



Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Annual Report

May 2019 – May 2020



ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Annual Report 2018/2019

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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

Emerging Technologies Economic Impact Assessment

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

Funding Amount \$36,000

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 seventy 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.

Pillar 2: Communities and Ecosystems

Carrying capacity surveillance: Indicators and frameworks for equitable sustainability

Funding Source: SSHRC KSG

Funding Amount \$46,422.00

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: April 2020 - March 2021

Description: This knowledge synthesis project seeks to inventory, catalogue, and assess the numerous Canadian-based indicator and indices-based frameworks focused on measuring the different dimensions of carrying capacity, such as the 5 pillars of sustainable development, human and cumulative impacts, and their intersection with population health. Utilizing a broadly comparative method, this projects positions that inventory against three core research questions: (1) How do contemporary data collection and measurement initiatives select, aggregate and represent key performance measures that link social, ecological, economic and population health changes? (2) How do such initiatives rise to the integration imperative, and specifically the modeling or representation of change (both positive and negative) within, and across, related sectors? (3) How are such initiatives positioned to inform decision-making and action, whether across private, public or third sectors?



Pillar 3: Communities and Society

Entrepreneurialism and rural/small-town local government

Funding Source: SSHRC Insight Grant

Funding Amount \$97,000.00

Project lead: Greg Halseth (UNBC)

Role of ACSRC: collaborator

Project Dates: Summer 2020 to 2023

Description: This project will investigate the 'entrepreneurial' activities of local governments as they adjust to rapid economic restructuring, and changes in public policy and governance. This project focuses on local governments because they are the managers of critical community infrastructure and have basic responsibilities for community land-use and economic development planning. When dramatic changes occur, local governments are 'on the ground', dealing with immediate effects and long-term impacts. Yet, local governments struggle with outdated financial and jurisdictional structures and a senior government public policy agenda that asks them to become more creative, innovative, and 'entrepreneurial' in their approach and responsibilities. The outcomes both senior and local governments are looking for, but are in no way guaranteed by the structural conditions of rural communities and path dependencies of past development approaches, are transformations towards more resilient rural communities and more sustainable rural economies. Given this context and research gap, the project thus addresses two main research questions: -How are rural and small town local governments dealing with dramatic economic restructuring and the transition towards entrepreneurialism? -How are rural and small town local governments approaching entrepreneurial solutions under their current regime of financial resources and jurisdictional authority?



Ongoing Projects

Pillar 1: Communities, Planning, and Policy

No ongoing projects

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

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, and; (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.

The ACSRC is currently in process to launching an online portal called I-ASK. The portal is a decision support tool that systematically sorts a collection of literature and data from the Observatory themes in a singular location.

Additionally, the 2019 ECHO Network Annual Meeting took place from May 27 – 31 in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Battle River Watershed Alliance and the ACSRC presented their progress on various initiatives.



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 Inclusive Communities in Rural Alberta

Funding Source: Anti-Racism Community Grant Program Funding Amount: \$29,000

Project lead: Clark Banack

Role of ACSRC: Principal Investigator

Project Dates: January 2019 – May 2020

Description:

This 1-year project, led by Dr. Banack and funded by an Alberta Government Anti-Racism Community Grant, has involved both a research and community outreach component. The research component utilized an ethnographic approach designed to better understand how and why citizens form the political preferences that they hold, especially with respect to their views toward racialized and religious minority communities and Indigenous Peoples. This project involved the researcher's immersion into 23 regularly occurring conversational "coffee groups" across 16 rural Alberta communities (Camrose, Tofield, Wetaskiwin, Vegreville, Round Hill, Killam, Sundre, Carstairs, Drayton Valley, Barrhead, Westlock, Fort McLeod, Pincher Creek, Picture Butte, Vulcan, Kingman). Initial results of this research were presented at the *Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Sustainable Communities Conference* in St. John's, NL, in October 2019 and an academic journal article further elaborating on these results is currently under peer-review. A second article has been compiled for an edited volume entitled *Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada* which is currently being co-edited by Dr. Banack. Dr. Banack has also been invited to share aspects of his work on this topic at the "Migration in Remote and Rural Areas Workshop" in March 2020, organized by the SSHRC-funded Rural Policy Learning Commons.

