



A dense, colorful collage of various road signs, including "Welcome to Silsbee Texas", "Ely", "Springfield", "Colquitt City Limits", "Napa City Limit", and "Hayward", among others, representing different locations and roadways. The signs are of various shapes, sizes, and colors, creating a vibrant and busy visual. Some signs are green with white text, others are yellow with black text, and some are white with black text. The signs are arranged in a way that they overlap and fill the frame, creating a sense of depth and movement. The background is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural setting. The overall effect is a celebration of road travel and the diversity of American roadways.



www.crrf.ca

about the foundation

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/FCRR) was established in 1989 to contribute to the revitalization and sustainability of rural Canada through collaborative research for rural leaders in the community, private sector, and in all levels of government.

CRRF/FCRR works to create credible insights and to improve our understanding of issues and opportunities that are of common interest to rural residents across Canada. Knowledge and better understanding are the fundamental pillars for the welfare of rural communities and environments.

CRRF/FCRR is an organization comprised of members from across Canada, with diverse international links, representing rural leaders, rural organizations, development practitioners, government policy makers, researchers, students, and other stakeholders interested in the future of rural Canada. CRRF/FCRR explores a diversity of issues, including rural health and social provision, local and regional economies, local government and community governance, education, organization development, environmental management and stewardship, and many others facets of life and livelihood in rural Canada. Each year CRRF co-hosts a national conference to share lessons learned, research findings, and discuss key rural issues. In addition to the national conference, CRRF/FCRR hosts and participates in workshops, forums, and

symposia to advance rural issues in Canada.

Originally known as the Agricultural and Rural Restructuring Group (ARRG), CRRF/FCRR is a national nonprofit society chartered in the Province of Alberta (#50509014) and a federally registered charity (#0990655-59).

Core Values

CRRF/FCRR carries out its mission without favour or prejudice by political interest.

CRRF/FCRR respects and serves inclusively the interests of all segments of rural society, within communities, between metro-adjacent and remote places, and across the forestry, fishing, mining, agriculture, energy, manufacturing and services sectors.

CRRF/FCRR is open, transparent and accountable.

CRRF/FCRR seeks to broaden the common ground between rural and urban Canadians.

president's message

It is my pleasure to present the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/FCRR). The past year has been one of celebration, achievements, and challenges.

Twenty-five years ago in Saskatoon twelve individuals came together to discuss the concerns about the future of rural communities and regions in Canada. From this meeting the Agriculture and Rural Restructuring Group (ARRG) was formed, the predecessor to CRRF/FCRR. Since this time, the Foundation has pursued an active rural development mandate by facilitating discussions among community leaders, policy makers, researchers, and the business community. This year marks the 25th anniversary - a time to celebrate the Foundation's achievements and a time to look to the future.

The achievements of the Foundation over the past year are outlined throughout this report. We had a successful conference in Olds, Alberta thanks to our partners at the Alberta Rural Development Network. The Foundation has been active in rural research throughout the country by acting as a collaborator on a number of key research projects, assisting to disseminate information, and providing a platform for discussions among community leaders, policy makers, the private sector, and researchers. This year we also celebrate our first Lifetime Members – a special honour for individuals who have contributed to the betterment of rural Canada.

At the same as we celebrate these achievements rural Canada and its institutions are in a period of transition. These transitions can be witnessed at all levels: the dismantling of the federal government's Rural Secretariat, discontinuing support for university-based rural research centres, and diminishing financial resources for local economic development actors. These transitions reinforce the role and value of CRRF/FCRR, a role the board will continue to address in the coming year.

I would like to thank each of my colleagues on the board of directors for their commitment to advancing rural issues. The achievements of the past year would not have been possible without their dedication.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gibson
President

board of directors



Ryan Gibson

President

Memorial University of Newfoundland
St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador



Kate Hall

Minden, Ontario



Heather Hall

Secretary

Memorial University of Newfoundland
St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador



Terri MacDonald

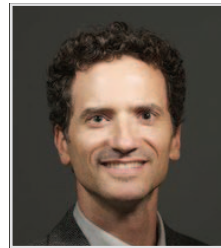
Columbia Basin Rural
Development Institute,
Selkirk College
Castlegar, British Columbia



