



## 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation  
Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale







[www.crrf.ca](http://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. The Foundation explores a diversity of issues, including rural health and social provision, local and regional economic development, 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/FCRR co-hosts a national confer-

ence to share lessons learned, research findings, and discuss key rural issues. In addition to the national conference, CRRF 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 sincere pleasure to present the 2015-2016 annual report of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/FCRR). Over the course of the last year the Foundation has been engaged in leading, supporting and collaborating on rural research, working with our stakeholders to ensure they receive the benefits of ongoing research through knowledge mobilization and transfer, and working toward moving the rural agenda forward.

First, last year's conference Building Resilient Communities held in Summerside, PEI, in partnership with the Institute of Island Studies, UPEI and the North Atlantic Forum was an extraordinary success. It was an opportunity to not only interact with our Canadian colleagues, but also provided an opportunity to interact with our northern European colleagues, learning from one another how to meet the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities that rural is presented with. As I write this I am looking forward to this year's conference, Building Vibrant Rural Futures to be held in Guelph, ON. The planning committee has been working tirelessly to ensure it meets the quality challenge of CRRF/FCRR's past successful conferences. This year, preceding the conference, we are also sponsoring a policy dialogue in partnership with OMAFRA that will bring together various members of provincial governments to spend a day sharing rural development policy ideas and innovations.

A hallmark event in the last year for the Foundation, and one I have been excited about personally was the release of the report State of Rural Canada 2015. Through the efforts of volunteer authors and editors we were able to create this report in the hopes of highlighting rural issues prior to the Federal election in 2015. The report has been an unequivocal success. The success of the report is paralleled by another new innovative initiative undertaken by CRRF/FCRR and that is the Rural Routes Podcasts. This is an exciting endeavour as Bojan Furst moves across the country interviewing both rural experts and rural stakeholders.

Finally, a third innovative project undertaken by CRRF/

FCRR this year has been the mentorship project that has seen 20 upcoming young scholars paired with and mentored by a senior policy maker and a senior researcher. These upcoming scholars have been tasked with writing a policy brief on a rural development issue of their choice. It is hoped that the resulting policy briefs will be published as a book by UPEI in the coming year.

In closing, I would also like to express my gratitude to all those people who make CRRF/FCRR possible, the volunteers who make up the membership and the board who give of their time and efforts to move forward the agenda of rural and remote Canada. It is through their hard work that we are able to accomplish everything that we do, making rural and remote Canada a better place. I would also like offer my personal thanks to the outgoing board members. As we all know, board renewal is an important part of any organization but that does not mean it is easy to say good bye to trusted colleagues. I have been privileged to have worked with four dedicated colleagues who will be stepping away from the board this year: Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Sean Markey, Terri MacDonald and Ramona Cameletti. And while they are stepping down from the board I know that we will always be able to call on them for assistance when needed. We wish you the best of luck in whatever your next adventure may be.

Finally, as I step down as President of CRRF I want to offer my gratitude to my colleagues who have made my job so easy. It has been a pleasure to have worked with each of you and I appreciate your efforts and commitment, but more importantly I am grateful to have come to know you as colleagues and to call each of you friend.

Sincerely,



Al Lauzon

# board of directors



**Al Lauzon**  
President  
Guelph, Ontario



**Bojan Fürst**  
St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador



**Heather Hall**  
Secretary  
Waterloo, Ontario



**Terri MacDonald**  
Castlegar, British Columbia



**Sean Markey**  
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**Ruth Mealy**  
Minto, Manitoba



**Ryan Gibson**  
Past President  
Guelph, Ontario



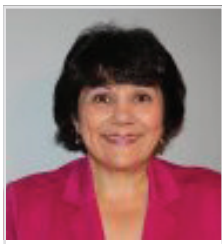
**Sarah Minnes**  
Kingston, Ontario



**Sarah-Patricia Breen**  
Vancouver, British Columbia



**Craig Pollett**  
St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador



**Ramona Cameletti**  
Guelph, Ontario

# accountability and governance

## bylaws

CRRF/FCRR adopted the current bylaws at the 2014 Annual General Meeting in Prince George, British Columbia. 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 bylaws can be found at [www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CRRF-Bylaws-2014.pdf](http://www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CRRF-Bylaws-2014.pdf).

