



Rural Policy Learning Commons

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Executive Committee

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Project Website

www.rplc-capr.ca

The welfare of rural and northern Canada is critical for the prosperity of urban Canadians. Rural places and people provide the timber, food, minerals, and energy that aid in urban growth, and they are stewards of the water and other resources upon which urban people depend. Rural and northern places also process urban pollution, refresh and restore urban populations, and maintain the heritage upon which much of our Canadian identity rests. In return, urban Canada provides the markets for rural goods and employment, technology, financial capital, consumer goods, and much of its media-based culture. Developing and implementing good policy requires a clear recognition of this functional interdependence. However, too often the pressing demands of metro places mean the unique circumstances of rural and northern places are overlooked or misunderstood by urban-based policy-decision makers.

The Rural Policy Learning Commons will:

- Add to research knowledge regarding rural, regional, and northern conditions;
- Increase insights regarding the nature and process of rural-related policy development;
- Build a cohort of highly qualified policy analysts and community leaders;
- Increase the mobilization of this knowledge to the wider population; and
- Strengthen networks and institutional capacities to increase prosperity in rural, regional, and northern areas.

Dr. Ryan Gibson is a co-investigator on this research initiative and a member of the Executive Committee.