



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24





The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

Augustana is located in (asiniskaw sipisis - Stoney Creek) Treaty 6 territory; a travelling route and home to the Maskwacîs Nêhiyawak, Niitsitapi, Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina Nations, the Métis and other Indigenous peoples. Their spiritual and practical relationships to the land create a rich heritage for our learning and our life as a community.

Contents

Message from the Director	4
About the ACSRC	5
New Projects	6
Ongoing Projects	8
Completed Projects	10
Conference	14
Webinars	15
Rural Pathways Summer Internship Program	16
Student Research Opportunities at the ACSRC	18
Publications, Presentations & Media	19
Financial Summary Year End	21



Message from the Director

Looking back on 2023/24 reporting year, I am grateful for the many excellent rural-focussed projects the ACSRC has been a part of and for the many amazing people I have had the chance to meet and work with. We have continued the important work of supporting rural sustainability across Alberta and beyond through both academic research and community outreach.

Our biggest accomplishment this year was hosting the Reimagining Rural Economic Development conference in October 2023 right here at Augustana. This event represented the culmination of an 18-month project exploring innovative uses of the co-op model for rural development across North America and we were lucky enough to have over 120 community leaders from all corners of rural Alberta be with us to learn from 16 different speakers who traveled to Camrose to share their insights on this important topic. This event was a huge success on so many levels and the positive feedback we received from so many attendees has convinced us to work toward holding more of these events in the near future.

Some exciting new projects that we have embarked on this year include a focus on rural volunteerism, municipal sustainability, and the role of post-secondary institutions in community development approaches in rural communities. In addition, we continue to work on a wide variety of other projects and look forward to sharing the results with you soon!

Community outreach remains a key goal for the ACSRC and we are excited to announce a two-year Public Lecture and Film Screening Series on Food Sustainability that we will be hosting at Augustana beginning in the fall of 2024 thanks to a generous gift from Augustana's Sustainable Food Endowment

I am also happy to report that the ACSRC employed six University of Alberta students as research assistants on various projects over the year and supervised three "Rural Pathways" summer student interns.

I invite you to read, in more detail, about these and other endeavours undertaken by the ACSRC in the pages that follow. I also invite you to our website uab.ca/ACSRC, for even more details! Finally, I would like to personally thank all those who have supported the ACSRC over the past year and encourage those new to our work to consider supporting us going forward. Many of our future plans rely on those who care about rural communities and are willing to financially support our work in these important areas. I wish you all a great year ahead and, as always, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Clark Banack
Director, ACSRC

About the ACSRC

The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) at the University of Alberta has, since its founding in 2009, assisted rural communities in meeting diverse challenges across many areas of public policy through fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships.

The centre's mission 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.

To read more about us and the work we do, please visit uab.ca/ACSRC

ACSRC TEAM

In addition to the many student research assistants, we employed over the year, the ACSRC is pleased to count the following individuals as key participants in our work:

COORDINATOR

Kate McConnell, ACSRC & Special Initiatives Coordinator

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Demetres P. Tryphonopoulos, PhD (Dean & Executive Officer, Augustana Campus)

Stanford Blade, PhD (Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)

Debra Davidson, PhD (Professor, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)

Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD (Professor, Faculty of Psychology, Augustana Campus)

Brent Swallow, PhD (Professor, Faculty of Agriculture Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Alberta)

Joseph Wiebe, PhD (Director of the Chester Ronning Centre, Associate Professor, Fine Arts & Humanities, Augustana Campus)

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gerald Rhodes (Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties)

Cathy Goulet (Northern Alberta Development Council)

Arnold Hansen (Battle River Alliance for Economic Development)

Patricia MacQuarrie (City of Camrose)

New Projects

Declining Volunteerism and its impact on Rural Municipalities

Funding Source: Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD
Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator
Project Dates: September 2023 – August 2024

In conjunction with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), the ACSRC completed a study that explores the state of volunteerism in rural Alberta, with a particular emphasis on the impacts current trends are having on rural municipalities. A [final report](#) was submitted to and published by the RMA.

Clark Banack, PhD, presented the central findings at the RMA's Fall Convention in November 2024 and will prepare an academic article for publication.