## audited financial statements

Each year CRRF/FCRR submits the financial books, accounts, and records of the 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 our audited financial statements is available on our website at [www.crrf.ca/agm/](http://www.crrf.ca/agm/).

## annual general meeting documents

The agendas and minutes from previous Annual General Meetings are posted to the CRRF/FCRR website at [www.crrf.ca/agm](http://www.crrf.ca/agm). The Foundation circulates information about upcoming AGMs at least 20 days in advance of the meeting, in accordance to our bylaws. 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](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/lstngs/menu-eng.html).







# research activities

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

## Sharing Knowledge and Building Capacity for Regional Development in Canada

*Lead: Kelly Vodden (Grenfell Campus, Memorial University)*

The goals of this project are to create opportunities for a wide range of regional development interests (community, business, government, students, researchers) to learn about the findings of the Canadian Regional Development project, to mobilize this work through national and regional partnerships, and to build regional development capacity through knowledge sharing and dialogue. For further information visit <http://cdnregdev.ruralresilience.ca>.

## Rural Policy Learning Commons

*Lead: Bill Reimer (Brandon University)*

The Rural Policy Learning Commons is a 7-year Partnership project established in 2014 to enhance Canadian prosperity by: (i) identifying and analyzing policy options relevant to rural and northern places, (ii) evaluating these options in the context of national and international policy innovations, and (iii) building leadership capacity among rural and northern researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners. Further information on the Rural Policy Learning Commons can be found at <http://rplc-capr.ca>.

## Pathways to Prosperity

*Lead: 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 Routes: Creating audio knowledge mobilization meta-tools for rural development

*Lead: Robert Greenwood (Leslie Harris Centre, Memorial University)*

The Rural Routes audio program will provide knowledge mobilization and development support communications vehicle for researchers and community champions, policy makers, rural residents, and social and economic development practitioners interested in a wide range of rural issues. This project will consist of a series of broadcast-ready episodes structured as 30--45 minute weekly interviews that examine some aspect of rural lifeways. The program will be distributed free of charge through a variety of private and NGO partnerships in Canada and abroad. The project will be hosted on the CRRF website and as a free-to-subscribe podcast available to educators, community groups, scholars, and other interested individuals.

## Regional Workforce Development in Rural BC

*Lead: Terri Macdonald (Selkirk College)*

This initiative brings together the region's educators, elected officials, policy makers, economic development practitioners, industry, students, and leading scholars to examine and address rural workforce development. The overall goal of the initiative is to collectively assess comparative workforce development strategies in ways that inform future policy, planning, and action in the region. The initiative has four objectives: 1) to create a forum to bring together a network of actors to examine workforce development challenges and opportunities; 2) to facilitate and mobilize knowledge, analysis, and emerging discussions; 3) to generate new research questions and dialogues; and 4) to provide opportunity for the engagement, networking, and capacity building of highly qualified personnel.

## Building Vibrant Rural Futures

*Lead: Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)*

The overall goal of Building Vibrant Rural Futures is to create opportunities for community leaders, nonprofit organizations, all levels of government, researchers, students, and industry to discuss how to build vibrant rural communities in the 21st century.

# 2015-2016 key activities

## Successful Building Resilient Communities Conference in Summerside, PEI

The 27th annual CRRF/FCRR rural conference was a great success and the people of Summerside were splendid hosts! The conference was co-sponsored by the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and the North Atlantic Forum. Presentations and online resources from the conference are still available at [www.pei2015.crrf.ca](http://www.pei2015.crrf.ca).

## Successful New Researcher Forum at Summerside Conference

Once again with the generosity of the Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University, a successful New Researcher Forum was held in Summerside. RDI led in the planning and delivery of the forum and once again we saw an increase in attendance. The New Research Forum provides an opportunity for new researchers, community development practitioners, and policy makers to create networks, discuss research method issues and build skills and capacities.

## Continued Social Media Presence

CRRF/FCRR continues to share rural knowledge and news from across the country through our social media platforms. CRRF/FCRR continues to build an active social media presence to share information and facilitate discussions on issues of relevance to rural Canada. You can follow CRRF/FCRR through our social media platforms: Twitter (@CRRF\_FCRR), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/crrf\\_fcrr](http://www.facebook.com/crrf_fcrr)) and LinkedIn.

