

April 4, 2011

## **Creating Rural Connections 2011 Conference offers information, ideas and interactive sessions related to rural development**

The *Prairie Canada Futures Game* is one of several interactive sessions at the *Creating Rural Connections 2011* conference in Edmonton on April 12 to 14. The game inspires innovative leadership as participants work in teams to tackle the challenges of economic and community development over a 25 year period. The *Community Connectivity* is another interactive session that highlights ways communities can partner to share ideas and resources.

Organized by the Alberta Rural Development Network, the conference is a meeting ground for community leaders and post-secondary institution researchers and programmers to exchange information and explore partnerships. The conference, to be held at the Mayfield Inn & Suites, includes three keynote presentations, six breakout sessions with a choice of five presentations in each, and two panel presentations that highlight the issues and opportunities of collaboration between communities and post-secondary institutions. Each of these sessions focus on a specific project - a partnership between University of Lethbridge and multiple sports academies in southern Alberta and the relationship of the Banff Centre and local aboriginal communities – from the perspectives of both partners.

The conference concludes after the final plenary speaker delivers his address at Wednesday lunch, but most registrants will stay on for an optional half day Rural Research Needs and Priorities Assessment Workshop where they will identify a list of rural research needs and issues that new ARDN projects can address.

The conference allows ample time for exchanging information and ideas, and exploring partnerships during networking breaks, receptions, a poster session and a tradeshow. For more information or to register, visit [www.ardn.ca](http://www.ardn.ca) or call 1-877-987-1006.

*ARDN is a partnership of Alberta's 21 publicly-funded, publicly-governed post-secondary institutions. The Network supports and enhances rural development through research, education, networking and collaboration. ARDN is funded in part by Rural Alberta Development Fund whose funding is provided by the Government of Alberta.*

-30-

Note: Media are welcome to attend all sessions (conference program attached); if desired, media interviews can be made in advance of the conference or pre-arranged to take place at the conference.

### **Media Contact:**

Joy Vonk, Executive Assistant  
Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)  
780-449-1006 ext 221  
exec.assist@ardn.ca

# Program Agenda

April 12, 2011	
5:00-8:00 pm	Registration
6:00-10:00 pm	<b>Networking Reception &amp; Cash Bar</b> (in the Tradeshow area) - Hosted by the ARDN Board of Directors
7:30-8:30 pm	<b>Keynote Speaker: Mike Stolte - How Vital is your Community?</b>
April 13, 2011	
7:30-8:30 am	Registration & Networking Breakfast (in Tradeshow area)
8:30 am	Welcome & Housekeeping items (in Tradeshow area)
8:45-10:00 am	<b>Keynote Speaker: Charlie French - Bringing the University to the Community</b> (in Tradeshow area)
10:00-10:30 am	<b>Networking Break (in the Tradeshow area)</b> <b>Sponsored by Axia SuperNet Ltd</b>
	
10:30-11:25 am	<b>Concurrent Session A</b>
Session 1: Banff/Jasper Room	Wendy Plandowski - <i>Community Connectivity: How to Create a Successful Partnership within Communities</i>
Session 2: Moraine Room	David Blackmore - <i>Modernizing the One Room School for Natural Resource Education</i>
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	John Voyer, Brian Brost and Garth Carl - <i>Responding to a Known 'Community Killer' - Assuring Local Water Quality</i>
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Jon Sookocheff & Jacqueline Penner - <i>Rural Entrepreneurship and Community Colleges</i>
Session 5: Maligne Room	Douglas Parsons - <i>Intercultural Awareness 101: A Ground Floor Look at Culture and Its Meaning</i>
11:30-12:30 pm	<b>Concurrent Session B</b>
Session 1: Banff/Jasper Room	Toby Rabinovitz & Dianne Dutton - <i>Knowledge Connector - Building Organizational Capacity through Learning</i>
Session 2: Moraine Room	Andy Cichos & Bryan Shepard - <i>The Coordination Challenge: Multiple Urban Post-Secondary Institutions Addressing Regional and Rural Issues</i>
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	Elvira Smid & Juliet Fox - <i>Palliser Futures Project: a Regional Approach to a Powerful Future</i>
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Dee Patriquin & Brenda Wispinski - <i>From Science to Policy - the Beaver Hills Initiative Land Management Framework Project</i>
Session 5: Maligne Room	Lorene Anderson - <i>Rural Routes: Providing Support to ESL Providers in Rural Alberta</i>

12:30-1:30 pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Tradeshow Networking (in the Tradeshow area) Sponsored by Northern Lakes College</b>	
1:30-2:30 pm	<b>Concurrent Session C</b>	
Session 1: Banff/Jasper Room	Wendy Plandowski - <i>Community Connectivity: How to Create a Successful Partnership within Communities</i>	
Session 2: Moraine Room	Wendy Duggleby & Giri Puligandla - <i>Rural Family Caregivers: Challenges and Opportunities</i>	
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid - <i>The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement (Part 1)</i>	
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Bruce Rutley - <i>Connecting Rural Innovators - the CRI Story</i>	
Session 5: Maligne Room	Ken Duncan - <i>Building an Entertainment Corridor in Rural Alberta</i>	
2:30-3:30 pm	<b>Concurrent Session D</b>	
Session 1: Banff/Jasper Room	Kevin Jones & Rob Shields - <i>Partnerships: Responding to the Changing Dynamics of Urban-Rural Interdependency in Alberta</i>	
Session 2: Moraine Room	Jon Doan, Randy Dreger and Shane Hudson - <i>Labouring Under the Agrarian Myth: is Agricultural Work Inherently Healthy, and can it be more so?</i>	
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid - <i>The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 2)</i>	
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Charles Backman - <i>Greening of the Peace - Preparing Peace Firms for Business Opportunities in the Emerging Green World</i>	
Session 5: Maligne Room	Jennifer Adams Warburton - <i>Yaffle.ca – A Matchmaking Tool for Engagement</i>	
3:30-4:00 pm	<b>Coffee Break (in the Tradeshow area) Sponsored by Centre for Research &amp; Innovation</b>	
4:00-5:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Panel Sessions</b>	
Panel Session #1 Room: Robson Ballroom	<b>Partnering for Success:</b> Building Strong University and Community Relationships, Daniel Balderson, University of Lethbridge & Randy Jensen, Westwind Equine Academy	
Panel Session #2 Room: Rundle Ballroom	<b>Post-Secondary Institutions and Collaborative Research:</b> An Aboriginal Leadership Development Example, The Banff Centre and representatives of the Aboriginal Community	
5:00-7:00 pm	<b>Poster Session &amp; Cash Bar (in the Tradeshow area)</b> Meet the poster presenters and discuss their work	
7:00 pm	<b>Banquet, Networking Reception &amp; Cash Bar (in the Tradeshow area) Entertainment by “That Funny Magic Guy”</b>	

## April 14, 2011

<b>8:00-9:00 am</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Networking Breakfast</b> (in the Tradeshow area)
<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Greetings and Message followed by Question &amp; Answer Session with the Honourable Greg Weadick</b> , Minister of Advanced Education and Technology
<b>9:15-10:15 am</b>	<b>Concurrent Session E</b>
Session 1: Maligne Room	Lars Hallstrom & Karsten Mundel - <i>Sustainable Relationships for Sustainable Communities: Challenges and Possibilities for Community-University Partnerships in Knowledge Mobilization</i>
Session 2: Morrairie Room	Kalina Lemay, John Parkins & Stirling McLeod - <i>Rural Experiential Learning Initiative - Investigating the Opportunities and Impacts of Retaining Local Financial Capital for Community Development</i>
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid - <i>The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 1)</i>
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Darrell Toma - <i>Knowledge Mobilization for Rural Innovation and Engagement Models</i>
Session 5: Banff/Jasper Room	Diane Harms & Scott Kovach - <i>Lloydminster and Region Incubator Project</i>
<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Networking Break (in Tradeshow area)</b> <b>Sponsored by: Axia SuperNet Ltd</b> 
<b>10:45-11:45 am</b>	<b>Concurrent Session F</b>
Session 1: Maligne Room	Emil Tarka & Nancy Walker - <i>Building on Strengths: Rural Instructor Preceptor Project (RIPP)</i>
Session 2: Morrairie Room	Dan Ohler & Jeff Senger - <i>Leveraging Capital in Rural Communities: Dissemination of the Sangudo Opportunities Development Cooperative (SODC)</i>
Session 3: Rundle Ballroom	Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid - <i>The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 2)</i>
Session 4: Robson Ballroom	Greg Goodwin - <i>B.C.'s Approach to Rural and Regional Economic Development</i>
Session 5: Banff/Jasper Room	Donna Finley - <i>Knowledge Mobilization in High Performing Community Organizations: Trends, Best Practices and Cases from the Community</i>
<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking (in Tradeshow area) - Door Prizes &amp; Draws</b>
<b>12:30 pm</b> Tradeshow area	<b>Keynote Speaker: Jeff Dixon - Rural Research Priorities in Ontario</b>
<b>1:15 pm</b>	<b>Rural Research Needs &amp; Priorities Assessment Workshop</b> - Participants will work together to identify and prioritize Alberta's rural communities' research needs. This information will be used by the ARDN to develop research projects to address those needs.
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Farewell</b>

**Disclaimer:** All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means; mechanical or electronic, including photocopying, digital scanning, or any other information storage or retrieval system, without written permission. Copyright and ownership remain with the author or authors of individual papers. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information as presented at the April 12-14, 2011 conference. Neither the editors nor committee member are responsible for errors or omissions. It

is distributed with the understanding that the committee is not engaged in rendering professional services. It remains the responsibility of the reader to follow product information contained on the product label. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Creating Rural Connections conference committee, ARDN and contractors do not accept responsibility for any publication errors or any consequences from the use of this publication.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

---

### **LEVEL ONE SPONSORS**

24-7 Alberta / Three Hills Dot Com Ltd.  
Alberta Municipal Services Corporation (AMSC)  
Athabasca University  
Creating Pathways for Entrepreneurial Families  
eCampusAlberta  
Grant MacEwan University  
ICCAN  
Northern Lakes College  
NovaNait  
PivotWest  
University of Alberta