William Ashton

Treasurer

Rural Development Institute,
Brandon University
Brandon, Manitoba



Sean Markey

Simon Fraser University
Vancouver, British Columbia



Robert C. Annis

Past President

Cobble Hill, British Columbia



Bill Reimer

Concordia University
Montréal, Québec



Matthew Brett

Concordia University
Montréal, Québec



Nicole Vaugeois

Vancouver Island University
Nanaimo, British Columbia



David Douglas

University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario



accountability and governance

constitution

CRRF/FCRR adopted the current constitution at the 2011 Annual General Meeting in St John's, Newfoundland. The Foundation is governed by an elected board of directors, each elected for a two-year term at the Annual General Meeting. A copy of the current constitution can be found at www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/CRRF-Constitution-adopted-at-2011-AGM.pdf.

board meeting minutes

The minutes from each CRRF/FCRR board meeting are posted to our website shortly after being approved by the board. Copies of the board minutes, starting from January 2010, can be found at www.crrf.ca/?page_id=29.

audited statements

Each year CRRF/FCRR submits the financial books, accounts, and records of Secretary and Treasurer to an independent auditor. The most recent audit was conducted by Harris Ryan Chartered Accounts, based in St John's, Newfoundland. A copy of the 2012 auditor's report can be found at www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2012CRRFAuditedStatement.pdf. Previous audit statements can also be found on the CRRF/FCRR website.

annual general meeting documentation

The agendas and minutes from previous Annual General Meetings are posted to the CRRF/FCRR website at www.crrf.ca/?page_id=62. The Foundation circulates information about upcoming AGMs at least 20 days in advance of the meeting, in accordance to our constitution. Information is circulated to members via our e-newsletters, social media platforms, and our website.

charity compliance

As a federally registered charity CRRF/FCRR annually submits the T3010 form to the Canadian Revenue Agency. Evidence of these annual submissions can be found at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/lstngs/menu-eng.html.

2012 annual conference

Creating Rural Connections: Regional Realities and Approaches
Olds, Alberta from 14-17 October 2012.

The 2012 conference explored the theme of regional realities and regional approaches through keynote addresses, concurrent presentations, workshops, and discussions. The conference brought together over 240 participants from across Canada and internationally.

The 2012 annual conference was co-hosted with the Alberta Rural Development Network. CRRF greatly appreciates the work and energy of the Alberta Rural Development Network in organizing this wonderful event.

Further information about the conference can be found at www.ardn.ca/news-events/creating-rural-connections-2012.



240 participants

24 presentations

12 posters

5 keynotes



**GUY
FARMS**

SASKATCH

RENNI

KENAS

**FARMERS
FOR
JUSTICE**

RUPCICH



research activities

Over the past year, CRRF has been actively involved in a number of research initiatives of interest to rural audiences. Three of these research initiatives are illustrated below.

Canadian Regional Development: A Critical Review of Theory, Practice and Potentials

Principal Investigator: Kelly Vodden (Grenfell Campus, Memorial University)

This multi-year project is investigating how Canadian regional development has evolved over the past two decades and the degree to which Canadian regional development systems have incorporated New Regionalism into their policy and practice. This initiative is working with five regions: Eastern Ontario, Kittiwake (Newfoundland), Kootenay (BC), Rimouski-Neigette (Québec), and the Northern Peninsula (Newfoundland). For further information visit <http://cdnregdev.ruralresilience.ca>.

**Canadian Regional
Development**
A Critical Review of Theory,
Practice, and Potentials



**Développement régionale
canadienne**
Une recension critique des
théories, des pratiques et des potentiels

Pathways to Prosperity

Principal Investigator: Victoria Esses (University of Western Ontario)

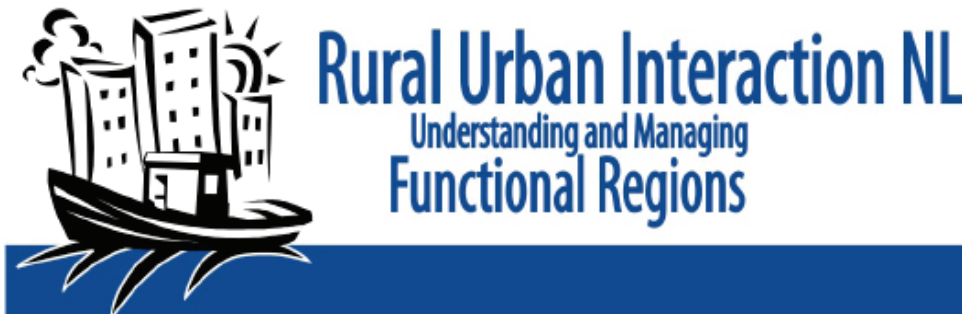
This national initiative focuses on fostering welcoming communities that promote economic, social, and civic integration of immigrants and minorities in Canada. Using academic scholarship and community expertise the research initiative is conducting primary research across the country. This initiative engages researchers from over 50 universities, all levels of government, and local/regional actors. For further information visit <http://p2pcanada.ca>.



