



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL COMMUNITIES



ACHIEVEMENT RECORD
2013-2016

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Fostering resilient sustainable rural communities via research and collaboration.



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ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

1.0 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: Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) and the Augustana Faculty. 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.

1.1 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.

1.2 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.



1.3 VALUES

1.3.1 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.

1.3.2 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.

1.3.3 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.

1.3.4 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.

1.3.5 Local knowledge

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

1.3.6 Evidence-informed decision-making

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

1.4 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:

1.4.1 Research

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

1.4.2. Education

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

1.4.3. Outreach

Generate greater interaction and collaboration with rural community stakeholders.

1.4.4. 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.

1.4.5. Sustainable Operations

The ACSRC strives to have sustainable organizational operations.

1.5 CHALLENGES

The ACSRC has four challenges:

1. To provide research leadership, profile and coordination to the University of Alberta'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 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.

1.6 PRIORITY AREAS

The work of the ACSRC focusses on three priority areas:

1.6.1. 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.



1.6.2. 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.

1.6.3. 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, in order that they may learn from and support each other in their quest for sustainability.



1.7 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 receive direction and advice regarding the operations of the Centre from this Council.



Dr. Stanford Blade
Dean
Faculty of Agricultural, Life &
Environmental Sciences



Dr. Allen Berger
Dean
Augustana Campus



Dr. Karsten Mündel
Associate Dean Academics
Associate Professor, Global &
Development Studies
Augustana Campus



Dr. John Parkins
Professor, Rural Sociology
Resource Economics &
Environmental Sociology



Dr. Jeremy Mouat
Chair, Department of Social
Sciences
Professor, History
Augustana Campus



Dr. Lee Foote
Director, Devonian Botanic
Gardens,
Professor, Wetland Ecology and
Management

2.0 HIGHLIGHTS

2016 - "Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability Planning, and Collaboration in Rural Canada" M. Beckie, L.K Hallstrom, G. Hvenegaard and K. Mundel. University of Alberta Press. Launch took place Augustana Campus, May 2016.

2015 October - Rural Alberta Innovation and Learning Commons held in Camrose, AB.

2015- ACSRC Director Lars Hallstrom awarded Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) Distinguished Academic Award.

2015 September- Network Leadership Symposium "Networks as Interventions: Policy Tool or Panacea?" held in Edmonton, AB.

2015 August- Miquelon Lake Research Station Grand Opening.

2015 May - Beaver County Youth Engagement Initiative project began.

2014- ACSRC Director Lars Hallstrom awarded the 2014 Augustana Research Award.

2014-Municipal Governance Reform and Land Use Planning in Alberta project completed.

2014-"Participation, Planning and Sustainability: Case Studies from Hinton and Wood Buffalo, AB" N. Dipa MSc Thesis (2014) is published.

2014- Launched the map-based interface of the Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory.

2014- sponsored four guest lecturers see section 2.4 for details.

2013 November- Co-sponsor of the Ecological Agriculture Summit.



2013- Youth Homelessness and Housing Needs Assessment complete.

2013- Host Alberta Parks Top 20 Priority Research Questions.

2013- The ACSRC became a member of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation.

2013 Summer- hosted two Hesje Management Interns.

2013- Host of two Science Without Borders interns from Brazil.



Dean Allen Berger and Director Lars Hallstrom at the CAFA Awards in Edmonton, Alberta.

3.0 A RESEARCH CENTRE

The ACSRC engages in projects and research related to rural development in its many forms. This research is used to inform policy and policy development.



Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre (opened Summer 2015)

The ACSRC was involved in the planning and development of Augustana's Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre (MLSC). The MLSC is located at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and is a significant resource for researchers and educators in the area of 'sustainability science'. At the MLSC, researchers explore how environmental, social, health and agricultural domains affect each other in increasingly industrialized, urbanized, and ecologically sensitive landscapes. This environmental research station provides researchers and educators with computer technology and infrastructure for biological, social policy, and applied health science research and teaching. Opportunities and outputs from this centre provide valuable contributions to communities, researchers, and decision-makers across the province and country.

