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WEBINAR
SERIES

What's the Evidence on Evidence-Based Policy? Reflections on Knowledge Mobilization in Provincial Rural Policy Tuesday March 19, 2019 @ 2:00pm CST

To Register click: <https://bit.ly/2Vinf9w>

Questions: [Munzaleen Sajjad](mailto:munzaleen.sajjad@rplc.ca), 204-721-0484

ABSTRACT

Governments across Canada continue to struggle to develop and implement robust, flexible, and effective rural policies and programs to meet the ever-changing contexts of rural communities. At the same time, both policy makers and knowledge brokers struggle to bridge local knowledge and research evidence into the public policy process in meaningful ways. This webinar will share insights from interviews with public policy makers from across Canada on the challenges and opportunities of knowledge mobilization for evidence-based rural policy.

PANELISTS



Ashleigh Weeden is an award-winning rural innovator who splits her time between Ontario's Bruce and Wellington Counties. Her work leading Grey County's Connected County Initiative directly contributed to the County receiving recognition as one of the Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2017 and the top achiever in its population category in overall by the Intelligent Community Forum. Ashleigh also provided strategic communications and community engagement support for the largest publicly funded regional broadband project in Canada to date, the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Initiative, for several years, including supporting Indigenous engagement in the project.

Ashleigh is currently a PhD student in Rural Studies at the University of Guelph, where she is focused on researching place-based rural innovation systems, future-oriented community capacity building, knowledge mobilization and public policy renewal. Her work advocating for people-centred public service and connectivity-driven innovation in rural communities can be read in publications like *The Torontoist*, *Canadian Government Executive*, and *Municipal World*. Learn more about Ashleigh's doctoral research by visiting www.ruraldev.ca/ashleigh-weeden



Joshua Barrett is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Department of Natural Resources within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. In this current role, he works to shape public policy related to industrial development. His research interests include economic geography, regional development, public policy, democracy, governance, and labour mobility. Joshua serves on the board of various organizations, including his role as a co-optee board member of the Regional Studies Association. Joshua holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Political Science, and a Master of Arts in Geography from Memorial University of Newfoundland



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