



# **Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Annual Report**

**July 1, 2009 – July 1, 2010**



# Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Annual Report 09/10

## Table of Contents

VISION .....	3
MISSION .....	3
VALUES .....	3
GOALS .....	4
CHALLENGES .....	4
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR .....	5
RESEARCH.....	7
1) CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH -HEALTH EQUITY GRANT SUBMISSION -WATER POLICY REFORM AND MENTAL WELL-BEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN ALBERTA (\$195,946) .....	7
2) CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION: INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTRE (ISSRC) (\$400,000) .....	8
3) RURAL SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH CLUSTER AND COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (\$8300).....	9
EDUCATION.....	10
4) ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: RURAL CAPACITY INTERN PROGRAM (\$96 200) .....	10
5) ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE TRAINING - NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE .....	11
6) RURAL BASED ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM – NORQUEST COLLEGE .....	11
7) CONTINUING CARE NETWORKING EVENTS*.....	12
OUTREACH .....	13
8) BUILDING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE CAPACITY IN RURAL ALBERTA* (\$6560) .....	13
9) ALBERTA ACTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE .....	13
10) ALBERTA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ARDN) CONFERENCE “CREATING RURAL CONNECTIONS”....	14
11) RURAL ALBERTA DELIBERATES ON CLIMATE CHANGE* (\$7400) .....	15
12) PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE.....	16
13) EAST CENTRAL ALBERTA CUMULATIVE EFFECTS PROJECT (ECACEP) .....	16
14) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.....	16
KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS, TRANSLATION AND EXCHANGE .....	17
15) SSHRC ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH CONFERENCE GRANT (\$161 105) .....	17
16) TAKING THE NEXT STEPS ALBERTA: PLANNING POLICY AND PARTICIPATION FOR RURAL ALBERTA(\$10 000)18	
17) MANAGING ALBERTA’S WATER – LINKING SCIENCE TO CITIZENS AND MANAGEMENT (\$10 000) 19	
ACSRC.....	20
OPERATIONS .....	20
STAFF .....	20
TRAINING.....	20
EVENTS.....	21
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....	21
STRATEGIC PLANNING .....	22
ABOUT.....	22
APPENDIX A .....	23
ACSRC INDIVIDUAL COLLABORATORS .....	23
APPENDIX B.....	25



## 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**

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**

## 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.

## Message from the Director

The first year of operations for the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities marks an exciting point both in my career, and in the rurally-relevant work of the various faculties of the University of Alberta. With the support of both Deans, the Advisory Committee and numerous faculty members across the University of Alberta (including both the Augustana and Saint-Jean Campuses) the ACSRC has been able to take some significant steps toward establishing the University of Alberta as a major resource for rural communities and researchers not just within Alberta, but across the country.

Starting from the initial work of the Advisory Committee and the Deans, the ACSRC has started to create a profile as a regional centre of excellence for rural research, knowledge transfer, collaboration and outreach. In addition to pursuing numerous sources of external funding (including Tri-Council and provincial resources) the ACSRC has worked hard to find ways to: (1) link faculty from a wide range of departments across the University of Alberta with new research and knowledge transfer initiatives; (2) connect faculty into existing initiatives, both at the University of Alberta and across the province; (3) contribute a rural dimension to the undergraduate experience at the University of Alberta via experiential and service-learning opportunities; and (4) to support provincial and national collaboration via participation in multiple research, policy and educational networks, including the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN), the Rural Research Network and the Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health.

In addition to establishing a physical, graphic, virtual and staffing presence for the ACSRC, major highlights of the first year include:

- 1) Successful submission of a SSHRC conference grant (the conference will be held in Camrose in October, 2010);
- 2) Collaboration and cooperation with a number of other post-secondary institutions in the province in such diverse areas as climate change, continuing care, watershed management and mental health and well-being;
- 3) Collaborating with the office and staff of Learning and Beyond to develop new programs, research projects and support for the sustainability planning of Camrose;
- 4) Working with the ARDN to leverage funds to support these collaborations, and the pursuit of longer-term project funding;
- 5) Working with faculty from the Augustana Campus to bring development of a significant application to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (to support a two-site, interdisciplinary research facility);
- 6) Supporting the creation, design and implementation of the first conference held by the ARDN (“Creating Connections” – Lethbridge, AB in May, 2010)