With respect to community outreach activities, an initial "community conversation" on the topic of cultural diversity in rural Alberta, devised largely from the findings that emerged out of the ethnographic research described above, entitled "Hello Neighbour!" was delivered in Viking in the Fall of 2019. Additional events are scheduled throughout March and April, 2020 in Camrose, Tofield, Camrose County, and Flagstaff County. Project staff are finalizing basic anti-racism "fact-sheets" for distribution at these events in addition to a newspaper editorial on the topic to be published in each community's local paper.

Finally, a grant application was submitted to the Federal Government's Community Anti-Racism program in January 2020 requesting additional funds to significantly expand on this work, combining additional academic research and a carefully designed set of community outreach interventions across 14 rural Alberta communities over a period of 24 months.



Building Mental Health Resiliency for a Sustainable Campus Community

Funding Source: University of Alberta Sustainability Enhancement Fund Funding Amount: \$26,963

Role of ACSRC: Project Lead

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. This project and its results will be presented to the school boards and to the University of Alberta Augustana leadership.

Food Security and Rural Seniors Living Independently

Funding Source: OMAFRA Research

Grant Funding Amount: \$134,000

Role of ACSRC: Co-applicant Organization

Project Dates: June 2018-2021

Description: This research project proposes to examine 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. 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 4 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 4 counties.



Completed Projects

Pillar 1: Communities Planning and Policy

Regional Business Network Best Practices 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 completed a regional business network analysis and synthesis on behalf of BRAED. This project included an examination of how regional business networks are formed, their functionality, effects, successes and common challenges. A final report was provided to BRAED and included a feasibility assessment and recommendations.

Intersectoral Collaboration (Jasper Collaborative Team) (on hold)

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 (This project is on hold due to staffing.)

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) of our 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.



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.

Project updates and findings can be found at www.familyfarmsandwork.ca

Two policy briefs have been released on the website.

1. Moore H, Reid-Musson E, MacEachen E, Beckie M, Hallstrom L. (2020). Family Farms and Health and Safety Legislation: A Province by Province Policy Scan of Coverage and Exclusions. University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems.
2. Moore H, Reid-Musson E, MacEachen E, Beckie M, Hallstrom L. (2019). Family Farms and Health and Safety Legislation: A Purposive International Policy Scan of Coverage and Exclusions. University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems



CENTRE OPERATIONS

Staff

Director: Lars K. Hallström, PhD.

Administrative/ Research staff and seasonal FTE

FTE based on a 40 hour work week	Summer 2019 FTE	# of staff (summer) 2019	Fall 2019 FTE	# of staff (fall) 2019	Winter 2020 FTE	# of staff (winter) 2020	Spring 2020 FTE	# of staff (Spring) 2020
Director (0.6FTE)	.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.6	1
Research Associates	.45	1	0.2	1	0.45	2	0.825	3
Research Assistants	6.23	7	2.6	7	4.6	9	4.6	9
Executive Assistant	0.6	1	0.6	1	0.8	1	0.42	1
Regional Coordinator (ECHO max 17.5hrs/wk)	.44	1	0.44	1	0.44	1	0.44	1
Total Complement	8.32	11	4.44	11	6.89	14	6.89	17



