

Position: Director of Community and Member Engagement

Employer: Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)

Salary Range: \$70,000 to \$90,000 per annum, plus a competitive benefits package

Term: A two year position with possibility of extension

A secondment from a post-secondary institution may be considered

The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) seeks a full-time Director of Community and Member Engagement to join our small team located in Sherwood Park, AB.

Funded by Rural Alberta's Development Fund, the ARDN is a partnership of 21 Alberta post-secondary institutions. The objective of the ARDN is to help rural communities articulate their needs and shape their future by:

- Facilitating strategic research on economic, environmental and social issues affecting the well being of people in rural communities
- Providing resources to expand access to training and education opportunities for rural Albertans
- Providing a proactive source for up-to-date information, knowledge and models of best practices in rural development

Roles and Responsibilities:

The role of the Director of Community and Member Engagement is to work with Alberta's rural communities, community based organizations, and members to facilitate strategic partnerships and collaborations. The Director of Community and Member Engagement will work with ARDN and post-secondary staff to:

- Identify opportunities for, and facilitate, partnering and collaboration amongst our members, rural communities and community based organizations, to benefit rural development in Alberta
- Assist with the development and implementation of ARDN's communications strategy with respect to community and member engagement
- Facilitate the delivery of rural events
- Oversee the documentation of community and member engagement program outcomes

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will have a sophisticated understanding of, and an extensive contact list related to, rural development in Alberta. They will also possess a proven track record in project management. The ideal candidate should have demonstrated ability as a relationship and consensus builder, both amongst post-secondary institutions and with other organizations. Strong knowledge of, or connection to, rural Alberta is an asset. The ideal individual for this position will be a highly organized team player with rural passion and a broad skill set.

Required:

- Post-graduate social science degree in rural studies, rural development, communications, or a related area OR equivalent experience
- Experience or background in community engagement and/or rural development
- Demonstrated project management experience
- Excellent communication (oral and written) skills
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational and time management skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team environment
- Computer proficiency
- Initiative and a willingness to contribute ideas
- Valid driver's license and personal vehicle
- Ability and willingness to travel (at times, extensively)

Assets:

- Rural or agriculture background
- Experience working with post-secondary institutions
- A multi-disciplinary background
- Experience evaluating social science research

Please send a cover letter and *curriculum vitae* in confidence to:

Dee Ann Benard, Executive Director
Alberta Rural Development Network
Email: info@ardn.ca

Applications will only be accepted until a suitable candidate is found

ARDN is supported in part by Rural Alberta's Development Fund, with funding from the Government of Alberta.