### **LUNCH SPONSOR**

Northern Lakes College

### **LEVEL TWO SPONSORS**

BC-Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance (BALTA)  
CiRCLe M  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
Lethbridge College  
NorQuest College  
Portage College  
RISE Network  
SAIT Polytechnic  
Sustainability Resources Ltd  
Town of Hinton  
Volunteer Alberta (Knowledge Connector Initiative)

### **COFFEE BREAK SPONSORS**

Axia SuperNet Ltd  
Centre for Research & Innovation (CRI)

### **SUPPORTERS**

*The Banff Centre*  
*Government of Alberta – Agriculture and Rural Development*  
*Government of Alberta – Culture and Community Spirit*  
*Lethbridge College*  
*Rural Alberta Development Fund*

## Concurrent Session A

10:30-11:25

am

---

### **Session 1: Banff/Jasper Room**

**Community Connectivity: How to Create Successful Partnership within Communities ~ Wendy Plandowski, Lakeland College**

**Profile:** Wendy Plandowski holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta and represents the portfolios of Director, Community Relations and Lloydminster Campus Principal on the Senior Planning Team for Lakeland College. Plandowski has held several roles in the communities of Lloydminster and Vermilion on behalf of the College, including the 2008 Chair of the Saskatchewan Summer Games and President of the 2010 Lloydminster Chamber. Presently Plandowski is working with the Vermilion River Regional Alliance, Lloydminster & Region Incubator Steering Committee and the Battle River Training Foundation to assist with rural connectivity and economic development. Plandowski is a dynamic, experienced speaker.

**Presentation:** Let's take your community temperature! One of the best ways to accomplish this is by measuring the effectiveness of your community partnerships. This session will take a simple but effective look at exciting and innovative ways to connect various organizations within a community. Working towards the common goals of economic development, job creation, ensuring safer communities, and many other beneficial results, community connectivity is paramount to your region's success. Join this session to rekindle your passion for community collaboration and the tremendous benefits that can be achieved.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Rural communities need to be creative when it comes to sustainability. Community leaders need to ensure that challenges facing their regions are met with optimism and innovative strategies for success. Often, solutions can be found when stakeholders collaborate, share responsibility and pool resources. Successful partnerships are the key.

### **Session 2: Morraine Room**

**Modernizing the One Room School for Natural Resource Education ~ David Blackmore, Woodland Operations Learning Foundation (WOLF)**

**Profile:** WOLF, a non profit corporation, provides professional quality education services and certifications for forest resource workers, Aboriginal, Métis in rural communities. WOLF collaborates with Northern Lakes College (NLC) and others to develop and deliver in-service and pre-employment training and education.

**Presentation:** This will include a description of the need for this type of sectoral education, the structure of WOLF, its relationship with NLC and how WOLF partners with sectoral leadership agencies to deliver training in a unique one room school house approach. WOLF uses classroom and online technologies deliverable anywhere in Alberta. Examples of the material and the delivery technologies will be demonstrated.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Sixty percent of Alberta's land is forested. More than 30% of Alberta's GDP is produced in rural forest based communities. Demands on forest land threaten environmental sustainability. Global economic conditions challenge Alberta's rural communities.

WOLF provides a source of practical training designed to protect Alberta's forested land base with best management practices, while helping the natural resource sector maintain global competitiveness with operational and business management training. The project mobilizes knowledge and skills to deliver educational opportunities directly to rural communities to improve competitiveness while delivering the best management practices required to ensure environmental sustainability.

### **Session 3: Rundle Ballroom**

#### **Responding to a Known 'Community Killer'- Assuring Local Water Quality, ~ John Voyer, Brian Brost and Garth Carl, Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association (AWWOA)**

**Profile:** John Voyer is Executive Director of the AWWOA. Brian Brost is Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Athabasca-based Aspen Regional Water Services Commission and Chair, AWWOA Rural Development Committee. Garth Carl is Operations Manager of Hanna-based Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission and Deputy Chair, AWWOA Rural Development Committee. AWWOA has a 35 year history of working in partnership with the Government of Alberta, local governments, water and wastewater authorities, and industry and post-secondary education sectors to help ensure Albertans have access to safe drinking water and local capacity to responsibly manage wastewater.

**Presentation:** It has been suggested that the first of 13 ways to kill a rural community is to ensure poor water quality. Public perceptions and confidence about local water supplies mean smaller centres in Alberta can face unique challenges in ensuring prosperity and economic development. Alberta is facing a large-scale turnover of skilled water and wastewater operations workers within this decade, which will especially impact smaller centres. Other changes include demands for: greater regional cooperation in water and wastewater services; increased regulation and oversight; adopting new technologies; competing demands on local watersheds and for water resources; etc. AWWOA has recently re-focused efforts to support smaller Alberta communities. Several novel applied demonstrations, proof-of-concept initiatives, and collaborative projects undertaken in partnership with Government of Alberta Ministries, Western Canada Water and local governments will be presented. Some 'real world, main street' practical issues and challenges associated with early efforts will be highlighted. AWWOA seeks to facilitate a more purposeful two-way dialogue with other rural development stakeholders about priority community capacity issues and prospective collaborative opportunities as these apply to water and wastewater.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Safe, secure water supplies and the capacity to responsibly manage and return wastewater to the environment is a basic tenant of rural development, including quality-of-life and prosperity.

### **Session 4: Robson Ballroom**

#### **Rural Entrepreneurship and Community Colleges: Building an Entrepreneur Development Centre at Medicine Hat College ~ Jon Sookocheff & Jacqueline Penne, Medicine Hat College**

**Profile:** Jon Sookocheff is manager of the Entrepreneur Development Centre at Medicine Hat College (MHC). Prior to this, Jon worked as an economic development officer for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in Eastern Ontario, looking after business retention and expansion and investment attraction. Jacqueline Penner is the Dean of the Division of Business at MHC. She has a keen interest in entrepreneurship and the role colleges play in building the entrepreneurial capacity of communities. Jacquie sits on the board of the Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta and is a past-president of the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce.

**Presentation:** Small and medium sized businesses are the largest contributors to job creation in Canada. Entrepreneurship education is the engine that fuels this growth! Our presentation will describe how and

why MHC created an Entrepreneur Development Centre (EDC), including: program development; partnerships and collaboration; marketing; financing; supporting existing entrepreneurs; and curriculum development and enhancement. We will talk about challenges that we have overcome and roadblocks that remain. The EDC educates, inspires and activates youth entrepreneurship, particularly for current students and alumni of MHC. The EDC gives young entrepreneurs the resources they need to succeed and contributes to educating and informing entrepreneurs within the community. The EDC has three long-term goals: 1) foster and enhance an entrepreneurial culture at the college; 2) develop cross-curriculum resources and leverage existing resources to provide education and training across college credit and non-credit programs; and, 3) contribute to building the entrepreneurial capacity of the larger community through enhanced partnering with industry and economic development stakeholders.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** As a learner-focused provider of quality education, training and services to its community, MHC recently established the EDC to help contribute to a regional culture of entrepreneurship, engage youth leadership, and promote an optimistic regional mindset. By embracing entrepreneurship, MHC is helping to build rural development capacity.

### Session 5: *Maligne Room*

#### **Intercultural Awareness 101: A Ground Floor Look at Culture and its Meaning ~ Douglas Parsons, Parsons Development**

**Profile:** Douglas Parsons has spent the past 8 years looking at the issues faced by newcomers to Canada. In response to the growing demand for quality programming and facilitation, in the winter of 2010, Douglas began Parsons Development. Parsons Development develops English in the Workplace programs and Intercultural Awareness workshops for employers looking to expand the knowledge and skills of their employees and management teams. Douglas is proud to have developed *Common Ground: English in the Workplace* while serving as Program Lead at the Centre for Excellence in Intercultural Education (NorQuest College). In addition, he has worked or consulted with a number of businesses and organizations in Western Canada regarding their workplace programming and tools.

**Presentation:** Buzz words come around in our professional lives and we are asked at the worksite to accommodate this new knowledge into daily practices and ongoing programming. A daunting task for the overworked employee. With the need to hire and acclimate permanent and temporary international workers in Alberta, buzz words you may have heard are *Culture* and *Intercultural Awareness*. What do these words mean and how can companies/organizations implement these ideas? How can you get a return on investment when this idea of Intercultural Awareness sounds very 'kumbaya'? This session will provide an introductory look at Culture and how Intercultural Awareness training can benefit all employees at the work site. What are the common issues facing worksites when it comes to multicultural teams? How can knowledge on this topic give you the tools for success? Let's take the theory and make it practical to you and your organization.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Companies and organizations in rural Alberta are employing more citizens who were born outside of Canada. Historically, newcomers stayed primarily in cultural groups in the larger cities; however, increasingly rural Alberta is welcoming more people from various cultures, as the advantage of living in rural Alberta becomes apparent. Intercultural Awareness training has proved successful with many companies in rural Alberta the past number of years. This workshop is a beginning point to those who have heard of the ideas, but do not want to (or have the time to) wade through the mounds of theory to get to the 'truth'.