Summer 2019 (May 1 – August 31)	Fall 2019 (Aug 31 – Dec 4)	Winter (Jan 3 – March 2020)	Spring April –May 30 2020)
Research Associate- Clark Banack	Research Associate- Clark Banack	Research Associates- Clark Banack Nicholas Yarmey Stacey Haugen	Research Associates- Nicholas Yarmey Stacey Haugen Clark Banack
Research Assistants- Payton Grant Nathanael Skagen April Heinrich Landon Redelback Heather Marshall Thomas Rosenberger Madison Pearson	Research Assistants- Thomas Rosenberger Heather Marshall Payton Grant Hannah MacKay Demi Vermeer Joel O'Brien Lindsay Ault Alissa Keer	Research Assistants- Hannah MacKay Joel O'Brien Justine Cha Randy Paquette Payton Grant Andrew Speakman Matthew Murphy Dharma Perez Joel Usiri	Research Assistants- Hannah MacKay Joel O'Brien Justine Cha Randy Paquette Payton Grant Andrew Speakman Matthew Murphy Dharma Perez Joel Usiri
Regional Coordinator (ECHO)- Sarah Skinner	Regional Coordinator (ECHO)- Sarah Skinner	Regional Coordinator (ECHO)- Sarah Skinner	Regional Coordinator (ECHO)- Sarah Skinner
Executive Assistant- Carole Preston	Executive Assistant- Carole Preston	Executive Assistant Carole Preston	Executive Assistant Carole Preston



Communications/Marketing

Website



Analytics

<https://www.ualberta.ca/>

UAlberta Rollup account a...

[Go to report](#)

ACSRC

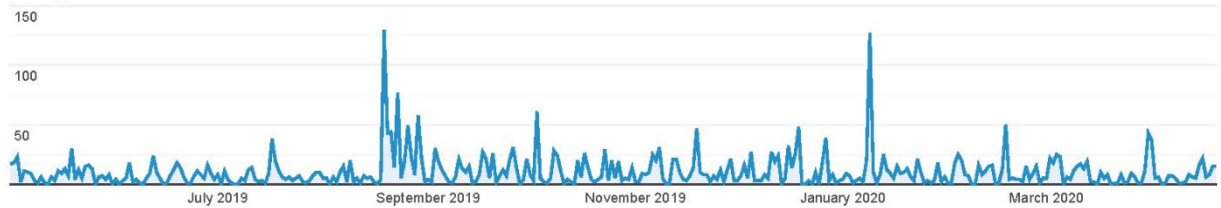


All Users
100.00% Pageviews

May 1, 2019 - Apr 20, 2020

Explorer

Pageviews



This data was filtered with the following filter expression: www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc

Page	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances
	3,764 % of Total: 0.01% (61,941,384)	2,896 % of Total: 0.01% (47,418,545)	00:01:13 Avg for View: 00:01:29 (-17.62%)	1,323 % of Total: 0.01% (20,191,533)
1. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc	959 (25.48%)	699 (24.14%)	00:00:58	436 (32.96%)
2. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/projects/priority-areas/planning/broadband/strategies/deliverables	281 (7.47%)	202 (6.98%)	00:02:39	172 (13.00%)
3. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/projects/priority-areas	193 (5.13%)	119 (4.11%)	00:00:17	5 (0.38%)
4. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/about-us/people	165 (4.38%)	140 (4.83%)	00:01:48	57 (4.31%)
5. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/resources/reports	125 (3.32%)	85 (2.94%)	00:01:44	10 (0.76%)
6. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/about-us	123 (3.27%)	99 (3.42%)	00:00:58	10 (0.76%)
7. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/projects/priority-areas/planning	105 (2.79%)	64 (2.21%)	00:00:54	4 (0.30%)
8. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/projects	85 (2.26%)	70 (2.42%)	00:00:15	6 (0.45%)
9. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/contact	82 (2.18%)	75 (2.59%)	00:01:58	3 (0.23%)
10. www.ualberta.ca/augustana/research/centres/acsrc/resources/events-calendar	80 (2.13%)	73 (2.52%)	00:01:13	52 (3.93%)



Newsletter

The monthly e-newsletter currently has 781 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.