Building on these first steps over the next few years will be critical for the continued success of the ACSRC. Collaborating with rural communities, rurally-relevant organizations and faculty from a range of disciplines will be key in further developing the profile, capacity and networking of the Centre. It is my hope that 2010-2011 will see: (1) a continued growth in research and knowledge transfer funding moving through the Centre; (2) a continued growth in the number of faculty and departments at the University of Alberta affiliated in some way with the Centre; (3) increased research capacity and profile via the funding and

creation of the Integrated Sustainability Sciences Research Centre (ISSRC); and (4) a further development of the training and educational opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students via research funding, the support of new courses and inter-disciplinary collaboration and the creation of new experiential and service-based opportunities.

Sincerely,

Lars K Hallström, PhD  
Director, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

## Research

### **1) Canadian Institutes of Health Research -Health Equity Grant Submission - Water Policy Reform and Mental Well-being Impact Assessment in Alberta (\$195,946)**

For the first time in 12 years, the Alberta government is considering whether to update their water allocation system. Increasingly, it has become apparent that there are increasing demands for a resource that is dwindling due to industrial exploitation, population growth and climate change. Given the geographic and demographic realities of the province (approximately 80% of the population lives in southern Alberta, while 60% of the provinces water supply lies in the north), there is no question that the allocation of water resources, both in terms of ecological services as well as a fundamental necessity of life and food security, is becoming a critical political question for Alberta.

Despite this political, economic and social importance, a key area that has not been assessed lies in the implications of both the current water system, and any reforms that are made to that system, in terms of health equity. This project proposes to evaluate the reform of water policy not from the standpoint of equity in terms of access to water, but rather the implications for health equity, and specifically the potential for significant inequities in the mental and physiological health of rural populations in the province.

#### **Collaborators:**

Canadian Mental Health Association – Alberta East Central Region

Drs. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson and Timothy W. Parker – University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

## 2) Canada Foundation for Innovation: Integrated Sustainability Sciences Research Centre (ISSRC) (\$400,000)

The ISSRC is proposed as a two-site research facility that will explicitly link the social, natural and health sciences (broadly defined) under the label of “Sustainability Sciences.” As such, while oriented primarily toward the research needs of the applicants, it speaks to the research needs of a significant portion of the Augustana faculty, as well as of researchers across the province, and indeed across the country. Specifically, we propose an environmental research station (to be located at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park) with significant wet/dry and computing laboratory facilities, along with a larger and supporting research infrastructure, including wet/dry labs, GIS facilities and both qualitative and quantitative social, policy and health science research capacity at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta. These research facilities will provide a unique and valuable contribution to communities, researchers and decision-makers across the province, and potentially across the country. As related events such as climate change, drought, water license reform, land use policy, biodiversity loss and petroleum resource extraction continue, the need to monitor and assess the changes and linkages between environmental, social, economic, political and international factors becomes all the more pressing – this integrated facility will permit such research to take place. This proposal is in development and is anticipated to be submitted before the 2011 Leadership Opportunity Fund deadline.

### **Collaborators:**

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Beaver Hills Initiative

Drs. Glynnis Hood and Glen Hvenegaard - University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

### 3) Rural Sustainability Research Cluster and Community of Practice (\$8300)

This project hinges on creating a continuing venue for knowledge exchange between the research community based at the University of Alberta, rural communities and the various departments and ministries within the Province of Alberta working in the broad areas of rural development, sustainability and capacity. It is intended to fund a series of recurring events, happening on a monthly or bi-monthly basis (depending on demand) in Edmonton, and to create a cluster of practitioners, administrators, community representatives and researchers working across the wide range of domains that impact the development and sustainability (broadly defined) of rural communities in the province.

Specifically, this project would begin the creation of both a research cluster (within the University context) across numerous faculties, as well as the gradual formation of a "Community of Research, Practice, Synthesis and Exchange" (CORPSE) that is focused on building and contributing to evidence-informed decision-making, policy and development that is tempered with community-based engagement, involvement and deliberation.

