



Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities Annual Report May 17, 2013 – May 17, 2014

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Annual Report 13/14

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About

Established in 2008, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) is a partnership between the Augustana Faculty and the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences of the University of Alberta. The ACSRC fills the gap for research and policy in rural areas by fostering constructive dialogue, promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and developing partnerships between the University of Alberta and rural communities in Alberta and beyond.

For more information, please visit the ACSRC's website: <http://www.acsrc.ca/>

Vision

The vision of the ACSRC is of resilient rural communities across Canada linked closely to the discovery, dissemination, and application of new knowledge at the University of Alberta through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement, and partnerships. Such resilient rural communities will hinge on informed citizens actively participating in community governance and development in order to support and sustain the people, livelihoods, regional and local capital, economic development and long-term social viability of rural communities as a key element of the Canadian economy, the natural environment and as home to many Canadians.

Mission

The mission of the ACSRC is to link the research, outreach and educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, nationally, and internationally in order to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

Values

- **Collaboration:** The ACSRC recognizes the contributions and capacity of individual citizens, private, public, community and other non-governmental organizations, faculty, staff and students of post-secondary institutions in Alberta, in collectively advancing the development and sustainability of rural communities.
- **Methodological and theoretical rigour and pluralism:** The ACSRC encourages both theoretical and methodological pluralism, and the critical reflection upon the suitability and implications of the theories and methods used;
- **Capacity building:** The ACSRC is committed to supporting the ability of rural communities via research, outreach and knowledge transfer; to not only govern themselves, but to participate in a meaningful and efficacious manner at and with all levels of government and administration.
- **Transparency:** The ACSRC seeks to adopt best practices in all of its activities in order to ensure fair and open operations, and to comply with the appropriate FOIPOP legislation, etc.
- **Local Knowledge:** The ACSRC recognizes that the sustainability of rural communities in Canada varies from region to region, from community to community, and that factors such as culture,

geography, natural environment, socio-economic context and political history can all lead to varying outcomes. The ACSRC, therefore, recognizes that the knowledge, experience and expertise present within communities has equal value and standing to that generated within an institution (university or college) setting.

- **Evidence-informed decision-making:** While keeping to all other values listed here, the ACSRC supports the application of systematically gained knowledge to guide the decisions, policies and programs of (1) the Centre; (2) rural communities; (3) regional, provincial and national policy-makers.

Goals

The ACSRC has established 5 goals which, through their accomplishment, will move the Centre toward achieving its mission in a fashion consistent with its vision and values. Each goal is supported by key objectives (bulleted) which, in turn, will guide the day-to-day operations of the Centre:

1) Research

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

2) Education

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

3) Outreach

Generate greater interaction and collaboration with rural community stakeholders.

4) Knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange

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

May 2014

The past year has been a tumultuous and unpredictable combination of events, to say the least. In addition to significant political events both here in Alberta (such as the resignation of Premier Redford) and abroad (such as the political instability in Ukraine), the academic community of Alberta has struggled with significant budget cuts, a changing ministerial and political environment, and what often appear to be “moving targets” for public policy. Despite all this, and despite increasing competition for the research and other funds on which the Centre largely relies, the 2013-14 year has been a successful one, for a number of different reasons.

In addition to securing funding to engage in a number of important projects (including rural homelessness and rural community planning), some key highlights of the past year have been to see the reputation and profile of the Centre continue to grow, both in Alberta, and nationally. I was able to attend the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) in Thunder Bay in late 2013, and as a new Board Member for that Foundation, was very pleased to see not only how well regarded the ACSRC is at the national level, but also how well our work fits into a much larger complex of rural, regional and developmental work taking place at universities across Canada. In a similar vein, the ACSRC is a core member of an emerging international partnership (hosted at the Rural Development Institute in Brandon, and funded by SSHRC) that will examine, analyse and share rural policy learnings from around the world. Closer to home, I have been very pleasantly surprised to see that the ACSRC has built a profile of enough substance and reputation to warrant being approached by community-based organizations to partner, develop and potentially even implement community-oriented projects.

At the same time, the Centre continues to build positive relationships with the Provincial Government. In addition to regular engagement with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Centre has spent the last two years working on a number of initiatives with Alberta Parks, including the on-going development and implementation of the Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre, the generation of both provincial and regional research and policy priorities, and (most recently) the initiation of unique, multi-institutional and departmental Social Science Working Group for Alberta Parks. These projects demonstrate the potential of applied partnerships between government and the University, and align with the goals and priorities of both the Plan for Parks, as well as the Province’s Science Strategy for Parks.

Moving into the next reporting year, there are a number of exciting initiatives afoot. In addition to continuing our work on sustainability planning and implementation, I hope to see continued and productive partnerships develop projects focused on rural governance, rural public policy, rural continuing care, rural youth engagement, rural capacity-building through network analyses, conflict management and exercise initiatives for rural youth. Perhaps more importantly, I hope to see continued interaction and partnership with rural communities and community-based organizations – the last year demonstrated how important and positive such partnerships can be, and we will continue to do the work that facilitates, and encourages, such relationships as we move forward.

Lars K. Hallström

Director, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Projects

Ongoing

Municipal Governance Reform and Land Use Planning in Alberta (Alberta Land Institute \$30,000) (11/01/2013 - 11/30/2014)

The Alberta Land-Use Framework regional plans were intended to be complete between 2010 and 2012. However, as of 2013 five of the seven regional plans have not even begun. The delay has compounded pre-existing issues including regional land-use planning, municipal planning and municipal governance for rural communities. These regional plans were designed to ensure that provincial direction and priorities were being acted on at a regional level. As a result, rural municipalities are left with little direction or support from the province with regards to land-use planning.