The teaching opportunities provided by this facility for graduate and undergraduate students include field trips, research assistantships, directed studies courses, and field studies courses. The MLSC is unique in Alberta due to its ecology and location (at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park), facilities (Geographic Information

System capabilities analyses, interview rooms, and wet/dry laboratory) and integrative approach to research. The MLSC is also unique due to its partner organizations (Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Camrose County, Beaver Hills UNESCO Biosphere Reserve).



Boom and Bust in Alberta and British Columbia (2014)

K. Van Assche (UAlberta project lead) has brought together a team of researchers to study boom, decaying and ghost towns in Alberta and British Columbia. The ACSRC holds a seat on this research team. The team strives to understand boom and bust cycles through a mapping and comparative analysis of governance paths and linkages with physical and policy landscapes. The research team hopes to discern ways to temper boom and bust cycles and also to foster sustainable development. Results of this project will be made available later in 2016.

Rural Capacity Survey: Evaluating Alberta's Resilience to Change and Self-sustain 2015-2016

Rural communities represent an important social, economic and cultural component of Alberta. Rural communities' resilience to change or ability to sustain themselves with their own policy making, their capacity to make improvements to infrastructure, education, environmental sustainability, citizen's health and to generally improve quality of life and health of citizens are of particular importance to policy makers. This study will assess how communities in Alberta are able to self-motivate and create capacity to implement change to meet their goals. This study will help identify gaps thereby leading to improved public policy that promotes community autonomy and resiliency.

self motivate
strong **autonomy** **engagement**
resilience **capacity** **priorities**
network **collaborate** **sustainability**
optimism

Rural Alberta Regional Collaboration Workshops: Priorities and Scenarios for Long-Term Sustainability (Government of Alberta, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2015)

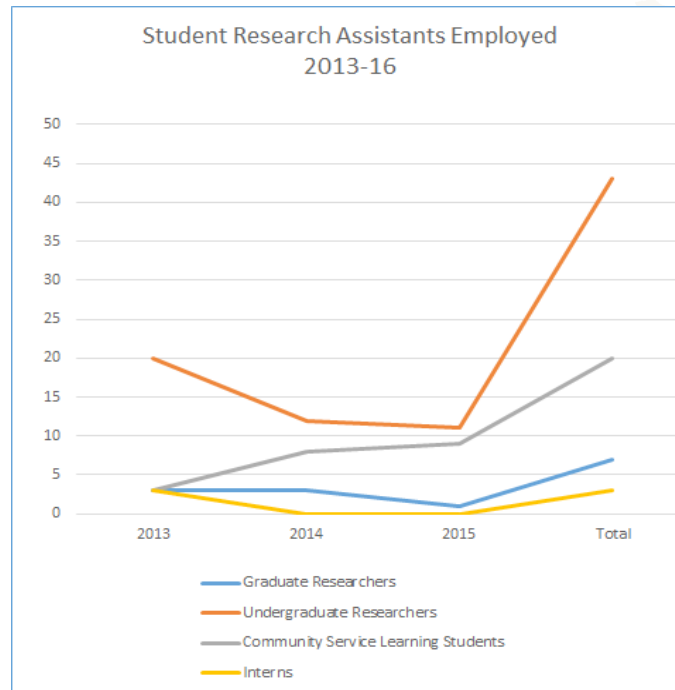
The ACSRC has conducted a series of regional collaboration workshops in 7 different communities across Alberta between April 2015 and March 2016, with a project close of July 1, 2016. These workshops brought together representatives from rural municipalities, regional economic development alliances, rural associations (AUMA, AAMDC), Aboriginal communities, government departments (such as Agriculture and Rural Development, Innovation and Advanced Education, Municipal Affairs) and not-for-profit and private sector associations to engage in a 3-part collaboration and capacity-building exercise. The core goals of this exercise being increased rural capacity to engage with and support effective collaboration for focus planning, service delivery and project development. This project is part of the 2014 Alberta Rural Economic Development Action Plan.