#### **Collaborators:**

Various departments and ministries within the Province of Alberta

Various Faculties within the University of Alberta

## Education

### **4) Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development: Rural Capacity Intern Program (\$96 200)**

Rural and agricultural-based communities play important economic and social roles in Canadian society. These roles are often undermined as communities grapple with limited capacity to research, engage citizens, and make decisions relating to the sustainability challenges they face.

In an effort to assist communities in addressing these issues and to create meaningful rural-based undergraduate student experiences, the ACSRC and Augustana's Learning and Beyond office have partnered to establish the ACSRC Rural Capacity Intern Program. The first phase of this 16-week program will run during the summer of 2010 and provide up to 3 Augustana students with the opportunity to live and work with rural communities in East Central Alberta.

This program is designed to provide interns with a comprehensive rural experience where they will be exposed to multiple aspects of rural municipal planning, administration, and program development. In addition to working with their host municipality, interns will also work under the guidance of Augustana faculty members in developing and researching community-based projects that support rural capacity and sustainability issues.

#### **Collaborators:**

Village of Heisler

Town of Hardisty

Town of Wainwright

## 5) Aboriginal Governance Training - Northern Lakes College

The purpose of this two day workshop is:

- To share information about current Aboriginal leadership training opportunities
- To identify unmet needs and gaps in existing opportunities (i.e. location, format, timing, cost, marketing, etc.)
- To work towards solutions (both content and process)

The deliverable from this gathering would be a vision for Aboriginal leadership training in rural northern Alberta. A small working group of people would be formed to bring this vision forward. Next steps would be identified including finding appropriate resources: financial, location of expertise (elders, experienced leaders, curriculum that already exists, etc.), method of input in ongoing development from relevant partners (those present and any other identified partners), etc. The longer term outcome (timeline determined by the working group) would be new and/or better Aboriginal leadership training in rural Northern Alberta.

Partners - Post-secondary: Northern Lakes College, Portage College, Keyano College, Grande Prairie Regional College, NorQuest College, the Banff Centre's Aboriginal Leadership Program and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension. Each Comprehensive Community Institution (CCI) partner would invite people from the Aboriginal communities with which they have relationships.

Partners - Aboriginal: Band chiefs and Métis chairmen, councilors and senior administrators, Treaty 6 and 8 leadership, elected officials and senior administrators of relevant locals of the Métis Nation of Alberta, boards, and executive directors of Friendship Centres, members of Aboriginal interagency groups. Other invitees to come at their own expense if interested may include the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Health Canada, Northland School Board senior administration, and Blue Quills College.

## 6) Rural Based Adult Education Program – NorQuest College

First, this research project will inform these transformative processes by engaging rural communities in exploring their understandings of adult learning at the community level, the identification of appropriate partners, and the relationships between learning and community capacity building and sustainability. Second, the project will involve a literature review and the identification of best practices which are relevant to the Alberta experience. Third, the final report will present the data in relation to the research questions and also identify a series of recommendations regarding the regional stewardship role of CCIs.

There will be four research centres reflecting the four project partners: NorQuest College, Bow Valley College, Northern Lakes College, and Olds College/Red Deer College. The latter two colleges have formed a central Alberta CBAL partnership and, for the purposes of this research, will be considered as one research centre. **Additionally, the University of Alberta's ACSRC will act as Special Advisor and Policy Consultant.** Partners may have differing levels of engagement in the research activities guided by their interests and capacities.

## 7) Continuing Care Networking Events\*

- Keyano (Dr. Albert Cook, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta) (\$10 000)
- Grande Prairie Regional College (NorQuest) (\$10 000)
- High Prairie/Slave Lake Region (NorQuest) (\$10 000)

ICCER and ACSRC have partnered to present networking events in multiple locations across Alberta. These events will bring local post secondary institutions (PSIs), ICCER and its affiliated organizations (including the University of Alberta and NorQuest College), and the ACSRC together to discuss issues related to continuing care with local community groups. This will provide an opportunity to identify what continuing care needs are not being met locally, and whether there are issues that the PSIs can address through training & education programs for students and/or practitioners, and through research. PSIs have an important role to play in the sustainability of rural communities through their role in 'home growing' health practitioners of the future and reducing out-migration.