The objectives of this project are to:

- (1) to assess and describe the current governance framework for land-use planning in Alberta;
- (2) identify 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;
- (3) identify models that have been used in other jurisdictions to define the relationship between provincial and municipal interests and authority in land use planning;
- (4) identify what made these models effective or ineffective and how is this relevant to Alberta;
- (5) identify what type of legislation or regulatory changes are needed to clearly define roles and responsibilities of all stakeholder involved in the ongoing implementation of the LUF and identify if revisions to the MGA are required; and
- (6) identify what tools and processes are needed to support and effective governance framework for the LUF.

This project provides funding for a one-year graduate student research assistantship. This position provides research support to all phases of the project.

Alberta Parks Social Science Working Group (Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division \$34,500) (2013-15)

This is a community of Parks staff and University of Alberta faculty representing the applied and social sciences of which the Director is a member. Established in 2013, the Working Group is well-positioned to help contribute to the fulfillment of the Science Strategy of the Parks division. The Strategy 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) and develop a culture of respect for the value of science in park management.

This project is intended to increase the capacity for social science research within the Parks Division of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. This project will:

- 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.

Integrated Community Sustainability Plans in Canada: An Analysis of Sustainability Emphases and Contributing Factors (University of Alberta Killiam Research Fund – Cornerstones Grant Program \$41,620) (collaborator) (07/01/2013 - 12/31/2014)

Rural communities are facing significant challenges in the areas of investment, urbanization, health, education, environmental stressors, and governance, all of which relate to sustainability. Sustainability in rural communities has received increased attention recently with the introduction of Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund making sustainability planning a key part of infrastructure and socio-economic development. Slated to ultimately invest approximately \$13 billion in sustainable municipal infrastructure, the GTF also provided support to municipalities for the development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs). Many communities across Canada have now completed ICSPs or a provincial variant and these represent a wide range of approaches, toolkits, strategies, and content. These ICSPs represent the desired trajectory of rural communities toward sustainability, and there is considerable variation in emphases among the targeted dimensions of sustainability. This variation will have an effect on operationalizing, implementing, and assessing ICSPs. The goals of this project are to develop the largest database of ICSPs in Canada and to develop a model from community and plan variables that can predict influence sustainability emphases. The database of ICSPs will serve as a valuable resource to rural communities regarding examples of best practice for rural sustainability and will foster collaboration among the many, diverse rural communities. The predictive model will assist researchers, policy analysts, and municipal planners to analyze, understand, and support community attempts to operationalize and implement their sustainability plans. This project is unique in its examination of the spatial, community, and plan variables that influence the variability of sustainability emphases of ICSPs.

Collaborator: Glen Hvenegaard, University of Alberta (PI)

Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (CSPI) (2012-2014)

At the beginning of 2013, the University of Alberta's Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) launched the Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (CSPI). This searchable online inventory is the most comprehensive collection of sustainability plans in Canada. The CSPI can be accessed via www.augustana.ualberta.ca/cspi/

Sustainability in rural communities of Canada has received increased attention at the local and national scales. Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) made sustainability planning a key part of infrastructure and socio-economic development of communities across Canada. Slated to ultimately invest approximately \$13 billion in sustainable municipal infrastructure such as transit, waste management, water and green energy by 2015, the GTF also provided support to municipalities for the development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs).

Many communities have now completed ICSPs or a provincial variant and these represent a wide range of approaches, toolkits, strategies and content within Alberta and from across the country. As such, there is no single solution or model for sustainability planning. Indeed, there is considerable variation in emphases among the targeted dimensions of sustainability and these emphases vary by region and by population size. This inventory provides a means for rural communities, researchers, and development practitioners to access how other communities from across Canada have approached sustainability planning in terms of process, content and areas of concentration.

With the launch of the CSPI, the ACSRC hopes to provide a valuable resource of previous ICSPs to rural communities, an up-to-date source of information and a mechanism that may support rural sustainability as communities shift from plans to implementation. We hope this inventory and sharing of ICSPs will foster collaboration and information exchange among the many and diverse rural communities in Canada, so that they may learn from and support each other in their quest for sustainability.

Rural Policy Learning Commons Building Rural Policy through International Comparative Analysis (SSHRC Partnership Grant \$2,493,435) (co-applicant) (2014-20)

Designing and implementing policy for rural and northern regions has long been a contentious issue, particularly since the challenges are variable and complex. The remote locations, lower populations, and place-based identities of these regions create unique challenges when compared with urban centres. The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) is designed to meet this challenge by networking international scholars with policy-makers and citizens -- in a manner that will expand and nurture future generations of policy analysts and practitioners. We will add to existing research knowledge, increase the opportunity for partners to exchange insights, build a cohort of highly qualified policy analysts, mobilize this knowledge to the wider population, and increase our collective capacity to develop appropriate policy for rural and northern conditions.

Our proposal rests on 25 years of collaboration among researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and citizens within the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), the Rural Development Institute (RDI), and the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies program (ICRPS). For 25 years, CRRF has been holding annual conferences and workshops, initiating research, and engaging with policy-makers regarding the conditions in rural and northern Canada (<http://crrf.ca>). In concert with CRRF, RDI has been conducting community-focused research, meeting with regional leaders, and publishing rural-relevant materials (<http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/>). For the last nine years ICRPS has organized a two-week Institute where about 30 graduate students and practitioners meet with about 20 faculty members from 12 trans-Atlantic partner institutions to study the challenges of rural policy and explore options for its improvement (<http://icrps.org>).

The RPLC builds on these activities by adding research, exchanges, institutes, policy form, distance learning activities, and social media such as webinars and blogs to generate new policy insights and strengthen comparative research collaboration among faculty, students, practitioners, and policy-makers. Research and policy activities within the RPLC will be guided by critically examining and advancing comparative policy analyses as applied to pressing rural and northern policy challenges and opportunities such as climate change, food security, immigration and labour, natural resource development, and telecommunications.