May 2019 – April 2020	
Subscribers	781
Open Rate	33%
Click Rate	16%
Top Click Through	24% (January 2020)
Top Open Rate	37% (January 2020)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

Monthly News

February 2020

ACSRC presents at the Alberta Rural Education Symposium

"Rural Youth, Mental Health and Education: Building Agency in Young Adults"

March 1 - 3, 2020
Edmonton, AB

ACSRC Keynote:
March 2, 2020
10:30 - 11:45 AM

Our director Dr. Lars Hallstrom will be presenting at the 2020 Alberta Rural Education Symposium. The Symposium theme is "A Clear 20-20 Vision for Rural Alberta Schools & Communities". The symposium will focus on global and local trends in education, and address some critical questions facing rural school divisions. Dr. Hallstrom's presentation is entitled "Rural Youth, Mental Health and Education: Building Agency in Young Adults."

Family Farms and Work

Check out the new website for the Family Farms and Work project. Our director Dr. Hallstrom is a Co-Investigator (OHS Futures Grant) on this project. This research asks:

- 1) How do those who operate, manage, work on, and regulate family farms understand occupational health and safety (OHS) risks and harms in agriculture?
- 2) How do operators, family members, and workers understand the role and scope of OHS legislation and regulation in agriculture?
- 3) What are the options for injury/illness prevention policy for family farms?
- 4) What meanings are attached to family, farming and work, and how do these meanings shape OHS laws and decision-making?

ACSRC 10-Year Achievement Report

The ACSRC published its 10-year achievement report. The report highlights the many successes of the first 10 years in operations. The report can be found online at www.acsrc.ca and is available in print.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES



Celebrating 10 Years of Rural Engagement 2009-2019




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 chart below displays post reach from the past year May 1, 2018 to May 30, 2019. Posts with the best reach included pictures.

	Followers	Highest Post Reach	Date	Post
 @UofA.ACSRC	956	980	August 26, 2019	Lars Hallström: “Coal Communities and Economic Diversification” on thinkWY.org)
 @ACSRC	1,151	6 re-tweets	Jan 8 2020	“10 year Travel Alberta Tourism Strategy”


Post Details
✕



Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Published by Carole Preston [?] · August 26, 2019 · 🌐

“The reality is... if you’re a rural community that does not have good broadband and there’s still a lot of it out there, it is a real challenge, but if you don’t have that infrastructure as a community then you may as well forget about getting anybody under the age of 35 to even think about moving there” – Lars Hallstrom



[About this website](#)

THINKWY.ORG

Lars Hallstrom: Coal Communities and Economic Diversification

983
People Reached

202
Engagements

Boost Unavailable

👍👎 15

8 Shares

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share

Performance for Your Post

983 People Reached

86 Reactions, Comments & Shares

69 Like	14 On Post	55 On Shares
5 Love	0 On Post	5 On Shares
1 Wow	1 On Post	0 On Shares
2 Comments	0 On Post	2 On Shares
9 Shares	8 On Post	1 On Shares

116 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views	26 Link Clicks	90 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



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:

1. 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.



2. SingAble, Camrose, Alberta (Value \$250)

SingAble is an inclusion community choir for singers of all abilities and levels of experience. Individuals drawn from all ages and stages of life with a desire to experience the wondrous benefits of singing are warmly welcomed to discover their unique voice and move freely to some of the most popular songs drawn from traditional, folk and contemporary styles.



3. “Connecting With Albertans: Health Policy Marketing”, Jason Timmons, University of Alberta (Value \$750.00)

This research project is led by Master’s student Jason Timmons under the supervision of Dr. Jared Wesley (UAlberta Department of Political Science). This project will determine the most effective language for communicating health policy to Albertans, three different types of messaging were tested with rural and urban populations (personal statements, statistics, and government statements). Preliminary results show that the rural populations tested were most convinced by personal statements from community members, while the urban populations tested were most convinced by statistical information. Neither group tested were convinced by statements from their government. This study contributes theory-building material to the larger research area of rural consciousness and the rural-urban divide.