Rural-Urban Interactions Project

Principal Investigator: Rob Greenwood (Memorial University)

Increasing urbanization, awareness of the economic competitiveness of clusters and population growth in rural areas adjacent to urban centres are among the trends that have led to calls for more research and policy development related to rural-urban interactions. Researchers are working with community and government stakeholders to better identify and predict the factors driving local labour market and sustainable development outcomes. For more information visit: http://www.municipalnl.ca/?Content=Programs/Rural_Urban.





support for research initiatives

In addition to being engaged in research CRRF is an active participant in a number of research proposals currently being adjudicated. Funding decisions regarding each proposal is anticipated in 2014.

Expanding Community Service Learning Partnerships in a Rural Setting: Connecting Rural Development with Community/College/University Partnerships

This proposal, led by Terri MacDonald (Selkirk College), will bring together colleges, universities, students, and communities to co-construct a pilot rural community learning model. CRRF is a collaborator on this proposal.

Rural Policy Learning Commons: Building International Capacity Through Comparative Analysis

CRRF is a collaborator on this proposal to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The proposal is led by Bill Reimer (Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University). The proposed initiative will build capacity in comparative rural policy, enhance knowledge sharing through policy fora, and foster student exchanges among international partners.

Rural Community Adaptation and Development Network

Led by Lars Hallstrom (Alberta Centre for Rural Sustainable Communities), this pan-Canadian proposal focuses on building and enhancing the networks of researchers through the creation of a Centre of Excellence. CRRF is a collaborator on the proposal submitted to the Network Centre of Excellence program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

key achievements



Policy Development

In December 2012 the CRRF/FCRR board approved a Lifetime Membership Policy. The policy was created to recognize individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding career of contributions to the betterment of rural Canada. The first CRRF/FCRR lifetime members will be announced during the fall conference in Thunder Bay. A copy of the Lifetime Membership Policy can be found here <http://www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/LifetimeMembershipPolicy.pdf>.

As part CRRF/FCRR's aim to facilitate knowledge sharing the board developed an open access policy. The purpose of this policy is to make the results of our activities and publications accessible to everyone via the Internet for non-commercial use. The Open Access Policy can be found here <http://www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CRRFOpenAccessPolicy.pdf>.

2013 North Atlantic Forum

CRRF/FCRR renewed our participation with the North Atlantic Forum in 2013. The Foundation participated in the planning to deliver the Rural Tourism in Changing Times conference held in Hólar, Iceland. A legacy of the conference can be found at <http://www.naf2013.holar.is>.

CRRF E-Newsletter

For the past year CRRF/FCRR has distributed an electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) to members and supporters. The e-newsletters provide up-to-date information on rural development news, announcements, and events. The e-newsletter is distributed to over 1,000 people across Canada and internationally. Thanks to the Communications Committee for their work on this front. To subscribe to the CRRF e-newsletter enter your email address at the bottom of the CRRF website – www.crrf.ca.

Cycling Across Canada

CRRF/FCRR facilitated connections for John Martin (Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities, LaTrobe University in Australia) with rural communities throughout the country. John and his team cycled from British Columbia to Newfoundland, meeting with community leaders to discuss sustainability along the way. John visited many of the New Rural Economy communities. Details of John's journey can be found here <http://canadothis.com> and <http://visualjourneyacrosscanada.com>.

Re-Design of CRRF/FCRR Website

Over the past year CRRF's/FCRR's online presence was updated. The website contains information on the foundation, our activities, relevant rural and regional development news, and upcoming events. Check out the updated website at www.crrf.ca.

Increased Social Media Presence

In addition to the website CRRF/FCRR has been active on social media to promote the Foundation and to facilitate knowledge sharing. You can follow CRRF on Twitter ([@CRRF_FCRR](https://twitter.com/CRRF_FCRR)), Facebook ([/Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-Foundation/)), and LinkedIn ([Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-Foundation-4104656](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-Foundation-4104656)).