Partnerships in Sustainable Communities in Rural Alberta

Funding Source: Mitacs
Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD and Greg King, PhD
Role of ACSRC: Research Partner
Project Dates: May 2024 – December 2025

Research Partners Clark Banack, PhD and Greg King, PhD (Environmental Science, Augustana), are working collaboratively on a project designed to enhance our understanding of how municipal administrations in rural areas engage with concepts related to sustainability in their planning goals, with a particular emphasis on the role played partnerships when seeking to meet these goals. At the heart of this project was the research work of an International student, Edward Buckely, who joined the ACSRC from Britain, on a 3-month placement courtesy of the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship Program. Edward's placement ends in August, 2024, although the project will continue throughout 2024/25.

Building a Community Wealth Plan: A community-based participatory approach to inclusive economic development in a rural resource- dependent community.

Funding Source: SSHRC Partnership Grant (\$194,562)

Project Lead: Maria Mayan, PhD (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Project Dates: April 2024 - May, 2027

The ACSRC is excited to be part of this new research partnership led by Maria Mayan, PhD who is building off of her team's successful work evaluating Drayton Valley, Alberta's zero-fee tuition program, the centrepiece of an innovative approach to rural economic development. This project will utilise a community-based participatory research approach to explore the innovative initiatives that municipalities throughout Alberta are taking to create PSE opportunities for residents as part of their community development strategies.

Understanding Accented Speech in Rural and Urban

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$56,187)

Project Lead: Juhani Jarvikivi, PhD (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Project Dates: May 2024 – June 2026

The ACSRC is happy to bring a "rural" voice to an ongoing multi-disciplinary project led by Juhani Jarvikivi, PhD (Professor, Faculty of Arts - Linguistics Dept) that explores the question: How can better understanding factors driving these attitudes contribute to a fairer society? The aim of this project is to create equitable, real-world informed research into language attitudes in Canada by building a citizen science (CS) network, a network of experts, and a technological infrastructure, the Canadian Map of Language Attitudes and Use, that will support engagement and inclusion of speakers from diverse regions and backgrounds as both research creators and beneficiaries.



Ongoing Projects

Understanding Social and Political Attitudes in Rural Canada via Ethnography

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$74,594)

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD (ACSRC)

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: November 2022 - May 2025

Building on Clark Banack's pilot study completed in rural Alberta (read here), and in partnership with Dionne Pohler, PhD (University of Saskatchewan), and University of Alberta PhD Candidate and ACSRC Researcher Laticia Chapman, this SSHRC-funded project utilizes a political ethnographic method to better understand political opinion formation in rural communities across Canada. The research team has now completed 2-week "immersions" in Digby, NS, Minden, ON, Dawson City, YK, Armstrong, BC, and Old Perlican, NFLD. Some initial results of the project were presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Conference in Whitehorse in May 2024 and the Canadian Political Science Association's Annual Conference in Montreal in June 2024. Additional fieldwork will be completed in rural Alberta and Saskatchewan in late 2024/early 2025, before the findings are included in a series of papers written by the team for academic publication in 2025.

Pathways to Energy Democracy in Canada

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Grant (\$338,337)

Project Lead: John Parkins, PhD (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Co-Applicant

Project Dates: May 2023 - April 2028

This 5-year SSHRC-funded project includes interdisciplinary scholars from across Canada who are committed to conducting research that can help realize more equitable and accessible forms of energy production and distribution that can support local communities and local livelihoods. Focused specifically on community-based renewable energy projects, the ACSRC's role in this work is to explore how energy transitions can happen while still meeting the needs of diverse and evolving rural communities, while also considering ways to overcome instances of political polarization that threatens to impede the development of community-based renewable energy projects.

I-Place Phase 1 project in Canmore, Alberta owned by the Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative. Photographed John Parkins.