## CRRF/FCRR E-Newsletters

The Communications Committee continues to produce monthly CRRF/FCRR newsletters that highlight rural and regional development news, new policies and programs, updates on rural research initiatives, and notification of upcoming rural events that reach out to over 2,000 people across the country. We welcome news and stories from our readers. Please email us at [crrf-fcrr@live.com](mailto:crrf-fcrr@live.com).

## Calendar of Rural Events

For the past three years the CRRF/FCRR website has housed a listing of events, conferences and workshops of interest to rural and regional development. This past year the online calendar of events has benefitted from the financial support from the Rural Policy Learning Commons to engage a student to assist in its maintenance. The calendar of events can be found at [www.crrf.ca/events](http://www.crrf.ca/events). Additional events can be added by sending the event details to [crrf-fcrr@live.com](mailto:crrf-fcrr@live.com).

## State of Rural Canada Report 2015

At last year's conference in Summerside we released the State of Rural Canada Report 2015. As of last month the State of Rural Canada had 15,839 unique downloads, had been circulated to select stakeholders including all Federal Ministers, we have had informal discussions with Provincial Ministries, and numerous presentations across the country. Just recently there was a webinar on the State of Rural Canada Report 2015 and we attracted over 70 participants from across the country. We have also recently received an invitation from the Federal Minister of Finance to meet with his staff. I want to thank Sarah Breen, Sean Markey, Ryan



Gibson and Ruth Mealey for providing extraordinary leadership on this project. If you haven't had a chance to read the report it can be found at [www.sorc.crrf.ca](http://www.sorc.crrf.ca).

## Rural Routes Podcasts

Under the leadership of Bojan Fürst and Rob Greenwood, and with the assistance of a SSHRC Connections Grant, CRRF/FCRR has taken to the "airwaves". CRRF/FCRR board member Bojan Fürst is now travelling the rural Canadian countryside interviewing rural experts and rural stakeholders. To date, we have 11 episodes completed, 1600 individual listens from people as far away as the Arctic and Europe, in addition to being syndicated to five radio stations across the country. If you haven't checked out Rural Routes please do. It can be found at [www.ruralroutespodcasts.com](http://www.ruralroutespodcasts.com).

## Creating the next generation of Rural Policy for Canada: the mentorship project

Under the leadership of Ryan Gibson and Heather Hall, and with the assistance of a SSHRC Connections Grant, CRRF/FCRR continued the mentorship project launched in Summerside that has 20 upcoming young scholars paired with a senior policy-maker and a senior researcher. Each mentee is tasked with the writing of a policy brief on a rural development issue of their choice. Guided by their mentors, it is hoped that the compilation of 20 rural development policy briefs will be published as a book in the coming year.

## Traditions and Transformations - 2017 North Atlantic Forum

CRRF/FCRR is a partner on the 2017 North Atlantic Forum conference. The conference is being hosted by University College of Southeast in Bø, Norway from 13-16 September 2017. The conference theme, *Traditions and transformations in the sustainability of rural communities: Balancing Living Culture and Nature*, speaks to both the history and future of rural communities. For more information about the 2017 North Atlantic Forum Conference visit <http://db-kurs.hit.no/~131824/WP/>



# lifetime members

In 2013, the CRRF/FCRR board of directors created a Lifetime Membership policy to recognize individuals who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the betterment of rural Canada. The Foundation is honoured to award two distinguished individuals the CRRF/FCRR lifetime membership recognition.

## CRRF/FCRR Lifetime Members

The new lifetime member announced in Guelph join the following group of CRRF/FCRR lifetime members.



**L. Peter Apedaile**



**Ken Donnelly**



**Ray Bollman**



**David Douglas**



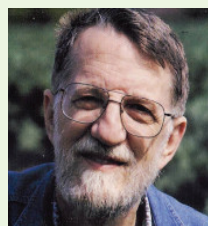
**Heather Clemenson**



**Anthony (Tony) Fuller**



**Bruno Jean**



**William (Bill) Reimer**



# Richard Rounds

Keeping the ARRG-CRRF adventure going has depended on the contributions of many people over its 28-year history. Richard Rounds was one of those - especially during its early and mid-periods.



