

Wednesday, October 10th

9:45am-10:15am Plenary Session – Community Navigators

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

- [John McArthur, Pheasant Rump First Nation](#)
- *In this panel, McArthur will discuss the First Nation Community Navigator Program and how it contributes to comprehensive community planning in Saskatchewan First Nations.*

10:45pm-12:00pm Plenary Panel – Rural Mental Health

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

- [Duane Favel, Mayor, Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse](#)
- [Karen Dyck, Psychologist, former Director of the Rural and Northern Psychology Program, University of Manitoba](#)
- Megz Reynolds, Farmer and Mental Health Advocate
- Moderator: Lois Berry
- *Mental health is a critical component of community health. In recent years conversations have started to open up around mental health issues, including addictions, depression, stress and family violence. Those in small rural and northern communities may face additional challenges with regards to isolation, stigma, and lack of adequate services and supports. In this panel, speakers will provide perspectives on the impacts of mental health issues in northern & Indigenous, and rural & farming communities, and ways of empowering rural residents and communities to address them.*

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

- [RPLC Presentation](#)

1:00pm-2:30pm Concurrent Sessions

W1. Rural Labour Force Development

Room: Ballroom B

Chair: Audra Krueger, Cooperatives First

- i. [Refugees in New Brunswick: Experiences of the settlement process](#)
Presenter(s): Mikael Hellstrom, University of New Brunswick
- ii. [Recruiting Talent to PEI: Results of a Survey](#)
Presenter(s): Laurie Brinklow, University of Prince Edward Island
- iii. [Labour Supply and Demand Trends in Canadian Fish Harvesting Industry](#)
Presenter(s): Rick Williams, Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters

W2. Innovation, Business Development & Social Enterprises

Room: Courtyard

Chair: Wayne Kelly, Rural Policy Learning Commons

- i. [What works in business incubation? Lessons and best practices for rural](#)
Presenter(s): Tara Vinodrai & Amy Arbuckle, University of Waterloo
- ii. [Coworking Takeover Week](#)
Presenter(s): Mary Doyle, Rural on Purpose

W3. Capacity Building Session - Identifying Competencies for Rural Policy Practitioners

Room: Brass Lantern

Organizer(s): [Gary McNeely](#), Brandon University & Rural Policy Learning Commons**W4. Rural Health**

Room: Canadian

Chair: Lois Berry, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

- i. **Resilient rural health systems: A review of interventions and resources aimed at building climate resilience in rural health systems**
Presenter(s): Paddy Enright, University of Waterloo
- ii. [Exploring Telehealth for Building Community Capacity and Well-being in Northern and Remote Indigenous Communities](#)
Presenter(s): Joelena Leader, University of Saskatchewan
- iii. **Building Capacity, Promoting Health: The Story, Accomplishments and Challenges of Gateway Centre of Excellence for Rural Health**
Presenter(s): Heather Mair, University of Waterloo; Scott Brown, University of Guelph

3:00pm-4:30pm**Concurrent Sessions****W5. Is Rural Youth Outmigration a Problem?** 

Room: Ballroom B

Organizer(s): Karen Foster, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Rural Futures for Atlantic Canada, Dalhousie UniversityPanelists[Is Rural Youth Outmigration a Problem?](#)

Karen Foster and Hannah Main, Dalhousie University

[Whither Rural Youth: A look at the number who stay, the number who leave and the number of return migrants](#)[Ray D. Bollman](#), Brandon University & Memorial University**W6. Rural Food, Farming & Production**

Room: Canadian

Chair: Scott Brown

- i. [Farmers 'Welfare depiction in the pro-GMOs \(genetically modified organisms\) Literature on African farmers](#)
Presenter(s): Yassine Dguidegue, University of Missouri
- ii. [Growing Agricultural Communities in Northern Ontario: Lessons from Anabaptist Farmers](#)
Presenter(s): Sara Epp, University of Guelph
- iii. [Taking up the plow \(again\)? Exploring the history and resurgence of First Nations farming practices and food production in the Canadian Prairies](#)
Presenter(s): Peter Friedrichsen, University of Saskatchewan