The RPLC incorporates an iterative and cumulative design where particular lessons learned regarding rural policy insights, methods, design and implementation are opened to further scrutiny. It integrates academic participants with rural policy practitioners and community stakeholders to exchange expertise and experiences that cross disciplinary, organizational, and sectoral lines. Adopting an "active policy entrepreneurship" approach (Stone 2001) we use this collaboration to critically evaluate policy alternatives, expand the tools available to policy-analysts, and prepare policy-makers for a world where rural-urban interdependence is the norm

Collaborator: William Reimer, Brandon University (PI)

Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre

Augustana's Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre (MLSC) is proposed as a significant resource for researchers and educators in the area of 'sustainability science'. The MLSC will explore how environmental, social, health, and agricultural domains affect each other in increasingly industrialized, urbanized, and ecologically sensitive landscapes. This environmental research station will provide researchers and educators with computer technology and infrastructure for biological, social, policy, and applied health science research and teaching. Opportunities and outputs will provide valuable contributions to communities, researchers, and decision-makers across the province and country. The broad research plan to address this question includes biophysical inventories and monitoring, inter-sectoral public policy analyses, public opinion assessments, and policy impact assessments, all with a focus on environmental sustainability. The teaching opportunities provided by this facility for graduate and undergraduate students will include field trips, research assistantships, directed studies courses, and field studies courses. The MLSC will be 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), integrative approach, and set of partners (Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Camrose County, Beaver Hills Initiative).

Continuing care needs reference group with ICCER (2012-2014)

The primary role of the Community Needs Driven Research Network for 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 at 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 KT 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 and champion for providers in the Network.

Collaborator: Sandra Woodhead Lyons, ICCER (PI)

Children and Youth Engagement with Nature and their Health: A scoping review of interventions (CIHR Knowledge Synthesis Grant \$49,995) (Knowledge User) (2013-14)

Interventions for engaging young people with nature are multiplying and competing with traditional interventions for resources. However, knowledge on such interventions, including the degree and range of outcomes urgently needs to be methodically synthesized. It is, therefore, timely to produce a scoping review that will generate results that will be highly pertinent to knowledge users, the broader community and organizations around the world. Using a population health model, the scoping review will allow us to compare interventions and how they are applied in diverse settings and contexts, and to describe the positive and negative outcomes and absence of outcomes of the interventions, alongside the barriers and facilitators to intervention use. It will also help us to identify where sufficient evidence exists so that action plans and future policy recommendations can be made about interventions to engage children and youth with nature for health purposes. Gaps and contradictions in evidence will also be identified along with areas where knowledge translation strategies would be useful, where further knowledge synthesis is needed, and where more primary research is required. Additionally, this review will generate publications and presentations alongside other creative knowledge translation strategies for knowledge users and stakeholders in local communities as well as the scientific community. This process will build a strong multidisciplinary partnership between knowledge users and researchers, useful for future knowledge translation strategies, action plans, policy development and research.

Collaborator: Patti Hansen-Ketchum (PI)

Completed

Alberta Parks Top 20 Research Questions (Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation – Parks Division \$21,500) (07/01/2012 - 03/31/2014)

The ACSRC facilitated a research project during the Summer/Fall 2012 to create a list of relevant, feasible and implementable Parks priority research questions. The focus of this project is to explore how the department is able to adapt to change and better themselves in the areas of health, environmental, education, and many other factors.

In Phase 2 of this project, provincial and regional (East Central, Northwest, West Central, South, Northeast, and Kananaskis) workshops have been held in the past year. During the course of the workshops, participants from research, policy, non-governmental and conservation communities engaged in an internationally recognized consensus-based exercise that will generate the top 20 research questions from an edited list of submission collected in Phase 1.

In Phase 1 of the project, an online submission form was set-up for a 6-week period this Fall. Representatives from research, policy, non-governmental and rural communities were invited to submit what they saw as the most pressing or important questions for researchers to inform research and public policy issues in Alberta parks. Participants were asked to ensure their question submission met the following criteria:

- (1) Be answerable through an implementable and realistic research design;
- (2) Be answerable on the basis of fact;
- (3) Be of a spatial and temporal scale that can be addressed realistically;
- (4) Not be answerable with a yes/no or “it depends”;
- (5) Contain a subject of intervention, an intervention and a measurable/evaluated effect related to that intervention or policy; and
- (6) Increase the efficacy, scope or efficiency of policy or practice related to Alberta Parks

The results will help researchers focus on projects operationalizing the science strategy of Alberta Parks. The responses will be compiled and presented in a report and we hope that they will also be published in academic journals. If so, every person participating in this workshop will be listed as a co-author, provided they contribute to the editorial process.

This project is in part a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2009 between the Augustana Faculty (University of Alberta) and Tourism, Parks, and Recreation. This Memorandum established a cooperative working relationship that seeks to assist student training, applied research, business and development.

From plan to action: Rural sustainability in Canada – complexity, informality and partnerships in planning, policy and governance (U of A – PG LOI GAP Fund \$10,000) (08/01/2014 - 03/31/2014)

The funds provide financial support for expenses related to the preparation of a Partnership Letter of Intent (LOI) (due February 2014).

Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) (2005 -- 2015) has promoted sustainability planning as a key part of community infrastructure and socio-economic development. Many communities have now completed an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) or a provincial variant, but they are far from uniform and some communities have not engaged in this process. There is no singular solution or model for sustainability, let alone sustainability planning or subsequent policy. There is, therefore, a need for further examination of the nature and pathways of sustainability planning and its implementation in Canada, particularly as it relates to rural communities. Rural communities, often with limited resources, now face the potentially critical task of transforming the vision and wide-ranging goals that emerged from the planning process into measurable, justifiable and meaningful actions.