4.0 AN EDUCATIONAL CENTRE:

The ACSRC acts as an educational centre for students, researchers and community members, creating opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing.

4.1 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS

Each year the ACSRC employs graduate and undergraduate research assistants to assist with various projects. Additionally, the ACSRC provides community service learning opportunities as part of course work at Augustana Campus and works in partnership with community organizations to provide internship opportunities. Within these roles, students are provided with an opportunity for practical application of their course work.



4.2 A SELECTION OF STUDENT PROJECTS

During the past three years the ACSRC filled 43 undergraduate student positions. These students assisted in research projects that ranged from creating a rural capacity survey to researching food hubs. Several of these research projects have been completed while others are still ongoing. Research assistants have the added opportunity to present their work at the summer Research Assistant Symposium each year.

Examples of Undergraduate Student and Intern Projects:

In 2015, 'Framing the Outsider: Pictures, the Gendered Mediation Thesis and Canadian Provincial Leadership' was researched and written by fourth year Bachelor of Arts student Wilissa Reist. Funding was provided by the University of Alberta's Undergraduate Research Initiative and the ACSRC. Reist's paper explores the media's synonymous association of women with the apolitical through its use of photos to present politics. This paper concluded with some definitive results. The study indicated a relationship between sex and the media's photographic portrayal of politicians; female politicians were significantly more likely to be presented as passive observers while men were active participants within the political process. Ultimately, this paper argued that the photos used by the media reflect pre-existent notions that male leadership is the norm within politics, while female politicians are political outsiders.

In 2014, University of Alberta Research Experience Summer Intern Sara Deris was hosted by the ACSRC. Her work included researching rural school closures, rural healthcare and non-competitive sport in rural areas. In addition she gained experience in indexing and coding data that was collected.

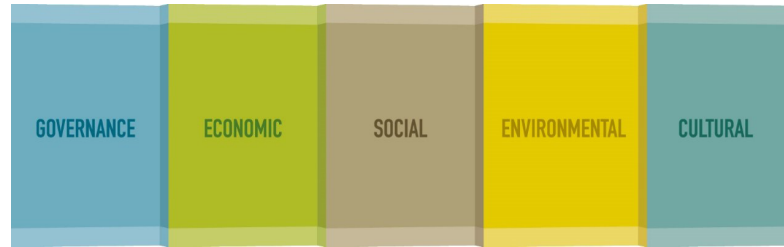


In the summer of 2013, the ACSRC supported the coordination of Hesje Management Internships at Augustana. Kathleen O'Conner was awarded one of these internships. She was hosted by Habitat for Humanity in Camrose, Alberta. Kathleen assisted Habitat for Humanity with Fund Development. Her internship helped her gain valuable skills in this area and helped ensure Habitat Camrose continued to build decent and affordable homes for families.

Example of a Graduate Student Project:

Arun Kumar Reddy, a Master of Arts student in Anthropology at the University of Hyderabad, India, was a research assistant for the Assessment of Capacity in Rural Canada: Decision-Making, Implementation and Public Policy. Arun's role involved assisting with the design and delivery of a rural capacity survey. The survey focus was on the ability for rural communities to be resilient to change and improve the quality of life and health of their citizens. During the summer of 2015, the survey was sent to rural municipalities across Canada and is a revised version of a pilot study conducted in Alberta in 2010-11.

4.3 EXTENDED EDUCATION



As part of the University of Alberta- Augustana Campus Certificate in Rural Sustainability, the ACSRC offers a full day class called Rural Governance. Rural Governance is oriented towards the key challenges of decision-making, engagement, policy-making and analysis within a sustainability-oriented process. The class is premised upon identifying the causes, alternatives, and viable analysis of the challenges faced by rural governments and governance, in the 21st century. This class has been highly successful, selling out each time it has been offered. Course information can be found at http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/extended_education/

4.4 GUEST LECTURES

Community Vulnerability and Facility Siting: the Case of Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling, 2004-2012.