These networking events are part of a larger initiative that ICCER and ACSRC are developing that will include all of the northern Alberta PSIs. The networking events are meant to provide the groundwork for the development of a larger grant application process to the Community Initiatives Program through the Alberta government and potentially to the Federal governments rural and northern communities initiative grant.

## Outreach

### **8) Building Mental Health Crisis Response Capacity in Rural Alberta\* (\$6560)**

The event will bring together researchers from the University of Alberta, Representatives of the CMHA for East Central Alberta and representatives from the hospitals and health service units from the 14 counties that compose District 5 (Edmonton East). This primary purpose of this event is to scope, assess and begin the design of a rural Albertan Mental Health Crisis Response program that links university-based researchers, the CMHA, “first response” care givers such as paramedics, police, fire-fighters and hospital/health care providers and administrators.

#### **Collaborators:**

Canadian Mental Health Association – Alberta East Central Region

Drs. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson and Timothy W. Parker – University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

### **9) Alberta Acts on Climate Change**

On March 12, 2010, the ACSRC and the Augustana Sustainability Coordinator presented ‘Local Energy, environment and Community Action’ in Camrose at the Augustana Campus. This province wide videoconference was organized by Alberta Acts on Climate Change ([www.albertaacts.ca](http://www.albertaacts.ca)). The event focused on what climate change means to Albertans and what Albertans are doing to combat it.

During the video conference, participants from twenty-eight rural Alberta venues shared their experiences and heard from three keynote speakers: Dave Sauchyn, University of Regina Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, Rick Kool, Royal Roads University School of Environment and Sustainability, and Gary Holden, CEO Enmax Corporation.

#### **Collaborators:**

Candice Tremblay – Augustana Sustainability Coordinator – University of Alberta

University of Calgary - OIKOS Centre for the Environment

The Pembina Institute

## **10) Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) Conference “Creating Rural Connections”**

The Creating Rural Connections conference was held in Lethbridge, Alberta from May 11-13. This was the first major event hosted by the ARDN. The conference emphasized the link between research, education and community success, and provided extensive opportunities for networking, exchange and collaboration.

The ACSRC Director and Karsten Mündel, Director of Learning and Beyond (LaB) office, presented on the ACSRC Rural Capacity Intern Program.

The ARDN is a partnership of 21 post-secondary institutions in Alberta which work together to support and enhance rural development.

The ACSRC Director acts as the University’s Key Contact within the ARDN and as the Key Contacts Committee Vice Chair. In addition, the Director sat on the “Creating Rural Connections” conference committee.

## 11) Rural Alberta Deliberates on Climate Change\* (\$7400)

Stemming from “Alberta Acts on Climate Change” (see #9 for more details) was the realization that while the spirit behind this province wide videoconference was admirable, the event sparked greater discussion than action. As a result, and as an attempt to spark both a follow-up series of events, as well as to link extant initiatives into a broader engagement with the science and implications of climate change and climate change policy, researchers from the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta and the Pembina Institute have agreed to formalize some of the existing relationships that exist. In doing so, it is hoped to create a greater sense of collaboration and interaction not only between the two large post-secondary institutions in the province related to the social dimensions of climate change, but through the Pembina Institute and a broader commitment to public deliberation, engagement and international knowledge transfer, to an informed and vibrant public dialogue examining the implications of climate change for rural communities.

This grant will support the first of several events that will link extant activities exploring deliberative democracy and climate change (such as the SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance currently held by Dr. David Kahane - "Alberta Climate Dialogue-ABCD: Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change in Alberta and Beyond") with the activities of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary, the Climate Change Initiative of the Pembina Institute, Alberta Acts on Climate Change and the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. Specifically, this grant will fund a preliminary meeting of the core researchers involved in these initiatives in the late summer/early fall of 2010, with the objective of designing a three-pronged strategy for (1) building upon the ABCD CURA to include rural communities and rural issues; (2) linking the researchers involved to the Environment Theme Working Group of the SSHRC-funded "Transatlantic Dialogue" Research Cluster based at Carleton University in order to build connections and knowledge transfer with European and EU-based research; and (3) to develop an evidence-informed program of public engagement and deliberative democratic practices in Alberta that links the research community with rural, urban and "new rural" communities facing issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

It is anticipated that these preliminary meetings will allow for knowledge exchange, as well as the development of next steps to capitalize on significant events taking place in the region over the next year: (1) the "Taking the Next Steps" conference to be held in Camrose, October 21-23, 2010; and (2) the "Pathways to Sustainability" conference to be held in Red Deer in February, 2011.

