



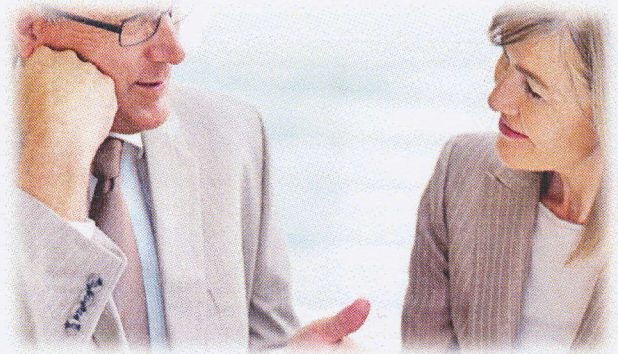
Creating Rural Connections

THROUGH COLLABORATION

Collaboration is the sharing of knowledge and abilities; some of the best outcomes are created when people work together with a single vision. It can make research more widely used, richer, and deeper. When people from different backgrounds come together to pool their knowledge and expertise, research applications can become broader. These types of relationships create capacity for rural communities to actually make changes and improvements. The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) understands the power of collaboration and partnerships. Our role is to gather information, connect individuals and groups, and facilitate and participate in collaboration.

ARDN gathers and organizes information, projects, events and ideas that impact rural growth. With that information, we connect people to others with similar goals. Once an individual knows what has been done or exists as an idea, he or she can build on that knowledge. We make it easier to partner on projects in progress and turn ideas into reality.

By supporting the creation of relationships that normally would not exist, we help get projects off the ground. ARDN helps its partners access funding, create ideas, and focus efforts. We encourage and participate in collaboration among post-secondary institutions (PSIs), community organizations, and rural stakeholders. Our work also helps reduce duplication, and ensures that projects that create positive impacts for rural Alberta receive funding.



We also provide financial and other assistance for rural development projects and events that focus on the creation of connections. Everyone can visit ARDN's website (www.ardn.ca) to learn about existing rural projects and explore the many opportunities. Our research director and director of community and member engagement are both available to discuss possible partnerships with the ARDN, other organizations, and institutions.

ARDN not only builds collaborations – we embrace them. We partner with all types of rural stakeholders, building outstanding projects and events. We also host our own conferences, such as the *Creating Rural Connections* conference, bringing together people who may not otherwise meet but who have similar interests.

ARDN creates rural connections and builds partnerships. By encouraging collaboration on research and projects, we help create a more effective team approach to rural development.



www.ardn.ca

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