Dr. Joel Gehman, Assistant Professor, Strategic Management and Organization, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta

October 2, 2014 University of Alberta, Augustana Campus

Rural Development: Knowledge and Expertise in Governance

Dr. Kristof Van Assche, Associate Professor, Planning, Governance and Development, Faculty of Extensions, University of Alberta

October 22, 2014 University of Alberta, Augustana Campus

Simulating Social Sustainability: Agent-Based Modeling of Energy Infrastructure Projects

Dr. Hal Nelson, Research Associate Professor in the Division of Politics and Economics, Claremont Graduate University.

September 17, 2014 University of Alberta, Edmonton

September 18, 2014 University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, Camrose

Science in Story

Dr. Cheryl Bartlett

Professor Emerita, Cape Breton University

February 25, 2014 | University of Alberta Augustana Campus

Co-sponsored by Augustana Alumni Office

4.5 SELECTED CONFERENCES

Rural Alberta Innovation and Learning Commons (RAIL Commons, 2015) was a three-day learning commons focused on rural economic and community development. The ACSRC and BRAED welcomed councillors, mayors, CAOs, EDOs, community development professionals, and students from across the province to engage in various rurally focused topics such as: community and economic development, sustainability planning, social policy, water, continuing care, recruitment and retention, business succession, aboriginal relations and the changing agricultural landscape.
www.rail-commons.ca



The Network Leadership Symposium and Summit (“Networks as Interventions: Policy Tool or Panacea?” 2015): The symposium explored if and/or how inter-organizational networks can help address critical policy issues and practice challenges. Networks and similar collaborative structures have been used by governments as interventions to deal with many of the most complex problems, often in uncertain environments, such as health services reform, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster response, and terrorism. Symposium participants examined the dilemmas faced, the quandaries and benefits arising when networks are created as public sector policy tools (e.g. used by governments to support practice innovations or to solve difficult problems).

The International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) Conference (“The Commons Amidst Complexity and Change,” 2015)

The 2015 conference focused on many kinds of common pool resources including fisheries, forests, and water resources as well as a host of emergent problems of social and environmental change. Participants in the conference were invited to share ideas, evidence and practical solutions on questions of poverty, food security, social-ecological resilience, effective governance, human rights, indigenous knowledge, sustainable natural resource development and climate change.

Creating Rural Connections 2014 Event Series

The CRC 2014 Event Series strives to bring together up to 450 delegates who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Alberta’s rural communities, and the province as a whole around three areas: vulnerable populations, workforce development and municipal sustainability. The ACSRC Director sits on the organizing committee for two of the CRC events (municipal sustainability and workforce development).

Restore, Renew, Refine (2013): This Ecological Agricultural Summit presented in partnership between the Rural Outreach and Agricultural Renaissance Society (ROARS) and the ACSRC. This one day summit explored and deepened attendees understanding of the whys and hows of farming in line with, and for, a regenerative ecology.



4.6 WEBINARS

The ACSRC partnered with two organizations to offer webinars as a way to reach a broader audience regarding rural issues.

In partnership with the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development, the ACSRC offered the Webinars for Thought series:

Strengthening First Nation Communities through Entrepreneurialism and Leadership: A Story of Success
Derek Bruno, President and CEO of Samson Oil and Gas Inc.
April 13, 2015

Labouring Lives in Rural Alberta, 1896 – 1965: A History of Labour
Eric Strikwerda, Course Coordinator, Canadian History, Athabasca University
March 17, 2015

Ministry of Jobs, Skills, Training, and Labour: An Overview of Services
Jean Vidal, Workforce Consultant for the Minister of Jobs, Skills and Training
March 9, 2015

Thinking of Non-profits in a New Way: Labour, Funding, and Leadership
Randal Nickel, Executive Director, The Camrose Open Door
February 24, 2015

