



## 2017-2018 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 (892810763 RR0001).

## 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

Happy 30th anniversary to Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Foundation canadienne pour la revitalisation rural (CRRF/FCRR)! The 2017/2018 year has been an exciting one for the Foundation. This year saw us begin new initiatives and grow partnerships, as well as attract national attention. I am so proud of what we have accomplished and so happy to see so many opportunities on the horizon.

The following report highlights some of our accomplishments and activities from the past year. For example, thanks to the efforts of the Strategic Partnerships and Networking Committee we have continued to build our relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. As a result, I was invited to speak on behalf of CRRF as part of a rural plenary at the 2018 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference in June. This [session](#) was well attended and received a lot of attention at the conference and in the media. More recently, the September edition of [Macleans](#) included a focus on rural Canada, with quotes from myself, as well as prominent CRRF members.

In 2017 the annual CRRF conference was held in my hometown of Nelson, BC, in collaboration with Selkirk College. Entitled [Different By Design](#), this conference welcomed over 200 delegates. Thanks to the efforts of the Steering Committee and many hard working volunteers the conference was a great success. The delegates were among the first people

to be introduced to CRRF's second [State of Rural Canada Initiative: Mapping Rural Innovation](#), an interactive online map showcasing examples of rural ingenuity from across Canada. I am excited for this year's conference, [Health and Shared Prosperity](#), co-hosted with the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance. It is incredible that we can celebrate our 30th in Saskatchewan where CRRF/FCRR began.

Without the hard work and generosity of many people CRRF/FCRR would simply not exist. Thank you to the Board of Directors, our committee members, our volunteers, and our members for all of your efforts – your passion shines through clearly in all the work you do. I am so lucky to work with such amazing people. While I am sad to be stepping down as President, I know that CRRF is in great hands as we head into the future.

Cheers,

Sarah-Patricia Breen



# board of directors



**Sarah-Patricia Breen**

President

Nelson, British Columbia



**Bojan Fürst**

St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador



**Valencia Gaspard**

Secretary

Guelph, Ontario



**Carol Kenny**

Guelph, Ontario



**Ruth Mealy**

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**Laurie Brinklow**

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



**Craig Pollett**

St John's, Newfoundland  
and Labrador



**Phil Ferraro**

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

# accountability and governance

## bylaws

CRRF/FCRR adopted the current bylaws at the 2016 Annual General Meeting in Guelph, Ontario. 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/2017/06/CRRFBylaws2016.pdf](http://www.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CRRFBylaws2016.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. As with last year, our 2018 AGM will have digital access, allowing members unable to make the trip to participate.

## 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 supported and been actively involved in a number of research initiatives of interest to rural audiences. We provided letters of support for 13 proposed initiatives. A selection of research initiatives we are currently involved in are illustrated below.

## Building the Future? Rural Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development

*Lead: Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)*

This exciting and collaborative project is examining the capacity of different rural communities to respond to infrastructure pressures and how responses will impact economic development in the short and long term. CRRF committee \$25,000 of in-kind support and plays an active role on the advisory committee of this project. Further information can be found at <https://ruraldev.ca/infrastructure/>.

## Health & Shared Prosperity

*Lead: Lois Berry and Heather Exner-Pirot (University of Saskatchewan)*

This initiative, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada will support the 2018 annual CRRF conference, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance. CRRF is happy to have contributed \$22,000 of in-kind support to this project. For more details visit: <http://saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/>.

## Prairie Drainage Governance

*Lead: Phil Loring (University of Guelph/University of Saskatchewan)*

This research examines the complex social, economic, and environmental factors associated with agricultural wetland drainage on the Canadian Prairies. CRRF has committed \$25,000 of in-kind support to this project. Project team members will be presenting at a plenary session at the 2018 conference. For more information visit <https://gwf.usask.ca/drainage/>.





## Making a Difference? Measuring Outcomes of Provincial Rural Policies and Programs

*Lead: Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)*

This research initiative will examine how provinces across Canada have defined rural development policies/ programs, designed new initiatives, and evaluated their success. The mandate of this initiative is to provide evidence-based recommendations for designing, implementing, and evaluating successful rural development policies and programs. CRRF committed to \$45,000 of in-kind support to this exciting project. Further information can be found at <http://ruraldev.ca/making-a-difference/>.

## Rural Routes: Creating Audio Knowledge

*Lead: Bojan Fürst (Memorial University)*

Rural Routes is a radio show and a podcast that asks: “What is rural in the 21st century?” Now in its second season, the Rural Routes audio program provides a 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. The podcast is distributed free of charge through a variety of private and NGO partnerships in Canada and abroad. To subscribe go to [www.ruralroutespodcasts.com](http://www.ruralroutespodcasts.com).

## Rural Policy Learning Commons

*Lead: Bill Ashton (Brandon University)*

The Rural Policy Learning Commons (RPLC) 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. This year CRRF and RPLC established an Alliance Committee dedicated to collaborative initiatives and establishing legacy projects. Further information on the Rural Policy Learning Commons can be found at <http://rplc-capr.ca>.

# 2017-2018 key activities

At any given point in time CRRF has 10 or more committees dedicated to a wide range of topics and activities (e.g., communication, membership). The work of these committees is critical to CRRF, helping us engage and build our membership, make connections with other organizations, and create and share knowledge. The following are some examples of activities led by our committees over the past year.