Completed Projects

Supporting the Mental Health of Alberta Farmers

Funding Source:

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development Project

Project Lead: Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Collaborator

Project Dates: October 2022 - December 2024

The work to help establish AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, will end in December 2024. Funding to launch and develop AgKnow was supported by a Canadian Agricultural Partnership grant through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in 2022. Over the past several years, Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD (Professor of Psychology and a Research Associate of the ACSRC), led a team of 12 research assistants (11 undergraduates students from Augustana, 1 masters student from ALES) and partnered with an agricultural community group to identify the stressors Alberta farmers are experiencing. This project included assessing mental health status against a national sample of Canadian farmers and the general public, and examined ways to build resilience to the ongoing stressors. The research resulted in eight completed research projects, seven conference presentations at national and international associations, 26 presentations to agricultural industry groups and rural communities, seven scholarly manuscripts (2 published, 2 in press, 3 under review) and 1 white paper report. This project also included 1 successful SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant with Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD. as the principal investigator.

Innovative Local Co-operatives and Rural Development

Funding Source: Alberta Real Estate Foundation Investment Grant (\$59,920)

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD (ACSRC)

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: January 2021 – November 2023

Funded by the Alberta Real Estate Foundation, the ACSRC has completed (for now!) its work on this research and outreach project that explores the potential inherent in new and innovative local co-operatives to act as significant stimulants in rural economic development and service delivery throughout the rural regions of the province. Considering examples across North America and Europe, the overarching goal of this project is to answer the following questions:

- Which examples of successful rural co-operative models elsewhere are best positioned to be replicated in rural Alberta communities?
- What are the “best practices” associated with ensuring the success of these co-operatives?
- How can governments, local, provincial and federal, best support the establishment and growth of these local co-operatives in ways that ensures they generate good jobs and enhance service delivery in rural communities?

Over 40 interviews were completed with individuals involved in a wide-variety of rural-based co-ops across Western Canada, Nova Scotia, Wisconsin, and the United Kingdom. Clark Banack, PhD. presented aspects of this work to various municipalities and rural-based organizations in addition to attendees of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundations Annual Conference in Lethbridge AB (June 2023).

This project culminated October 2023, when the ACSRC hosted a two-day Conference ‘Reimagining Rural Economic Development: Cooperative Innovation & the Future of Our Communities’ at the Jeanne and Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre in Camrose, AB. Attended by over 120 rural community leaders, councillors, economic development and planning officers, and rural residents who care deeply about the future of their communities, this two-day event featured a collection of speakers including rural entrepreneurs, co-operative developers, and academics from across North America to showcase how innovative uses of the co-operative model can drive sustainable rural economic development.

Sponsors: Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, Battle River Alliance for Economic Development, Camrose County, Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, Co-operatives First EQUUS, Peavey Industries LP, Prairies Economic Development Canada, University of Alberta, Wild Rose Co-op

The Final Report, in addition to two supporting policy documents, are available on the project [webpage](#).

An academic article based on this work has been submitted for publication.



Exploring the Economic Development Potential of Dark Sky Tourism in Rural Alberta

Funding Source: University of Alberta SIG Grant (\$5,250)

Project Leads: Glen Hvenegaard, PhD and Clark Banack, PhD

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: November 2022 – December 2023

The ACSRC, in collaboration with Glen Hvenegaard, PhD (University of Alberta, Augustana) is researching the economic development potential associated with Dark Sky Tourism for rural Alberta communities. Over 20 interviews were completed with individuals knowledgeable in this field, in addition to the completion of a participant observation study of the Jasper Dark Sky Festival in October 2022 and October 2023. In addition to multiple academic presentations by Clark Banack, PhD and Glen Hvenegaard, PhD initial research findings were published in the February [edition](#) of the Journal of Ecotourism, "Visitor outcomes from dark sky tourism: A case study of the Jasper Dark Sky Festival". A second, more comprehensive, academic article is currently under review. In addition, the pair of researchers plan to seek additional research funds to complete a larger study on this topic in the future.

