

Acknowledgments and Contributor Biographies

There were many people from across Canada who were involved in the writing and publication of this book, and the editors are thankful for their collaboration and contribution to bridging rural data gaps.



Editorial Team

- **Sarah-Patricia Breen** is an adjunct professor with the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a past president of CRRF. Her research interests include rural resilience, infrastructure, and drinking water.
- **Danielle Collins**, M.A.E.S., B.Sc. is a Certified Economic Developer (Ec.D.) offering a comprehensive background in community-based planning, policy, and statistical analysis in rural economic development and the agri-food sector. Since 2015, Danielle has worked at the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in Guelph, Ontario as an economic development policy analyst. She is passionate about supporting the agriculture and food sector and thriving rural communities.
- **Valencia Gaspard** is a sessional instructor at the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development and research associate at the University of Saskatchewan. Valencia is president of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and network lead at the Rural Policy Learning Commons. Valencia holds a BSc Hons. in Conservation Biology from Western University, an MSc in Rural Planning and Development, and PhD in Rural Studies both from the University of Guelph.
- **Brennan Lowery** is an Interdisciplinary PhD Candidate at Memorial University. His PhD research focuses on the measurement and mobilization of community assets for sustainable rural development in Newfoundland and Labrador. With a research and professional background in indicators of sustainable communities, Brennan hopes to employ these tools in efforts for rural regions to evaluate and promote their own sustainability.
- **Hannah Main** is a PhD student in Sociology at

Dalhousie University. Her PhD research is on rural school closures in Nova Scotia. Hannah holds a BA Hons. in Economics from Acadia University and an MAES in Local Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

- **Sarah Minnes** is a Postdoctoral Fellow and registered planner, with the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. She is published widely on topics related to Canadian regional development, sustainable watersheds and drinking water systems, and overall rural resilience.
- **Bill Reimer** is a Professor Emeritus at Concordia University in Montréal. From 1997 to 2008 he directed a Canadian research project on the New Rural Economy. From 2014 to 2017 he was the director of the seven-year Rural Policy Learning Commons. His publications deal with community capacity-building, social support networks, social capital, social cohesion, municipal finances, the economy and the household, rural immigration, and the informal economy.

Introduction

- **Ray Bollman** retired from Statistics Canada in 2011 where he was the founding editor of Statistics Canada's Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins. He is now a Research Affiliate, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University and a Professional Associate, Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development, Memorial University.
- **Bill Reimer** (See editorial team bio)

Economy, Demography, and Workforce

Chapter authors

- **Valencia Gaspard** (See editorial team bio)
- **Katie Allen** is a Ph.D. student at the University of Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Katie is the founder of P3 Sustainability, a social enterprise connecting community, environment and business. A lifelong learner, Katie has an academic background and professional experience in sustainability, social enterprise and community economic development. Katie holds a BA Hons. in Business Administration and Environmental Studies and an MA in Sustainability from Trent University.

Case study authors

- **Nelson Rogers** is a researcher and consultant in areas related to program review and strategic planning, community development, postsecondary education, and applied research and innovation with particular expertise in rural contexts. Nelson is Principal Consultant of Community Ingenuity, and a founder and director of Community Transformation Associates, Inc.
- **Robert Leitch** is an educator, writer, and business analyst with expertise in the diffusion of innovation,

project management, strategic planning, and rural community development. Robert is Principal Consultant of Sonoptic Media & Communications Corp. and a founder and director of Community Transformation Associates, Inc.

- **Brennan Lowery** (See editorial team bio)
- **Doug May** is a professor in the Department of Economics/Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University. Dr. Doug May joined the Department of Economics and the Faculty of Business Administration of Memorial University in 1978. Over the past 30 years he has worked closely with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador overseeing the development of the System of Community Accounts while also leading research efforts in measuring poverty, into the causes of unemployment, the nature of demographic change, macroeconomic econometric modelling, and labour market analysis for policy development. His research interests include measuring the determinants of wellbeing, poverty and income inequality measurement, community and regional development, tax policy, productivity measurement, and labour market issues.

Health and Wellbeing

Chapter authors

- **Kyle Rich** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at Brock University. His research looks at how community, policy, and social inclusion/exclusion shape experiences in sport, recreation, and physical activity programs, especially in rural and remote municipalities. Kyle uses community-based and participatory methods to work with community organizers to understand and address local issues, in efforts to improve community health.
- **Sarah Giles** is a remote, rural, and humanitarian family/emergency physician. She is a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine. As a passionate advocate for the health care of rural and remote Canadians, Dr Giles is a board member of Canadian Doctors for Medicare and a proud fellow of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