Presentations

1. Hallström, L. K. (April 16, 2020). "The Politics of Sustainability in Rural Alberta: Balancing Ecological, Social and Economic Priorities at the Local Level", 2020 Alberta Institute of Agrologists Conference, <https://aia.in1touch.org/>
2. Hallström, L. K. (March 2, 2020). "Rural Youth, Mental Health and Education: Building Agency in Young Adults", Fantasy Land Hotel, Edmonton AB (Keynote).
3. Hallström, L. K. (November 18, 2019). "No Canary, No Coal Mine: Understanding Sustainability for Rural Communities in Alberta", Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, Edmonton, AB (Keynote)
4. Banack, C. (October 2019). "Utilizing Political Ethnography to Better Understand Attitudes Toward Minority Groups in Rural Alberta", Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation – North Atlantic Forum 2019: Sustainable Communities, St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. (Breakout Session)
5. Hallström, L. K. (October 23, 2019). "The State of Rural Alberta", Finding Common Ground 2.0, Energy Ambassador Tour, Camrose, AB (Invited Speaker)
6. Hallström, L. K. (September 27, 2019). APHA Board Meeting and Workshop. Canadian Cancer Society, Edmonton, AB (Invited Speaker)
7. Hallström, L. K., Duggleby W, et al. (2019). "Nav-CARE: Helping Older Persons with Transitions", Biennial Conference of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association, Calgary, AB (Invited speaker)
8. Hallström, L. K. (May 6, 2019). "Rural Tourism and Development in Alberta", Vegreville Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Board, Vegreville, AB (Keynote)
9. Hallström, L. K. (May 2, 2019). "Rural Development, Future Scenarios and Education in Alberta", Elk Island Public Schools, Sherwood Park, AB (Keynote)



Events

1. RAIL Commons 2020

In 2019, a partnership was developed with the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) for the management of the RAIL Commons. The AAAS will manage all activities related to the development and management of the RAIL Commons event. The event is scheduled for late fall 2020.

2. ECHO Annual Meeting

The 2019 ECHO Network Annual Meeting took place from May 27 – 31 in Moncton, New Brunswick. Dr. Lars Hallstrom, research assistant Madison Pearson and Battle River Watershed Alliance Coordinator Sarah Skinner attended and presented at the event.

3. Community Conversations about Cultural Diversity in Rural Alberta

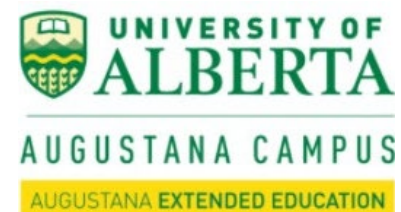
Dr. Clark Banack facilitated a cultural diversity conversation in Viking, Alberta on in November 2019. Further conversations will be scheduled for Tofield, Camrose, County of Camrose and Sedgewick post COVID19. The conversations are part of the Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Alberta project.

4. ACSRC Community Consultation (with University Relations)

Beginning in September 2018, the University of Alberta embarked on a consultation process to gather input from internal and external community partners. On September 23, 2019, the Office of Government and Community Relations within University Relations led an engagement session with ACSRC partners and stakeholders at Augustana Campus.

5. 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 Lars Hallstrom has facilitated:

1. Grant Writing workshops (November 20, 2019 and March 11, 2020)
2. Governance for Sustainability (Feb 27, 2020)



Publications

1. Moore H, Reid-Musson E, MacEachen E, Beckie M, Hallstrom L. (2020). Family Farms and Health and Safety Legislation: A Province by Province Policy Scan of Coverage and Exclusions. University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems. <https://familyfarmsandwork.ca/findings-writing/>
2. Moore H, Reid-Musson E, MacEachen E, Beckie M, Hallstrom L. (2019). Family Farms and Health and Safety Legislation: A Purposive International Policy Scan of Coverage and Exclusions. University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems. <https://familyfarmsandwork.ca/findings-writing/>
3. Hallström, L. K., Hvenegaard, G., & Dipa, N. J. (2019). Citizen engagement in sustainability planning: Patterns and barriers from Hinton and Wood Buffalo, Alberta. *The Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 14(2), 42–65.
4. Hallström, L. K. (2019) Rural Governmentality in Alberta: A Case Study of Neoliberalism in Rural Canada. *Revenue Gouvernance*, 15(2) 27-49. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1058087ar>
5. Hvenegaard, G. T., Hallström, L. K., Brand, K. L. P. (2019). Implementation dynamics for sustainability planning in rural Canada. *The Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 14(1), 54–76.