Planning for the Future: Business Succession Strategies
Shauna Feth, Executive Director Alberta Business Family Institute
January 12, 2015

Labour Attraction and Retention in a Turbulent Demographic Landscape
Kristen Cumming, Cantos Consulting
November 24, 2014



In partnership with the Rural Policy Learning Commons the following webinars were made available:

Quebec’s Approach to Regional Development: An Historical Perspective
Bruno Jean, Professor, Université du Québec à Rimouski
Bill Reimer, Professor, Concordia University
February 23, 2015

Dirt Roads and Highways: Reforming Municipal Governance and Government in Alberta
Lars Hallstrom, Director Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities
Naomi Finseth, Research Assistant, Augustana, University of Alberta
February 9, 2015

Manitoba’s Amalgamated Rural Region: A Step Forward?
Bill Ashton, Director of the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University
December 16, 2014

4.7 ACSRC.CA ONLINE RESOURCES

The ACSRC strives to be a resource within the academic and professional community. Through the “Report Series”, “Working Paper Series” and “Policy Briefs and Blasts” a space has been created to conceptualize rural issues, concepts, ideas and share research results with the broader public. In essence providing a bridge for communities, academics and policy makers to access up to date and relevant information. The Report Series and Working Paper Series are published without peer review. Below are three examples of the Report Series.

“Alberta’s Land Use Framework and Rural Municipal Governance” ACSRC Report Series No. 25 (2014).

“Alberta Parks Social Science Research Inventory and Assessment” ACSRC Report Series No. 24 (2014).

“Alberta Parks Top 20 Research Questions” ACSRC Report Series. No 20 (2013)

REPORT SERIES

POLICY BLASTS

NEWSLETTERS

WORKING PAPER SERIES

CALLS FOR PAPERS

POLICY BRIEFS

5.0 AN ENGAGED CENTRE

The ACSRC is committed to supporting the ability of rural communities, including and, not limited to, outreach and knowledge transfer, in order to not only govern themselves, but to participate in a meaningful and efficacious manner at all levels of government and administration. The ACSRC does this by acting as an educational resource (as mentioned in the Education portion of this report) and by providing inter-community/inter-institutional collaboration.

Battle River Alliance for Economic Development

The ACSRC has collaborated with BRAED on a number of projects in the past couple of years ranging from webinars to conferences. Webinars for Thought focused on business best practice and ran in 2014 and 2015. In late 2015, the two collaborated to offer the Rural Alberta Innovation and Learning Commons, a three day conference regarding rural issues and rural solutions.



Beaver County Youth Retention and Collaboration (Regional Collaborative Program – Beaver County, 2015-2017)

The ACSRC, Viking/Beaver Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), Tofield FCSS and a number of Beaver County municipalities are partnered to propose regional programming that explores youth engagement, youth infrastructure and youth economic development in Beaver County. The overall goal of our Youth Engagement Initiative is to retain and attract youth to pursue a future in Beaver County after they have completed their post-secondary education. The project aims to build youth capacity in leadership, volunteerism and governance to make a social investment in the future through the development of a collaborative youth engagement strategy. This strategy will guide future planning and resources for youth across Beaver County.



Youth asset mapping session in Beaver County, Alberta



The Camrose Open Door Association, Camrose, Alberta (2013)

The ACSRC, in collaboration with the 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.

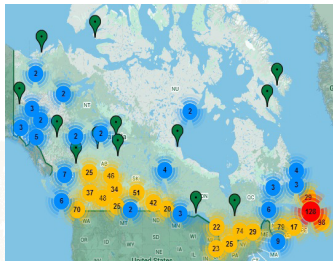
Further more the youth population faces a number of additional challenges and service requirements due to mental health and addiction problems, exposure to abuse and family violence, lack of educational and employment opportunities and/or having been in conflict with the law.

This project was a first step toward identifying gaps in service and to develop a strategic action plan for the Open Door with the creation of transitional housing and support services for youth in mind. Since this project completed the Open Door has opened an 8 bed emergency shelter complete with 4 one-bedroom apartments.