# Concurrent Session B

11:30-12:25

pm

## **Session 1: Banff / Jasper Room**

### **Knowledge Connector - Building Organizational Capacity through Learning ~ Toby Rabinovitz & Dianne Dutton, Volunteer Alberta**

**Profile:** Toby Rabinovitz is the Project Manager – KnowledgeConnector Initiative. Toby brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the field of non-profit and voluntary sector leadership development. Her experience varies from managing a national volunteer leadership development program to consulting and facilitating local and provincial learning and development programs. Diane Dutton, EdD is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in continuing education that includes facilitating adult learning, program development, management, evaluation and applied research. Her career includes academic administration, directing continuing professional education programs at two universities, and pioneering unique educational programs with other educational institutions and private sector partners

**Presentation:** Too often rural leaders have to travel to urban centers to attend conferences, workshops and other learning opportunities. The KnowledgeConnector Initiative is focused on connecting managers and senior leaders in the nonprofit/voluntary sector with those agencies who provide learning opportunities in their own communities. Session participants will be introduced to the Nonprofit/Voluntary Sector Leadership Competency Framework (working title). This Framework identifies the skills and knowledge managers and senior leaders require to effectively lead their organizations. This is an interactive session and participants will leave with a greater understanding of their own learning priorities. Program providers, such as educational institutions, will be able to identify how their programs and services link with needs and priorities of those who work in the rural nonprofit and voluntary sector. Knowledgeconnector.ca will be introduced. It will be a clearinghouse of opportunities, providing a searchable listing for finding targeted learning opportunities in line with specific interests, needs and learning objectives.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The KnowledgeConnector Initiative is a program of Volunteer Alberta enabling leaders from nonprofit/voluntary sector organizations in rural communities to focus on their own learning priorities and connect with learning providers in their own communities. The KnowledgeConnector enhances the capacities of organizations to achieve their missions.

## **Session 2: Moraine Room**

### **The Coordination Challenge: Multiple Urban Post-Secondary Institutions Addressing Regional and Rural Issues ~ Andy Cichos, Bow Valley College & Bryan Shepard, NorQuest College**

**Profile:** Bow Valley College (BVC) and Norquest College (NQC) will present jointly. Andy Cichos (BVC) is a retired VP External Relations from the college, who is currently leading the college's regional stewardship initiative. Andy is also the college's ARDN Key Contact. Bryan Shepherd is NQC's Dean, Student Services and Regional Stewardship. Bryan has been leading NQC's regional stewardship response since 2009.

**Presentation:** The "Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Publically Funded Advanced Education System" (RandM) expands the mandate of the province's 11 comprehensive community institutions (CCIs) to include a regional stewardship role which includes needs assessment, planning in conjunction with community-based adult learning providers and an advisory committee, and the delivery of learner services and programs in partnership with Campus Alberta institutions. As a part of their response to this expanded mandate, BVC and NQC, with support from ARDN, invited institutions in their

respective cities as well as Athabasca University, Olds College and eCampusAlberta to participate in consultations regarding the coordination challenges associated with regional stewardship, and possibilities of research collaboration. The interactive focus of the meetings was on four topics: the purpose and opportunities of regional stewardship, visioning success in 2020, the challenges of regional stewardship for Campus Alberta partners, and moving forward in the near term. Andy and Bryan will describe the findings and recommendations of this project.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** All Albertans have the right to participate in post-secondary learning. Gaining access to a college or university education without having to relocate to an urban setting has been an ongoing issue for rural communities. Distance education is not always the answer. If post-secondary institutions (PSIs) worked more collaboratively to respond to the need and delivery of services provided to rural areas and smaller communities, the communities would benefit by having higher levels of access and service support. Moreover, by learning about the process of collaboration and implementing some of the recommendations, PSIs would demonstrate improved teamwork regarding rural educational issues. It would increase the awareness among PSIs regarding specific rural concerns. Increasing access to post-secondary education through online, blended or local delivered education would increase community sustainability, economic development, workforce development and the retention of young people.

### **Session 3: *Rundle Room***

**Palliser Futures Project: a Regional Approach to a Powerful Future ~ Elvira Smid & Juliet Fox,**  
Alberta Finance and Enterprise – Regional Development Branch

**Profile:** Palliser Futures Project Team: Elvira Smid - Senior Director, South Region, Regional Economic Development Branch; Juliet Fox - Executive Director, Innovative Leadership. This unique team has developed a regional system of planning, engagement, action and communication and created the systems in the Palliser region to embrace their future in a new way.

**Presentation:** A new coordinated approach to determining the future of the region is focused on using powerful engagement tools to involve citizens and aligning economic development and community development goals with the direction chosen by the citizens.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** This project is embedded in the rural region of Southern Alberta and demonstrates examples of success with both rural development and rural communities that are thinking as a region.

### **Session 4: *Robson Ballroom***

**From Science to Policy - the Beaver Hills Initiative Land Management Framework Project ~  
Dee Patriquin & Brenda Wispinski,** Spencer Environmental Mgmt Services / University of Alberta

**Profile:** Dee Patriquin is an environmental consultant with 20 years experience in environmental impact assessment and policy development. A shift in work focus to environmental policy development projects, including work with the Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI), motivated her to begin a PhD at the University of Alberta in 2008, focusing on the factors facilitating environmental policy development and implementation within collaborative partnerships like the BHI. Brenda Wispinski has been involved with the BHI since its inception in 2002 and is the Executive Director, on secondment from Strathcona County. Brenda brings considerable experience in municipal land use planning, sustainability and environmental management.

**Presentation:** The Beaver Hills (Cooking Lake) Moraine east of Edmonton is a region under increasing development pressure, a concern recognized by federal and provincial protected areas managers and the adjacent municipalities. The BHI formed in response to those concerns and over the past decade has grown to a collaborative partnership of 30+ municipal, provincial and federal governments, NGOs, academic and industry member organizations. Their vision of working together to develop cooperative solutions to regional level land management issues in the Beaver Hills Moraine has had several successes

in recent years, including development of a science-based BHI Land Management Framework. The Framework used a comprehensive GIS modeling exercise to map the natural resources of the moraine and areas of key sensitivity to development. The adoption of the principles and recommendations in that framework by several municipal partners has been a significant achievement for the BHI, but one not without challenges. This session describes those challenges and lessons learned in bringing science-based management into policy, from the perspective of the environmental consulting team facilitating this project.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Sustainable management is a concern of increasing importance to municipalities, who are challenged to achieve sustainability by government as well as local residents. Before developing sustainable management guidelines, municipal managers must first identify the resources within their jurisdiction. Although many municipalities participated in Environmentally Sensitive Areas studies in past decades, such work focussed only on large natural areas with some ecological significance. In addition to being dated, this information did not consider potential risks due to development. The BHI project demonstrates a risk-based assessment approach that municipalities incorporate directly into land use planning policy. Such tools have heightened relevance in today's land use context, and the future delegation of regional land use goals to municipalities through the provincial Land Use Framework process. Early identification of resource sensitivities provides critical information to land use planners faced with new responsibilities for sustainable land management.

#### **Session 5: *Maligne Rom***

**Rural Routes: Providing Support to ESL Providers in Rural Alberta ~ Lorene Anderson, NorQuest College**

**Profile:** Lorene Anderson, project manager, Rural Routes Initiative, NorQuest College. The Rural Routes team consists of 5 consultants, who provide support to ESL deliverers throughout rural Alberta.

**Presentation:** This presentation will describe the activities and resources available through the Rural Routes Initiative. It will give an overview of the clients we work with and how Rural Routes helps them address the various ESL needs in their community.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The Alberta government wants to support the settlement of new immigrants into rural communities. The communities themselves want to provide ways to encourage immigrants to support their industries, populate their schools and become part of their community. In order to do this communities must provide quality ESL training to help immigrants acquire the language skills so they can assimilate into their new home. Often this is a new need for a community and there is not an existing infrastructure around ESL training. Rural Routes supports community adult ESL providers with services such as professional development workshops, mentoring, resource development and by building communication between communities and between community ESL providers.

---

# Concurrent Session C

2:25pm

1:30-

## Session 1: Banff/ Jasper Room

### Community Connectivity: How to Create Successful Partnership within Communities

Wendy Plandowski, Lakeland College

**Profile:** Wendy Plandowski holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta and represents the portfolios of Director, Community Relations and Lloydminster Campus Principal on the Senior Planning Team for Lakeland College. Plandowski has held several roles in the communities of Lloydminster and Vermilion on behalf of the College, including the 2008 Chair of the Saskatchewan Summer Games and President of the 2010 Lloydminster Chamber. Presently Plandowski is working with the Vermilion River Regional Alliance, Lloydminster & Region Incubator Steering Committee and the Battle River Training Foundation to assist with rural connectivity and economic development. Plandowski is a dynamic, experienced speaker.

**Presentation:** Let's take your community temperature! One of the best ways to accomplish this is by measuring the effectiveness of your community partnerships. This session will take a simple but effective look at exciting and innovative ways to connect various organizations within a community. Working towards the common goals of economic development, job creation, ensuring safer communities, and many other beneficial results, community connectivity is paramount to your region's success. Join this session to rekindle your passion for community collaboration and the tremendous benefits that can be achieved.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Rural communities need to be creative when it comes to sustainability. Community leaders need to ensure that challenges facing their regions are met with optimism and innovative strategies for success. Often, solutions can be found when stakeholders collaborate, share responsibility and pool resources. Successful partnerships are the key.

## Session 2: Moraine Room

### Rural Family Caregivers: Challenges and Opportunities ~ Wendy Duggleby & Giri Puligandla,

Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

**Profile:** Dr. Wendy Duggleby is Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life at the Faculty of Nursing University of Alberta. She has been conducting nationally funded research with seniors and their families for approximately 15 years. Mr. Giri Puligandla is Executive Director of the Alberta Caregivers Association. Mr. Puligandla has worked in support of family caregivers for over ten years, particularly with regard to mental health and seniors populations. While with the ACGA, he is also working on a thesis to complete his Master of Science in Public Health degree from the University of Alberta

**Presentation:** This presentation shares and discusses challenges facing family caregivers in rural settings based on discussions with 42 rural family caregivers of persons with chronic illnesses who attended a caregiver convention. The convention brought family caregivers together to meet with other caregivers, caregiver organizations, Alberta Health Services and relevant Government ministries to inform the development of a provincial caregiver strategy. The Alberta Caregivers Association in conjunction with the University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services held the event in Calgary and Edmonton in October 2011. ARDN support helped rural family caregivers attend the event. The event gave rural family caregivers the opportunity to share their specific rural needs and to network with other caregivers, caregiver organizations and the University of Alberta Nursing Research Chair in Aging and Quality of Life. These needs involve lack of access to health services and feelings of isolation, at the same time

feeling supported by their communities. They felt that information and connecting with others was important to help them continue caregiving and to maintain their own health as well. As learning is a vital part of rural communities, rural family caregivers had the opportunity to influence Alberta Health Services policy development, and to return to their communities with new knowledge and linkages. Their issues will be presented with opportunities for future discussion, with the hope that this new knowledge and linkages will be used to raise awareness of caregiver issues and build local capacity to address them.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Family caregivers are an essential part of the health care in rural communities, as they contribute significantly to the health and wellness of rural communities. They provide approximately 80-90% of care to persons with chronic illness, yet studies have shown that the challenges of caregiving decrease their own health. It is important that their challenges be shared and discussed to find rural specific opportunities to support them.

