# CRRF FCRR

2018-2019 Annual Report





### Message from the President

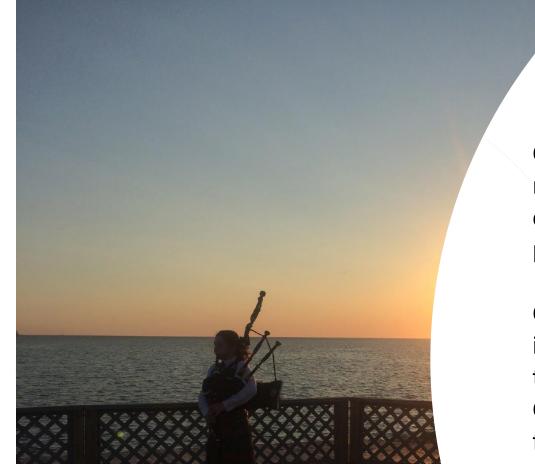
As we gather for this year's annual conference in beautiful St. John's, we celebrate CRRF's many accomplishments – and what a year it has been! CRRF continues to collaborate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on meaningful initiatives that impact the future of rural. This year, CRRF hosted the Rural Plenary at FCM's 2019 Annual Conference and Trade Show focussing on building vibrant rural economies.

This year marks financial success for CRRF as well. For example, we invested \$25,000 in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (CIG), and were subject to generous financial gifts from our membership.

These advancements have encouraged the board to think critically about CRRF's next steps and have signaled a period of profound visioning for the organization. In conjunction with support from MITACS and CRRF's strategic partners, a review of sustainable governance for non-profit organizations in rural Canada has been undertaken. You are encouraged to engage with findings from the research through feedback opportunities in-person and online. These findings are imperative, as CRRF carefully considers its next steps.

It has been my honour to work alongside individuals dedicated to the wellbeing of rural Canada, and the people who call it home. I am grateful for the work of countless volunteers who give of their time and talents to this organization.

Valencia Gaspard PhD 2018-2019 President



### About the Foundation

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 other facets of life and livelihood in rural Canada. Each year CRRF/FCRR co-hosts a national conference 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.





VALENCIA GASPARD – PRESIDENT ONTARIO



LAURIE BRINKLOW – TREASURER PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



CRAIG POLLETT – SECRETARY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### 2018-2019 Board of Directors



KRISTIN CATHERWOOD – BOARD MEMBER SASKATCHEWAN



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## 2018-2019 Board of Directors



BRENNAN LOWERY – BOARD MEMBER NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



SARAH MINNES – BOARD MEMBER ONTARIO



### Accountability and Governance

#### **Annual General Meeting Documents**

The agendas and minutes from previous Annual General Meetings (AGMs) are posted to the CRRF/FCRR website at www.crrf.ca/agm. The Foundation circulates information about upcoming AGMs at least 20 days in advance of the meeting, in accordance with 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.

#### **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

http://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.

### 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. A selection of research initiatives we are currently involved in are illustrated below.



# **Emerging Technologies for Responsible Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities for Social and Economic Development in Ontario**

- Lead: Ataharul Chowdhury (University of Guelph)
- This work builds on the previous SORC reports by identifying the need for emerging technology. This project examines perceptions of different stakeholders about influences of emerging technologies on current and future employment opportunities in Ontario and investigates how the influence of emerging technologies on employment opportunities varies according to major development sectors, i.e., agriculture, health and infrastructure. CRRF committed \$10,000 of in-kind support for this project. For more information, email ataharul.chowdhury@uoguelph.ca.

#### **Prairie Drainage Governance**

- Lead: Philip Loring (University of Guelph/University of Saskatchewan)
- This research continues to examine the complex social, economic, and environmental factors associated with agricultural wetland drainage on the Canadian Prairies. CRRF initially committed \$25,000 of in-kind support to this project in 2018 and it has continued to expand in reach. The project "Opportunities for collaborative governance of agricultural water management during times of change", part of the NSERC ResNet proposal was supported by CRRF in 2019. Project team members presented a plenary session at the 2018 conference and will expand on their findings at the 2019 conference. For more information visit

https://gwf.usask.ca/drainage/.

