RDIfocus
Stories of well-being in our region

Rural Experts, Policy Makers, and Practitioners coming to the Basin-Boundary

Every year experts, policy makers, and practitioners come together for a conference dedicated to rural places hosted by the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), a charity dedicated to supporting the sustainability of rural Canada through collaboration with rural community groups, the private sector, all levels of government, and researchers. The conference moves across the country, being held in a different location every year. Selkirk College is proud to partner with CRRF to host the 2017 conference to be held in Nelson from September 20-23, 2017.

The theme of this year's conference is Different by Design – exploring innovation in rural places and sharing stories of opportunities and possibilities from across the country. This includes conversations on:

- **Workforces of tomorrow.** Looking to the jobs that will exist in the future, how we prepare for those jobs while dealing with the challenges we have today?
- **Our changing environment.** How are we addressing and adapting to the changes in our surrounding environment?
- **Creating connections.** How are we building relationships, partnerships, and collaborations in order to address complicated problems with limited resources?
- **Communities of opportunity.** What innovative and unique development opportunities exist for rural places?

Does your organization have an innovative project or story to share? Come and share your experiences and ideas with delegates from across the country. Anyone can submit a short description of their idea by filling out the form here. The conference welcomes presentations, stories, panel discussions, and posters. The first deadline for submissions is March 10, 2017. Click here to receive updates about the conference. Registration will open in March, with early bird discounts available.

Beyond the conference, CRRF is involved in a variety of activities, including workshops and publications, as well the creation of the State of Rural Canada. The first State of Rural Canada was released in 2015 as a report. The second State of Rural Canada is an online platform showcasing stories of innovation across rural Canada and will be released at the Different By Design conference. If you are interested in learning more about CRRF please visit their website. CRRF members receive additional discounts on conference attendance. The monthly CRRF newsletter showcases stories from across rural Canada.

This article is a product of the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College. We are a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.http://sorc.crrf.ca/

References and Resources

Different by Design: http://kootenays2017.crrf.ca/

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation: http://crrf.ca/

State of Rural Canada: http://sorc.crrf.ca/

CENSUS DATA RELEASE

Population and dwelling counts were released yesterday. This is the first of a series of Census releases scheduled for 2017.

Click here to explore population change since the last Census and dwelling counts for your community. Related national and provincial level data tables of rural and small town populations is available here and a slide deck of related graphs is available here.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The RDI has purchased access to the Community Data Program (CDP), a database with over $1 million of credible data sets and information. For a fee of $125 organizations can become a member of the Columbia Basin-Boundary CDP consortium. For more information sign up for the February 20th CDP Orientation.

cbrdi.ca

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