Richard Rounds joined the Geography Department of Brandon University in 1970 and became the Founding Director of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University in 1989, a position he held for 10 years. He then became a member of the newly established Department of Rural Development at Brandon University where he served as a Professor until his retirement in 2002.

He served on the CRRF Board and carefully nurtured our meagre funds for much of that time as our Treasurer. Richard attended every CRRF conference during his time with RDI because, as he repeatedly said that the CRRF events presented the only occasion to learn and discuss both rural research issues and rural policy issues with diaspora of rural colleagues across Canada.

In his role as Director of RDI he established the CRRF-RDI connection on a foundation of collaboration and services that has lasted to today. Richard was prominent as initiator, editor, financier and marketing agent for CRRF's publication series. Along with Joan Rollheiser, he was also instrumental in the success of conferences in Gimli, Manitoba and Nelson, British Columbia. As long as you didn't ask him for something during bear-hunting season, he was always willing to help - and to do so in a thoughtful, informed, critical and supportive manner.



# 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.crrf.ca/?page\\_id=31](http://www.crrf.ca/?page_id=31).



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Foundation-Fondation-4104656

# thank you

The work of the Foundation is completed through the generous in-kind contributions of people from across the country. We would like to acknowledge these individuals who have contributed to their time to our activities.

**Communications Committee and Contributors:** Joshua Barrett, Ryan Gibson, Lori Gould, Heather Hall, Logan Horrocks, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, Centre de recherche sur le développement territorial, Community Development Institute, Columbia Basin Rural Development, International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development, Rural Development Institute, Solidarité rurale du Québec

**2015 Conference Planning Committee:** Godfrey Baldacchino, Laurie Brinklow, Sheila Downer, David Douglas, Ryan Gibson, Gudrun Helgadóttir, Fred Horne, Andrew Lush, Irene Novaczek, Emily Thomas.

**2016 Conference Planning Committee:** Valencia Gaspard, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Wayne Kelly, Al Lauzon, Norm Regatlie, Karla Uliana.

**2017 Conference Planning Committee:** Sarah Breen, Terri Macdonald,

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Al Lauzon, Sarah Minnes,

**Policy and Advocacy Committee:** Robert Annis, Sarah Breen, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Sean Markey, Craig Pollett

**Membership Committee:** Ramona Cameletti, Ryan Gibson, Heather Hall, Ruth Mealy, Craig Pollett

**State of Rural Canada Contributors:** Sean Markey, Sarah-Patricia Breen, Al Lauzon, Ryan Gibson, Laura Ryser, Ruth Mealy, Greg Halseth, Lars Hallstrom, Jennifer Stonechild, Willssa Reist, Bill Ashton, Stephanie LaBelle, Wanda Wuttunee, Heather Hall, Rose Olfert, Norman Ragetlie, Wayne Caldwell, David Douglas, Laurie Guimond, Bruno Jean, Thomas Beckley, James Randall, Don Desserud, Katharine MacDonald, Joanne Fitzgibbon, Nina Nunez, Alvin Simms, Robert Greenwood, Ken Coates, Amanda Graham, Pertice Moffitt, Ashley, Mercer, Chris Southcott.





# looking forward to 2016-2017

## The State of Rural Canada

The CRRF/FCRR board of directors will building on the success of the State of Rural Canada continue the dialogue with provincial governments and the federal government on the state of rural Canada and moving a rural agenda forward.

## Innovation in Rural Canada Interactive Map

CRRF/FCRR is currently busy collecting information on rural innovations from across the country and placed on an interactive map that will allow anyone to access the map. Click on a particular innovation and learn more about it and who they might contact to learn more. We hope to launch this at next years conference in Nelson, BC.

## 2017 CRRF Conference

CRRF/FCRR is very excited to announce that next year's conference will be held in Nelson, British Columbia. The confernece will be hosted in partnership with Selkirk College. Mark your calendars - the conference will take place from 20-24 September 2017. More inforamtion about the confernece can be found at [www.kootenays2017.crrf.ca](http://www.kootenays2017.crrf.ca).

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[www.crrf.ca](http://www.crrf.ca)