New Researcher Forum

The 2012 New Researcher Forum was held in conjunction with the conference in Olds, Alberta. The event, designed for new researchers and students, was an opportunity for an open dialogue regarding methods in rural development research. The 2012 Forum was well attended. Thanks to the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University for sponsoring the forum and to Bill Ashton and Ryan Gibson for organizing the session.



dismantling of rural institutions

The federal government has been changing the basic institutional structure of Canada over the last decade. It has been moving us from a collectivist vision of Canada to one that champions individualism – in social, economic, and political life. In the process, several of our key social-support institutions and programs, such as pensions, health care, welfare, employment insurance, multi-culturalism, transportation infrastructure, and regional-accommodation programs have been reorganized to place more responsibility on individuals and market-based dynamics. Many of these supports are not directed specifically to rural people, but their impacts are disproportionately felt there for demographic and historical reasons.

Programs that do have a specific rural and regional focus have also suffered under the current regimes. Regional development, sectoral, regional transfers, and community development programs that have played a key part in Canadian rural society have all been targeted for reorganization and reduced resource allocation. The recent closing of the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) confirms that the federal government's priorities lie elsewhere – removing both research capacity and the presence of a rural advocate in Cabinet. As the statement released from Agriculture Canada (2013) reads (our emphasis added):

The Rural Secretariat has laid the groundwork for communities to more effectively interact and take advantage of opportunities *on their own*.

We have anticipated a transformation in the fate of rural and northern areas for some time now. The urbanization of Canadian society, the “increasing value of human time” and subsequent mechanization of rural production, increasing migration rates, the aging of rural-connected citizens, and the relative invisibility of our dependence on rural-based resources all conspire to push rural concerns to the back burner as policy-makers grapple with the challenges of the day. When governments and organizations promote austerity measures as the path to economic growth, the inter-sectoral and inter-departmental programs are the first to go – and rural research initiatives with them since they are inherently inter-sectoral. This is the context in which CRRF must now seek to fulfill its mission to enhance the vitality of rural Canada.

Below are a few areas where CRRF is able to make a contribution:

1. The maintenance of a network of people concerned about rural issues, for example, is the first and most obvious contribution that CRRF can make. We need to keep in touch, continue our research and education as best we can, and make a place for the new generation of researchers, educators, and rural practitioners that will be needed in the future.

2. CRRF is also well-placed to maintain the information, data, evidence and stories that ground and challenge our initiatives and policies in the future. The loss of the longform census, for example, is one of the most glaring examples of a short-sighted vision. Using our networks and research centers we may be able to keep the existing community and rural focused data available and even add to it in a systematic and scientific manner.

3. Searching for and seeking alliances with groups, organizations, governments, and individuals who are negatively affected by these changes – or who promise increased resiliency to them – can be proactively initiated by CRRF. Many of them are already identified in our Strategic Plan.

Are the losses referred to above merely a reflection of the normal ups and downs of any political or economic cycle – or is there a longer-term transformation occurring? CRRF is well placed to consider this question. In the year ahead, we will continue our work, engaging in research and networking with rural groups and institutions so that rural places do not, in fact, feel that they are *on their own*.

Bill Reimer and
Sean Markey



25 years of rural dialogue

For the past twenty-five years CRRF/FCRR has facilitated discussions on rural and regional development issues across the country. The following map highlights our fall conferences held from coast, to coast, to coast!





lifetime members

In 2013 the CRRF/FCRR board of directors created a Lifetime Membership policy to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the betterment of rural Canada and CRRF/FCRR. In Thunder Bay, Ontario four individuals were awarded a lifetime membership to CRRF/FCRR.



L. Peter Apedaile

Peter is one of the original architects of CRRF/FCRR having participated in the founding meeting of the ARRG. Peter helped dream the dream for a

national network of researchers and educators concerned with rural revitalization.

Peter stands out for his continued support of this objective – initiating a number of key innovations in our history such as collaboration with Japanese colleagues, 2 name changes (Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation and our current name), a fund-raising project that brought us to the attention of Canada's senior bankers, collaboration with national organizations, and the experimentation with the Rural University model.

Peter has continued to champion our commitment to multi-disciplinary collaboration; engagement with local municipalities, business, and practitioners; cross-language engagement; scientific integrity; the embracing of diversity; and the value of "cool ideas". Peter continues to contribute to CRRF with insightful, encouraging comments on any of our questions put to him – pressing us to find "tractable" solutions to complex challenges.



Ray Bollman

Ray was also at the founding meeting of ARRG/CRRF and has continued to support and guide our work over our 25 years. Ray has provided CRRF/FCRR with an extremely valuable conduit to data,

information, and advice from within the civil service while challenging our tendencies to advocacy with practical and wise council regarding strategic options.

His bridging of policy and research has always been notable. He has provided leadership across a variety of fronts in a long, active and very productive career. He continues to inform and enrich rural development in Canada, in the OECD, and beyond. His pioneering work for the Rural and Small Towns Analysis Bulletin at Statistics Canada has provided an unequaled source of insight, data, information, and guidance on a great variety of topics germane to rural development.

