

# RURAL ROUTES PODCASTS

## Rural Routes Podcasts

2016 - 2017

### Lead

Robert Greenwood (Memorial University)

### Co-Investigators

Laurie Brinklow (University of Prince Edward Island), Bojan Fürst (Memorial University), Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph), Terri MacDonald (Selkirk College), Bill Reimer (Concordia University)

### Funding Agency

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Leslie Harris Centre

### Project Website

[www.ruralroutespodcasts.com](http://www.ruralroutespodcasts.com)

Over the past number of decades, social scientists have produced a wealth of knowledge and ideas about various aspects of rural Canada. Given the wealth of knowledge and the depth of thought that exists within and outside the academic community related to what it means “to live rural” today in different contexts, from rural remote, aboriginal and northern, to those rural areas adjacent to large urban centres, there is a need to bring those conversations to larger audiences in order to provide better value to the Canadian public, exchange ideas and knowledge across jurisdictions and provide access to ideas and knowledge that can transform rural policies and rural conversations in Canada.

The Rural Routes audio program will provide 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. This project will consist of a series of broadcast-ready episodes structured as 30-45 minute weekly interviews that examine some aspect of rural lifeways. The program will be distributed free of charge through a variety of private and NGO partnerships in Canada and abroad. The project will be hosted on the CRRF website and as a free-to-subscribe podcast available to educators, community groups, scholars, and other interested individuals. The podcast will be promoted through the robust social media presence all of the partners have on a variety of platforms.

Dr. Ryan Gibson is a co-investigator on this research initiative.



## Canadian Regional Development

2010 - 2017

### Lead

Kelly Vodden (Memorial University)

### Co-Investigators

David Douglas (University of Guelph), Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph), Sean Markey (Simon Fraser University), and Bill Reimer (Concordia University)

### Funding Agency

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Leslie Harris Centre for Regional policy and Development

### Project Website

[www.cdnregdev.ruralresilience.ca](http://www.cdnregdev.ruralresilience.ca)

This cross-Canada project is designed to investigate Canadian regional development in theory, policy and practice. To achieve this we are comparing the policies and practices in four provinces: Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and British Columbia, and in specific regions in each province. We are examining regional development through five key themes of what has been referred to as “New Regionalism”: place-based development, multilevel governance, rural-urban relationships, integrated development strategies, and knowledge sharing.

The research team wishes to answer the following types of questions. How has regional development policy and practice changed from the 1980s? Are provinces doing it differently? Are we adapting to changing realities such as globalization and technological change? If so, are we

sharing new insights across our provinces and regions? Answering these questions will inform policy-makers and make concrete contributions to regional development across the country, including providing summaries of our findings back to our study regions. At the same time we want to re-inform and update the regional development theories and concepts that are taught in our universities and colleges based on recent experiences in Canadian policy and practice.

Dr. Ryan Gibson is a co-investigator on this research initiative and lead on the multi-level governance theme.





## Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies – Rural Immigration

### Lead

Robert Annis (Brandon University)

### Co-Investigators

John Berry (Queen's University), Jill Bucklaschuk (University of Manitoba), and Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)

### Funding Agency

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Government of Manitoba

### Project Website

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/cacr/research/mirips>

The Mutual Intercultural Relations in Plural Societies is an international collaborative project to build an understanding of intercultural relations. The project is designed to promote the idea that intercultural relations can be best understood when both recent immigrants and community members are surveyed using similar questions within a community.

Through the use of a common research framework and research instrument the research will focus on two different relationships: the role of security in intercultural relationships and the existence of reciprocity between groups in their relationships. Researchers seek to know whether relationship, dimensions, and structures found in Canada are similar in other culturally-plural societies. If

findings from Canada are replicated, this international research can serve as a guide to the development of policy to improve intercultural relations.

This research is investigating whether feelings of cultural security, ethnocentrism, hierarchy, and reciprocity are found in multiple societies.

