

For Immediate Release

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Creating Rural Connections 2011 Conference

Learn, share and network at Alberta Rural Development Network event

SHERWOOD PARK – Knowledge and collaboration can often spell the difference between the success or failure of an initiative or even a community. The *Creating Rural Connections 2011* conference to be held April 12-14, 2011 in Edmonton presents the latest information and best practices on rural development, and provides opportunities for Albertans to network and collaborate with others involved in sustaining or transforming rural communities.

The conference, organized by the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) in partnership with Athabasca University, Grant MacEwan University, NorQuest College, NAIT and the University of Alberta, features keynote speakers, interactive breakouts, a trade show and poster session, and ample opportunity to network and explore the potential for new projects and partnerships.

The event opens with an evening reception and closes with an optional needs assessment workshop on the priorities and needs for rural development projects in Alberta. Keynote speakers include Mike Stolte from the Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership, Charlie French from the University of New Hampshire and Jeff Dixon from The Monieson Centre at Queen's University.

Participants will include rural Albertans, community-based organizations, post-secondary institutions and government. A panel session will highlight partnerships formed from ARDN's first conference held in 2010 in Lethbridge. For more information or to register, visit www.ardn.ca or call toll-free 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.

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