



ARDN supports rural Alberta as a place to grow, seek new opportunities, and build a future.

"ARDN made me realize the importance of partnering with like-minded organizations to keep Alberta's communities strong. We are all in this together."

Michele Aasgard

Alberta Community and Cooperative Association

"It's important that local communities have the ability to identify and solve their own problems, but strong and diverse relationships create more possibilities. It's all about providing local solutions."

Toby Williams

Community Futures Network of Alberta

"The key to ARDN is that it is a province-wide, post-secondary resource focused on building relationships and capacity. Networking is fundamental to everything we do. It implies communication. It implies collaboration. When you have those kinds of connections, the possibilities are endless."

Rick Neidig

Northern Lakes College

ALBERTA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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**Alberta
Rural
Development
Network**

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Creating Rural Connections with Communities

THROUGH...

EDUCATION

a community's link to growth

RESEARCH

information to move forward

COLLABORATION

sharing knowledge and abilities

NETWORKING

creating relationships & exchanging ideas

WHO WE ARE

The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) is a partnership of Alberta's 21 public colleges, universities, and technical institutes. ARDN members work together to support and enhance the well-being of individuals and the vibrancy of communities. It draws on the strengths of rural communities, post-secondary institutions, and community-based organizations.



WHO BENEFITS

Communities include local leaders and rural citizens who need jobs, schools for their children, homes for their ageing parents, local goods and services, and fulfilling leisure activities. ARDN Realizes that only rural residents truly understand their community's needs and ensures communities are part of project development and delivery.

Non-Governmental Organizations form the heart and contribute to the character of rural communities. ARDN connects with diverse organizations to provide links for the community and create partnerships that help these organizations contribute to rural development.



WHAT WE DO

Assist post-secondary members with the creation of community-driven research projects.

Provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among rural communities, local governments, post-secondary institutions, and community-based organizations and businesses.

Collect and share applied research and information on rural development available on www.ardn.ca.

Work with rural communities to identify and address gaps in education training.



WHAT WE OFFER

Education is a tool for growth. ARDN provides links to opportunities that exist and seeks partnerships with communities and post-secondary institutions to make education and training more available.

Research provides rural communities with knowledge and information. ARDN collects and facilitates rural research projects that have the potential to improve the quality of life in rural communities. It shares this information through its website, newsletter, and events.

Networking gives rural communities access to more ideas and greater support through new connections. ARDN provides opportunities to connect in person through networking events and virtually through an online discussion forum.

Collaboration increases a community's capacity to make positive changes. ARDN connects individuals and groups then participates in those partnerships to foster an effective team approach to rural development.

Businesses contribute to the economy of rural Alberta and depend on community support. By working with communities and fostering collaboration, ARDN's partners provide education and training in rural communities which broaden increase job opportunities and broaden individual horizons.

Governments have a stake in rural Alberta. Municipal governments run hamlets, villages, towns, cities, and counties, and provincial and federal governments know that supporting rural development benefits everyone. ARDN provides networking opportunities for discussion about rural issues, and informs government decision making.

Researchers develop initiatives and projects that could potentially impact rural Alberta. ARDN works closely with its post-secondary members to create partnerships between researchers and communities that facilitate community-driven research and projects.

OUR POST-SECONDARY MEMBERS

Alberta College of Art + Design
Athabasca University • The Banff Centre
Bow Valley College • Grande Prairie Regional College
Grant MacEwan University • Keyano College
Lakeland College • Lethbridge College
Medicine Hat College • Mount Royal University
NorQuest College • Northern Lakes College
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Olds College • Portage College
Red Deer College • SAIT Polytechnic
University of Alberta • University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge

Find out more at www.ardn.ca