### **Session 3: Rundle Ballroom**

#### **The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 1) ~ Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid, Innovative Leadership**

*This is Part 1 of Concurrent Session D, Session 3.* It is recommended that you attend both part 1 and part 2.

**Profile:** The Prairie Canada Future Team: Elvira Smid - Director, Regional Economic Development currently acting in the Lethbridge Region in Alberta; and Juliet Fox - Executive Director, Innovative Leadership.

This unique team has developed the regional system of planning, engagement, action and communication that led the way for the Prairie Canada Future Team to be developed. This game, or tool for engagement, is the result of a process by Innovative Leadership that engaged the regions in Alberta to plan for their future.

**Presentation:** Designed by Innovative Leadership, The Prairie Canada Future Team is a highly interactive and participatory game that allows participants to tackle the challenges of community and economic development in a fun and engaging manner. The Game is played in a small team format, and the teams make a series of critical decisions that shape the future of a region over a 25-year period. Citizens of Alberta, through a process of scenario planning and regional engagement, helped develop this Alberta version as a tool to more deeply engage citizens in development. It has been used in a range of ways including:

- Engage communities and groups in discussions about the future
- Add extra depth and strength to regional planning efforts
- Help hone leadership and decision-making skills
- As a team building and change-management tool
- The game can be used as a powerful tool to stimulate debate and discussion about the future.

Communities and organizations can use the game's future simulation approach to achieve several powerful outcomes. Participants have a chance to discuss growth and development in a hypothetical region, making it easier to explore alternatives than is often the case in real world settings. They learn how decisions that seem sensible in the short-term may play out in unpredictable ways over time, making it critical to shift course to reflect new priorities and values. Communities can use the game to assess where they are today relative to where they'd like to be 20 years. This can be a powerful way for community members to consider their own vision and desires for the future of their region and community, and begin to explore the action steps required to get to their preferred future. The Futures Game can be an excellent tool for people to explore decision making, and to better understand their own leadership and decision making styles.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** This project was created in rural Southern Alberta and demonstrates leadership and decision-making facing rural Alberta communities.

#### **Session 4: *Robson Ballroom***

##### **Connecting Rural Innovators - the CRI Story ~ Bruce Rutley, Centre for Research & Innovation**

**Profile:** Bruce Rutley PhD PAg is a Fraser Valley farm boy who developed a passion for helping people fulfill their dreams. He has helped: 4-H members; students; reindeer and bison producers in the Peace Country who envisioned a new way of farming; and the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA), which helped local inventors develop their product ideas (The Innovation Network). As Director of the Centre for Research & Innovation (CRI) at Grande Prairie Regional College, he is living his dream.

**Presentation:** The challenge – regional economic thinking fixated on commodities; the opportunity – a region of innovators with ideas that could diversify the regional economy; the problem – no services within the region; the solution – first The Innovation Network, then the CRI. The CRI is a partnership between Grande Prairie Regional College and PREDA. It was created in 2007, through a merger of the College's Integrated Research Unit and PREDA's The Innovation Network to meet the needs of regional innovators. The CRI model was developed after careful consideration and extensive consultation with regional business leaders, innovators, technical experts, economic development agencies and regional service providers. Participants will hear how the funding gap was overcome, and how policy changes influenced that. They will learn what one region did to address its rural development needs. It's about What's Working; about the characteristics of the People that led its development and who continue to lead its growth today. It's about recent successes (#1 in Canada for entrepreneurship; 17 products commercialized; 7 prototypes under development; major research projects); and our Vision of the Future.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The CRI is an excellent example of a multi-agency multi-community partnership that is clearly focused on rural development using innovation to diversify the regional economy. The CRI provides innovation services to local inventors, innovators, entrepreneurs and SMEs - primarily technology commercialization of new products. It also provides facilitation services to College faculty/students engaged with research and is currently expanding its service provision to regional applied research associations through a partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Finally, CRI leads the nurturing of a Culture of Innovation within the region through a number of awareness activities. Based in Grande Prairie, it also has an office presence in Fairview and Peace River.

#### **Session 5: *Maligne Room***

##### **Building an Entertainment Corridor in Rural Alberta ~ Ken Duncan, Boomtown Trail Community Initiatives Society**

**Profile:** Ken Duncan is the CEO of The Boomtown Trail Community Initiatives Society, a regional collaboration of 27 Municipalities, The University of Alberta Augustana Campus, The Metis Nation of Alberta, and 62 Tourism related local businesses. Our Mission is Economic Development Through Tourism.

Our Vision is to create Alberta's entertainment corridor based upon our history, culture and environment.

**Presentation:** The Boomtown Trail has a long way to go, but is on its way to achieving its vision. This presentation will focus on the challenges and successes encountered so far. It will also feature some of the unique aspects of the region and the innovative and creative ways this rural organization uses to accomplish its vision, while protecting the rural values that make us who we are. A positive and uplifting presentation.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** We are all rural communities working together to develop our region

# Concurrent Session D

2:30-3:25

pm

## Session 1: Banff/ Jasper Room

### **Partnerships: Responding to the Changing Dynamics of Urban-Rural Interdependency in Alberta** ~ Kevin Jones & Rob Shields, City Region Studies Centre

**Profile:** Dr. Kevin Jones is Senior Research Associate at the University of Alberta City-Region Studies Centre (CRSC). His research addresses the relationships between science, technology and society. Currently Kevin is investigating the relationship between innovation and regional community development. Further research investigates the development of expertise and engagement in environmental policy-making and hazard regulation. He holds a PhD in Science and Technology Studies, is cross appointed to the University of Alberta's Department of Rural Economy, and is also Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology.

Dr. Rob Shields is the Henry Marshall Tory Chair and a Professor in the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta. Rob's work spans architecture, planning and urban and regional geography. Current research includes the work of Jean-Francois Lyotard and of Jean Baudrillard, suburban retail, facilitating studies of nanotech research clusters and publishing projects. His early career was in passive solar architectural design. The CRSC is an interdisciplinary research unit at the University of Alberta, engaging topics which include regional development, urban geography, local environmental risk studies, governance and cultural identity. CRSC works with communities to translate academic research into the knowledge and capacity with which to improve social and economic well-being and foster sustainable futures.

**Presentation:** This presentation discusses the increasing presence of urban-rural interdependency in Alberta and the response of communities to the challenges it poses. Interdependency can be understood as the interactions between municipalities, communities and/or businesses which are essential to mutual well-being. Interdependencies may be characterized by flows of goods, services and people; networks of transportation and infrastructure; and urban sprawl and environmental spillovers. Partnership activities enable local government, business and community to make sense of, and respond to, policy drivers that overlap the traditional boundaries between town and country.

Kevin and Rob's research investigates the connections between partnership and social, economic and environmental considerations. A central aspect of this research addresses the conditions under which partnerships arise, factors that affect the success or failure of collaboration, and future trends in the development of urban-rural partnerships.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Partnerships are not a "magic bullet" for contending with social, economic and environmental challenges. However, through shared experience, the development of collaborative skills, and the recognition of when and where new cultures and practices of governance can be fostered, partnerships can provide potential benefits for Albertan communities, showing each partner that they are not alone in facing the challenges of planning and sustainability.

## Session 2: Moraine Room

### **Labouring Under the Agrarian Myth: is Agricultural Work Inherently Healthy, and can it be more so?**

~ Jon Doan, Shane Hudson, University of Lethbridge, and Randy Dreger, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

**Profile:** Presenters are collaborators on an ARDN-supported project investigating the development and delivery of a tailored exercise intervention program for seasonal farm workers in Southern Alberta. Dr. Jon Doan is an occupational biomechanist at University of Lethbridge (U of L) and Dr. Randy Dreger is an exercise physiologist at NAIT. Shane Hudson is a research assistant at the U of L, working out of the Engineering and Human Performance Laboratory.

**Presentation:** The agriculture industry is one of the earliest work types with documented occupational health concerns. The Industrial Revolution and rise of mass manufacturing resulted in agricultural work classically described by early occupational physicians as "the oldest, the healthiest, and the most natural of employments" where a worker "enjoys pure air, and varied and moderate exercise". Current researchers have suggested this "agrarian myth" may continue to mask chronic and acute agricultural health issues and limit agricultural safety initiatives. This presentation looks at current evidence on both sides of the agrarian myth, including results from recent focus groups with seasonal field workers in Southern Alberta. Best practices in occupational health and safety will be presented, with emphasis on employment fitness and tailored exercise. These concepts are the foundation of a new exercise program for seasonal agricultural workers that will be described.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The program is directed at seasonal farm workers, many of whom live in rural communities. Providing alternative occupational health and safety expertise for these workers is important - other exercise programs and conventional exercise facilities may be less accessible for rural workers, and injured rural workers may not have the same access to administrative or medical health and safety resources.

### **Session 3: Rundle Ballroom**

#### **The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 2) ~ Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid, Innovative Leadership**

*This is Part 2 of Concurrent Session C, Session 3.* Please see Concurrent Session C, Session 3 for details. It is recommended that you attend both part 1 and part 2.

### **Session 4: Robson Ballroom**

#### **Greening of the Peace - Preparing Peace Firms for Business Opportunities in the Emerging Green World, Charles Backman, Grande Prairie Regional College**

**Profile:** Charles Backman is an instructor at the Grande Prairie Regional College in the Department of Business and a PhD Candidate in Strategy at the Haskayne School of Business in Calgary. He was asked by PREDA to investigate how ready Peace firms were to seize opportunities created by the greening of society.