### **Collaborators:**

Dr. Glynnis Hood – University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

Dr. Mishka Lysak – University of Calgary

Drs. John Parkins & David Kahane – University of Alberta

Greg Powell, E.I.T. – Pembina Institute

## 12) Pathways to Sustainability Conference

Pathways began as a community sustainability conference in Cochrane Alberta in May of 2009. P2S 2009 explored the five phases of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) sustainable community planning. Participants attended from across Alberta to learn about how to participate in creating sustainability plans for our communities.

Pathways 2011 is moving forward from planning to community-based action. With the involvement of the Alberta Rural Development Network and Growing Food Security in Alberta, Pathways 2011 will encompass a dialogue about the components of resilient communities: FOOD, FUEL, and FINANCE!

Pathways 2011 will be hosted at Red Deer College February 23rd - 25th in partnership with ReThink Red Deer, City of Red Deer, and Sustainability Resources Ltd.

**The ACSRC Director sits on the conference steering committee and funding sub-committee.**

## 13) East Central Alberta Cumulative Effects Project (ECACEP)

In advance of the release of the Land-use Framework in December 2008, Alberta Environment sponsored the East Central Alberta Cumulative Effects Management Project to examine how to engage communities in discussions about their future, and then how to translate their vision for the future into environmental, economic and social outcomes. This work has now been completed.

This new and innovative community engagement process, designed to elicit a collective vision of the future from which outcomes can be distilled, will now be used to inform the development of the seven regional plans for Alberta's Land-use Framework.

A website was developed and hosted by Abells Henry to document the East Central Alberta Cumulative Effects Project, and to support the efforts of community leaders involved in this project to share their work with others in their East Central Alberta communities.

The ACSRC assumed website hosting responsibilities in July 2010 from Abells Henry.

## 14) Public Presentations

- “Building University - Community Partnerships” presented as part of the Alberta Acts on Climate Change Virtual Conference. Camrose, March 12, 2010.
- Panelist “Creating a Rural Design Organization - How can it help rural areas?” The 1st International Symposium on Rural Design New Approaches of Inquiry and Practice. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN. January 15 - 16, 2010.
- “The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities” at the Round Hill Dodds Agricultural Protection Association (RHDAPA). Round Hill, AB. November 19, 2009
- “Building University - Community Partnerships” at the Watershed Summit. Camrose, AB. October 28, 2009

## Knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange

### **15) SSHRC Environmental Outreach Conference Grant (\$161 105)**

Dr. Lars K Hallström is the recipient of a 2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant. The grant was awarded in the Public Outreach Grants: Canadian Environmental Issues program category and will allow the ACSRC to host the ‘Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability Planning, Policy and Participation for Rural Canadian Communities’ conference (TTNS).

TTNS will take place at the Rev. K. Glen Johnson Faith and Life Centre at the Augustan Campus - University of Alberta in Camrose, Alberta from October 21 - 23, 2010.

TTNS will bring together researchers and community organizations from across Canada to explore the practices, implications, lessons and issues emerging from (1) the steps taken toward developing Integrated Community Sustainability Plans; and (2) the implications for implementation, policy development and analysis, evaluation and long-term policy, social and political action in rural Canadian communities. The conference is supported by a steering committee of faculty from both the Augustana and Edmonton campuses of the University of Alberta.

This conference will provide multiple venues and opportunities for knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange through a combination of key-note presentations, round tables, plenary sessions with academic/community panels, and break-out panels. There will also be opportunities for undergraduate students to participate, a small trade show and for regional participation.