Mobilizing Knowledge for Co-operative Energy Success

Funding Source: University of Alberta - University of Sheffield Seed Grant Program (\$25,050)

Project Lead: John Parkins, PhD (University of Alberta)

Role of ACSRC: Research Partner

Project Dates: January 2022 – September 2023

In collaboration with John Parkins, PhD (Professor, Department Chair, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sci - Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta), Kevin Jones, PhD (University of Alberta, and a team of scholars from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom), the ACSRC contributed to on a project on Green Energy Cooperatives in rural regions. This project explored how knowledge is gained, how it enables the community to act, and how energy cooperatives realize their motivations and work towards transforming energy practices. Field work has been completed on two comparative case studies, the Bow Valley Green Energy Co-operative in Canmore, AB, and Sheffield Renewables in Sheffield, UK, and the research team is currently finalizing an academic paper for publication.

Co-creating Best Practices for Implementing Work-Integrated Learning Programs across Rural Canada

Funding Source: Mitacs (\$30,000)

Project Lead: Clark Banack, PhD

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: March 2023 - December 2024

Working in collaboration with The Rural Development Network (RDN), the ACSRC hosted a year-long student intern, Kirsten Schmidt, who led a research project that explored best practices for implementing rural-based Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) programs at post-secondary institutions. The project focused on post-secondary institutions that currently don't have programs or are looking to enhance their offerings. She identified trends, government policies, and relevant contributors to support the WIL landscape in rural Alberta; and strengthened collaboration between post-secondary institutions and employers across Canada, with a focus on rural and remote communities. A final report was submitted to the LEARN Consortium in April 2024.

Neoliberalism and the Rural Populist Project

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$66,050)

Project Lead: Lars Hallstrom, PhD (University of Lethbridge)

Role of ACSRC: Research Partner

Project Dates: May 2021 – April 2024

Working in collaboration with Lars Hallstrom, PhD (Director, Prentice Institute, University of Lethbridge), this project examines the resurgence of populism in Canada (and internationally). The project's focus is from a primarily theoretical, rather than socioeconomic, standpoint. In an effort to understand not only the changing political landscape of rural communities in Canada, but in particular the ways in which the broader developmental and political trajectories of neoliberalism have contributed to that landscape, the politics of resentment, and the emergence of pronounced anti-government sentiment from communities and sectors (agricultural and conventional energy) that have historically been deeply reliant upon public sectors spending, policy and support. Lars Hallstrom, PhD and Clark Banack, PhD have completed various research tasks and have presented aspects of this work at the Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference in Banff, AB; the Western Political Science Association Annual Conference in Vancouver, BC; and the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference in Toronto, ON over the past 16 months. A final set of academic papers are being prepared for publication.



Conference

Reimagining Rural Economic Development: Cooperative Innovation & the Future of Our Communities

October 25 & 26, 2023 Camrose, Alberta

The ACSRC’s ‘Re-imagining Rural Economic Development Conference’ was made possible in part through a grant from the Alberta Real Estate Foundation. The conference boasted 16 speakers presenting on themes related to the innovative uses of the co-operative model and their potential role in modern rural economic and community development. Held at the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre, guests enjoyed insightful and meaningful dialogue, quality facilities and an atmosphere conducive to building connections and exploring possibilities. Thank you to all our sponsors! For more information, please visit the conference [website](#).

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



LOCAL LUNCH



Webinars

Innovative Uses of the Co-op Model and Rural Economic Development Opportunities in Alberta and Beyond

May 2024

In May, ACSRC Director, Clark Banack, PhD gave an overview of the Final Report 'Innovative Uses of the Co-op Model and Rural Economic Development Opportunities in Alberta and Beyond'. Following this report was a discussion about emerging new and innovative local co-operatives. Information was shared on how these co-operatives have been generating positive economic growth, the 'best practices' that are crucial to their success, and how government at all three levels can create a supportive environment for co-ops to thrive.

[Watch](#)



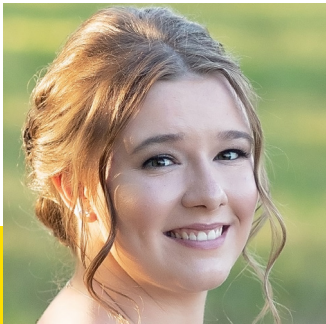
Rural Pathways Summer Internship Program

The ACSRC oversees the Rural Pathways Summer Internship Program at Augustana Campus. Established with a generous gift from an alumnus, this competitive program provides compensation to rural and Indigenous students to complete career-related internships with organizations in their home (or similar) communities over the summer. Program placements are as diverse as our students and their communities, with students posting about their placements on our Pathways blog throughout each summer.