# Coastal Routes: Linking Community Innovation for Sustainability and Stewardship during Times of Rapid Change

- Lead: Philip Loring (University of Guelph)
- Coastal Routes' goal is to bring coastal communities together with charities and academic organizations around the world, to enable them to share and learn from one another. in pursuit of more sustainable, healthful, and climate resilient coasts. CRRF supported this application through a commitment of \$15,000 of in-kind support. Members of this project are delivering a presentation at the 2019 CRRF conference. For more information visit <a href="https://coastalroutes.org">https://coastalroutes.org</a>.

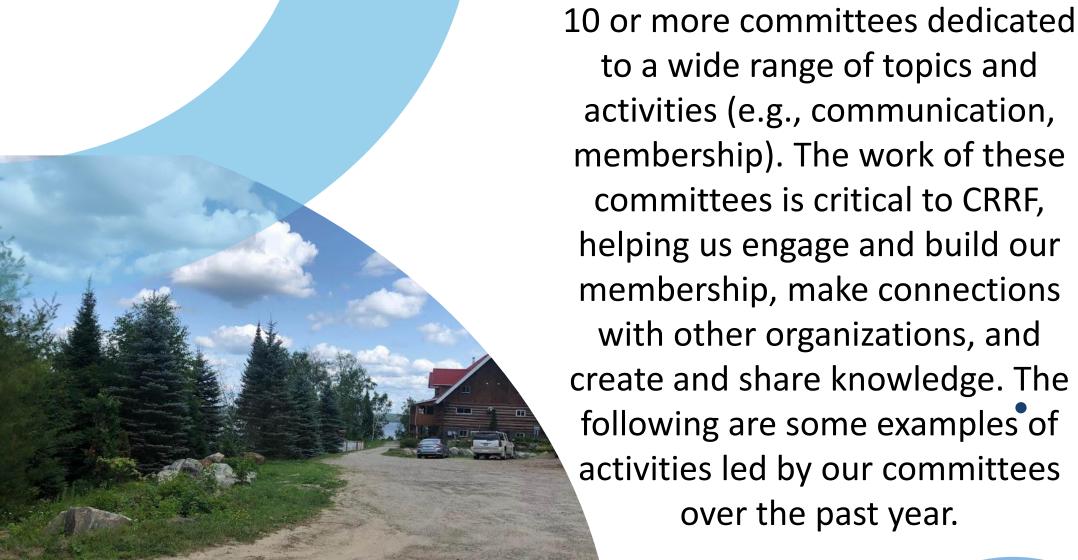
### The Theory, Practice and Potential of Regional Development

- Lead; Kelly Vodden (Memorial University- Grenfell Campus)
- CRRF has supported this project since 2010, with allowing for various presentations and workshops occur at CRRF events. The edited volume associated with this research was released in March 2019. This volume offers the results of five years of cutting-edge empirical and theoretical analysis of changes in Canadian regional development and the potential of new approaches for improving the well-being of Canadian communities and regions, with an emphasis on rural regions. It situates the Canadian approach within comparative experiences and debates, offering the opportunity for broader lessons to be learnt.

# A Regional Approach to Rural Climate Adaptation: Building Capacity, Linking Assets and Measuring Impact".

- Lead: Lauren Rethoret (Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, Selkirk College)
- Basin municipalities face unique challenges related to climate adaptation, including a scarcity of sufficiently local environmental data to base decisions on, and a shortage of guidance appropriate to organizations with small tax bases and limited capacity. This project addresses these challenges by: 1. providing external support to identify priority vulnerabilities, fill information gaps preventing adaptation action, and train participants in rurally-relevant adaptation strategies; 2. using economies of scale to reduce costs; and 3. facilitating a regional network to build capacity through peer learning and collaborative action. This approach is replicable at various scales, and our past experience working with municipalities this way confirms its effectiveness. •

### **Key Activities**



At any given point in time CRRF has

#### **CRRF** visits Ottawa to discuss Rural Economic Development

 On Monday May 6, CRRF board members met with Mr. Serré to discuss opportunities for potential collaboration between CRRF and the Federal Government. The discussion focused on the activities and work being done by CRRF and its members and included the knowledge base that CRRF can share to help the Minister of Rural Economic Development achieve their mandate. The meeting concluded with Mr. Serré's request for recommendations from CRRF which could potentially be included in the Federal strategy for rural economic development.