W7. Rural Renewable Energy

Room: Courtyard

Chair: Paddy Enright

- i. [Aboriginal business leaders' perceptions of biomass energy innovation](#)
Presenter(s): Ryan Bullock, University of Winnipeg; Melanie Zurba, University of Winnipeg; John Parkins, University of Alberta; and Max Skudra, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- ii. [Friends In Low \(Carbon\) Places: Supporting Clean Economies for Rural and Indigenous Canadians](#)
Presenter(s): Diane Adams, University of Saskatchewan; Lindsay Colley, Ryerson University
- iii. [Energy Co-management in Community led Renewable Energy \(CBR\) Projects: A Policy Gap between Canada and European Union](#)
Presenter(s): Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

W8. Panel - Policy Capacity for Rural and Remote Regions: The Northwest Saskatchewan Policy Unit

Room: Brass Lantern

Organizer(s): Ken Coates, Canada Research Chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan

Panelists

[Razak Abu, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Northwest Saskatchewan Policy Unit](#)

Darrel Burnoff, Regional Project Director, Northwest Saskatchewan Policy Unit



Thursday, October 11th

7:30am-4:30pm

Registration

Saskatoon Inn

8:30am-10:00am

Concurrent Sessions

[T1. Capacity Building Session - Beyond Serendipity: Building Capacity for Strategically Connecting Research to Policy and Practice](#)

Room: Brass Lantern

Organizer(s): Sarah Breen, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation & Ryan Gibson, Rural Policy Learning Commons

Facilitator(s): [Peter Smith, Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity](#); [Ruth Mealy, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation](#)

T2. Rural Sustainability

Room: Courtyard

Chair: Yassine Dguidegue

- i. [Regional sustainability in rural Newfoundland: An ongoing research-community collaboration](#)
Presenter(s): Brennan Lowery, Grenfell Campus Memorial University
- ii. [Commodifying underdevelopment? Rural cultural tourism](#)
Presenter(s): Hannah Main, Dalhousie University
- iii. [Why Rural Canada needs Post Office Banking](#)
Presenter(s): Brenda McAuley, Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA)

T3. Rural Health 

Room: Ballroom B

Chair: Mikael Hellstrom

- i. [The importance of a sense of belonging and place attachment for the retention of rural health professionals – Findings from Australian qualitative research](#)
Presenter(s): Catherine Cosgrave, University of Melbourne
- ii. [Women's Access to Health Care System: A scoping review of the Barriers to Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening in rural Canada](#)
Presenter(s): Reyhaneh Golestani, Carleton University
- iii. [Northern Care for Vulnerable elders/seniors](#)
Presenter(s): Bonita Beatty, University of Saskatchewan



T4. Beyond Pipe Dreams: Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities for Alternative Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems in Rural Canada

Room: Canadian

Organizer(s): Sarah Minnes, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

Panelists

[Robert Patrick, University of Saskatchewan](#)

[Cameron Curran, University of Guelph](#)

[Kelly Vodden, Grenfell Campus Memorial University](#)

[Sarah Minnes, Grenfell Campus Memorial University](#)

10:30am-12:00pm Concurrent Sessions

T5. Capacity Building Session - A Walk on the Wild Side

Room: Canadian

Organizer(s): Randy Johns, Keewatin Community Development Association

T6. Vitality and Veracity of Rural Research Centres

Room: Brass Lantern

Organizer(s): Kathleen Kevany, Dalhousie University

Panelists:

Greg Halseth, University of Northern British Columbia

[Brennan Lowery, Grenfell Campus Memorial University](#)

[Ruth Mealy, CRRF](#)

Marc Yvan Valade, Ryerson University

[Valencia Gaspard, University of Guelph](#)

T7. Tools for Rural Community Development

Room: Ballroom B

Chair: Danielle Robinson


- i. **Facilitating Return to Rural Communities with Online Tools and Support**
Presenter(s): Heidi Watson, Heidi's Occupational Therapy & The Canadian Electronic Health Information System
- ii. **Parkland County – Planning tools for shared prosperity**
Presenter(s): Carol Bergum, Planning and Development, Parkland County AB
- iii. **Coal in Coronach: Heritage as a Tool for Community Resilience**
Presenter(s): Kristin Catherwood, Heritage Saskatchewan