The ACSRC is currently working with Augustana's Development Office and the Student Advising and Experiential Learning Office to re-envision the Pathways program in order to increase the number of Pathways internships, increase community engagement, and diversify investment opportunities to ensure sustainable growth. If you are interested in supporting this important initiative, please [contact](#) the Development Office.

Rural Pathways Summer Interns 2024

Rural Pathways Summer Interns and taking a break at the Camrose and District Centennial Museum. Summer 2024. Photograph by Kayla Matthew.



Kayla Matthew

Rural Pathways Intern and pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Creativity and Culture.

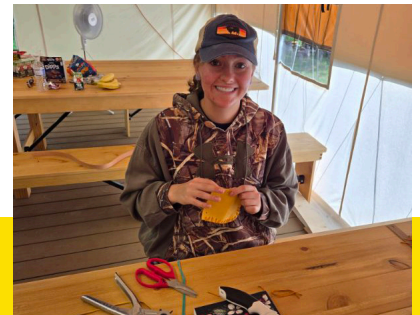
Project:
Camrose and District Centennial Museum revitalization project.



Chad Nichol

Rural Pathways Intern and pursuing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology.

Project:
Young Medical Minds impact assessment.



Lara Birkill

Rural Pathways Intern and pursuing a Bachelor of Science majoring in Physical Education.

Project:
Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Lac La Biche summer youth programming.

Student Research Opportunities at the ACSRC

A significant goal of the ACSRC is to secure external funding to allow for the hiring of student research assistants to work on a wide range of our projects throughout the year. We are pleased to report that the ACSRC was quite successful on this front over the past year and we were very happy to employ the following students on several of our key projects:



Laticia Chapman

Graduate Research Assistant
(U of A PhD Candidate,
Political Science)

Project:
Understanding Social & Political
Attitudes in Rural Canada via
Ethnography.



Kirsten Schmidt BSc

Project Intern (Bachelor of Science)

Project:
Co-creating Best Practices for
Implementing Work-Integrated
Learning Programs Across Rural
Canada.



Edward Buckley

MITACS Globalink Research Internship
(University of Exeter, United Kingdom)

Project:
Rural Canadian Municipalities
partnerships in transition toward
sustainability.



Olena Mykhailenko, PhD

Post Doctoral Fellow
(PhD Industrial Economics, Research
Institute at the Ministry of Economic
Development of Ukraine, Kyiv,
Ukraine)

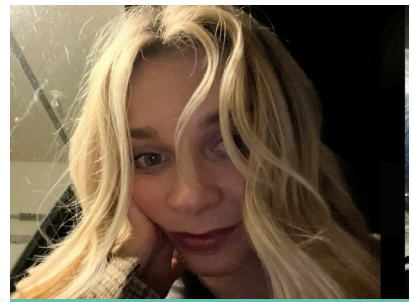
Project:
Understanding Social & Political
Attitudes in Rural Canada via
Ethnography.



Nate Goetz

Undergraduate Research Assistant
(Bachelor of Arts in Law, Crime and
Justice Studies)

Project:
Neoliberalism and the Populist
Project in Rural Alberta.



Meredith Jevne

Undergraduate Research Assistant
(Bachelor of Arts in Ethics & Global
Studies)

Project:
Rural Municipalities of Alberta,
Volunteerism trends and
impacts.

(Note* not pictured is Tia Schuner, an undergraduate research assistant who supported the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Volunteerism Trends and Impacts project.)

Publications, Presentations & Media

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Banack, Clark, Whitfield, Kyle, Y., and Serena Isley, "Men's Sheds and Mental Health in Rural Communities: Exploring the Benefits of a Community-Level Program," *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health*, 2023.

Hvenegaard, Glen and Clark Banack, "Visitor Outcomes from Dark Sky Tourism: A Case Study of the Jasper Dark Sky Festival," *Journal of Ecotourism*, 2024.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Banack, Clark and Laticia Chapman, "Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Faced by FCSS Programs in Rural Alberta," 1-37. Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Public Report, 2023.