- Does involvement in both national and ethnic culture promote confidence in identity and a sense of well-being?
- Is there a relationship between that secure feeling and certain intercultural attitudes?

Dr. Ryan Gibson is a co-investigator on this research initiative.



## Place-based Collective Endowments in the Periphery

2017-2020

### Lead

Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph)

### Co-Investigators

Bojan Fürst (Memorial University), Sean Markey (Simon Fraser University), Kelly Vodden (Memorial University), Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Municipalities of Newfoundland and Labrador, Rural Policy Learning Commons

### Funding Agency

Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Peripheral communities are sites of wealth, fuelling the Canadian economy through natural resource industries since confederation. Although the periphery is a source of wealth, over the past thirty years this wealth has largely been redirected out of rural regions to larger urban centres. These domestic issues are exacerbated by processes of globalization, which facilitate the hyper-mobility of finance. Finance is no longer tied to place. Finance has become 'disembedded' with increasing interconnections and advancements in Internet technologies, leading to emerging patterns of uneven development across the Canadian periphery.

A counterbalance to these trends is the emergence of philanthropic organizations in Canada that have been exploring and implementing place-based collective endowments as a response to re-embedding finance in local areas.

Under the federal Charities Act, philanthropic organizations (such as community foundations and trusts) can collect money to invest in place-based collective endowments. The funds collected are under the guidance of local actors, who also prioritize how to spend interest generated from the endowment. These philanthropic organizations organize around place and people's connection to place. These organizations are starting to understand their potential impact on the local development. Yet little research has been conducted on philanthropy in rural Canada.

In light of the 'retreat from the periphery' and the hyper-mobility of money, this research will examine place-based collective endowments as a mechanism to facilitate revitalization in peripheral regions from theoretical, public policy, and local development perspectives.





## Rural Policy Learning Commons

2015-2022

### Executive Committee

Bill Ashton (Brandon University),  
Philomena de Lima (University of  
Highlands and Islands), Ryan  
Gibson (University of Guelph),  
and Sean Markey (Simon Fraser  
University)

### Funding Agency

Partnership Grant, Social  
Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

### U of G Faculty Engagement

John Devlin, Ryan Gibson, and  
Al Lauzon

### Project Website

[www.rplc-capr.ca](http://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.



2016-2018

## Regional Workforce Development in Rural British Columbia

### Lead

Terri MacDonald (Selkirk College)

### Co-Investigators

Allison Alder (Selkirk College), Gina Bennett (College of the Rockies), Ryan Gibson (University of Guelph), Lars Hallstrom (University of Alberta), Sean Markey (Simon Fraser University), Greg Neeling (Selkirk College), Theresa Southam (Selkirk College), Nicole Vaugeois (Vancouver Island University), Kelly Vodden (Memorial University)

### Funding Agency

Partnership Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Rural restructuring has created new challenges and opportunities for rural economic development across Canada. Rural regions are trying to build resilience as they transition from natural resource extraction economies to service and knowledge-based economies. At the same time, rural communities are challenged by the withdrawal of provincial and federal development support. The growing body of New Regionalism literature suggests regional development should focus on competitive advantage based on key assets, skills, and knowledge. A movement to a more holistic understanding of rural development is also required, where innovation and learning occur in communities and the economy is embedded within a larger socio-economic-ecological system. Innovation, learning, and knowledge flows have become critical to economic outcomes.

This project brings together existing and emerging networks with a focus on workforce development through the creation of a regional Learning and Innovation Research Network. The proposal responds to the SSHRC's future challenge area focused on exploring new ways of learning, particularly in higher education, that will allow Canadians to thrive in an evolving society and labour market. The project will explore the role of colleges in collectively promoting and supporting the life cycle of knowledge, including co-creation and mobilization across sectors using a learning regions approach-providing a potential model for other colleges across the country. The research will also explore the role of students, faculty and community partners as change agents and the conditions under which innovation and collaborative learning can be stimulated in a regional setting.

Dr. Ryan Gibson is a co-investigator on this research initiative.