

Rural Opportunities Natural Resource Development

Committed to exploring, understanding, and sharing knowledge around sustainable management of natural resources.

Literature Reviews & Knowledge Briefs

Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Communities (Michael Huck)
Part I. Rural climate change adaptation
Part II. Challenges of climate change adaptation in rural communities
Part III. Climate change adaptation from planning to implementation

Source Water Protection (Seth Eledi)
Knowledge Brief
Full Literature Review
Annotated Bibliography

Rural Workforce Development:
Challenges and Strategies in the Mining Sector (Shirley Ngai)
Challenges and Strategies in the Forestry Sector (Braydi Rice)

Policy Briefs & Recommendations

Green Infrastructure (Paul Kraehling)
The case for using Green Infrastructure as a planning tool

Source Water Protection (Sarah Minnes)
Ontario's Clean Water Act and Implications for Rural Serviced Municipalities

Conference Support

Aashukan
Support for the two-day exchange hosted by the Crees of Northern Quebec, Canada

International Forum on Integrated Water Management
Support for NRD team member to attend and present

2016 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference
Crossing streams: an interdisciplinary panel on rural water
Feeding Ourselves: food systems management in rural regions (recorded panel)
Support for 5 NRD team members to attend and present

Conference Reflections

- International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) Summer Institute, (Barcelona, Spain)
- Keeping it Rural, hosted by the B.C. Rural Centre (Kelowna B.C.)

One of the key differences between North American and European Efforts in sustainable rural development is in the fundamental conception of rural development. In Europe, the concept of 'territorial development' includes the interaction of humans with landscapes - considering the landscape aesthetics, culture, and labour, as a package. For example, in the county of Priorat, part of the state of Barcelona, we learned about the organization of the agricultural producers into cooperatives that shared physical facilities and approaches to innovation, as well as an effort in landscape planning that involved the promotion of agricultural development and environmental protection in one unified UNESCO Heritage designation and planning effort.

Enterprise development is also part of the European concept of rural development, as the agricultural cooperatives and businesses reliant on tourism are also part of the equation. In Spain, we visited a climbing-oriented business, strongly linked to landscape!

Regional development in North America tends to focus on facilitation of private sector actors and activities that are economic in emphasis. From the North American perspective, it is more typical to think of how environmental impacts can be 'reduced', rather than what the relationship between the local culture, its silvi- or agri- culture, and the landscape.

Tara hopes to be able to employ some part of the concept of territorial development in her own practice working with watersheds, and try to strengthen the relationship between communities and their watersheds. BC could benefit from several of the underlying features of European ideas of territorial development.



Food & Food Security

Climate Change

Rural Communities

Industry & Trade

Cross Cutting Themes:

- Land
- Water
- Energy
- Governance & Policy

Different By Design – September 20th - 23rd, 2017

David Greaves, Sarah-Patricia Breen,
Tara Lynne Clapp, Terri MacDonald



"As the nature of climate change actions call for collaboration across sectors and organizations, efforts to work together collectively are seen as an integral part of adaptation.

Climate Change Steering Committees are instrumental in:

- Communicating the project to the wider community;
- Serving as project champions;
- Providing direction on public outreach; and
- Helping deliver and review surveys to community networks.

Preparing for climate change at a regional level may offer cost savings and synergies with respect to assessing impacts and implementing responses.

While adaptation is place-based, learning from other communities' experiences in the adaptation process can help a community prepare for their own experience."

Climate Change Adaptation Part II:
Challenges of Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Communities
Michael Huck, Columbia-Basin Rural Development Institute

Examining Source Water Protection Policies in Newfoundland and Labrador

"The literature highlights the enormous benefits of SWP including the drastic reduction in the cost of drinking water treatment, safe guarding public health and guarantees adequate protection of the quality and quantity of drinking water supplies. A multi-stakeholder approach is needed in water governance to avoid contamination of water supplies and encourage responsible multiple water usage, in addition to resource development."

Seth Eledi, Environmental Policy Institute
Grenfell Campus, Memorial University

Green Infrastructure is defined as: "A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities."

UK 2012 National Planning Policy Framework

"Many planning & development challenges face rural communities; the 'use' of the environment can address many of them.

In surveying rural community leaders, the environment is not recognized as a potential valuable tool to derive community health/wellbeing."

"Majority of identified issues" (rural challenges) "can be addressed via 'green infrastructure' considerations."

Paul Kraehling, School of Environmental Design & Rural Development
University of Guelph, Ontario