

Knowledge Translation and Transfer to Advance Rural Economic Development



Overview

Rural economic development practitioners are at the front line of facilitating prosperous rural economies, places, and environments across Ontario. The role of economic development practitioners has greatly evolved since the last comprehensive assessment in the early 2000s. This knowledge translation and transfer research initiative will examine the role of rural economic development practitioners, determine the key skills and capacities required to succeed in field, identify what knowledge is needed to support rural economic development practitioners and identify the key formats for receiving new knowledge. In achieving these objectives, the initiative will advance rural economic development and rural economies throughout Ontario.

Research Goals

This project will accomplish four objectives:

- to understand the key skills, capacities, and knowledge sets required by economic development practitioners in rural Ontario
- to understand the role and activities conducted by rural economic development practitioners to support rural prosperity, particularly in light of COVID-19

- to evaluate existing KTT activities and outputs and to identify the ideal formats for sharing knowledge with rural economic development practitioners
- to build knowledge transfer and translation capacity and provide mentorship among graduate students.

This research initiative will run from September 2023 until April 2025.

Research Team

This research is a collaborative initiative involving: Sara Epp (University of Guelph), Silvia Sarapura (University of Guelph), Serena Viola (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and community partners.

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Further Information

Contact Prof. Ryan Gibson (gibsonr@uoguelph.ca) for more information on this research initiative.