Village of Delburne: Strategies for a Culture of Belonging (2015-2016)

The ACSRC is providing the academic contribution to this collaboration with the community of Delburne. The project aims to link their Main Street economic development initiative with a “First Impressions” program. In addition the project aims to integrate a community engagement dimension based on the “spiraling up” community capitals framework.



Integrated Community Sustainability Plans in Canada: An Analysis of Sustainability Emphases and Contributing Factors (collaborator) (07/01/2013 - 12/31/2014)

In collaboration with Glen Hvenegaard (University of Alberta) this project focused on developing the largest database of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs) in Canada and to develop a model from community plan variables that can predict influence sustainability emphases. The database of ICSPs serves as a valuable resource to rural communities regarding examples of best practice for rural sustainability and fosters collaboration among many diverse rural communities.

The predictive model assists researchers, policy analysts and municipal planners to analyze, understand and support community attempts to operationalize and implement their sustainability plans. This project was unique in its examination of the spatial, community and plan variables that influence the variability of sustainability emphases of ICSPs. The ICSP database can be accessed through the ACSRC website.

Continuing Care Needs Reference Group with the Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCEP, 2012-2014)

The primary role of the Community Needs Driven Research Network (CNDRN) for the Continuing Care Needs Reference Group is the identification of issues, challenges, practices with insufficient formal evidence, and areas that need information to inform practice in continuing care. The primary activities of the Needs Reference Group are to: establish working relationships with continuing care providers throughout Alberta, consult with provider organizations regarding needs as the front-line worker, clinician and management levels, provide a forum to identify issues facing continuing care, aggregate, characterize and prioritize input from consultations, recommend a prioritized set of issues judged to be appropriate for further investigation to the CNDRN Research Reference Group, evaluate and monitor outcomes and results, evaluate best practices in knowledge transfer and the most appropriate methods for each of the target audiences (e.g. front line workers, management, clinicians, etc.), oversee knowledge translation from the Research Reference Group to the providers of the province, and act as an advocate for providers in the network.



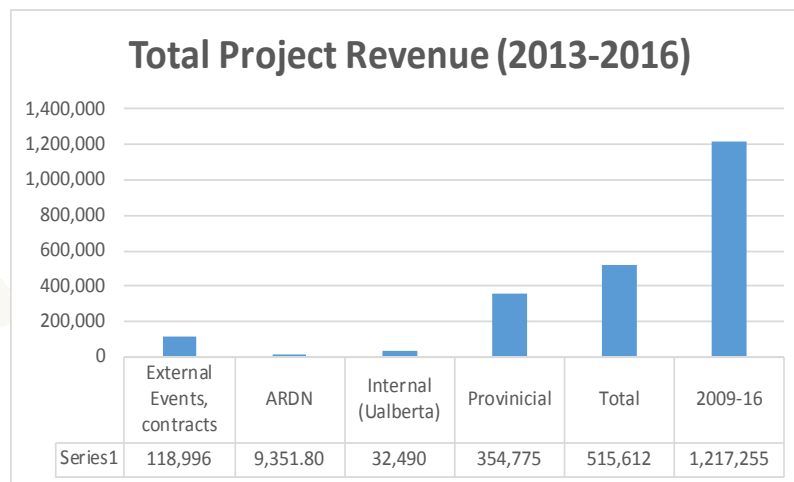
Alberta Parks Social Science Framework (Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division) (2013-16)

Alberta Environment and Parks – (Alberta Parks) partnered with the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) to determine specific research needs through a consultation process involving Parks Managers and members of the research community across the province. As part of this process, the ACSRC gathered information from surveys and workshops, seeking the input of researchers and managers involved in protected areas management. The resulting workshop summaries identified the top 20 questions of interest for each region, as well as the province as a whole. These questions provide a starting point for developing a larger collaboration between researchers at post-secondary institutions across

