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): Joelen 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 University
   Panelists
      **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

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

- **Matteo Vittuari, University of Bologna**
- **Patrick Lévêque, Office of the Third Party, Prince Edward Island**
- **Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph**
T11. Rural Water Issues
Room: Canadian
Chair: Reyhaneh Golestani
i. **Water, land, and indigenous engagement in governance**
   Presenter(s): Warrick Baijus, 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

Room: Brass Lantern
Organizer(s): Prairie Wild Consulting Co. in association with the Northern Village of Île-à-la-Crosse
Panelists
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
- 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

- 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