T8. Rural Resilience 

Room: Courtyard

Chair: Stephen Penner

- i. [Siblings and their impact on rural youth](#)
Presenter(s): Dianne Looker, Acadia & Mount Saint Vincent Universities
- ii. [Building resilience for rural LGBTQ+ Youth and their communities](#)
Presenter(s): Stephanie Gariscsak, University of Guelph
- iii. [Transitioning to the new rural cannabis economy](#)
Presenter(s): Tracey Harvey, Selkirk College & University of Guelph

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch Keynote: Farming and the Rural Economy: The Past, Present, and Future 

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

- [Darrin Qualman, Food and Climate Researcher](#)

1:00pm-2:30pm Concurrent Sessions**T9. Rural Development & Agriculture**

Room: Brass Lantern

Chair: Dianne Looker

- i. **Shared stories: teachings around the meaning of food sovereignty from rural and Indigenous communities**
Presenter(s): Kathleen Kevany, Dalhousie University; Danielle Robinson, University of Guelph; Stephen Penner, University of Guelph
- ii. [Foncier et coordination agricoles: des actifs inséparables pour la construction territoriale dans les espaces péri-urbains](#)
Presenter(s): Mikael Akimowicz, Brandon University
- iii. [What People Say: Application of Rural Definitions and Descriptors of Community in Ingersoll, Ontario](#)
Presenter(s): Neil Stoop, University of Guelph

T10. Putting Rural on the Agenda: The Prominence and Priority of Rural Issues and Opportunities in Policy Making 

Room: Ballroom B

Organizer(s): Sarah Minnes, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

Panelists

Matteo Vittuari, University of Bologna

[Patrick Lévesque, Office of the Third Party, Prince Edward Island](#)[Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph](#)

[Jane Atterton, Scotland's Rural College](#)
[Kristof Van Assche, University of Alberta](#)

T11. Rural Water Issues

Room: Canadian

Chair: Reyhaneh Golestani

- i. **Water, land, and indigenous engagement in governance**
 Presenter(s): Warrick Baijius, University of Saskatchewan
- ii. [Watershed health and cumulative impacts assessment: Managing for ecological health](#)
 Organizer(s): Tara Lynne Clapp, Rural Policy Learning Commons
- iii. [Healthy water, healthy community](#)
 Presenter(s): Robert Patrick, University of Saskatchewan

T12. Panel - [Canada In a Changing Climate: Rural and Remote Communities](#)

Room: Courtyard

Organizer(s): Sean Manners, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

Panelists

Sean Manners, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

Kelly Vodden, Grenfell Campus Memorial University

Amy Kipp, University of Guelph

3:00pm-4:30pm

Concurrent Sessions

T13. Panel - Community Driven Research

Room: Ballroom B

Organizer(s): Emmy Neuls & Bonita Beatty University of Saskatchewan

Panelists

[Sturgeon Lake First Nation](#)

Valerie MacLeod & Vivian Ramsden, University of Saskatchewan

Community of Cumberland House

John Desjarlais, University of Saskatchewan



T14. Rural Labour Force Development

Room: Canadian

Chair: Reyhaneh Golestani

- i. **Investigating Precarious Employment in Rural Ontario**
Presenter(s): Valencia Gaspard, University of Guelph
- ii. **[A community development approach to prosperous labour force development](#)**
Presenter(s): Greg Halseth, Laura Ryser & Marleen Morris, University of Northern British Columbia; Sean Markey, Simon Fraser University
- iii. **[Community-led Education and training programs in First Nations to build healthy homes and a healthy workforce](#)**
Presenter(s): Shirley Thompson, University of Manitoba

T15. Rural Data & Digital Technologies

Room: Courtyard

Chair: Audra Krueger

- i. **[You win some, you lose some: lessons learned from a community-based research project on digital technologies in rural communities](#)**
Presenter(s): Wayne Kelly & Mikael Akimowicz, Brandon University
- ii. **[Opportunities and Obstacles for Open Data in Rural Canada](#)**
Presenter(s): Alex Petric, University of Guelph
- iii. **[Data Analytics for Rural Transformation \(DART\)](#)**
Presenter(s): Nelson Rogers, Community Ingenuity

