

Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (CSPI) Update

Launched in 2013, the CSPI is the most comprehensive searchable online inventory of sustainability plans in Canada. The CSPI can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/cspi/>



This Fall the ACSRC launched a map-based interface (right) on the site allowing users to see a geographic representation of their search results.

Upcoming Events

ACSRC Speaker Series:

Dr. Hal Nelson - Simulating Social Sustainability: Agent-Based Modeling of Energy Infrastructure Projects

- 1) ECHA 2-140 | Edmonton, AB
September 17, 2014 | noon - 1 PM
- 2) Roger Epp Room | Camrose, AB
September 18, 2014 | noon - 1 PM
<http://www.acsrc.ca/>

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Convention 2014

Shaw Conference Centre | Edmonton, AB
September 24-26, 2014
<http://www.auma.ca/>

2014 Canada Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference

Coast Inn of the North | Prince George, BC
September 25-27, 2014
<http://www.crrf.ca/>

ACSRC Speaker Series:

Dr. Joel Gehman - Community Vulnerability and Facility Siting: The Case of Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling
Roger Epp Room | Camrose, AB
October 2, 2014 | noon - 1 PM
<http://www.acsrc.ca/>

ACSRC Speaker Series:

Dr. Kristof Van Assche
Roger Epp Room | Camrose, AB
October 22, 2014 | noon - 1 PM
<http://www.acsrc.ca/>

Respecting the Land:

Transitioning to a New Economy
Augustana Campus | Camrose, AB
November 7-8, 2014
<http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/research/centres/ronningcentre/>



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

RESEARCH NEWS AND INFORMATION
FALL 2014

ACSRC Director Recognized for Research Contributions at Augustana

The University of Alberta's Augustana Campus has recognized Dr. Lars Hallström with the 2014 Augustana Research Award.



"Since coming to Augustana five years ago," said Associate Dean (Research) Dr. Roxanne Harde, "the winner of this year's Augustana Research Award has shown a deep commitment to his own work and the research culture of this campus. What he hasn't shown is a commitment to one particular research program."

To illustrate her point, Dr. Harde listed ten academic journals with publications from Dr. Hallström in the past three years. She mentioned two collections of research essays he has edited and are set for publication. Even in his short time at Augustana, the inaugural Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) – fresh from his Canada Research Chair at St. Francis Xavier University – has made a significant impact.

"I have had the pleasure and the honour of working with a number of different faculty members here on research grants, research projects, publications and collaborative work," said Dr. Hallström.

"His breadth, depth and diversity speaks to my dilettante heart," Dr. Harde admitted. "His interests in policy and politics, particularly as related to public participation, rural and community sustainability planning, and ecohealth and water management, and his abiding commitment to health, social, environmental and economic equity have made him a perfect fit into this campus, institution, and wider communities, particularly the rural."

Story by Christopher Thrall

Municipal Governance Reform and Land Use Planning in Alberta Project

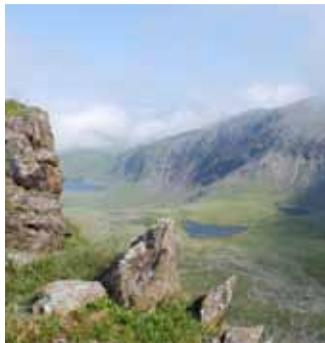
In Alberta, the Land-Use Framework (LUF) regional plans were designed to be completed by 2012; however, as of 2014 only 2 of the 7 regions plans have been. As a result of this delay, rural municipalities are left with little direction or support from the province with regards to land-use planning and LUF. Given these factors, the question remains as to how rural municipal governance can be reformed to better support local capacity and effective land-use practices. In this research project, sponsored by the Alberta Land Institute, the ACSRC hypothesizes that there is a fundamental gap between the institutional design and practices of both LUF and municipal government. As a part of this research the Centre will be hosting a Scenario Planning Workshop on October 8, 2014 in Camrose, Alberta. This workshop will bring together municipal leaders and will encourage participants to examine, critic and select, in participatory way, different models and pathways to desired and undesired future outcomes for their communities. The results will be compiled and presented in a final report and we hope that they will also be published in academic journals.