This proposed Partnership Grant will link a series of established community-university relationships across Canada through collaborative examination and analyses of the implementation of rural sustainability plans. The thesis of this project is that while planning and policy are best understood, not as part of a linear and rational model for sustainability, but rather a form of action that is surrounded by a broader complex of formal, informal and highly political citizen and community action. This broader complex is multi-faceted and dynamic, and not necessarily aligned to the linear planning-policy ideal. In turn, rural communities face a dual challenge – the need to work within a federally-endorsed context of transforming planning to public policy, but also reconciling that implementation challenge with the social "mess," informality and pressures of social, environmental, economic, cultural and political dynamics of rural community sustainability. It is grounded in the application of the PRECEED/PROCEDE model to understanding and evaluating the multiple stages of the planning and implementation process, and is applicable to rural communities of different sizes, locations, resilience and economic dependencies.

**Water Policy Innovation Forum
(Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Public Outreach
Grant \$28,091.00) (03/01/2012 - 02/28/2014)**

On August 9-10, 2012, the ACSRC hosted the “Integrating Water Innovation Forum” at the Norsemen Inn, in Camrose, Alberta. This two day event brought together researchers, policy actors and representatives from watersheds across Canada to help bring greater clarity and collaborative capacity to those engaged in watershed management and policy in light of the ever increasingly challenges and complexities they face in their work. Over the course of the forum participants discussed multiple themes (integration, policy, scale, resilience, & intersecotral action) of water policy and watershed management.

The forum was structured around a series of consecutive plenary sessions modeled on “dialogue circles.” The purpose of these circles was to foster connectivity, sharing and form inter-personal, inter-organizational, and inter-regional integration itself. Each theme’s discussion began with two to three complementary presentations. The first was from the academic or research community. This was then followed by a presentation(s) from representatives speaking on behalf of a watershed organization. Following these presentations, facilitated dialogue circles encouraged participants to have open and deliberative engagement with the questions, issues and practices raised by the presentations.

This event was both provincial and national in scope as it brought together participants from across the province of Alberta (including representatives from seven of Alberta’s eleven Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils) and from across Canada (including presenters from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia). Workshop proceedings including a final report were produced following the event.

**Open Door (Camrose) Youth Homelessness & Housing Needs Assessment
(\$10,000) (02/01/2013 - 06/30/2013)**

The purpose of this needs assessment is to establish the nature, scope and potential opportunities and challenges facing rural youth homeless in the Camrose region. 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. Furthermore, this 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 is a first step toward a thorough analysis of the needs of homeless and at-risk youth in order to identify gaps in service and to develop a strategic action plan for the Open Door to create transitional housing and support services for this target population. To this end, the University of Alberta undertook a short-term (5 month) needs assessment for the Open Door. A final report was produced at the conclusion of this project.

Collaborator: Randal Nickel, Open Door (PI)

**Augustana Faculty Miquelon Lake Sustainability Centre
(University of Alberta’s Office of Sustainability - Sustainability Enhancement
Fund \$50,000) (04/01/2012 - 06/30/2013)**

These funds supported the purchase of equipment and supplies for the MLSC. Please see page 12 for more information.

Social Economy, Community Resilience and the Transition to Sustainability (SSHRC Partnership Development Grant \$200,000) (co-applicant) (2012-13)

Launching in the Summer of 2012, the goal of this SSHRC-funded partnership development project is to develop a new community-university research partnership to study the scaling up and scaling out of innovations that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of communities and regions. The project would build upon the strong community-university research partnership model developed by the BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA - 2006-2012), but would engage significant new partners and participants.

While the primary focus of the partnership would be in Alberta and BC, there are also national and international partners. Key findings from BALTA's earlier research reveal the strategic importance of the social economy or third sector in advancing sustainability and meeting basic needs on a more local-regional basis. With sixty per cent of the planet's ecosystems at risk and continued reliance on fossil fuels making inevitable a future of severe and irreversible climate change, populations are rendered more vulnerable and the communities and regions they live in more subject to environmental, economic and social dislocation. BALTA's earlier research examined the potential contributions of the social economy to advancing sustainability and studied examples of current best practice in addressing sustainability objectives. This new research partnership would build upon that base to study how to adapt and scale up the essence of successful innovations in one context to a wider range of contexts. Such scaling of innovation is absolutely critical to addressing effectively the sustainability challenges facing the World and Canadian communities.

Collaborator: Athabasca University and the BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA)

Rural Sustainability: Complexity, Informality and Partnerships in Planning, Policy and Governance (SSHRC Partnership Grant LOI \$19,700) (07/01/2012 - 06/30/2013)

Rural communities are facing increasing pressures to achieve long term sustainability by improving the integration of social, environmental, economic and health systems. As a result of Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) (2005 -- 2015) many communities have now completed an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) or a provincial variant. However, these plans are not uniform, some communities have not engaged, and a wide range of approaches, toolkits, content, and strategies have emerged. The intent of this proposed partnership grant is to focus on what sustainability means to rural communities, how plans have been created and implemented, the levels of engagement, and the relationship to policy making and governance.

This proposed project will use mixed methods to build upon existing regional and national collectives of stakeholders from the research sector, rural communities, community umbrella associations and relevant community organizations. It will form a national set of partnerships dedicated to furthering both our understanding and the actions stemming from the recent and emerging sustainability planning in rural Canada. Driven by a core of regional nodes linking the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia (with Quebec and a Northern alliance anticipated to join in years 1-2), this network will examine and share the results generated by exploring the following questions:

1. What do sustainability and sustainable development mean for rural communities in Canada?
2. How are sustainability plans being operationalized, implemented, and assessed?
3. How do we better understand the “real” world of sustainability in rural communities through a policy-making lens?
4. What are the drivers, implications and causal effects of sustainability policy, and are they consistent with the values and goals of rural communities?
5. Does a national collaborative of regional nodes of a wide range of collaborators emphasizing reciprocal knowledge acquisition and knowledge exchange, provide a positive contribution to the sustainability processes of rural communities in Canada?

