



FONDATION  
CANADIENNE POUR LA  
REVITALISATION RURALE

CANADIAN  
RURAL REVITALIZATION  
FOUNDATION

## 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CANADIAN RURAL REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION  
FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR LA REVITALISATION RURALE

# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/ Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/ FCRR) was established in 1989 to collaboratively create and mobilize knowledge to enhance the valuing of rural communities across Canada. CRRF works to share knowledge on a wide range of issues related to rurality and rural livelihoods, including rural health and social infrastructure, local and regional economies, rural governance, education, community development, as well as environmental management and stewardship among other topics. CRRF is a volunteer-led organization comprised of diverse stakeholders. The board of directors and members work to disseminate reports, organize events, and advise governments on the rural challenges and opportunities in Canada.

Originally, the Agricultural and Rural Restructuring Group (ARRG), CRRF/ FCRR is recognized as a national non-profit society

chartered in the Province of Alberta (#5018396068) and a federally registered charity (#0990655-59).

## Core Values

CRRF/ FCRR carries out its mission without favour or prejudice by political interest. CRRF/ FCRR aspires to represent and engage with the diversity of rural Canadian society and its many cultures, identities, and ways of knowing 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. CRRF/ FCRR seeks to amplify the voices of those who may be marginalized in rural areas and to increase its representation of the great diversity that is rural Canada.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These were the worst of times, these were the best of times, to misquote a famous English writer. COVID-19 has been at the forefront of the 2020-2021 year. In my tenure as the proud president of this inspiring academic community, I have seen our members rally for the well-being of all citizens living in rural. We were deeply concerned about job loss, the precarity of work, as well as the threats of poor health or healthcare during COVID-19. Rural communities face lower access to healthcare facilities and a primary practitioner than compared to urban settings. Rural also is less densely populated, so it became more attractive to many looking to remove themselves from cities. We worked to inform policies and practices to adequately address the needs of all rural citizens. Under the leadership of Ashleigh Weeden, CRRF/FCRR Rural Insights Series on COVID-19 was brought to life with more than 20 policy briefs prepared to guide action to enhance the quality of life in rural areas. We can now look back on the year and point to how effectively, expeditiously, and compassionately members of CRRF rallied to tell the story of courage and resilience and amplify the concerns in rural areas. We thank you.

The members of CRRF/FCRR continue to collaborate, spread the word, and bring new

partners to the table. The RPLC winding up has also brought great rewards to the CRRF/FCRR family. The legacy of RPLC will continue in our work. The 2021 Annual Conference will be hosted online, as it was in 2020. Greater attention is being focused on inclusion of voices that are insufficiently engaged with, or heard through, CRRF/FCRR. Under the fine stewardship of Katie Allen, we are undertaking a significant strategic planning process and refining the focus of what has become an overworked volunteer board. Many issues and opportunities call to us, but we have to be real about our limitations. We anticipate this refined focus will guide us to provide value-addition in diverse ways: with inclusion of voices, with addressing select challenges, and with greater appreciation of the generous contributions of time and talent of the board and members. We are thrilled to honour Lifetime Service Awards as well as to advance plans for awarding early career contributors. Through our many actions, we seek to be a respected space for mobilizing knowledge and action for rural. If you like, you can think of us as the Steven Spielberg of rural prosperity and well-being past, present, and future.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Kathleen Kevany**  
**President**  
*Truro,  
Mi'kma'ki/  
Nova Scotia*



**Kristin Catherwood**  
**Board Member,**  
*Radville,  
Saskatchewan*



**Laurie Brinklow**  
**Treasurer**  
*Charlottetown,  
Epetwitk/  
Prince Edward Island*



**Heather Exner-Pirot**  
**Board Member**  
*Redwood Meadows,  
Alberta*



**Brennan Lowery**  
**Secretary**  
*St. Anthony,  
Ktaqmkuk/  
Newfoundland  
and Labrador*



**David Felkner,**  
**Board Member**  
*Shigawake,  
Québec*



**Katie Allen,**  
**Board Member,**  
*Peterborough,  
Ontario*



**Wayne Kelly,**  
**Board Member**  
*Brandon,  
Manitoba*



**Patrick Brouder,**  
**Board Member,**  
*Nanaimo,  
Coast Salish Territory*



**Kyle Rich**  
**Board Member,**  
*Powassan,  
Ontario*



# 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 <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 and Labrador. 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 with our bylaws. Information is circulated to members via our e-newsletters, social media platforms, and our website. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 AGM will be completely digital, allowing all members, regardless of location, 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 [https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/hacc/srch/pub/dsplyBscSrch?request\\_locale=en](https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/hacc/srch/pub/dsplyBscSrch?request_locale=en).

