dr. Robert Summers, Assistant Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
& Acting Director, Planning Program

Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER)

Sandra Woodhead Lyons, Executive Director

GUEST LECTURES

Since 2008, the ACSRC's Speaker Series has hosted a number of free public lectures in Camrose and Edmonton on a variety of topics.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:



CED Tools: A Prototype as Applied Research
Dr. Bill Ashton
Rural Development Institute - Brandon University
March 7, 2013 | University of Alberta North Campus



Community Resilience in a Turbulent World: Pathways to Innovation
Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon
University of Waterloo
November 28, 2012 | University of Alberta - Augustana Campus



A Sociological Analyses of the AB Oil Sands
Dr. Debra Davidson
University of Alberta
April 13, 2012 | University of Alberta - Augustana Campus



Exploring City-Regions as Innovative Spaces Between the Local and the Global
Drs. Rob Shields & Kevin Jones
University of Alberta City-Region Studies Centre
January 27, 2012 | University of Alberta - Augustana Campus



Why are Alberta's Wetlands Disappearing?
Dr. Lee Foote
University of Alberta - Devonian Botanic Garden
November 28, 2011 | University of Alberta - Augustana Campus

ENGAGEMENT WITH EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Centre is highly engaged with a wide array of governmental agencies, non-profits, municipalities, post-secondary institutes. A listing of examples can be found at the end of this document in Appendix A.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES

OPEN DOOR (CAMROSE) YOUTH HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING ASSESSMENT

The ACSRC, in collaboration with the Camrose Open Door and researchers at the University of Alberta, conducted a youth homelessness and housing needs assessment in the Spring/Summer of 2013. The purpose of this assessment was to establish the nature, scope and potential opportunities and challenges facing rural youth homeless in the Camrose region.

The research team found that youths aged 16 to 24 who are unable to live with their parents/guardians are increasingly vulnerable to becoming homeless due to an insufficient supply of affordable rental housing in Camrose and surrounding areas. Furthermore, this youth population faces a number of additional challenges and service requirements due to mental health and addiction problems, exposure to abuse and family violence, lack of educational and employment opportunities and/or having been in conflict with the law.



Photo Courtesy of Pictou County Roots for Youth Society

This project is a first step toward a thorough analysis of the needs of homeless and at-risk youth in order to identify gaps in service and to develop a strategic action plan for the Open Door to create transitional housing and support services for this target population.



ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

In the Fall of 2012, the ACSRC partnered with the Rural Outreach and Agricultural Renaissance Society (ROARS) to host a day-long event at the Augustana Campus. Shaping Alberta's Landscape: Ecological Agriculture Summit explored ideas and built connections in an effort to deepen our understanding of the opportunities presented to rural Alberta by ecological agriculture and see how we are, together, shaping Alberta's landscape. The event was attended by over 50 Albertans and included keynotes exploring land use in Alberta from Brad Stelfox on Alberta's historical use of land and Eriel Deranger providing a First Nation's Perspective. ROARS and the ACSRC will be hosting a follow-up event during the Fall of 2013.

3.4. A KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER CENTRE

INTEGRATING WATER INNOVATION FORUM

On August 9-10, 2012, the ACSRC hosted the “Integrating Water Innovation Forum” at the Norsemen Inn, in Camrose, Alberta. This two day event brought together researchers, policy actors and representatives from watersheds across Canada to help bring greater clarity and collaborative capacity to those engaged in watershed management and policy in light of the ever increasingly challenges and complexities they face in their work. Over the course of the forum participants discussed multiple themes (integration, policy, scale, resilience, & intersecotral action) of water policy and watershed management.



The forum was structured around a series of consecutive plenary sessions modelled on “dialogue circles.” The purpose of these circles was to foster connectivity, sharing and form inter-personal, inter-organizational, and inter-regional integration itself. Each theme’s discussion began with two to three complementary presentations. The first was from the academic or research community. This was then followed by a presentation(s) from representatives speaking on behalf of a watershed organization. Following these presentations, facilitated dialogue circles encouraged participants to have open and deliberative engagement with the questions, issues and practices raised by the presentations.



This event was both provincial and national in scope as it brought together participants from across the province of Alberta (including representatives from seven of Alberta’s eleven Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils) and from across Canada (including presenters from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia).