Alberta Parks' Social Science Working Group

The goal of this project is to support a province wide group to increase social science capacity and applied research in, with and for Alberta Parks. The group consists of social scientists from the University of Alberta, Mount Royal University and University of Calgary along with Alberta Parks staff.

The following list outlines the groups objectives:

- a. Establish a small internal working group to facilitate discussion between Alberta Parks and network of social science researchers in Alberta
- b. Conduct a working session of key staff and interested social science researchers from various research institutions
- c. Conduct an inventory of Alberta Parks user-researchers
- d. Conduct an inventory of Alberta Parks social and applied research
- e. Write a scoping review/"environmental scan" paper based on results of inventory of research and review of approaches (if any) used by other protected area agencies
- f. Conduct a small e-survey of Alberta Parks relevant researchers assessing needs, interests and social science research capacity
- g. Convene and host a workshop or consensus-type conference to prioritize research needs and mechanisms for moving research forward
- h. Development of a framework/process for building capacity based on the above
- i. Identify opportunities for collaboration on key priority research questions as identified through research priority setting workshops, and
- j. Provide material that can be used in the development of a business case for increased capacity for social science research in Alberta Parks.



Currently, the University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty and Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities are providing in-kind support and the Parks Division of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation has made a financial contribution toward event administration, facilitation, report writing and indirect costs of research. The project formally launched this summer and will continue throughout 2014 and 2015.

Canadian Sustainability Plan Analysis Summer Research Assistant

This Summer, the ACSRC once again hosted a team of undergraduate and graduate research assistants (RAs) working on a variety of Centre-led projects. The following is an account from one RA:

My name is Jennifer Stonechild (pictured right). I'm a fourth year B.Sc Environmental Science student at Augustana and have worked for the ACSRC the past three years. This summer I continued to work on analysing sustainability plans. My main objectives were organizing the databases we have for coding sustainability plans, filling in missing community data and to code more plans in order to complete analyses for the upcoming Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) conference in September 2014. I will be co-presenting with Dr. Lars Hallstrom at the conference on the patterns of sustainability planning in rural Canada, how these patterns relate to the characteristics of participating communities, and understanding the plans that come out of the process.



University of Alberta Research Experience (U ARE) Summer Intern



The U ARE is an internship program allowing top senior undergraduate students from key partner universities to conduct research at UAlberta under the supervision of a faculty member. Students gain hands-on, practical experience in their academic discipline and receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 CAD. U ARE internship placements are available during the winter (January to mid-March) and summer (May to August). Placements for the winter program are for approximately 10 weeks; placements for the summer program range from 10 weeks to four months. This Summer the ACSRC had the great pleasure to host one student participating in the program, Sara Deris (pictured left).

Ms. Deris has provided a brief account of her experience this Summer:

My name's Sara and I was a research assistant at the ACSRC this summer. I was born in raised in Toronto, and attended the University of Toronto for my undergraduate degree, where I majored in Equity Studies and double minored in Aboriginal Studies and English. I am also interested in ecological management, policy, and sustainable food systems, so the interdisciplinary nature of the ACSRC appealed to me at once. In addition to gaining valuable research skills in the office, where I worked on indexing two books, coding, and research on rural school closures, rural healthcare, and non-competitive sport in rural areas, I had a fantastic summer outside of work. This was my first time living outside of Toronto, and I had the opportunity to tag and vaccinate calves, go to Big Valley Jamboree, Banff, Vancouver Island and get a community garden plot. Looking back on my experience with ACSRC, I would not have traded it for any other summer job and am very grateful to all those who made my experience a memorable one.