

## Augustana Alumni Lunch and Learn with Dr. Lars Hallstrom

On January 29, 2015 Dr. Lars Hallstrom presented at an Alumni Lunch and Learn on “Water for Life? Water Security, Sovereignty and Policy in Alberta.” His lecture examined the core issues surrounding water for Alberta. He discussed water quality and supply, management, authority and regulation. The presentation also considered regulatory and planning approaches such as the Land Use Framework, sector- and watershed-specific plans that are intended to improve and ensure access to adequate quality and quantities of water in Alberta.

### Upcoming Events

#### **BRAED/ACSRC Webinars for Thought Series:**

- 1) **Dr. Eric Strikwerda on History of Labour in Alberta** March 17 12-1pm
- 2) **Derek Bruno on Being an Entrepreneur** April 13 12-1pm

#### **Creating Rural Connections 2015**

Executive Royal Inn | Leduc, AB

March 26-27, 2015

[www.ardn.ca/creating-rural-connections-2015/](http://www.ardn.ca/creating-rural-connections-2015/)

#### **IASC 2015: The Commons Amidst Complexity and Change**

Shaw Conference Centre | Edmonton, AB

May 25-29, 2015

[www.iasc2015.org](http://www.iasc2015.org)

#### **Network Leadership Symposium #7 Networks as Interventions: Policy Tools or Panacea?**

Lister Centre, U of A | Edmonton, AB

September 22-24, 2015

<http://www.acsrc.ca/>

#### **Canadian Rural Health Research Society Annual Conference**

Marriott at River Cree Resort | Edmonton, AB

September 20-22, 2015

<http://crhrs-scrsr.usask.ca>

#### **Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons**

Augustana Campus | Camrose, AB

October 2-4, 2014

[www.rail-commons.ca](http://www.rail-commons.ca)



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ALBERTA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES

RESEARCH NEWS AND INFORMATION  
WINTER 2015

## Rural Alberta Innovation Learning (RAIL) Commons

The ACSRC is partnering with the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED) (Killam, AB), to execute a three-day educational commons from October 2-4, 2015, focused on rural economic and community development. Recognizing a large gap in learning training opportunities focused on rural economic development, we have formed a committee to design and build what is sure to be an exceptional learning forum for councillors, mayors, CAOs, EDOs, economic and community development professionals, and students from across the Province.

Concentrating on subject matter such as rural policy and governance, social policy and services, tapping into natural resources, investment attraction, business succession strategies, infrastructure, transportation and logistics, youth retention and recruitment, and more, this educational commons will offer a variety of opportunities to increase the knowledge capacity of municipal officials, professionals and students in Alberta.

For more information please visit [www.RAIL-Commons.ca](http://www.RAIL-Commons.ca)

### IASC 2015 - The Commons Amidst Complexity and Change

The 2015 conference will focus on a number 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 will be 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. You can find more research and publications related to the Commons on the Library of the Commons at: <http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/>



For more information about the conference contact: Dr. Brenda Parlee,  
University of Alberta at [bparlee@ualberta.ca](mailto:bparlee@ualberta.ca)

## Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) Webinars

The ACSRC is a part of the “Rural Policy Learning Commons” (RPLC). The RPLC aim is “to enhance Canadian prosperity by identifying and analyzing policy options relevant to rural and northern places, evaluate these options in the context of national and international policy innovations, and build leadership capacity among rural and northern researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners” (RPLC Fact Sheet).

As a part of the project, the RPLC is hosting webinars on municipal governance in Canada. As a part of this series, Dr. Lars Hallstrom and Naomi Finseth co-presented on a webinar titled “Dirt Roads and Highways: Reforming Municipal Governance and Government in Alberta” on February 9, 2015. Other topics discussed in these series include Manitoba’s amalgamation, and Quebec’s history of regionalization.

### Municipal Governance Reform and Land Use Planning in Alberta: Scenario Planning Workshops

The ACSRC Municipal Governance Reform and Land Use Planning in Alberta project focuses on the Land Use Framework (LUF) and Alberta Land Stewardship Act and municipal governance in rural Alberta. This project has found that the full effect of LUF on municipalities’ capacity, planning and governance is largely unknown. This project has identified that there are many potential issues and gaps within Alberta’s current land-use governance structure that could impact achieving the priorities outlined in the LUF and implementing the seven regional plans. We found there are two different perspective of on LUF and municipalities: a provincial, and municipal perspective. These perspectives show that there is a lack of clarity and consensus around the role of municipalities within the LUF process.



As a part of this project the ACSRC hosted two scenario planning workshops that brought together representatives from 35 municipalities across the province to discuss the ideal future for municipalities in rural Alberta given the LUF and MGA review. These workshops identified that municipalities are looking for alternative forms of municipal governance that would see a focus on regional collaboration but not necessary regionalization.



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
Alberta Land Institute

## BRAED/ACSRC Webinars for Thought Series

The Webinars for Thought Series is a project outcome derived from the results of a day-long Labour Force Forum hosted by BRAED in Camrose, Alberta in early 2014. The Labour Forum brought together business representatives, municipal reps, and government officials to work with facilitator, Kristen Cumming, on identifying issues and opportunities related to the labour force realities East-Central Alberta is confronted with. Working in roundtables, the group was able to identify a number of tangible project possibilities for BRAED and partners to undertake that would assist with the gaps seen in labour force attraction and retention services. One such project that was adopted into BRAED’s 2014/15 Operations Plan was the development of a business best practice webinar series. BRAED identified a number of topic areas that would increase the capacity to address labour force attraction and retention, and worked with the ACSRC to develop the series.

To date the BRAED/ACSRC Webinars for Thought Series has hosted:  
Kristen Cumming on “Labour Attraction and Retention in a Turbulent Demographic Landscape”  
Shauna Feth on “Planning for the Future: Business Succession Strategies”  
Randal Nickel on “Thinking of Non-Profits in a New Way: Labour, Funding, and Leadership”  
Jean Vidal on “Ministry of Jobs, Skills, Training, and Labour: An Overview of Services”

### Network Leadership Symposium #7 Networks as Interventions: Policy Tools or Panacea?

Since 2005, a collaborative of individuals and organizations from across Canada, the United States and Europe has planned and hosted six Networks Leadership Symposia designed for senior government, research and organizational leaders to explore ways to establish, support, manage and evaluate inter-organizational networks. Building on our prior success, a seventh symposium is being planned for September 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta. This year, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) has agreed to take on the secretariat role, supported by a planning committee, for the Symposium.

The 2015 symposium will explore if and/or how inter-organizational networks can help address critical policy issues and practice challenges. Specifically, can networks be used successfully as deliberate tools or interventions to create better public policy, services and practice; or are they simply so ubiquitous that they have become the universal remedy, effective or not, for any wicked problem?