#### **Co-applicants:**

Dr. Glen Hvenegaard  
Professor of Geography & Environmental  
Science/Studies  
University of Alberta Augustana Campus

Dr. Debra Davidson  
Director, Environmental Research & Studies  
Centre (ERSC)  
Associate Professor of Rural Economy  
University of Alberta

Dr. Hans-Dittmar Mündel  
Associate Director, Chester Ronning Centre for  
Religion and Public Life  
Professor of Religion, Global and Development  
Studies  
University of Alberta Augustana Campus

Dr. Naomi Krogman  
Associate Professor of Rural Economy  
University of Alberta

Dr. Mary Beckie  
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Extension  
University of Alberta

Dr. Karsten Mündel  
Director, Learning and Beyond Office (LaB)  
Assistant Professor of Global Studies  
University of Alberta Augustana Campus

Candice Tremblay  
Sustainability Coordinator  
University of Alberta Augustana Campus

## 16) Taking the Next Steps Alberta: Planning Policy and Participation for Rural Alberta<sup>1\*</sup>(\$10 000)

While the above conference does include a small number of research-community collaborations from within Alberta, it is intended to be a national conference, and the composition of papers and presentations reflects that scope. That said, the lessons, insights and challenges that will be shared through-out this conference may be of value and relevance to the many rural communities present within this province. This project, therefore, is intended to provide access to both the conference more generally, and to an Alberta-specific networking and knowledge translation event post-conference, for representatives from up to 30 communities within the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties catchments.

Specifically, funds for this project will be used to subsidize the travel and hosting costs for these 30 representatives, as well as to host an afternoon-long event after the national conference concludes. This event will focus on better understanding the specific issues, concerns and perspectives that Albertan communities have, but will also speak to the priorities, research and education-specific needs and gaps that these communities have identified. As a result, not only will this event help foster greater knowledge of, and communication between, the participants, but it is also anticipated to have a number of additional positive outcomes:

- 1) Increased knowledge of priority areas, capacity and interests for collaborative research, education, outreach and knowledge translation;
- 2) Increased knowledge exchange for and with rural communities re: opportunities and resources after completing the Integrated Municipal Sustainability Planning process;
- 3) Increased knowledge of the resources, mandate and limitations of the post-secondary context in Alberta;
- 4) Great inclusion of rural Albertan communities within a major, national rural conference.

### **Collaborator:**

Dr. Karsten Mündel - University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

---

\* Due to a midstream change in funding policy at the ARDN, Principal Investigator status was transferred from the ACSRC to a collaborator.

## 17) Managing Alberta's Water – Linking Science to Citizens and Management (\$10 000)

This event will bring together representatives from all 11 of the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils from across Alberta, along with key researchers from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge to discuss and develop the role and needs for social science in watershed management. Specifically, it will seek to better develop collaborative relationships between the large universities in the province and the analytic needs of the WPACs. In doing so, it will raise awareness of both the benefits and opportunities that social science research (such as policy analysis, rural and environmental sociology, adaptive and integrative watershed research, law and economics, to name only a few) can bring to this increasingly critical area of natural resource management, but also improve and foster the linkages and opportunities both between universities and WPACS, as well as between the WPACS themselves.

### **Collaborators:**

Dr. John Parkins – University of Alberta

Lisa Fox – Sustainability Resources Ltd.

Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils from across Alberta

## ACSRC

### Operations

#### Staff

##### *Director*

Lars K Hallström, PhD

Dr. Hallström is an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta (U of A) and the inaugural Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities. He is committed to overseeing the ACSRC's efforts to advance the U of A's rural-focused research and to forge practical connections to rural communities.

Dr. Hallström comes to the U of A from St. Francis Xavier University, where he served as an Associate Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Governance. He took a leadership role in establishing the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. His research has been diverse and includes issues relating to small-scale forestry and woodlots, eco-health, water policy and the politics of environmental movements. He holds a MA & PhD from Purdue University and a BA from the University of Calgary.

##### *Administration*

Devin Keay joined the ACSRC in May 2010 as Executive Assistant. He holds a BMgt from University of Alberta – Augustana Campus.

#### Training

The ACSRC has received funding to support:

- 4 undergraduate students (3 via the Rural Capacity Intern Program & 1 via the TTNS Conference)
- 1 graduate level student (via TTNS Conference)

## Events

### *Comparative Wetland Policies and Rural Water Quality: Practice in the United States and Theory of Canada*

In October 2009, Dr. Nicholas Guehlstorf, Department of Political Science & Environmental Sciences Program, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville Intern Program, visited the Augustana Campus to share his findings on Comparative Wetland Policies and Rural Water Quality: Practice in the United States and Theory of Canada.