The forum was supported by a steering committee of faculty and staff from the Augustana campus of the University of Alberta and the University of Northern British Columbia. Financial support has been provided by a SSHRC grant, as well as from the ACSRC and University of Alberta.

Video of the workshop proceedings and a final report can be accessed online via the ACSRC’s website <http://www.ualberta.augustana.ca/acsrc/>

WATER SCOPING REVIEW

As a result of a combination of climate variability, supply variability, anticipated increases in domestic, agricultural and industrial demand, it is increasingly important and relevant to communities across Canada (but perhaps particularly in Alberta) to increase their knowledge about the effects, costs and scope of different programs, policies, interventions and strategies that have been undertaken to manage water supply and demand.



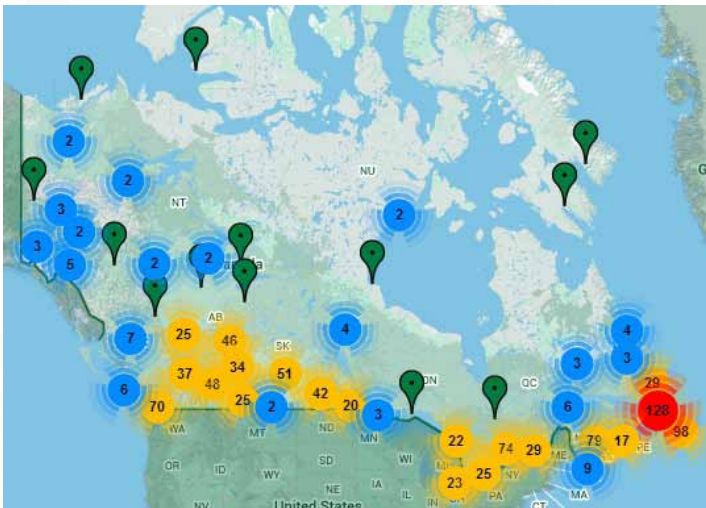
How have rural communities balanced water usage with commercial and population growth? This project identified a listing what water management strategies have or have not worked in the province through a combination of conventional academic methods (scoping review, accessible via the ACSRC website) combined with a more innovative approach to knowledge sharing and problem solving – crowdsourcing. Once complete, this knowledge was shared through a provincial workshop, held in Leduc in Sept. 2012, with approximately 20 stakeholders representing watershed groups, water licensees, researchers and representatives from rural municipalities and counties to assess, validate, edit and contribute to the results of both the crowdsourcing and scoping review phases.

CANADIAN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN INVENTORY

The CSPI is the most comprehensive a searchable online inventory of sustainability plans in Canada. The CSPI can be accessed via <http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/cspi/>

Sustainability in rural communities of Canada has received increased attention at the local and national scales. Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) made sustainability planning a key part of infrastructure and socio-economic development of communities across Canada. Slated to ultimately invest approximately \$13 billion in sustainable municipal infrastructure such as transit, waste management, water and green energy by 2015, the GTF also provided support to municipalities for the development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs).

Many communities have now completed ICSPs or a provincial variant and these represent a wide range of approaches, toolkits, strategies and content within Alberta and from across the country. As such, there is no single solution or model for sustainability planning. Indeed, there is considerable variation in emphases among the targeted dimensions of sustainability and these emphases vary by region and by population size. This inventory provides a means for rural communities, researchers, and development practitioners to access how other communities from across Canada have approached sustainability planning in terms of process, content and areas of concentration.



Above: A geographical representation of all the plans available via the CSPI.

Launched in January 2013, the ACSRC hopes to provide a valuable resource of previous ICSPs to rural communities, an up-to-date source of information and a mechanism that may support rural sustainability as communities shift from plans to implementation. We hope this inventory and sharing of ICSPs will foster collaboration and information exchange among the many and diverse rural communities in Canada, so that they may learn from and support each other in their quest for sustainability.

Moving forward, the ACSRC will continue to add and modify the CSPI to enhance the user experience.



REPORT SERIES

The purpose of the ACSRC “Report Series” and “Working Paper Series” is to provide a forum to accelerate the presentation of issues, concepts, ideas and research results within the academic and professional community. Both series are published without peer review.