Case study authors

- **Gwen Devereaux** is the Business Innovation & Recruitment Leader at Goderich Alexandra Marine & General Hospital.
- **Candace Pambrun** is the Homelessness Coordinator at Hinton Employment and Learning Place (HELP) in Hinton, Alberta. She has worked for HELP for 5 years and is privileged to address homelessness in a rural community as a frontline worker. She also strives to create positive and meaningful collaborations in the community with intentions to develop safe spaces and quality resources to encourage and support this vulnerable population.
- **Norman Ragetlie** is currently Executive Director with the Rural Ontario Institute. Norm served for eight

years from 2010 to 2018 as Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement with the Institute. In that role he engaged with many types of stakeholder organizations and led collaborative projects and studies on matters relevant to rural communities. These include: rural transportation, business succession, Focus on Rural Ontario fact sheets on socioeconomic conditions and trends, labour force studies, newcomer strategies and youth initiatives. From 2000 to 2010 Norm was with the Ministry of Ag. Food and Rural Affairs supporting rural community economic development. He managed the western economic development staff, managed the community economic development unit in Guelph, and was program lead for the municipal economic development portfolio. Prior to this Norm was a Senior Policy Analyst for ten years with regional municipal government. He began his career in the non-profit sector managing a food cooperative. He holds a Master of Science degree in Rural Planning and Development from the University of Guelph. He has been active in a variety of voluntary roles including Chair of the Ontario Farmland Trust from 2011 to 2017 and local community projects.

- **Jonn Kmech** is Program Manager of Homelessness Initiatives with the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN). He helped organize the Rural Homelessness Estimation Project.
- **Scott Travis** is Director of Research and Programs at the ARDN. He led the data analysis for the Rural Homelessness Estimation Project.
- **Julia Juco** is the Project Manager for the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) at the ARDN. She led community relations for the Rural Homelessness Estimation Project, supporting communities through the survey process.
- **Zain Abedin** is Director of Community Development at the ARDN. He is the author of the Step-by-Step Guide to Estimating Rural Homelessness.
- **Dee Ann Benard** is the Executive Director of the ARDN.

Indigenous Peoples

Chapter authors

- **Stephen Penner** is a PhD Student in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. He has worked with communities across Turtle Island and maintains a research approach grounded in the shared stories and shared knowledge of those communities that he has shared space with. He holds a Master's of Development Practice: Indigenous Development Degree (2017) from University of Winnipeg and a Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (2018) from the Council for the Advancement of Native

Development Officers. His current research is building an understanding of how Indigenous law informs Indigenous food sovereignty, his work facilitates supportive community businesses and he instructs the foundational knowledge of Indigenous Politics and Governance at universities across Canada.

- **Andy Baribeau**, a Mistissini Eenu, currently works for the Cree School Board as the community education administrator in Mistissini. He is the former Director of the Cree Nation Government's Department of Commerce and Industry and was also responsible for the negotiations and implementation of various resource development agreements, namely in mining, throughout Eeyou Istchee from 2010 until 2018. Motivated by the principles of community involvement and development, Andy is guided by the African saying that a person is made up of their past, their present and their future and that none of these is more important than the other and none must be.
- **Irene Neeposh**, a Waswanipi Eenu, is the founder of SKY Community Economic Development Services, a business service company that is dedicated to working with First Nations Communities in market research, business intelligence and corporate planning. She has been a leader within the Cree community, forging new pathways towards business development and working for community empowerment.
- **Sheri Longboat** is a Haudenosaunee Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River, and professor at the University of Guelph in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. Her research focuses on the interface between Indigenous and Western institutions (knowledge systems, policy and governance) to address water security, food sovereignty, and sustainability in First Nations communities.

Environment, Climate, Food, and Agriculture

Chapter author

- **Philip A. Loring** is the Arrell Chair in Food, Policy, and Society, and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Geomatics at the University of Guelph.

Case study authors

- **Marilyn Bidgood** is the ConnectON Project Manager of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA).
- **Janet Horner** is the Executive Director of the GHFFA.
- **Taylor Black** is the ConnectON Data Manager of the GHFFA.

Culture

Chapter authors

- **Kristin Catherwood, MA** is a community engagement specialist practising in rural Saskatchewan communities. She is currently the Director of Living Heritage for Heritage Saskatchewan and previously worked in community engagement for SaskCulture and the National Film Board. She farms 160 acres in southern Saskatchewan.
- **Angela Pollak** believes every community has the capacity to become healthy, prosperous and sustainable through cultural development. Working at the intersection of academic research and rural

practice, her goal is to make sure the right people have the right information at the right time so that can happen more often, especially in vulnerable rural and indigenous communities across our country. She is a professional librarian, a current board member of Regional Tourism Organization 12 (Ontario), a former CRRF board member, and an adjunct instructor at the University of Western Ontario.

Case study author

- **Norman Ragetlie** (See health and wellbeing case study author bio)