**Presentation:** The presentation identifies how much firms in the Peace are factoring the environment into their business decisions. There are three aspects: 1) the extent to which environmental impact affects operating decisions; 2) the extent to which business opportunities created by the greening of society are on their radar screen; and 3) which hurdles are preventing growth fostered by the rising expectations for green products.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Firms in rural communities are dominated by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These firms are linked to the rest of the world, potentially through performing contract work for large firms. These firms are subjected to greater pressures to conform to environmental standards than firms focussed on particular regions. Furthermore, SMEs in the Peace have a good idea of what opportunities exist in the Peace region but may not qualify for contracts awarded by national or international firms. Part of the selection criteria for contracts may lie with the green component of local business operations. Understanding how expectations for a greener footprint by firms will enable greater participation of Peace (and other) firms in business opportunities.

### **Session 5: Maligne Ballroom**

**Yaffle.ca – A Matchmaking Tool for Engagement ~ Jennifer Adams Warburton, Harris Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland**

**Profile:** Jennifer Adams Warburton is the Operations Manager at the Harris Centre and Yaffle, Memorial University of Newfoundland. For the last 15 years, Jennifer has been providing project management and operations leadership expertise in the software and entertainment industries and within the public sector.

Throughout her career she has focused on developing and implementing methodologies and best practices that balance operational agility with appropriate levels of process to ensure transparent and high-quality operations. As the leader of Yaffle, Jennifer is responsible for both the day-to-day operations of Yaffle and for developing Yaffle's potential as a more broadly used tool for community engagement.

**Presentation:** Part Google, part eHarmony; Yaffle.ca is a website that matches the research projects and expertise, off-campus teaching, and outreach activities of Memorial University of Newfoundland with the real-world regional and policy development needs of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the last two years, the success of Yaffle has spread throughout the regional and policy development communities across the country and the world. As powerful a tool as Yaffle is, however, it is simply a piece of software. The human connection is always present and nurtured as part of the Yaffle operational culture.

Jennifer Adams Warburton, Memorial's Yaffle lead, will share successes, challenges, lessons learned and the future of Yaffle.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Yaffle.ca is a matchmaking tool used by rural development and rural community stakeholders to connect directly with the faculty, students and staff of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Equally, Yaffle.ca allows faculty, students and staff of Memorial University to connect directly the people of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Barriers are removed by providing direct connections and clear paths for engagement with the right people on the right questions at the right time.

# Panel Session

4:00-5:00

pm

---

Two separate panels will provide practical examples of engagement between communities and colleges and universities.

Group 1: Room # *Rundle Ballroom*

**Partnering for Success: Building Strong University and Community Relationships ~ Daniel Balderson, University of Lethbridge & Randy Jensen, Westwind Equine Academy**

How do you start and maintain a collaborative relationship? This and other related questions will be addressed by Dr. Daniel Balderson from the University of Lethbridge and Randy Jensen from the Westwind Equine Academy. Danny and Randy have been working together for the past two years and will share insights from their journey. The presentation will discuss understanding the needs of post secondary and community partners, navigating challenges and difficulties along the way, and maintaining open lines of communication. Discussion will also highlight the many doors that have been opened by working together which in turn have significantly enhanced the project. Discussion will highlight how communities can be empowered through the collaborative process. A question and answer period will follow.

**Dr. Daniel Balderson** is an Assistant Professor from the University of Lethbridge. Balderson was born and raised in Magrath. Balderson lives with his wife and children on his family farm and is investigating Rural Sport Academies in Southern Alberta and their effects on communities, students, and schools.

**Mr. Randy Jensen** is the Vice Principal at Cardston High School and President of the Westwind Equine Academy. Born and raised in rural Alberta, Randy has over 20 years of teaching experience. Randy was the founder of the rodeo Academy that now includes programs for special needs children from across Southern Alberta and budding rodeo stars. Jensen was instrumental in securing funds to build a multi-million dollar facility in Cardston to house the Academies equine activities. Please visit [westwindrodeoacademy.com](http://westwindrodeoacademy.com).

---

Group 2: Room # *Robson Ballroom*

**Post-Secondary Institutions and Collaborative Research: An Aboriginal Leadership Development Example ~ Brian Calliou, The Banff Centre, Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership; Cora Voyageur, Researcher, Janisha Wildman, Youth Cohort, and Corrine Card, Executive Director, Metis Crossing**

Community members have an opportunity to play an active role in community based research and participatory action research, but it can be a challenging undertaking. In this session, an example of an applied research project looking at aboriginal leadership development will be presented. A panel comprised of a researcher, an educator, administrators, as well as youth and aboriginal representation will share their perspectives on the challenges and promises of collaborating with several communities on research. The sharing of this knowledge will empower other rural communities and organizations who have an interest in collaborative research with post-secondary institutions.

**Brian Calliou:** Brian Calliou is the Program Director for The Banff Centre's Aboriginal Leadership and Management. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Alberta. He has many published works. Brian's research interests include Aboriginal leadership, self-government, economic development, Aboriginal and treaty rights, and legal

history. Brian is a Cree and member of the Sucker Creek First Nation in the Treaty 8 area of north central Alberta. In August, 2009 Brian received a Blackfoot name, Apahto'kii, which means pine, as in pine tree.

**Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux:** Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux has taught Native Studies, Political Science, History and Business at Georgian College, Seneca and Laurentian University, and Aboriginal Studies and Social Work at the University of Toronto. Cynthia believes that embedding Indigenous Knowledge and Aboriginal History into curriculum at every level is the only way to ensure that Canadians develop an appreciation for the significant contributions of Aboriginal peoples in this country. She is also involved in positive youth engagement through a youth to youth initiative called the Canadian Roots Exchange.

**Cora Voyageur:** Cora Voyageur is an associate professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Calgary. She earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Alberta where she explored Indigenous Peoples' employment and their involvement with the Employment Equity Act. Her research focuses on the Indigenous experience in Canada that includes: women's issues, politics, employment, community and economic development and health. She has conducted community-initiated research with many First Nations and Indigenous organizations. She is a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Fort Chipewyan.

**Janisha Wildman:** Janisha's Indian name is "guh geeh beehn gooh thihn", which translates to "little weasel". She is a 29 year old, very proud mother of three beautiful children. She lives on the Morley reserve, where she works at the Morley Community School. She teaches a literacy program called "Discover Reading", which was introduced to the school by the Reading Foundation about six years ago. It has been a great success. Janisha strongly believes in passing down her traditions and values.

**Corrine Card:** Corrine Card is a proud Métis woman who was raised on the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement in northwest Alberta. She is a widow who has raised four wonderful children and still found time to volunteer in her communities. Corrine is very proud of her children and their accomplishments, one of whom recently returned from serving as a medic in Afghanistan. Many years of Corrine's work and volunteer life has focused on the improvement of life for disadvantaged families. Corrine currently works as the Executive Director for Métis Crossing and lives in Smoky Lake.

# Poster Session

5:00-7:00

*pm*

---

## **You play hockey where? Rural schools and sports academies in Alberta ~ Dr. Daniel Balderson, University of Lethbridge**

**Profile:** Daniel Balderson is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge. He received a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Danny is the physical education specialist and is currently a Professional Semester coordinator. Balderson has been looking at the effects of rural school sports academies and the effect on schools, students, and communities.

**Poster:** Sport Academies in Alberta schools have grown tremendously over the past 10 years. For a variety of reasons, many of these Academies are found in rural communities. This poster will highlight this growing phenomenon and discuss why these programs have been started and what effect they have on the local school and communities. Distinction will be made between different types of academies and the potential benefits and challenges to rural areas. Future plans for research and collaboration will be discussed.

## **Professional Ethics in Rural Practice: A Qualitative Research Overview ~ Dr. Judi L. Malone, Athabasca University**

**Profile:** Dr. Judi L Malone has been a registered psychologist in Alberta since 1999 and an academic with Athabasca University since 2000. She has a psychology practice in her lifelong rural community. This rural generalist practice allows her to teach university, deliver professional development, practice in two therapy clinics, do research, and act as a consultant to agencies and for community development. Her primary interest is in the area of professional ethics and that is the area in which she does much of her writing, and research, including a recent PhD in psychology studying professional ethics for rural Canadian Psychologists.

**Poster:** This poster provides an overview of a recent doctoral study examining the unique context and ethical challenges of rural psychological practice. This in-depth interpretive inquiry of the experience of professional ethics involved twenty rural psychologists from across Canada, four of whom were Albertan. The main research question was, “what ethical issues arise for you as a practicing rural psychologist?” A secondary focus was on ethical development and the current socio-historical context for professional ethics. The phenomenon is described within the Canadian context outlining dominant social and policy considerations impacting rural practice and highlighting how where you live and practice may create specific ethical issues. This doctoral study identified the need for further research, fostered recommendations for the profession, and provided some tangible ideas for rural Canadian – and Albertan – professional practice.

## **Integrated Solar and Wind Electricity Generation for the Elk Point Visitor Information Centre ~ Dr. Sean McInroy, Lakeland College**

**Profile:** Sean is an engineering co-op student working for Lakeland College as a research technician on the renewable energy research projects. His background is in mechanical engineering with an interest in renewable energy systems. In addition to his work in the Elk Point monitoring project Sean is investigating storage of heat from solar thermal systems.

**Poster:** Lakeland College has partnered with the Town of Elk Point to monitor the electricity generated from solar and wind generators at the Elk Point Visitor Information Centre. The monitoring project will

investigate the interactions between electricity generated by the solar photovoltaic system and wind turbine and the electricity grid as each supplies the building's demand. Data will be available on the town's website as well as a kiosk in the visitor centre. Information will help educate the public and Lakeland students about the potential of renewable energy in north-east Alberta as well as provide real performance data for those considering installations of solar or wind generation systems. This project is an example of post-secondary and rural communities partnering together to support sustainable resource economic development, knowledge mobilization, education, leadership and governance in rural communities.