The ACSRC received seed funding from SSHRC to put together a multi-year partnership grant application (submitted Nov. 1, 2012) to develop a national knowledge network for sustainability plan implementation and assessment. This proposed project received committed support from twenty-six university, non-governmental and municipal partners from across Canada totaling over \$1.65 million. The full application did not receive funding.

In-Development and Under Review

Choice resources to support continuing care transitions in Alberta (CIHR Knowledge to Action (KTA)) (Fall 2014 Application)

In Alberta, continuing care encompasses three streams - home living, supportive living, and facility living (long-term care). Individuals receiving care often need to move or transition between continuing care streams, and also between the continuing care and acute care sectors. Transitions from one type of care to the next can be very difficult for the resident/client, family members, and the staff at both the sending and receiving end. In continuing care these transitions can be even more difficult as the residents/clients are often frail elderly with multiple conditions, and may be changing both levels and sites of care at the same time.

In the 2008 Continuing Care Strategy, the Government of Alberta identified transition support as a key mechanism of meeting public desire for maintained independence and aging in place (2008). Recognising that the health care system in Alberta has become increasingly complex and fragmented, the Coordinated Access Policy of AHS Continuing Care (2010) mandated that transitions be both minimized and managed in order to reduce the probability of adverse events. A core element requiring action, therefore, lies in the role families and patients play in the decision-making process pertaining to care. As Iliffe (1997) note, there are often significant delays in the onset of care (resulting in compounded issues later on) as well as erroneous decisions and referrals made by patients, family members, and even practitioners. These delays and errors (which can be measured to a certain degree by refusals or denials of placement) are both an immediate challenge and potential threat to the well-being and stability of the patient and care-giving family, but also present real costs to the provision of health care and continuing care specifically in Alberta.

An identified gap in the coordination of continuing care and care transitions has been the empowerment and engagement of patients and families in the care coordination process. This project seeks to address this gap via a demonstration project that will: (1) increase patient, family and care coordinator capacity to make and implement continuing care decisions; (2) support patients, families and care coordination with a Choice Resource to support decision-making; and (3) provide a curriculum to support care coordinators in (1) and (2).

Specifically, this project will develop, pilot and evaluate the creation of a Continuing Care Choice Resource linked with curriculum for care coordination (both generated from a practitioner participatory design approach) that will provide both an interface and resource for care coordinators to engage, empower and support the choices, decisions and actions taken by patients and families as they move through both continuing and acute care.

Regional Collaboration Program (Alberta Municipal Affairs - Regional Collaborative Program \$248,098) (Summer 2014 submission)

The ACSRC, Viking/Beaver Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), Tofield FCSS and a number of Beaver County municipalities have partnered to propose regional programming that explores youth engagement, youth infrastructure and youth economic development in Beaver County.

Rural Sustainability: Context, Complexity, Planning, Policy and Implementation **(SSHRC Partnership Grant Letter of Intent \$19,700) (under review Spring 2014)**

With nearly 85% of Canadians now considered "urban," there is major pressure upon rural communities to enhance their resilience, build community capacity, compete, collaborate and develop community capitals. Influenced by the shift toward integrated sustainability planning in the last decade, rural communities and municipalities in Canada now face the questions of how to refine, revise and implement such plans, and specifically how to translate such plans into meaningful, locally-appropriate and legitimate public policies, policy instruments and initiatives. Our research questions centre upon how best to support rural communities undergoing this transition, and to help them face a diverse range of ongoing social, political, economic and environmental challenges.

Canada's Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) was intended as a mechanism to trigger and support improved planning in rural communities and thus respond to these challenges. This approach was grounded in a goal of "accelerat[ing] the shift in local planning and decision-making toward a more long-term, coherent and participatory approach to achieve sustainable communities" (PMO 2005; 4). The intention was to move beyond conventional land use planning and development methods to also consider the environmental, social, cultural and economic dimensions of sustainability. This same federal paper identified a four-part linear approach to sustainability planning that promises to respond to the pressing fiscal and political challenges for rural communities, and is composed of the core elements of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback.

Despite this shift, there is no singular solution or model for sustainability, let alone sustainability planning and policy. Many communities struggle with reconciling their plans and planning processes with local priorities and conceptions of sustainability, how to conceptualize and integrate planning and policy across multiple pillars of sustainability, and how to link sustainability planning to actions that increase the community capitals (such as social, human, financial, cultural and natural capitals) that support sustainability and resilience. There is, therefore, need for further examination of both what constitutes sustainability in diverse rural contexts, how integration between and across pillars can actually occur, how different community-based approaches to sustainability plan implementation affect community capitals, and how rural communities are transforming the vision and wide-ranging goals set out in their planning processes into measurable, justifiable and meaningful actions.

This Connection-Insight grant will link a series of established community-university relationships across Canada focused on improving rural sustainability. Rural communities must increasingly function within a "social mess" of varying capitals, histories, assets and weaknesses as they implement sustainability plans -- improving our understanding of how best to do so is at the heart of this project. Starting from the current "policy window" of sustainability planning and implementation, this partnership will examine, link and share the results of a research and knowledge transfer program focused on the importance of rural context and place for understanding sustainability, the difficulties of shifting from sustainability planning to implementation, and the challenges of reconciling a highly linear model for sustainability action that is surrounded by a broader complex of socio-political, institutional, economic and cultural factors within each community.