Ray has helped build CRRF, supported and participated in numerous conferences, workshops, and colloquiums, instructed, advised many graduate and other students, provided public policy input on a great variety of issues, and been a challenging critic of both policy and research throughout a formidable and highly productive professional life.



Heather Clemenson

Heather has been a long-term supporter of ARRГ and CRRF/FCRR – both in her capacity as a citizen and civil servant.

It was during her period of time in the federal Rural Secretariat that Heather was most visibly involved in the work of CRRF/FCRR. Heather played an important role in both the design and day-to-day operations of the federal Rural Secretariat – creating opportunities for rural people and places that had not existed before.

Her dedication to research and education as important elements of policy and practice created a natural bridge to the work of CRRF/FCRR. Heather, during her time as a CRRF/FCRR board member, provided us with sage and informed advice on a wide variety of rural-related strategies and plans.

Even in her retirement Heather has continued to support CRRF/FCRR – through direct participation on our Board and a generous commitment of her time and intelligence to the challenges we face.



Ken Donnelly

Ken has served as a long term 'éminence gris' to ARRГ and CRRF/FCRR.

From our earliest days he has provided advice, encouragement, and funding strategies to ARRГ and CRRF/FCRR from his position within various government departments. It was Ken who would point us in the right direction when opportunities emerged within various government and private organizations and he was always on call when we needed suggestions for organizing our activities.

In the early days of the New Rural Economy project, Ken was the person who suggested funding opportunities that allowed us to initiate projects and move the project from a dream to a reality. In our constant search for dedicated and informed partners, he was one of our most valuable point of contact for those in both the public and private sectors.

Our legacy of collaboration with governments – both federal and provincial – is largely dependent on Ken's contributions.

join the foundation as a member

Now in its third decade, CRRF/FCRR is a proven rural resource, dedicated to active collaboration, undertaking, facilitating and advocating research for the ongoing development of Canada's rural communities and environments. As an informal, volunteer run organization dedicated to the welfare of rural Canada it provides a host of benefits to an expanding membership.

Being a member of this Canada-wide and international collaborative network brings with it a variety of benefits, which include:

- direct access to Canada's leading researchers, practitioners, policy advisers, professional consultants, community activists, and many others.
- participation in our Annual Conference, exciting, stimulating and informative three-day events.



- access to the New Researchers Forum for tips, coaching, contacts, mentors, and practical information on all aspects of rural development research (e.g. community surveys, workshop facilitation, Census data).
- access to knowledge about rural-relevant information and data for analysis or education purposes.
- contact with international rural development networks in, for example, the European Union, Australia, Japan, the United States, and elsewhere.
- direct access to a variety of published research (e.g. books, reports, papers, surveys).
- opportunities to hear leading authorities on rural development from around the world, at our Annual Conferences and occasional Think Tanks and collaborative Research Workshops.
- opportunities to collaborate on a variety of rural research Proposals which generate short, medium and longer term projects.
- access to our electronic E-newsletter, an informative, current and researcher/practitioner focused quarterly publication.
- opportunities to interact with a variety of organizations active in rural development

CRRF/FCRR offers both a one-year membership (\$30) and a five-year membership (\$100). Membership runs from January – December. Become a member today by visiting www.brandonu.ca/crrf/.



keep up-to-date on CRRF/FCRR activities



www.crrf.ca



CRRF_FCRR



Canadian-Rural-
Revitalization-Foundation



Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-
Foundation-Fondation-4104656



looking forward to 2013-2014

2014 Annual Conference in northern British Columbia

CRRF/FCRR is pleased to announce the 2014 annual conference will take place in Prince George, British Columbia. CRRF is partnering with the Community Development Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia to deliver the event. Watch the CRRF/FCRR website for further details regarding the conference.

Place Peripheral Publication

An edited volume emerging from 2011 CRRF/NAF conference, tentatively titled *Place Peripheral*, is anticipated to be released in 2014. The edited volume includes over 12 contributions from leading scholars, led by editors Kelly Vodden, Godfrey Baldacchino, and Ryan Gibson.

Interlinkages Regional Dialogue Session

In the spring of 2014 a regional dialogue session exploring cross border challenges and opportunities will take place in the Labrador Straits/Québec Lower North Shore. CRRF/FCRR is working with RDEE Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, the Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development, and Concordia University. Watch the CRRF/FCRR website for more details on this event.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale



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