### **Igniting Change by Bridging Diversity ~ Renee Vaugeois, John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights**

**Profile:** The John Humphrey Centre (JHC) for Peace and Human Rights has been a leader in human rights education and community building. Every two years, the JHC hosts the Global Youth Assembly (GYA) - a vibrant four day social forum of youth from around the world which focuses on bridging diversity and strengthening youth capacity to become active members of their communities. In 2011, we will raise the question “what about water?!” By exploring the theme of water and its connection to human rights issues, youth at the GYA will be tackling an area that matters to everyone – in every community around the globe.

**Poster:** In reality, it doesn't matter who you are, where you live, how you live, or what your interests are; water concerns you. Water as an issue and a resource is complex and connected to so many global, local and individual concerns. This is why it was chosen as the theme for Global Youth Assembly 2011. The GYA is the flagstone component of a larger program called “Ignite Change Now! (ICN)” The ICN program is a combination of several youth leadership projects all focused on bringing a youth voice to the forefront of policy discussions and to engaging youth in positive leadership and social action in their communities. Over 650 youth aged 16 to 28 youth from diverse backgrounds come together at the GYA to gain new knowledge and perspectives about human rights issues, present their work and express themselves, make contacts and friends, create goals and projects, and find the support needed to become active members of their communities and the world. These youth leave with new tools, resources, connections, and confidence.

### **Through the eyes of rural young adults: A photovoice project ~ Tim Wray, Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry**

**Profile:** Tim Wray is a graduate student and local pastor working towards his doctorate in ministry. Tim is the project facilitator and represents a group of about a dozen young adults that have been recruited from the community of Pipestone (10 miles west of Millet). Their ages range from 18 – 35 and they come from a variety of backgrounds. They are a mix of men and women, single and married, with and without children, from a variety of economic sectors. At conference time, the group will be half way through their project.

**Poster:** The photovoice project is a young adult research initiative that culminates in a community photo exhibit. The project began March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Over a ten week period, the team of young adults meets with a facilitator to learn photography skills, share photographs taken of the community and discuss what it is like to be a young adult living in rural Alberta. Over this period of time the group identifies photographs that represent the experiences and insights of young adults and that are worthy of display. The group also creates written statements to be displayed with the photographs to explain and enrich the meaning behind the pictures. The chosen photographs will be displayed at a community photo exhibit for all to see. Local politicians, community organizations, employers, government agencies and local residents will be invited to attend the event. The exhibit is intended to raise awareness of the issues and opportunities facing

young adults in rural Alberta. The ultimate goal is that the photo exhibit will create a venue for public discourse that results in local action (i.e. policy changes, program initiatives, etc). The poster is an opportunity to exhibit the project mid-stream, share some noteworthy insights, and promote and extend invitations for the final photo exhibit.

### **Using the 24-7 Alberta web platform as an economic and community development tool ~ Andy Blundell, 24-7 Alberta / ThreeHillsDotCom Ltd**

**Profile:** ThreeHillsDotCom Ltd is a not-for-profit company that operates the Three Hills ClicSite and seeks to cultivate a culture of use for broadband technology in Three Hills and other rural communities. They have built the 24-7 Alberta platform as an economic and community development tool for communities that wish to expand their use of broadband technology.

**Poster:** The 24-7 Alberta Web 2.0 Platform is “Content of the community, for the community, by the community”: “if you threw Bill Gates into a phone booth that actually had a phone book, then tossed in a TV, a newspaper, a town crier, a glee club, and the president of the chamber of commerce.... this would be the result.” For those who prefer more academic verbiage, it is “a community connector which builds on existing social capital and increases broadband penetration by providing an online platform converging various media and the people using them. It is an e-Main Street, an e-Market, a business incubation tool and an online workspace that builds social and business clusters within and between geographically separated communities.”

This spring will see the implementation of the Platform in three pilot or proof of concept communities. The next project is to make it available to community-champion organizations throughout rural Alberta who want to use it to create jobs locally, fund community projects and to expand their use of broadband technology.

### **An Adult Literacy Pilot Project—Enoch Cree Nation and NorQuest College ~ Corina Hollingworth and Elaine McPhee, NorQuest College/ Enoch Cree Nation**

**Profile:** Corina Hollingworth started working with Enoch Cree Nation in 2005 and is currently the Executive Director of the Nation’s Human Resources Department. The seventh of nine children, Corina was part of the first group of students to be educated at Kitaskinaw school. Corina went on to complete high school and university. No matter where she has gone, from the Northwest Territories to Quebec, Enoch is home. Her experiences include working in mainstream, government, private sector, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations. Currently completing the last year of her Master’s degree in adult education from Athabasca University, this dynamic and busy leader and mother balances university studies along with full time work.

Elaine McPhee is a NorQuest College employee currently seconded to work with Enoch Cree Nation as the Education Project Manager for the literacy pilot project. Elaine brings to the literacy pilot project an eclectic mix of leadership and teaching experiences in both the post-secondary environment and not-for-profit sector; much of her current and past experiences are in adult foundational learning. Elaine holds a B.A., B.Ed., and Master of Distance Education. She is delighted to work with the Enoch Cree Nation.

**Poster:** Aboriginal learners will constitute one of the major growth areas for post-secondary institutions in the future. How do we engage and set the stage for success for adult Aboriginal learners who are beginning their educational journey with significant academic skill deficits? The Adult Literacy Pilot Project gives background and context to, and information about, this successful unique collaboration between Enoch Cree Nation and NorQuest College.

### **Building a Virtual Community of Practice in Response to Rural Needs ~ Kimber Norbury-Sulin, Lethbridge College**

**Profile:** Kimber Norbury-Sulin is the Coordinator for the Disability and Community Rehabilitation and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) programs at Lethbridge College. Her time as program

coordinator, curriculum writer, faculty, and 23 years of advocacy as a Rehabilitation Practitioner working with persons with FASD and other disabling conditions, well positions her to understand the unique needs facing practitioners in rural communities. Kimber is actively involved in many internal and external committees at the college, including the Southern Alberta FASD Service Network, the South Alberta Workforce Council and the Alberta Government FASD Conference planning committee.

**Poster:** Kimber's project evaluates the benefits of establishing a Virtual Community of Practice (VCoP) to facilitate the education and active participation of members of a professional community of Human Service providers in a wide-reaching network without having to leave their own geographic home communities. By definition, a VCoP is "a network of individuals who share a domain of interest about which they communicate online", and it will allow active members to practice their skills within their local community while concurrently offering networking and resource opportunities from other communities across Canada. This poster focuses on the early stages of development and growth of a VCoP and its impact on Lethbridge College FASD Education program graduates, current online students, instructors, and community partners in order to increase academic engagement, professional and social networking, dissemination of field research, and access to resources and human service supports specific to the field of FASD. For rural students and professionals, their role as active community member in the VCoP will occur in conjunction with their academic goals in a post-secondary online education program.

**Best Practices in Rural Alberta project: Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership ~ Crystal Jackson and Tashina Makokis, The Banff Centre, Aboriginal Leadership and Management**

**Profile:** Crystal and Tashina are part of the youth cohort, which is part of the Banff Centre Aboriginal Leadership and Management's rural Alberta case studies project described in the poster.

**Poster:** The poster is an overview of the RADF-funded wise practices applied research project that involves the documentation of four separate studies of successful rural Aboriginal organizations.

**An approach to identifying sustainable development opportunities in a rural community ~ Dr. Israel Dunmade, Mount Royal University**

**Profile:** Dr. Israel Dunmade is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Mount Royal University, Calgary. He has a Bachelor degree in Agricultural Engineering, MSc in Mechanical Engineering, and PhD in Environmental Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer, a Project Management Professional, and a Canadian Certified Environmental Practitioner. His research interests include Lifecycle Management, Rural Sustainability, and Eco-Industrial Development. He has over 20 years environmental and mechanical project management experience in Africa, Europe and North America with over 40 presentations and publications.

**Poster:** This poster addresses issues affecting identification and harnessing of sustainable development opportunities in rural communities. It also provides a framework to identification, selection, implementation, and management of developments that are sustainable and appropriate for any given rural community. It articulates factors that affect rural sustainable development, how to optimize available resource use, and how to eliminate or minimize undesirable side effects of development. It emphasizes the need for adequate background study of socio-cultural and techno-economic situation of the community, benchmarking available technologies for addressing priority issues, and continuous dialogue and participation of stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the project.

**Breaking Down the Barriers: The Rural Field Experience Initiative ~ Holly Huber, University of Alberta**

**Profile:** Holly Huber is seconded to the Department of Field Experiences in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. Born and raised in Grande Prairie, Holly worked for the Grande Prairie Public School District as a teacher, District PLC Leader, and Social Studies Implementation Facilitator prior to her secondment. Holly has been an instructor in Social Studies Curriculum and Instruction for the University of Alberta's Teacher Education North program at Grande Prairie Regional College, and the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. Holly has a passion for rural education and a close connection to the history of rural Alberta, particularly the north.

**Poster:** The focus of Holly's project is two-fold: to increase the participation of fourth year student teachers in rural practicum experiences and to increase education system awareness about the potential of the practicum experience for attracting early service teachers to rural school jurisdictions. The approach involves addressing the perceived barriers of taking a rural field experience with student teachers. The support provided extends beyond special funding to making a student teacher from outside the community feel at home, possibly for the long term. In addition, they are working with school jurisdictions to build mentoring capacity for pre-service teachers. Finally, they are developing a professionally produced video to highlight the positives of rural field experiences for students, school divisions, and post-secondary institutions.

**Another David vs. Goliath: Community, industry, and land management decision making in Alberta ~ Clayton Maurer, Voice of Community and Land (VOCAL) Society**

**Profile:** VOCAL Alberta is a grass roots organization formed by local landowners in the Tofield/ Kingman/ Round Hill area who were concerned about the Sherritt Proposed Dodds-Round Hill Coal Gasification Project that includes Canada's largest coal mine, which would convert coal into more valuable energy products. VOCAL's mission is to bring forth, foster and give voice to innovative ideas integral to stewardship of community, land and environment. VOCAL is opposed to the Project.