Living with Hope: Realistic evaluation of a patient-centered hope intervention for older persons receiving palliative home care (Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant) (co-applicant)

This study will contribute to the refinement of the Living with Hope Program that may improve quality of life of persons receiving palliative home care. The findings will also increase our understanding of the factors influencing hope, quality of life in a vulnerable, understudied population that is increasing in numbers with the aging of Canada's population. The outcome of this study will be an implementation kit for palliative home care services to use as a value added approach to their current services. Effective psychosocial supportive interventions, such as the LWHP are critical for their support and well-being of persons with advanced disease. The preliminary work of the research team in conjunction with clinicians and terminally ill patients and families has resulted in a promising, practical psychosocial supportive hope intervention that may improve the quality of life for thousands of Canadians.

Collaborator: Wendy Duggleby, University of Alberta (PI)

Sustainability Planning and Implementation in Rural Canada

Starting from the current "policy window" of both national and provincial initiatives to support sustainability planning as an entry point to the politics and policies of Canadian rural communities, this project will demonstrate that while planning and subsequent public policy are important elements of furthering the sustainability and resilience of rural Canada, at best they represent an over-simplified, linear model for sustainability action. This model is not necessarily appropriate or accurate for community sustainability (broadly defined) as it is surrounded by a broader complex of citizen and community-based actions. This complex is multi-faceted, dynamic and not necessarily aligned with the planning-to-policy ideal. In turn, rural communities face the challenge of working within a federally-endorsed context of transforming planning and plans to policy, but reconciling that challenge with the social "mess," informality and pressures of social, environmental, economic, cultural and political dynamics of community sustainability.

This project will analyze the ways in which rural sustainability policy and action have been affected by the emphasis on sustainability planning. Specifically, it will explore:

- (1) How sustainability plans in rural communities have been created and framed;
- (2) How (with an emphasis on process, community-based goals and characteristics) and why plans have been implemented, and in what ways;
- (3) What levers for sustainability-oriented change are emphasized throughout the planning and policy process.

This is a timely opportunity to better understand and support the community-based processes that link planning, design, implementation and policy analysis/evaluation in rural Canada. This project has the potential to both increase and improve our knowledge of the steps taken toward increased rural community sustainability, what that means at the community level, and what effective and meaningful strategies and methods exist to move from plans to action and evaluation.

Centre Operations

Staff

Director

Lars K. Hallström, PhD.

Administration and Research

Spring/Summer 2014

Devin Keay – Executive Assistant

Naomi Finseth – Graduate Research Assistant

Nusrat Dipa – MSc. Assistantship

Jennifer Stonechild – Undergraduate Research Assistant

Aubrie Duncan – Undergraduate Research Assistant

Sara Deris – University of Alberta Research Experience Canada (UARE-Canada) Summer Intern

Fall 2013/Winter 2014

Devin Keay – Executive Assistant

Amy Avdeef - Undergraduate Research Assistant

Michael Huang - Undergraduate Research Assistant

Erika Heiberg – Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Stonechild- Undergraduate Research Assistant

Aubrie Duncan – Undergraduate Research Assistant

Naomi Finseth – Graduate Research Assistant

Nusrat Dipa – MSc. Assistantship

Patrick Ndlovu – Data Analyst

Kwanele Ngwenya – Data Analyst

Training

The ACSRC supported and/or employed the following student positions via external and internal funding and in-kind support:

- 3 Graduate-level PT student positions
- 20 Undergraduate student PT positions
- 3 Community Service Learning Students

Visiting Scholar

The ACSRC hosted a Chinese Scholar, Dr. Ying Hu, from Zhejiang Sci-Tech University for a period of six months (January – June 2013). Dr. Hu worked with U of A faculty and collaborators on Rural Community Management and Land Use Planning and Policy in the Process of Urbanization research projects.

Funding

The ACSRC is currently receiving funding from:

- The University of Alberta – Augustana Faculty
- The University of Alberta – Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
- The Province of Alberta – Tourism, Parks and Recreation
- Alberta Land Institute
- Killiam Research Fund – Cornerstones Grant Program

ACSRC Related Publications and Presentations

Presentations

“Camrose Open Door: Rural Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment” Presented w/ Randal Nickel at the Creating Rural Connections 2014 Event Series: Vulnerable Populations. Calgary, AB. 25 April 2014

“Comparing Rural Sustainability Planning: Catalysts and Causes” Paper presented at the 2014 Western Political Science Association Conference. Seattle, WA, USA. 18 April 2014

“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. 9-11 April 2014

“Assessing the level of citizen participation in Integrated Community Sustainability Planning and Implementation in Alberta” w/ N. Dipa. Presented at the Department of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology (REES), University of Alberta. Edmonton, AB. 28 March 2014

“Water: A Global Crisis” as part of the UNESCO ASPNet Forum - Keynote Speaker. 20 March 2014

“Alberta’s Water Toolkit” poster presented at “Streams of Thought” University of Alberta, 19 March 2014

“Water, watersheds and health: Integrating ecohealth and watershed management approaches” poster presented at “Streams of Thought” University of Alberta, 19 March 2014

“Public Policy Implementation and its Implications” Rural Development Institute (RDI) Webinar. Keynote Speaker. 28 November 2013

“Rural Sustainability and Economic Prioritization” Keynote Address. Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED) 7 November 2013

“Sustainability Plans in Canada: An Analysis of Emphases and Contributing Factors” Presented at 2013 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) Conference. Thunder Bay, ON. 26 October 2013

“Country Life: Sustainability for Rural Communities in Alberta & Canada” Presented w/ Shauna Feth at University of Alberta Vice-President (University Relations) sponsored event in Killam, AB. 22 October 2013

“Evaluation of the Living with Hope Program with Rural Women Informal Caregivers of Persons with Advanced Cancer” Duggleby, W. Williams, A., Cooper, D., Holtslander, L., Ghose, S., Hallstrom, L., & Thomas, R. (2013). 42nd Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting Canadian Association of Gerontology. Halifax, Nova Scotia. 19 October 2013

“SSHRC Connections Grants – Insights and Evaluation” faculty workshop. Augustana Faculty – University of Alberta. 1 October 2013.