# 2020-2021 KEY ACTIVITIES

## Several of CRRF's recent activities include:

- Providing information to federal, provincial, and municipal governments and offering input through policy briefs and consultation processes.
- Mobilizing knowledge to provide input on how governments and other interested organizations can consider and apply a rural lens when creating or revising policies, programs, and other initiatives.
- Using a rural lens to provide a response to the 2021 Federal Budget, which identified gaps and highlighted rural policy needs.
- Working with federal government partners in Statistics Canada and the Centre for Rural Economic Development to inform the design of a new Rural Canada Statistics Portal
- Preparing a substantial submission to Infrastructure Canada's engagement project for 'Building the Canada We Want in 2050.'
- Undertaking a strategic planning process to prepare for the evolving dynamics in rural Canada as well as to steward our resources and position CRRF more effectively to be a 'go to a place of authority on rural' in Canada.
- Hosting a two-day virtual conference, Supporting Rural Recovery and Resilience, in October 2020 and co-hosting the Creating Inclusive Economies conference in 2021 in partnership with the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation in Quebec.
- Preparing materials for the 2021 federal election to help raise awareness of rural issues and to urge candidates to reveal their priorities to enhance rural well-being.

# 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.



**Robert Annis**



**L. Peter Apedaile**



**Ray Bollman**



**Heather Clemenson**



**Ken Donnelly**



**David Douglas**



**Anthony (Tony) Fuller**



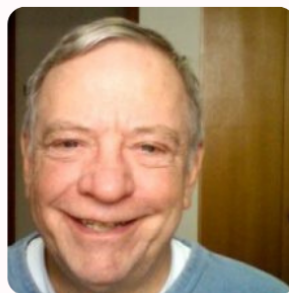
**Bruno Jean**



**E. Diane Looker**



**Bill Reimer**



**Richard Rounds**



**Fran Shaver**

# JOIN THE FOUNDATION AS A MEMBER

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



# THANK YOU

**Executive Committee:** Kathleen Kevany, Laurie Brinklow, Brennan Lowery

**Membership Committee:** David Felker, Laurie Brinklow

**Finance Committee:** Laurie Brinklow, Patrick Brouder, Heather Exner-Pirot

**Communications Committee:** Ryan Gibson/ Joshua Barrett, Laurie Brinklow, Heather Exner-Pirot, Wayne Kelly, David Felker, Koren Lam, Anastasyia Shtaltovna

**Partnerships Committee:** Sarah Minnes, Katie Allen, Laurie Brinklow, Kristin Catherwood, , Heather Exner-Pirot, Dave Felker, Wayne Kelly, Kathleen Kevany, Brennan Lowery, Kyle Rich, Sarah Breen, Karen Foster, Heather Hall, Sean Markey, Craig Pollett, Danielle Robinson, Ashleigh Weeden

**CRRF/RPLC Alliance:** Wayne Kelly, Dave Felker, Laurie Brinklow, Katie Allen, Bojan Furst, Ryan Gibson

**2021 CRRF Conference Steering Committee:** Kyle Rich, Katie Allen, Laurie Brinklow, Sarah Minnes, Heather Hall, Ashleigh Weeden, Sarah Breen, Abigail Rezelman (UQAR), Audrey Keating (CEDEC), Nathalie Lewis (UQAR), Anastasiya Shtaltovna

**Envisioning/ Strategic Planning Committee:** Katie Allen, Kristin Catherwood, Dave Felker, Sarah Minnes, Sarah Breen, Kathleen Kevany, Brennan Lowery, Laurie Brinklow

**CRRF/ FCRR Archives Committee:** Bill Reimer/ Wayne Kelly

**State of Rural Canada Volume 4 Organizers:** Kyle Rich, Heather Hall ...and more!

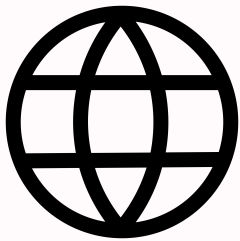
# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021-2022

The years ahead are very promising and exciting for rural Canada and for the partnerships evolving across the CRRF/FCRR family. Rural communities are receiving more attention—perhaps some positive and well-warranted recognition for being places of lower levels of COVID-19 and greater quality of life. We recognize that the essential nature of Canada includes vibrant, prosperous, inclusive, sustainable rural life.

CRRF/FCRR welcomes new members to the team and to the board and to committees of the board. All are welcome. More specifically, we are working to expand our voice, our reach, and our purposeful representation of rural and remote Canada. Our 2021 strategic planning processes identified strategic priorities as branding and positioning, governance, operations capacity, and financial stability. To achieve our strategic priorities, CRRF/FCRR will work towards several strategic goals. These strategic goals include refreshing CRRF/FCRR's positioning and service offerings, recruitment and succession planning, integrating diversity and inclusion into CRRF policy, reviewing operational models to support paid staff, and developing a fundraising roadmap for future financial stability. Achieving these priorities will provide a solid foundation for future growth.

CRRF/FCRR seeks to be inclusive and engaging of Canada's diversity: and we recognize there is work ahead and relationships to build to help us realize this vision. We aspire to engage more colleagues with richer diversity in race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, gender, sexuality, ability levels, language, and geography. We invite all interested residents of Canada and, particularly, persons who bring lived experience as Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour, as well as sought-after perspectives from the North, New Brunswick, and francophone communities.

# KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH CRRF/ FCRR



[WWW.CRRF.CA](http://WWW.CRRF.CA)



[WWW.TWITTER.COM/CRRF\\_FCRR](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/CRRF_FCRR)



[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CRRF.FCRR](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CRRF.FCRR)



[WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/CRRF](http://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/CRRF)



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