**Poster:** Associate Professor John R. Parkins, of the Department of Rural Economy at the University of Alberta, had students perform a Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Dodds-Round Hill Coal Gasification Project. Students interviewed a total of 97 individuals for this project and analyzed numerous sources of secondary data. This poster focuses on VOCAL & RH-DAPA, two local volunteer organizations, and their successes and struggles to influence land management decisions in their community. Attention is given to the relationship between grassroots non-government organizations, municipal leadership, environmental assessment and land use planning in Alberta.

**Rural Experiential Learning Initiative - Pilot Project: Wetlands Project ~ Caitlin Willier, University of Alberta**

**Profile:** Caitlin Willier is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student in the the department of Renewable Resources, in the faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environment Sciences at the University of Alberta. She is currently in ENCS 467 – Method of Environmental Interpretation, in which this project is situated.

**Poster:** The Olds College Treatment Wetlands and Botanic Gardens will provide biological water treatment, and associated ecological services, to the community of Olds, and it will also become a signature attraction as a landscaped park and garden. Interpretive planning for the project will be required, and in this capacity the students of Environmental and Conservation Science 467 (Methods of Environmental Interpretation), at the University of Alberta, will be able to help with the first steps toward delivery of the interpretive storyline for the wetlands and gardens. Caitlin Willier will present a poster with the proposed interpretative plan.

# April 14, 2011

## Concurrent Session E

9:15-10:15

am

---

### Session 1: *Maligne Room*

**Sustainable Relationships for Sustainable Communities: Challenges and Possibilities for Community-University Partnerships in Knowledge Mobilization ~ Lars Hallstrom & Karsten Mundel, ACSRS- University of Alberta**

**Profile:** Lars Hallstrom, Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC), is responsible for developing and implementing the University of Alberta's commitment to rural engagement via research, knowledge transfer, teaching and collaboration. Karsten Mundel, Director of Learning and Beyond, oversees the varied Learning and Beyond courses at Augustana Campus, which give students the opportunity to make connections between their theoretical studies and the world outside the University.

**Presentation:** The ACSRC and Learning and Beyond office partner in knowledge mobilization activities in service of rural communities. Partnerships are between different units within the university and with key individuals and organizations in rural communities. Lars and Karsten will show that a key to successful knowledge mobilization and translation is well-functioning partnerships between university and community. They will draw on examples ranging from a national conference on rural sustainability to community service-learning opportunities in rural Alberta and from developing research questions relevant to rural communities to rural capacity-building internships. Beyond making the case for well-functioning relationships, they will outline some of the key aspects of these relationships. The presentation will include participation—either live or via pre-recorded video—of different elements of their partnerships including community partners and undergraduate students. The presentation will also outline some of the challenges and room for growth from both the community and university sides of the relationship.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Rural communities are increasingly looking to, and partnering with, post-secondary institutions and individual researchers to gain knowledge, develop analytic and human resource capital and capacity, access research/partnership and collaborative funding, and to develop policies and initiatives. In doing so, different practices, results and relationships have emerged. As part of the shifting dynamic of rural and provincial governance, the ways in which these relationships develop, change and are maintained are an important part of rural community development and policy environment.

### Session 2: *Morraine Room*

**Rural Experiential Learning Initiative - Investigating the Opportunities and Impacts of Retaining Local Financial Capital for Community Development ~ Kalina Lemay, John Parkins, Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta and Stirling McLeod, Past Chair of Olds Institute**

**Profile:** Dr. John Parkins is Associate Professor in the Department of Rural Economy in the faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta. He is a sociologist and his research is focused on environmental politics, rural community sustainability and social impact assessment.

Stirling McLeod is Past Chair of Olds Institute of Community and Regional Development (OICRD), an independent public economic and community development governance board and sanctioned by the

Town of Olds. Kalina Lemay is the Experiential Learning Coordinator of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environments Sciences (ALES) at the University of Alberta.

**Presentation:** With generational changes in farming communities, large capital investments in land and equipment are being liquidated and re-invested. Due to their conservative investment nature, retired farmers and business people often transfer their wealth into low-risk instruments such as GICs and bonds. This exodus of financial capital represents a contrast to the former owner's deeply entrenched commitment to the local community in which they lived for the majority of their lives. These speakers will discuss the idea that more of these financial resources can be retained locally for the benefit of the community if local investment vehicles are available. These vehicles might include local opportunity bonds to support new infrastructure and business development (e.g., recreation facilities, retirement facilities, etc.). This project will also discuss specific research results from Olds, and provide insights into the opportunities and impacts of financial capital retention in rural communities.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The research projects highlighted came out of a community consultation with key rural community stakeholders and a needs analysis that was guided by the Municipal Sustainability Plans, developed by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA). The project was developed using a bottom – up approach, respecting and following the concerns of the local community. This project aids rural communities to find solutions to the problems that they define, and builds rural networks to the University, increasing rural community access to specialized expert advice.

### **Session 3: Rundle Ballroom**

#### **The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 1) ~ Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid, Innovative Leadership**

*This is Part 1 of Concurrent Session E, Session 3.* It is recommended that you attend both part 1 & part 2.

**Profile:** The Prairie Canada Future Game Team: Elvira Smid - Director, Regional Economic Development currently acting in the Lethbridge Region in Alberta; and Juliet Fox - Executive Director, Innovative Leadership.

This unique team has developed the regional system of planning, engagement, action and communication that led the way for the Prairie Canada Future Game to be developed. This game, or tool for engagement, is the result of a process by Innovative Leadership that engaged the regions in Alberta to plan for their future.

**Presentation:** Designed by Innovative Leadership, The Prairie Canada Future Game is a highly interactive and participatory game that allows participants to tackle the challenges of community and economic development in a fun and engaging manner. The Game is played in a small team format, and the teams make a series of critical decisions that shape the future of a region over a 25-year period. Citizens of Alberta, through a process of scenario planning and regional engagement, helped develop this Alberta version as a tool to more deeply engage citizens in development. It has been used in a range of ways including:

- Engage communities and groups in discussions about the future
- Add extra depth and strength to regional planning efforts
- Help hone leadership and decision-making skills
- As a team building and change-management tool
- The game can be used as a powerful tool to stimulate debate and discussion about the future.

Communities and organizations can use the game's future simulation approach to achieve several powerful outcomes. Participants have a chance to discuss growth and development in a hypothetical region, making it easier to explore alternatives than is often the case in real world settings. They learn how decisions that seem sensible in the short-term may play out in unpredictable ways over time, making it critical to shift course to reflect new priorities and values. Communities can use the game to assess

where they are today relative to where they'd like to be 20 years. This can be a powerful way for community members to consider their own vision and desires for the future of their region and community, and begin to explore the action steps required to get to their preferred future. The Futures Game can be an excellent tool for people to explore decision making, and to better understand their own leadership and decision making styles.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** This project is was created in rural Southern Alberta and demonstrates leadership and decision-making facing rural Alberta communities.

#### **Session 4:** *Robson Ballroom*

#### **Knowledge Mobilization for Rural Innovation and Engagement Models ~ Darrell Toma, Toma & Bouma Management Consultants**

**Profile:** Darrell Toma, MSc, PAg, CMC will present on knowledge mobilization for rural innovation models and needs. We have worked in the area of innovation in the province since 2000 and designed a number of regional innovation models including the Olds College (Centre for Innovation, PREDA's model, a model for Southgrow and a new CARMA organization in the Red Deer region. Darrell Toma has a Masters degree in Resource Economics from the U of Alberta, is a Professional Agrologist and Certified Management Consultant with over 30 yrs of experience. He has worked with manufacturers, researchers, colleges and entrepreneurs in rural communities. He is an advisor to IICA (hq in Costa Rica) and works with several knowledge generating organizations.

**Presentation:** Alberta has many rural communities and businesses which desire to increase their innovation capacity and results. Alberta is moving to a new regional innovation system model and strategy to effect more commercial results. Darrell Toma worked in the innovation area since 2000 in the college system and extensively with AITF in 2011 to prepare the new Alberta innovation strategy and business plan. The presentation will review some of the progress with Alberta and other models, the new plan and how business engagement models may need to change.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Alberta has over 200 rural communities many of which are needing ways to better innovate and understand links to the innovation process and systems. Regional innovation and business networks can help and better business engagement models are needed to link researchers to SMEs

#### **Session 5:** *Banff/ Jasper Room*

#### **Lloydminster and Region Incubator Project, Diane Harms, Lakeland College & Scott Kovach, Lloydminster and Region Community Futures**

**Profile:** Diane Harms joined Lakeland College in July 2010 as their inaugural Managing Director of Applied Research and Innovation. Prior to joining Lakeland, Diane worked with various organizations and early stage technology companies to support strategic partnerships and business planning to raise seed stage capital. Her experience working in various roles in research administration, technology commercialization and business development have sown a passionate interest in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Scott Kovach is currently the General Manager of the Lloydminster and Region Community Futures. After a long and varied career in economic development and tourism promotion throughout Western Canada, Scott has returned to Lloydminster and is a key driver of the Lloydminster and Region Business Incubator Project. He is keenly interested in cluster development and in supporting public and private partnerships and cost recovery based programs to extend the capacity of local business operators. When Scott isn't busy with tourism and economic development he enjoys time with his family, motorcycles, jazz music, guitars, coaching soccer and football, painting, hiking and his pets.

**Presentation:** The presentation will describe the evolution and current development of the Lloydminster and Region Business Incubator Project. Lakeland College received funding from ARDN to complete the

needs assessment portion of business plan development. This project is an example of a regional approach to business incubation and the development of a network of business support organizations working together to achieve regional goals.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** Increasing economic development and diversification in our communities will be critical to the long term success and longevity of our communities. Developing strategies to retain businesses, encourage youth entrepreneurship, and support our emergent technology company sectors will increase jobs and retain youth in our communities.