T16. [Panel - South Bay War Veterans Park: Our Lands, Our People - Respecting Traditional Métis Practices and a Traditional Place of Gathering Places in a 21st Century Context](#)

Room: Brass Lantern

Organizer(s): Prairie Wild Consulting Co. in association with the Northern Village of Île-à-la-CrossePanelists

Gerald Roy, Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse
 Lenore Swystun, Prairie Wild Consulting Co.
 Samantha Mark, Prairie Wild Consulting Co.

Friday, October 12th**9:00am-10:00am**

**Plenary Panel – Water Governance: A Prairie
 Perspective** 

Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

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- Phil Loring, University of Guelph
 - [Helen Baulch, University of Saskatchewan](#)



- Lalita Bharadwa, University of Saskatchewan
- Robert Patrick, University of Saskatchewan
- Holly Annand, University of Saskatchewan
- Moderator: Sarah Breen, University of Saskatchewan
- *Water touches everyone's lives in multiple ways on a daily basis, often in ways we don't often think of. From access to safe drinking water to provision of ecosystem services, the variety in function and use of water is what makes its governance so complex. Integration of governance and management is hampered by fragmentation in jurisdiction, policy, planning, and regulation. And while there are no shortage of innovative ideas, a lack of integration can mean a solution in one area causes greater hardship for another. For rural places, this situation is accompanied by very real capacity challenges, including burnout of volunteers and community leaders unable to keep up with multiple, separate requests for participation and engagement. This panel includes researchers from across water-related disciplines, including environmental and human uses, and qualitative and quantitative perspectives.*

10:15am-11:45pm Plenary Panel - Reconciliation and Rural Development



Ballroom B, Saskatoon Inn

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- [Neil Sasakamoose, Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs](#)
 - [Ray Orb, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities](#)
 - Chad Nilson, Community Safety Knowledge Alliance
 - Moderator: Heather Exner-Pirot
 - *This panel will address the opportunities, and also challenges, in rural First Nations and municipal relationships. In many rural regions, economic development would benefit, and indeed may require, a regional strategy involving both municipalities and First Nation communities to be successful. At the same time, issues of community safety and civility need to be addressed respectfully and constructively as part of the journey towards reconciliation to develop more prosperous and healthy rural communities. Panellists will provide their experiences and perspectives on how to best move forward on these goals.*

Poster Session

Poster Titles and Presenters

- i. **Catching the train? Digital Technologies usage in Rural Manitoba**
Presenter(s): Mikael Akimowicz & Sherine Salmon, Rural Development Institute - Brandon University
- ii. **Social Enterprises in Rural and Northern Ontario**
Presenter(s): Prescott C. Ensign, Wilfrid Laurier University



- iii. **“We Need New Bloodlines and New Immigrants Could Be Good”: Connecting Refugee Farmers to the Agriculture Industry in NL**
Presenter(s): Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Grenfell Campus Memorial University
- iv. **Think Outside the Mailbox: postal banking works for all of us**
Presenter(s): Brenda McAuley, Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA)
- v. **Structural Issues in Policy Interventions for Attraction and Retention of Farmers in Newfoundland**
Presenter(s): Abdul-Rahim Abdulai, Grenfell Campus Memorial University
- vi. **Exploring a Regional Approach to Drinking Water Management as a Potential Solution to Water Management Challenges in The Strait of Belle Isle in Newfoundland**
Presenter(s): Vincent Chireh, Grenfell Campus Memorial University
- vii. **Building the Future: Rural Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development**
Presenter(s): Ashleigh Weeden, University of Guelph, Sarah Breen, University of Saskatchewan, Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph, Sheri Longboat, University of Guelph, Sean Markey, Simon Fraser University, and Karla Uliana, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- viii. **Making a Difference: Provincial Policy Reflections on Knowledge Mobilization**
Presenter(s): Ashleigh Weeden & Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph
- ix. **Rural 2.0: Place-Based Rural Community Innovation Systems**
Presenter(s): Ashleigh Weeden, University of Guelph