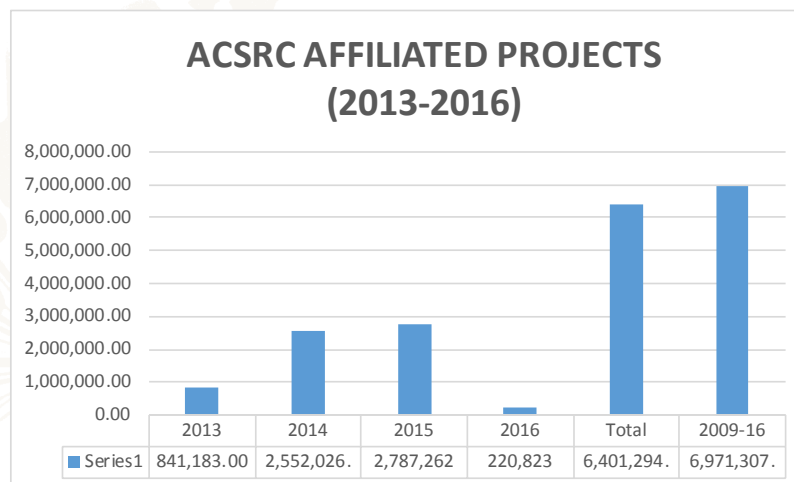
Alberta and Alberta Parks. This collaboration will bolster research, evidence-informed decision-making and long-term partnerships between the research community and Alberta Parks. The AB Parks Social Science Working Group is a key element of this process, and is intended to provide strategic advice, expertise and (where applicable) content in order to meet these larger goals as outlined in the Plan for Parks and the Alberta Parks' Science Strategy. The Working Group provides strategic technical, methodological and policy advice and recommendations to Alberta Parks pertaining to Parks' management, policy, practice and programming. The Working Group seeks to (1) increase the amount, quality, and availability of scientific information; (2) increase capacity to make informed decisions about Alberta's parks; and (3) develop a culture of respect for the value of science in park management. This includes the development of a social science framework to meet these goals.

6.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The ACSRC strives to be financially sustainable in its operations. The ACSRC is involved in many projects throughout the province as a collaborator, co-applicant and/or lead investigator. The following two graphs outline funding sources and the total amounts awarded for projects between 2013-2016.



Total research revenue for projects that are administered directly through the University of Alberta.

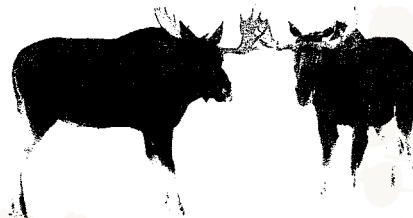


Total research revenue for projects where the ACSRC is affiliated as a co-applicant or collaborator but does not directly control the funding for the project.

7.0 SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUT EXAMPLES

7.1 INVITED LECTURES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1. "The Rural-Urban Nexus" Plenary Panelist, presentation for the World Congress of the IRSA. Toronto, ON. August 10-14, 2016
2. Participant and Social Science Team Co-Lead "AnDina (Applying transdisciplinary and systems approaches for sustainable weed management)" Alberta, June 6-10, 2016.
3. "Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons Grant Writing Workshop" pre-Commons Workshop. Oct. 2, 2015.
4. "Third Sector Perspectives on Networks and Collaboration" Panelist at the 2015 Network Leadership Symposium and Summit. Edmonton, AB. Sept. 22-25, 2015.
5. "Rural Homelessness: Assessing needs, designing tools and implementing the interventions" ARDN Creating Rural Connections Workshop. Edmonton, AB. May 2015.
6. "Canadian Perspectives on the Intended and Unintended Consequences of Rural Development: Youth, Community, Education and Policy" Keynote panelist at the 2015 Rural Futures Annual Rural Education Symposium. Canmore, AB March 1-3, 2015.
7. "Perspectives on Rural Sustainability" Keynote panelist at the Rural Futures: Annual Rural Education Symposium. Canmore, AB March 1-3, 2015.
8. "Influencing Decision-makers: Participatory Video Research in Fort McMurray" w/P. Dashora, S. Richter. Poster presented at the Housing and Homelessness Research Strategy for Alberta Launch and Learning Event. October 27, 2014. Edmonton, AB.