Banack, Clark. "Innovative Uses of the Co-op Model and Rural Economic Development Opportunities in Alberta and Beyond," 1-52. Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Public Report, 2024.

Banack, Clark. "Community Investment Co-ops and Rural Economic Development," 1-8. Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Policy Brief, 2024.

Banack, Clark. "Co-operatives and Rural Economic Development: A Policy Primer for Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments," 1-6. Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Policy Brief, 2024.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Banack, Clark. "Investment Co-ops and Rural Economic Development in Alberta," Presentation to the Economic Development Committee of Alberta Municipalities, July 2023, Edmonton, AB.

Banack, Clark. "Newspaper Opinion Pieces and the Populist Narrative in Alberta, Canada," Prairie Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2023, Banff, AB.

Banack, Clark. "Thinking about Rural Economic Development within the context of the Rural-Urban Divide," Reimagining Rural Economic Development Conference, October 2023, Camrose, AB.

Banack, Clark. "The Challenges faced by Rural FCSS Programs," Presentation to Camrose and District FCSS Board of Directors, January 2024, Camrose AB.

Whitfield, Kyle, Clark Banack, and Serena Isley. "Community Development Initiative Addresses Needs of Rural Men," Mental Health on the Prairies Conference, April 2024, Brandon, Man.

Banack Clark and Dionne Pohler, "Understanding Social and Political Attitudes in Rural Canada via Ethnography: Interim Reflections on Method, Purpose and our Initial Findings," Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference, May 2024, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Banack Clark, "Understanding Social and Political Attitudes in Rural Canada via Ethnography: Methodological Issues," Canadian Political Science Association Annual Conference, June 2024, Montreal, QC.

Do U.S. co-op models have solutions for rural Alberta?

The Common Share

Innovative uses of the co-op model for rural economic development



November 08, 2024 | Co-operatives First



Edmonton

Rural family and community supports struggling with increased need, lack of funding: report

Province says it is committed to Family and Community Support Services



Michelle Bellefontaine · CBC News · Posted: Aug 30, 2023 7:00 AM MDT | Last Updated: August 30, 2023

In 'Men's Sheds', mental health is the project

Growing movement could offer a practical, affordable way to boost mental health support for men in rural Alberta communities.

NOVEMBER 08, 2023 BY DEY BETHENEGRO

July | August 2023 | The Public Square

Beyond the City Limits

Diversity and rural Canada

Julie McGonagal

Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada
 Edited by Clark Banack and Dionne Pohler
 University of Alberta Press

Making rural popular again

By Murray Green
 "The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Commu-
 nities is doing this work going forward as their own organizations," said Clark.

On Demand

Edmonton AM with Mark Connolly, Tara McCarthy

Two more Alberta mayors are facing recall petitions

6 mins

Feb. 13, 2024

Media

The Common Share Podcast: 'Innovative uses of the co-op model for rural economic development' [Episode](#)

CBC: 'The neighbours are going to think we are communist': Voting progressive in rural Alberta. [Read](#)

University of Alberta News: Champion for Rural Communities. [Read](#)

University of Alberta News: In 'Men's Sheds', mental health is the project. [Read](#)

CBC Radio: Improving Men's Mental Health with the Men's Shed project. (link no longer available)

CBC: Rural family and community supports struggling with increased need, lack of funding: [Report](#)

Town and Country Today: Do U.S. co-op models have solutions for rural Alberta? [Read](#)

St. Albert Gazette: Co-ops give communities tools to solve their own problems, panel says. [Read](#)

The County Booster: Making rural popular again. [Read](#)

CBC Radio: Two more Alberta Mayors are Facing Recall Petitions. [Listen](#)

Literary Review of Canada: Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada. [Read](#)

Financial Summary

ACSRC Annual Declaration March 2024

OPENING BALANCE	\$120,496.00
External Funding Received	\$75,792.56
University of Alberta Funding Received	\$62,032.33
Program Spending	\$158,800.8
General Administration (including Director)	\$55,806.99
CLOSING BALANCE	\$43,713.47

Leading with Purpose.



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Augustana Campus**

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