

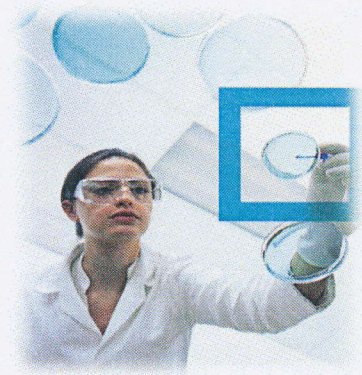


## Creating Rural Connections

THROUGH RESEARCH

Research is an important component of the growth and development of rural communities. Though it is possible for a community to work alone and become successful, these lessons are hard to transfer to other communities without using research. With research, people can tell where they failed or succeeded and why. Research results can then be used to build on the success or result in a different approach. The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) works to improve the quality of life in rural communities by assisting, sharing, and facilitating research.

ARDN assists with research being conducted by universities, colleges, technical institutes, and community organizations. Research provides rural citizens with the information they need to move forward and make changes; it can also provide excellent strategies that can benefit all rural communities. ARDN ensures that all this information is widely shared among the post-secondary institutions (PSI) and Alberta's rural communities.



ARDN's website ([www.ardn.ca](http://www.ardn.ca)) is a way to share this information.

It contains research on various topics, including: Aboriginal Canadians, agriculture, community and business development, education, employments, environment, governance, health and wellness, seniors, tourism, training, youth, and water. All of these are available in the ARDN forum: a place on the website where people can meet, have discussions, form partnerships, and contribute to blog posts. We make an effort to provide this in plain language, and we welcome rural development research and community-based projects from credible sources to post on the forum.



ARDN facilitates the research process; we create connections between PSIs, communities, and rural stakeholders – connections that create success. We strive to ensure that rural communities drive the research of PSIs and not the other way around. We also provide financial and other support for joint projects between institutions and community-based organizations and between post-secondary members.

Rural development research can contribute to the growth of all Alberta's communities. By embracing and facilitating this research, ARDN works to increase and maintain the vitality of rural communities.



Alberta  
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