Moderator “Comparative Perspectives on Palliative Care and Navigation” CIHR Planning Workshop. Edmonton, AB. 23 September 2013

“Governmentality, Partnerships and Rural Development: Neo-liberal strategies for devolution” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Prairie Political Science Association. Banff, AB. 13 September 2013

“Integration and Intersectoral Action: A Perspective on Community-Based Policy and Programming” Plenary Speaker, Jasper Community Team Model Evaluation Consultation, Jasper, AB, 22 July 2013

“Ecohealth and Watersheds in Northern BC: Improving Social and Environmental Determinants of Health through Integrated Health Governance” Discussant and policy expert, Prince George, BC. 18-19 June 2013

Publications

“Evaluation of the living with hope program for rural women caregivers of persons with advanced cancer” w/ Duggleby, W. W., Williams, A., Holtslander, L, Thomas, R., Cooper, D., Eby, J. in *BMC Palliative Care* 12:36. URL: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-684X/12/3> (2013)

“Hope of Rural Women Caregivers of Persons with Advanced Cancer: Guilt, Self-Efficacy and Mental Health” in *Rural and Remote Health*. w/ Duggleby, W., Williams, A., Holtslander, L, Thomas, R., Cooper, D., Ghosh, S. & O’Rourke, H. 14:2561 (2014).

“Partnerships and the Fourth Way: Integration, Collaboration and Capacity in Rural Canada” in J. Malone. *Rural Linkages: Intercolloborative Human Services in Alberta* (under review – Athabasca University Press)

“Rural Alberta’s Priority Policy Research Questions” with N. Finseth et al. revise and resubmit *Journal of Rural and Community Development*.

Curb Magazine: “The Camrose Open Door: Rural Youth Homelessness” (Forthcoming)

“Alberta Parks’ Priority Research and Policy Questions” with J. Gould et al. (in progress)

Taking the Next Steps: Planning, Participation and Policy for Sustainable Rural Canadian Communities w/ M. Beckie, G. Hvenegaard and K. Mundel

The manuscript has been approved for publication in 2015 by the University of Alberta Press. The purpose of this work is to both articulate and examine a wide range of community-university based rural partnerships that have emerged in recent years to address or mitigate issues challenging rural community sustainability (very broadly defined) in Canada. Drawing from a variety of case studies from a diverse range of regions (from Atlantic Canada to BC) as well as subjects (ranging from food security to First Nations to community-based planning to issues of conservation), the intention of this book is to situate rural sustainability within two broader contexts: (1) the shift and endorsement of sustainability-based planning as a key element of community development (particularly for rural communities) since 2005, and the subsequent linkage of sustainability planning to federal infrastructure funds; and (2) the increasing presence of community-university partnerships that often extend beyond conventional research and/or education into community development practices, participatory action research, community capacity-building and linking research to both decision-making and practice.

“Participation, Planning and Sustainability: Case Studies from Hinton and Wood Buffalo, AB” N. Dipa MSc. Thesis (2014 – forthcoming)

The Government of Canada introduced the Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) during 2005 as an initiative to support sustainable development in rural communities. The municipalities have to formulate Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP), based on citizen participation, in order to gain access to this fund. Citizen participation has been emphasized by the Canadian Federal government as part of this process, but little is known about the degree, scope or nature of such participation in Alberta. The main objective of this paper is to explore the level of citizen engagement in the sustainability plans by focusing on two case studies: Hinton and Wood Buffalo. This research is based on key informant interviews which show that Hinton’s level of citizen participation is “Placation” and Wood Buffalo’s level is “Consultation” in Arnstein’s “Ladder of Citizen Participation.” The final decision-making approach of both communities is technocratic where experts have the primary power of making sustainability policies.

Sponsored Guest Lectures

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

Service

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 - April 25, Calgary
- Workforce Development - May 9, Grand Prairie
- Municipal Sustainability - May 26, Edmonton

The Director sits on the organizing committee for two of the CRC events (Municipal Sustainability and Workforce Development).

Alberta Parks Top 20 Priority Research Questions

The Director was convenor and facilitator at the following workshops.

- Canmore, November 20, 2013
- Spruce Grove, November 6, 2013
- Lethbridge, October 30, 2013
- Slave Lake, October 18, 2013
- Lac La Biche, April 11, 2013

WaSH and Wellbeing: A Different Dialogue - Changing Evidence and Evidence for Change in Rural Communities Symposium (November 24-27, 2013)

The Director was an invited participant to this working symposium hosted by United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, McMaster University, the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research, and the University of Waterloo.

7th Invitational Networks Leadership Summit & Symposium (November 12-14, 2013)

The Director was an invited participant to these events hosted by the Centre for Health Leadership and Research at Royal Roads University.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) Board of Directors (2013 – present)

The Director sits on this board.

Canadian Rural Research Group and Workshop Committee (2010 – present)

The Director has assisted with the organization of the inaugural Rural Research Workshop in 2011 and the subsequent follow-up events in 2012 and 2013.

Hesje Internships (2013)

The ACSRC assisted with the supervision of two Hesje Interns during the Summer of 2013. The internship was established thanks to the Hesje Management Award, which strives to establish a summer internship that will enable the Augustana Bachelor of Management program to build supportive connections with the not-for-profit sector; providing meaningful learning experiences for students; and develop expertise in a distinctive program niche. This year's award recipients were Chris Danderfer and Kathleen O'Connor. Mr. Danderfer worked with the Camrose Open Door Association and Ms. O'Connor with Habitat for Humanity Camrose.