ACSRC Reports

- “Open Door Needs Assessment” ACSRC Report Series. No 21 (2013)
- “Alberta Parks Northeast Region Top 20 Research Questions” ACSRC Report Series. No 20 (2013)
- “Alberta Parks Provincial Top 20 Research Questions” ACSRC Report Series. No 19 (2012)
- “Albert Parks East Central Region Top 20 Research Questions” ACSRC Report Series. No 18 (2012)
- “Community-based factors influencing the development and content of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans in rural Alberta and Canada” ACSRC Report Series. No 17 (2012)
- “Watershed Toolkit” ACSRC Report Series. No 16 (2012)
- “Scoping Review of Successful Practices in Water and Watershed Management in Rural Albertan Communities” ACSRC Report Series. No 15 (2012)
- “Water Policy Innovation Forum” ACSRC Report Series. No 14 (2012)
- “Continuing Care Networking Event – Slave Lake” ACSRC Report Series. No 13 (2012)
- “Rural Capacity Internship Evaluative Outcomes Report” ACSRC Report Series. No 12 (2012)
- “Community-University Capacity Building Internship Handbook” ACSRC Report Series. No 11 (2012)
- “Rural Capacity Survey – Data Analysis: Report of Descriptive Variables” No 10 (2012)
- “Alberta’s Priority Rural Policy Research Questions” ACSRC Report Series. No 9 (2012)
- “Rural Aging Workshop” ACSRC Report Series. No. 8 (2011)
- “Rural Alberta Deliberates on Climate Change” ACSRC Report Series. No 7 (2011)
- “Research Priorities for Alberta WPACs” ACSRC Report Series. No 6 (2011)
- “Rural Research Workshop: From Policy to Research and Back Again” ACSRC Report Series No. 5 (2011)
- “Continuing Care Networking Event – Grand Prairie” ACSRC Report Series. No 4 (2011)
- “Continuing Care Networking Event – Fort McMurray” ACSRC Report Series. No 3 (2011)
- “Building Mental Health Crisis Response Capacity in Rural Alberta” ACSRC Report Series. No 2 (2010)
- “Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability Planning, Policy and Participation for Rural Canadian Communities” ACSRC Report Series. No 1 (2010)

APPENDIX A: SELECT ACSRC ORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATORS SINCE 2009

Alberta Acts on Climate Change	Learning and Beyond Office (LaB) (University of Alberta)	Sustainability Resources
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties	Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC)	The Monieson Centre (Queen's School of Business)
Alberta Ecotrust	Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC)	The Pembina Institute
Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)	Municipality of the County of Cumberland	Town of Dalhousie
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)	Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health (NESH)	Town of Hardisty
Athabasca Watershed Council	NorQuest College	Town of Hobbema
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED)	North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)	Town of Nipawin
Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)	Northern Lakes College	Town of Smoky Lake
Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI)	Nova Scotia Agricultural College	Town of Sundre
Beaver River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)	OIKOS Centre for the Environment	Town of Wainwright
Boomtown Trail	Oldman Watershed Council (OWC)	True North Community Cooperative
Bow River Basin Council (BRBC)	Otonabee Region Conservation Authority	Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
Camrose County	Peace River Watershed	University of Alberta
Camrose Open Door Association	Queen's University	University of Alberta Press
Canadian Rural Research Network	Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA)	University of Calgary
Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation	Return to Rural	University of Guelph
City of Camrose	Rural & Coastal Communities Network	University of Lethbridge
Community Futures	Rural & Small Town Programme (Mount Allison University)	University of Northern British Columbia
Environmental Research and Studies Centre (University of Alberta)	Rural Development Institute (Brandon University)	University of Regina
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	Rural Ontario Institute	Village of Edgerton
Fraser Basin Council	Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development	Village of Forestburg
Government of Alberta – Agriculture and Rural Development	School of Energy and the Environment (University of Alberta)	Village of Hay Lakes
Government of Alberta- Tourism, Parks and Recreation	Selkirk College	Village of Heisler
Grand Prairie Regional College	South Central Ontario Region	York University
Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER)	South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA)	
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)	St. Francis Xavier University	
Keyano College	St. Francis Xavier University Centre for Regional Studies (StFX CRS)	
Lakehead University	St. Thomas University	
Land Stewardship Center	Sturgeon County	



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
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