## Concurrent Session F

10:45-11:45

*pm*

---

### **Session 1: Maligne Room**

**Building on strengths: Rural Instructor Preceptor Project (RIPP) ~ Emil Tarka & Nancy Walker, Red Deer College**

**Profile:** Nancy Walker, RN, BN, MN. Nancy graduated from the University of Calgary with a BN in 1982 and a Masters of Nursing in 1999 from the University of Alberta. For the past 11 years she has been a nursing instructor in the BScN Program at Red Deer College and prior to that she worked in a variety of areas as a rural nurse in Central Alberta. Since 2009 Nancy has been working on the Rural Instructor Preceptor Project as the Content Manager . She plays a role in the dissemination of the materials that have been produced.

Emil Tarka, MA, PMP. Emil graduated from the University of Northern British Columbia with a BA in International Studies. He finished his MA in 2004. For the past 8 years Emil has been working in the field of project management and internationalization in Canada, Asia and Europe. Emil has been managing the Rural Instructor Preceptor Project for the past two and a half years were it is his responsibility to ensure that all the deliverables are attained within desired specifications, on time, and within budget.

**Presentation:** Funded by the Health Work Action Plan (HWAP) the Rural Instructor Preceptor Project (RIPP) is a joint venture between Red Deer College and Alberta Health Services. The goal is to increase the recruitment and retention of preceptors and nursing instructors through the development of materials that facilitate the transition of expert clinicians to the role of nursing instructor or preceptor.

Over the past two years the project conducted a comprehensive study which led to the development and piloting of two highly functional support programs, one for novice nursing instructors, and one for preceptors. This presentation will highlight the following programs:

**Preceptor:** The project produced three hard copy preceptor handbooks for nurses who precept BScN, PN and HCA students. These handbooks provide practical information on the value of precepting, preceptor/instructor/student responsibilities, evaluation of students, orientation, learning styles, clinical questioning, providing effective feedback, students at risk of failing, and dealing with conflict.

**Nursing Instructor Program (Hard Copy & Digital):**

**Hard Copy:** This comprehensive binder provides the novice nursing instructor with a one-stop resource that outlines institutional and departmental orientation programs, mentoring, and peer support opportunities. The program also provides learning modules that will help facilitate a smooth transition from clinical expert to the role of nursing instructor.

**Digital:** This program is a professionally digitized version of the hardcopy nursing instructor program. Participants can learn how to be a nursing instructor, view videos, listen to expert commentary and tips on how to improve instruction, engage in reflective questions and participate in quizzes.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** RIPP's products can help your rural community improve the recruitment and retention of health care professionals. We are able to visit your institution/organization and present our materials to your department. We will share our deliverables free of charge with any publicly funded post-secondary institution in Alberta.

**Session 2: *Morraine Room***

**Leveraging Capital in Rural Communities: Dissemination of the Sangudo Opportunities Development Cooperative (SODC) ~ Dan Ohler & Jeff Senger, Sangudo Opportunities Development Cooperative (SODC)**

**Profile:** Presenter(s): Dan Ohler and/or Jeff Senger

Dan is a founding member and Board Chair of the Sangudo Opportunity Development Cooperative (SODC)

Jeff is a founding member of SODC, and co-owner of Sangudo Custom Meat Packers.

Both were heavily involved in the "birth" of SODC and continue to investigate and work on future projects.

**Presentation:** Sangudo Opportunities Development Cooperative (SODC) is a first-of-its-kind investment cooperative. It leverages financial capital from local residents to create or sustain essential businesses within the community. SODC's first investment was to purchase a small abattoir in Sangudo from a retiring owner. Young local entrepreneurs have been supported to lease and eventually own the business, resulting in a significant economic gain for the community. Negotiations with other local businesses are underway to support them with their transitions in a similar fashion. A Research and Knowledge Development program application has been completed through Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. If accepted, SODC will cooperate with Rural Alberta Development Network, Athabasca University, and Alberta Community and Cooperative Association, to create a Manual and/or Workbook which will be tested in other rural communities. The project will explore the potential of employing the SODC model to address small business succession planning and attrition in rural communities.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** While the SODC model could be applied to a range of rural economic development investments, this dissemination project will develop materials that will primarily focus on the potential for the model to be used in averting the loss of small businesses from rural communities due to a lack of succession planning.

**Session 3: *Rundle Ballroom***

**The Prairie Canada Future Game: a Powerful Simulation Tool for Community Engagement and Planning (Part 2) ~ Juliet Fox & Elvira Smid, Innovative Leadership**

*This is Part 2 of Concurrent Session E, Session 3.* Please see Concurrent Session E, Session 3 for details. It is recommended that you attend both part 1 and part 2.

**Session 4: *Robson Ballroom***

**B.C.'s Approach to Rural and Regional Economic Development ~ Greg Goodwin, British Columbia Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development**

**Profile:** Based in Victoria, B.C., Greg Goodwin is Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives Office, Rural BC Secretariat, Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development, Government of British Columbia. Greg has responsibility for a wide ranging portfolio of programs and policies which support rural community development and resiliency. He took a leave of absence from the B.C. Public Service to work in Egypt from 2001 to 2006, to become the first Project Co-ordinator for the Egypt/Canada Small and Medium Enterprise Policy Development Project (SMEPoL). SMEPoL was a close collaboration between CIDA, IDRC and the Government of Egypt, supporting the policy development needed to

enhance the enabling environment for businesses to start up and expand. Greg holds a Masters in Natural Resources Management (University of Manitoba) and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation (McGill University).

**Presentation:** Greg will provide an overview of the British Columbia economy, the overall trends and drivers, the provincial government approach to economic development with particular emphasis on the tailored strategies that address high growth regions, those with stable growth and those harder hit regions. Tools, tactics and strategies applied will be described along with non-government entities such as economic initiative trusts. Of particular focus will be the support for regional economic development in areas devastated by the mountain pine beetle affecting 50% of the province's geographic area and severely impacting its timber supply and local and regional economies.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** The presentation will describe the approach British Columbia has taken to rural economic development, the tools and strategies and partnerships and alliances formed.

### **Session 5: Banff/ Jasper Room**

#### **Knowledge Mobilization in High Performing Community Organizations: Trends, Best Practices and Cases from the Community ~ Donna Finley, Framework Partners Inc.**

**Profile:** Donna Finley, co-founder and Principal of Framework Partners Inc., has over 25 years of experience in strategic leadership and governance. She has held transitional leadership positions, led consulting engagements in multiple sectors, and was the driving force behind several large-scale organizational transformations. She has worked with many organizations, including NOVA Corporation, Palliser Economic Partnership, University of Calgary, United Way, Alberta Government, EnCana, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Aboriginal Trust Committees, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, and the Gates Foundation. Donna is currently a doctoral candidate interested in developing new tools for transferring knowledge and building organizational capacity. She is a noted speaker, author of multiple academic articles and co-author of a textbook on strategic planning. She lives in Calgary with her three children.

**Presentation:** Knowledge mobilization is all about creating and sharing knowledge so that organizational and leadership capacity is increased and performance is improved. However, a knowledge transfer gap exists when knowledge is created but not transferred. This workshop explores trends and best practices of high performing organizations focused on bridging the knowledge transfer gap. It discusses the key mechanisms and roles used by successful leaders to improve their organization's ability to mobilize knowledge across boundaries. Basic practices, key success factors and barriers are highlighted through several local cases drawn from a variety of sectors and from local and provincial levels.

**How does this apply to Rural Development and/or Rural Communities?** By exploring several local success stories, participants will be able to identify proven strategies they can adopt and adapt for use in their own organization to improve performance. This interactive workshop would be of interest to any senior leader involved in a community organization, as well as any consultant or academic interested in supporting such organizations. Those with an interest in furthering their knowledge of organizational effectiveness and knowledge mobilization would also benefit from attending this workshop.

# Jeff Dixon

Plenary Session                      *12:30-1:15 pm*

## **Rural Research Priorities in Ontario**

Jeff Dixon, Assistant Director ~ The Monieson Centre

Many of Canada's rural communities are in economic, demographic, educational and social decline, according to a 2006 Interim Senate Report on rural poverty. With traditional industries under increasing pressure from globalization, rural communities are seeking new ways to create economic sustainability.

Beginning in 2008, the Monieson Centre at Queen's School of Business began a process of inventorying Eastern and Southwestern Ontario's rural economic development research needs. Through a series of 24 Workshops, the Centre engaged policymakers, business people, and community leaders across the region to identify economic development priorities and knowledge gaps. The result is a comprehensive list of community and regional research needs that is influencing policy and funding decisions, and new research initiatives.

The workshops were developed in Eastern Ontario through the Centre's SSHRC-funded Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS) project, a 3-year partnership with the Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) and the Eastern Ontario CFDC Network Inc. to connect research tools and resources with the region's economic development priorities. They were further expanded into SW Ontario through the Identifying Rural Research Priorities through Community Engagement (RRP) Project, a partnership with the University of Guelph and The Ontario Rural Council, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The KIS and RRP projects have developed a growing network of academics and practitioners collaborating on studies connected to regional and local priorities.

This presentation documents the methodology behind the community consultations, and the results of these 24 community workshops. It will further explore a number of university-community collaborations currently addressing questions regarding rural economic development, including seminars, conferences, research studies, and social media tools. The outcomes of these collaborations, including lessons learned and implications for researchers and practitioners, provide valuable insight for understanding how research can support rural economic sustainability and vitality.

---

## **Rural Research Needs and Priorities Assessment in Alberta**

Jeff Dixon's presentation provides a segue into the workshop that will begin to identify Alberta's rural research needs and priorities. This workshop is your opportunity to directly influence the focus of future research projects undertaken by Alberta's Universities, Colleges and Technical Institutes. Input and feedback gathered at this workshop will be used to guide ARDN facilitated rural development projects. Calls for proposals will be launched by the ARDN to address the specific needs and priorities identified in this workshop. If you have ideas about what burning rural community issues need to be addressed through research, we want to hear from you. We promise to turn at least some of the ideas we hear about into research projects, and those projects will include participation by rural Albertans and rural Alberta communities. Join us for a chance to be heard and to turn problems into opportunities.