7.2 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. "Rural Infrastructure" panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of CRRF. Guelph, Oct. 12-16, 2016
2. "Complex problems, complex policies, complex partnerships: Re-evaluating the collaborative imperative for sustainability" paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the CPSA. Calgary, AB. May 28-31, 2016
3. "Grant writing and funding workshop" Champions of Tourism in the Canadian Badlands. Drumhellar, AB. April 20, 2016
4. "Pathways to Implementation: Sustainability Planning in Rural Canada" paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the MPSA. Chicago, April 7-10, 2016
5. "The Alberta Parks Social Science Working Group and Framework" paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the SSSA. Las Vegas, NV. March 23-26, 2016
6. "Rural Internships for Small Communities: Structure, Experience and Practice" w/B. Sjoquist. RAIL Commons Concurrent Session 4, Oct 3rd, 2015.
7. "Scenario Planning as a Method of Imagining Rural Municipal Futures" w/N. Finseth. Presentation at the 2015 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference. Summerside, PEI. Sept. 16-19, 2015.
8. "Alberta Parks' Priority Management, Policy and Research Questions" presented at the 2015 Summit "Science for Parks, Parks for Science", Berkeley, CA. March 25-27, 2015.
9. "Sustainability Plans in Rural Canada: Moving from Process to Content to Action" w/ J. Stonechild, A. Duncan and G. Hvenegaard. Presented at the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference. Prince George, BC. Sept. 25-28, 2014
10. "Alberta Land Use Framework: Hindering or Enhancing Rural Communities' Collaborative Ability" w/ N. Finseth. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the ISSRM. Hannover, Germany. June 2014
11. "Moving past knowledge deficits: Engaging research in rural community development" presented at the 2014 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum. Saskatoon, SK. June 8-9, 2014
12. "Rural Municipalities and Sustainability Planning" presented at the ARDN Creating Rural Connections "Municipal Sustainability" Workshop. Edmonton, AB. May 26, 2014
13. "Assessing the level of citizen participation in Integrated Community Sustainability Planning and Implementation in Alberta" w/ N. Dipa. Paper presented at the International Research Society for Public Management Conference. Ottawa, ON. April 2014
14. "Comparing Rural Sustainability Planning: Catalysts and Causes" w/ N. Dipa & G. Hvenegaard. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the WPSA. Seattle, WA. April 2014
15. "Open Door Rural Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment" presented at the ARDN Creating Rural Connections "Vulnerable Populations" Workshop. Calgary, AB. April 25, 2014
16. "Determinants of Rural Sustainability Planning" w/G. Hvenegaard and P. Ndlovu. Presentation at the 2013 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference. Thunder Bay, ON. Oct. 24-27, 2013

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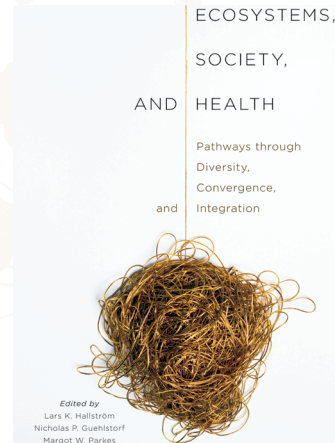
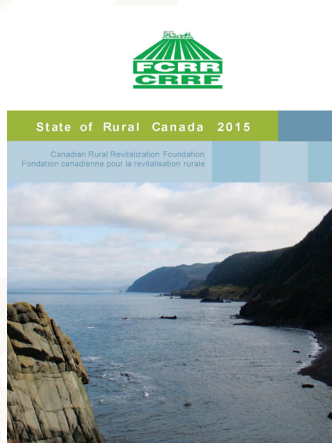
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