Science without Borders (Brazil) Summer Intern (2013)

Launched in 2011, the Science Without Borders program provides Brazilian students with government scholarships to study and conduct research abroad at the undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral level. During the Summer of 2013 (May – August) the ACSRC hosted one student participating in the program, Lucas Rodrigo R. Mattos. Mr. Mattos assisted with website design and implementation on the CSPI.

Community Needs Driven Research Network for Continuing Care in Alberta (2012 – present)

The Director assists with the identification of issues, challenges, practices with insufficient formal evidence, and areas that need information to inform practice in continuing care.

University of Alberta – Watershed Management Major Advisory Committee

The Director sits on this Committee.

Closer to Home (C2H) Smaller Centres Water & Wastewater Capacity Renewal Initiative Project Advisory Council (PAC) (ended January 2014)

The Director sat on this Committee.

University of Alberta Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee (Spring 2011 – present)

The Director sits on this Committee and as the only Augustana Faculty member.

Ecological Agriculture Summit 2013

The Centre co-sponsored this one-day event on the Augustana Campus in November 2013. The event explored ideas and built connections around deepening our understanding of the opportunities presented to rural Alberta by ecological agriculture.

Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Public Policy and Social Innovation – Faculty of Extension

The Director is a policy content advisor for this initiative.

2014 UNESCO ASPNet Water Project

The Director is a research advisor on this project.

Learning Experiences Research Committee, University of Alberta Augustana Faculty (Dec. 2013-May 2014)

The Director sat on this Committee.

International Association for the Study of the Commons Global Conference (Edmonton, AB - 2015)

The Director sat on the Organizing Committee.

Rural Alberta Business Centre (Camrose) Advisory Committee (2012 – present)

The Director sits on this Committee.

Partnerships

University of Alberta

Augustana Faculty

Glen Hvenegaard, Professor, Environmental Science and Geography

Karsten Mündel, Director, Learning and Beyond & Assistant Professor, Global and Development Studies

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

John Parkins, Associate Professor, Dept. of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology (REES)

Brenda Parlee, Assistant Professor, REES & Assistant & Assistant Professor, Native Studies Faculty

William Shotyky, Professor & Bockock Chair, Dept. of Renewable Resources

Pushpanjali Dashora, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Janet Fast, Professor, Dept. of Human Ecology

Peter Boxall, Professor, REES

Extension

Mary Beckie, Assistant Professor, Government Studies

Kevin Jones, Research Associate (holds cross appointment with REES)

Kristof Van Assche, Associate Professor, Planning, Governance and Development

Medicine and Dentistry

Jill Konkin, Associate Professor, Family Medicine & Associate Dean, Community Engagement

Nursing

Wendy Duggleby, Professor, Endowed Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life

Solina Richter, Associate Professor

Physical Education and Recreation

Elizabeth Halpenny, Assistant Professor, Physical Education and Recreation

Howie Harshaw, Professor, Physical Education and Recreation

Science

Robert Summers, Assistant Professor, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences & Acting Director, Planning Program

Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (IC CER)

Sandra Woodhead Lyons, Executive Director

Non-University of Alberta Individual Partners (Provincial/National)

Name	Organization
<i>Alberta</i>	
Joyce Gould	Albert Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Bill Dolan	Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Melanie Percy	Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Rae Lett	Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Terry Krause	Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Ksenija Vujnovic	Alberta Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Rachel Boccock	Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
Neil Chadda	Athabasca County
Randal Nickel	Camrose Open Door Association
Vern Hafso	Rural Outreach and Agricultural Renaissance Society (ROARS)
Brenda Barritt	Rural Outreach and Agricultural Renaissance Society (ROARS)
Don Ruzicka	Sunrise Farm
Michael Quinn	Mount Royal University
Michelle Frank	Glenrose Hospital
Craig Hart	NorQuest College
Josh Ramsbottom	NorQuest College
Barbara Roemer	Covenant Health
Niki Sibera	Alberta Health
Signe Swanson	Alberta Health Services
Deanna Wanless	Alberta Health
<i>National</i>	
Livia Bizikova	International Institute for Sustainable Development
William Reimer	Concordia University
Don Grant	Ottawa Centre EcoDistrict Inc.
Wayne Caldwell	University of Guelph
Douglas West	Lakehead University
Kathleen Kevany	Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Bill Ashton	Rural Development Institute (Brandon University)
Terri MacDonald	Selkirk College
Elizabeth Lange	St. Francis Xavier University
Tony Tremblay	St. Thomas University
Bruno Jean	Université du Québec à Rimouski
Jonathan Corbett	University of British Columbia
David Douglas	University of Guelph
Margot Parkes	University of Northern British Columbia
Greg Halseth	University of Northern British Columbia
Robert Patrick	University of Saskatchewan
Maureen Reed	University of Saskatchewan
Alison Blay-Palmer	Wilfrid Laurier University
Martin Bunch	York University
<i>International</i>	
Sean Connelly	University of Otago

Organizational Partners (Provincial/National)

<i>Alberta</i>
Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA)
Athabasca University
Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED)
Camrose County
Camrose Open Door Association
Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research (ICCER)
Learning and Beyond Office (LaB) (University of Alberta)
University of Alberta
University of Alberta – Augustana Campus
University of Alberta - Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences
University of Alberta Press
<i>National</i>
BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance
Canadian Rural Research Network
Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
Dalhousie University
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Fraser Basin Council
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Lakehead University

Municipality of the County of Cumberland
Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health (NESH)
Northeast Avlon Regional Economic Development Board
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
Rural & Coastal Communities Network
Rural & Small Town Programme (Mount Allison University)
Rural Development Institute (Brandon University)
Rural Ontario Institute
Selkirk College
South Central Ontario Region
St. Francis Xavier University
St. Thomas University
Town of Dalhousie
True North Community Cooperative
Wilfrid Laurier University

Appendix A. Unfunded Applications

Improving evidence-informed transitions between acute care and supportive living (Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions Knowledge-To-Action Grant \$24,726)