*This presentation was co-sponsored by the StFX Centre for Regional Studies.*

### *The Power of Hope*

In March 2010, Dr. Wendy Duggleby, Professor & Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life in the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, presented her findings of over 14 studies of hope at Augustana Campus. Dr. Duggleby's multi-media presentation highlighted simple techniques uncovered by her research that have helped persons at the end of their lives, their families and nurses have hope.

## Executive Council

### **Dr. Roger Epp**

Dean, Augustana Campus

### **Dr. John Kennelly**

Dean, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

### **Dr. Glen Hvenegaard**

Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies, Augustana Campus

### **Dr. Norah Keating**

Professor, Family Gerontology, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

### **Dr. Karsten Mündel**

Director, Learning and Beyond, Augustana Campus

### **Dr. John Parkins**

Associate Professor, Rural Sociology, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

## Strategic Planning

The ACSRC Executive Council and Director worked together over the last twelve months to develop an organizational strategic plan. A draft plan was completed by the Director and distributed in early June 2010 to the Executive Council for review.

## About

Established in 2008, the ACSRC is 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

<http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/centres/acsrc/>

## Appendix A

### ACSRC Individual Collaborators

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Organization</u>
<b>Dr. Mary Beckie</b>	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Extension	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Albert Cook</b>	Associate Dean/Research, Faculty of Extension	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Debra Davidson</b>	Director, Environmental Research & Studies Centre	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Wendy Duggleby</b>	Professor & Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life, Faculty of Nursing	University of Alberta
<b>Lisa Fox</b>	Executive Director	Sustainability Resource Ltd.
<b>Dr. Nicholas Guehlstorf</b>	Associate Professor, Political Science	Southern Illinois University
<b>Dr. Glynnis Hood</b>	Assistant Professor, Environmental Science & Studies	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Dr. Glen Hvenegaard</b>	Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Dr. David J Kahane</b>	Professor, Political Science	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Norah Keating</b>	Professor, Family Gerontology	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Naomi Krogman</b>	Associate Professor, Rural Economy	University of Alberta
<b>Dr. Mishka Lysack</b>	Assistant Professor	University of Calgary
<b>Rene Michalak</b>	Coordinator	Rethink Red Deer
<b>Dr. Karsten Mündel</b>	Director, Learning & Beyond	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Dr. Hans-Dittmar Mündel</b>	Associate Director, Chester Ronning Centre for Religion and Public Life	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Dr. Timothy Parker</b>	Professor, Psychology	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus

<b>Dr. John Parkins</b>	Associate Professor, Rural Economy	University of Alberta
<b>Greg Powell</b>	Researcher and Technical Analyst	Pembina Institute
<b>Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson</b>	Assistant Professor, Psychology	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Candice Tremblay</b>	Sustainability Coordinator	University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
<b>Colleen Vennard</b>	Executive Director, Alberta East Central Region	Canadian Mental Health Association
<b>Rhiannon Wegenast</b>	Facilitator, Alberta East Central Region	Canadian Mental Health Association

## **Appendix B**

### **ACSRC Organizational Collaborators**

**Alberta Acts on Climate Change**

**Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)**

**Athabasca Watershed Council**

**Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)**

**Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI)**

**Beaver River Watershed Alliance (BRWA)**

**Bow River Basin Council (BRBC)**

**Government of Alberta – Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Government of Alberta- Tourism, Parks and Recreation**

**Grand Prairie Regional College**

**Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER)**

**Keyano College**

**Learning and Beyond Office (LaB)**

**Lesser Slave Watershed Council (LSWC)**

**Milk River Watershed Council Canada (MRWCC)**

**NorQuest College**

**Northern Lakes College**

**North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA)**

**OIKOS Centre for the Environment**

**Oldman Watershed Council (OWC)**

**Peace River Watershed**

**The Pembina Institute**

**Red Deer River Watershed Alliance (RDRWA)**

**South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (SEAWA)**

**St. Francis Xavier University Centre for Regional Studies (StFX CRS)**

**Town of Hardisty**

**Town of Wainwright**

**University of Alberta**

**University of Alberta – Augustana Campus**

**University of Calgary**

**University of Lethbridge**

**Village of Heisler**