# Rural Plenary: 2019 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference

 Over the last few years CRRF's Strategic Partnerships and Networking Committee has been working on strengthening CRRF's relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). On Saturday, June 1, 2019, CRRF Board Member Sarah Minnes had the honour of hosting the Rural Plenary at FCM's 2019 Annual Conference and Trade Show. The 2019 conference was the biggest yet for FCM, with over 2,000 people in attendance. The new Minister of Rural Economic Development (Bernadette Jordan) introduced the plenary, and herself, Parliamentary Secretary Marc Serré, and Assistant Deputy Minister Alison O'Leary all were in attendance for the plenary. The Rural Plenary this year focussed on building vibrant rural economies and brought inspiring stories from all over Canada about growing the local economy with local food culture, locally-driven solutions for rural high-speed internet, and more.

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

 We are proud of the third iteration of the State of Rural Canada, which has a focus on rural data, including gaps and challenges.
 Thanks Bill Reimer, Sarah Breen, Valencia Gaspard, Sarah Minnes, Danielle Collins, Brennan Lowry, and Hannah Main for leading this timely initiative. You can read the report, released at the 2019 CRRF conference by visiting <a href="http://sorc.crrf.ca/">http://sorc.crrf.ca/</a>.

#### Health and Shared Prosperity – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

• Last year's conference marked CRRF's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and highlighted not only our charity's successes over the last three decades but celebrated the many people who have made the work we do possible. Our partners, sponsors, volunteers, and Steering Committee are owed a great deal of thanks for making the conference such a tremendous success. Presentations and online resources from the conference are archived online at <a href="http://saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/">http://saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/</a>.

# Strengthening CRRF for the Next 30 years – The Generosity of Peter Apedaile

• During the 2018 Saskatoon conference, Peter Apedaile (CRRF Lifetime Member) issued a challenge to conference participants. For every dollar donated by conference participants to CRRF, Peter would match it with two dollars. Through the leadership and generosity of Peter, a total of \$6,665 was donated to CRRF.

#### **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 960 followers on Twitter and over 550 followers on Facebook. You can follow CRRF/FCRR through our social media platforms: Twitter

(@CRRF\_FCRR), and Facebook (<u>www.facebook.com/crrf\_fcrr</u>).

#### **CRRF/FCRR E-Newsletters**

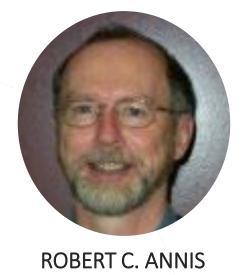
The Communications committee continues to produce monthly CRRF/FCRR enewsletters that highlight rural and regional development news, new policies and programs, updates on rural research initiatives, and notification of upcoming rural events that reach out to over 2,300 people across the country. We welcome news and stories from our readers. Please email us at crrf-fcrr@live.com.

#### **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. The calendar of events can be found at www.crrf.ca/events. Additional events can be added by sending the event details to crrf-fcrr@live.com.









**RAY BOLLMAN** 

L. PETER APEDAILE

CRRF / FCRR Lifetime Members







**DAVID DOUGLAS** 







ANTHONY (TONY) FULLER

**BRUNO JEAN** 

# CRRF / FCRR Lifetime Members





**RICHARD ROUNDS** 

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 to December. Become a member today by visiting http://crrf.ca/membership/.

#### Stay In Touch

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• in: Canadian-Rural-Revitalization-Foundation-Fondation-4104656