## Rural Plenary: 2018 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference

Thanks to the efforts of the Strategic Partnerships and Networking committee, CRRF President Sarah-Patricia Breen was invited to speak as part of a panel of experts discussing new tools for innovation for rural communities. She was joined by Leon de Vreede (Sustainability Planner, Town of Bridgewater, NS), Dr. Guillaume Charbonneau (President, The College of Family Physicians of Canada), Darice Carlson (CAO, Town of Hanley, SK), and Vicki Blanchard (Economic Development Manager, Municipality of Sioux Lookout, ON). A video of the panel can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/FederationofCanadianMunicipalities/videos/1742996969076623/>

## Broadband Connectivity in Rural Canada

This joint submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science, and Technology was a collaborative effort between CRRF, the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University, and the Rural Policy Learning Commons. Spearheaded by the CRRF/RPLC Alliance, this submission drew attention to broadband in rural Canada, needs, opportunities, and challenges.

## State of Rural Canada Volume 2: Innovation in Rural Canada Interactive Map

CRRF/FCRR launched an interactive map led by a special project committee, providing access to information on rural innovations from across the country and placed it on an interactive map. Clicking on a particular innovation will allow you to learn more about it and who they might contact to learn more. Visit: <http://sorc.crrf.ca/>

## State of Rural Canada Volume 3: Addressing Rural Data Gaps

Led by the Policy and Advocacy committee, planning began in 2018 for the third iteration of the State of Rural Canada, this time with a focus on rural data, including gaps and challenges. Over the summer we reached out to members and partners through a survey that will help guide the focus of this initiative. The resulting report will be launched at the 2019 CRRF conference.

## State of Rural Canada Volume 2: Innovation in Rural Canada Interactive Map

CRRF/FCRR has collected information on rural innovations from across the country and placed it on an interactive map, allowing anyone to access the map. Clicking on a particular innovation will allow you to learn more about it and who they might contact to learn more.

## Different By Design Conference in Nelson, BC

Thanks to the efforts of a hardworking and collaborative Steering Committee, the 2017 annual CRRF/FCRR rural conference was a great success! The conference was held in partnership with the Selkirk College. Presentations and online resources from the conference are still available at <http://kootenays2017.crrf.ca/>.



## Successful New Researcher Forum at Nelson Conference

Thanks to the generosity of the Brandon University Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University and the Canadian Regional Development, another successful and well attended New Researcher Forum was held at the annual CRRF conference. In Nelson the focus of the discussion was on publishing and research. 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, which are managed by our Communications committee. CRRF/FCRR continues to build an active social media presence to share information and facilitate discussions on issues of relevance to rural Canada. We have over 800 followers on Twitter and over 500 followers on Facebook. You can follow CRRF/FCRR through our social media platforms: Twitter (@CRRF\_FCRR), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/crrf\\_fcrr](https://www.facebook.com/crrf_fcrr)) and LinkedIn.

## CRRF/FCRR E-Newsletters

The Communications committee continues to produce monthly CRRF/FCRR e-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 2,300 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

The CRRF/FCRR website continues to house 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 of 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).





# CRRF/FCRR 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.



**L. Peter  
Apedaile**



**Robert C.  
Annis**



**Ray  
Bollman**



**Ken  
Donnelly**



**David  
Douglas**



**Heather  
Clemenson**



**Anthony  
(Tony) Fuller**



**Bruno  
Jean**



**William  
(Bill) Reimer**



**Richard  
Rounds**





# 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 all of those individuals who have contributed to their time to our activities.

**Membership Committee:** Craig Pollett, Ryan Gibson, Amy Jones

**Finance Committee:** Ruth Mealy, Valencia Gaspard, Sarah Breen

**Communications Committee:** Ryan Gibson, Joshua Barrett, Lori Blore, Laurie Brinklow, Valencia Gaspard, Craig Pollett

**Strategic Partnerships and Networks Committee:** Sarah Minnes, Al Lauzon, Heather Hall, Rob Greenwood, Dazaway Landrie, David Felker, Craig Pollett, Valencia Gaspard, Sarah Epp

**Policy and Advocacy Working Group:** Angela Pollak, Sarah Breen, Patrick Leveque, Danielle Collins, Phil Ferraro, Kathleen Kevany, Craig Pollett, Carol Kenny

**2018 Conference Planning Committee:** Valencia Gaspard, Phil Loring, Verona Thibault, Heather Exner-Pirot, Emmy Neuls, Audra Krueger, Lois Berry, Shaun Soonias, Karen Marcinkiw, Selene Daniel-Whyte

**2019 Conference Planning Committee:** Bojan Fürst, Sheila Downer, Laurie Brinklow, Valencia Gaspard, Ryan Gibson, Mark Stoddart, Gudrun Helgadóttir

**CRRF-RPLC Alliance Committee:** Valencia Gaspard, Sarah Breen, Sarah Minnes, Angela Pollak, Bojan Furst, Heather Mair, Wayne Kelly, Elin Gwyn

**State of Rural Canada Volume 2 Organizers:** Valencia Gaspard, Bojan Fürst

**State of Rural Canada Volume 3 Organizers:** Sarah Breen, Valencia Gaspard, Sarah Minnes, Danielle Collins, Brennan Lowery

**CRRF 30th Anniversary Committee:** Laurie Brinklow, David Douglas, Verona Thibeault





# looking forward to 2018-2019

## 2019 CRRF Conference

CRRF/FCRR is very excited to announce that next year's conference will be held in St John's Newfoundland and Labrador from October 1-4. The conference will be hosted in partnership with the Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development at Memorial University and the North Atlantic Forum. Watch the CRRF website for more details: [www.crrf.ca/](http://www.crrf.ca/)





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