



**RPLC**  
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

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**CAPR**  
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE  
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

**WEBINAR  
SERIES**

**Bridging Place and Policy in Divisive Times**  
**Tuesday November 19th, 2019 @ 11am CST**  
**To Register Click: <https://bit.ly/2NEgwod>**  
**Questions: [Munzaleen Sajjad](mailto:munzaleen.sajjad@rplc.ca), 204-721-0484**

**ABSTRACT**

In 2019, we face the ongoing negotiations of Brexit for the United Kingdom and Europe, a deepening sense of western alienation in Canada (or 'Wexit' as some are calling it), and polarizing politics in the United States and elsewhere across the world. Simmering frustrations with feeling unheard, unseen, and unrepresented by core public institutions are paired with the increasingly complex dynamics of climate change, demographic change, and economic change at all scales – global, national, and local. At the same time, research finds that we believe most Canadians are confident we can solve our differences and, across Europe, spatially oriented plans and policies are increasingly popular, directed in various ways towards cities or islands or remote regions. In contrast to visions of time-space compression put forward in the 1990s, it feels like we are experiencing the results of (sometimes fractal) tensions of grappling with place-identity expansion. How might a progressive sense of place help us address these complexity as we head into uncertain futures? This webinar will revisit Doreen Massey's seminal work on a Global Sense of Place to consider opportunities for bridging place and policy, with particular emphasis on questions about the role of place in developing future-oriented rural policy

**PANELISTS**



Ashleigh Weeden is a rural futurist currently working as a PhD candidate, researcher, and sessional lecturer at the University of Guelph and a Visiting Researcher at Scotland's Rural College in Edinburgh, supported by a Rural Policy Learning Commons Research & Exchange Mobility Grant. Her research is focused on place-based innovation and rural policy foresight, future-oriented community capacity building, knowledge mobilization and public policy renewal.

Ashleigh splits her time between Ontario's Bruce and Wellington Counties. Her prior 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's 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](http://www.ruraldev.ca/ashleigh-weeden)



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