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, Research Associate, Social Sciences

Glen Hvenegaard, Professor, Environmental Science and Geography

Karsten Mündel, Dean Academic, Associate 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 Dean, Faculty of Extension – Extension Academics

Kevin Jones, Assistant Professor, Community Engagement and Public Policy

Kristof Van Assche, Professor, Planning, Faculty of Science

Monica Gruezmacher, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Science

Rob McMahon, Associate Professor, Community Engagement

Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (IC CER)

Sandra Woodhead Lyons, Executive Director

Law

Cameron Jefferies, Associate Professor, Law Faculty

Medicine and Dentistry

Joll Konkin, Associate Dean, Family Medicine

Nursing

Wendy Duggleby, Associate Dean, Research/Professor, Faculty of Nursing

Physical Education and Recreation

Elizabeth Halpenny, Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Howie Harshaw, Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation

Science

Robert Summers, Associate Chair Planning Program, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

School of Public Health

Nick Ashbolt, Professor, School of Public Health



Non-University of Alberta Partnerships

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies
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 College
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



FINANCIAL REPORT

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	2019 - 20 Revenue	2019 - 20 Expenditure	Year End
Emerging Technologies Economic Impact Assessment	June 2019- May 2020	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$26,531.75	\$9,468.25
Environment, Community, Health, Observatory Network	2016-2021	\$277,591.00	\$162,403.06	\$37,226.89	\$125,176.17
Sustainability Enhancement Fund	2017-2019	\$26,963.00	\$10,116.02	\$9,527.08	\$588.94
Governance and Equality (Banack)	2017-2022	\$11,200.00	\$3,741.55	\$3,738.79	\$2.76
Building Inclusive Communities (Banack)	2019-2020	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Total (Open)		\$365,554.00	\$233,519.08	\$98,285.72	\$135,233.36
Closed Projects					
RAIL Commons Sponsorship	2017-2019	\$45,500.00	\$25,591.26	\$25,591.26	\$0.00
RAIL Commons Registrations	2017-2019	\$27,843.09	\$2,874.06	\$2,874.06	\$0.00
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development	2019	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Total (Closed)		\$93,343.09	\$48,465.32	\$48,465.32	\$0.00
Total Project Funding		\$470,097.09	\$285,725.95	\$150,489.83	\$135,236.12



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.

Open Projects	Project Dates	Total Award	2019 - 20 Revenue
PolicyWise Jasper Grant	2018-2020 (on hold)	\$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 (delayed)	\$134,000.00	\$44,666.67
Occupational Health and Safety Futures Grant	2018-2020	\$45,000.00	\$22,500.00
Total (Open)		\$4,862,188.00	\$986,156.44
Closed Projects			
Occupational Health and Safety Futures Grant	2018-2020	\$45,000.00	\$22,500.00

Upcoming Projects

Project	Project Dates	Total Award	
Carrying capacity surveillance: Indicators and frameworks for equitable sustainability	April 2020 - March 2021	\$46,422.00	Project in Trust
Entrepreneurialism and rural/small-town local government	Summer 2020 to 2023	\$97,000.00	Affiliated Project



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		\$47,183.84	\$16,000.00	\$4,464.56	\$67,648.40
Expenditures	Human Resources and Benefits	\$37,184.25	\$16,000.00	-	\$53,184.25
	Operations	\$15,830.33	\$0	-	\$15,830.33
	Total Expenditures	\$53,014.58	\$16,000.00	-	
Expenditures/Revenue		-\$5,830.74	\$0	\$4,464.56	-\$1,366.18