

# Rural Health Research

# NEWS

## 2011-2012 CRHRS Board of Directors

### Executive

**Dana Edge, Chair**  
Queens' University  
dana.edge@queensu.ca

**Bonnie Jeffery, Vice- Chair**  
University of Regina  
bonnie.jeffery@uregina.ca

**Shelley Kirychuk, Treasurer**  
CCHSA/University of Saskatchewan  
Shelley.kirychuk@usask.ca

**Donna Rennie, Secretary**  
University of Saskatchewan  
donna.rennie@usask.ca

### Members at Large

**Karen Bartlett**  
University of British Columbia  
kbarlett@interchange.ubc.ca

**Juanita Bacsu**  
University of Saskatchewan  
juanita.bacsu@usask.ca

**Stephen Bornstein**  
Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador - sbornste@mun.ca

**Richard Fleet**  
Université Laval-CHAU Hôtel Dieu de Lévis Chercheur - rfleet@video-tron.ca

**Martha MacLeod**  
University of Northern British Columbia  
macleod@unbc.ca

**Pertice Moffit**  
Aurora College  
PMoffitt@auroracollege.nt.ca

**Silvia Vilches**  
Simon Fraser University  
Silvia\_Vilches@sfu.ca

**Kyle Whitfield**  
University of Alberta  
kyle.whitfield@ualberta.ca



## RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH RESEARCH: CREATIVE APPROACHES: RECHERCHE SUR LA SANTÉ EN RÉGIONS RURALES ET ÉLOIGNÉES: APPROCHES CRÉATIVES

The 11th annual conference promises to be an exciting opportunity to explore the creative side of research. Not only will we be in beautiful Lévis, across the St. Lawrence River from the historic city of Quebec, but the conference will feature two very special guests.

The conference will be preceded by a knowledge translation workshop with Gaétan Morency, a member of the executive forum of the *Cirque du Soleil*. The session will be geared toward people with all levels of knowledge/experience and with a keen interest in creative approaches to knowledge translation, and/or “the art

of messaging”  
Also, Mr. Morency will be the plenary speaker at the official opening on Friday morning. Saturday’s plenary will be opened by David Saint-Jacques, MD, Ph.D., who will “lift us up” by discussing his work as a physician with the Canadian Space Program, which has focused on practice in isolated situations. In addition, for student trainees, we are hosting a special session on “mentoring for success.” The board is also inviting society members and conference attendees to help us discuss new directions in communicating about rural health research.



**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
Canadian Rural Health Research Society  
Lévis, Quebec - October 25-27, 2012  
<http://crhrs-scrsr.usask.ca/levisqc2012/index.php>**

### In this issue

11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Lévis, Quebec .....	1	Current Events Update .....	3
The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II .....	2	Alerts from the Rural Health Research Gateway .....	4
Notice to Member: Call for nominations to the board .....	2	Additional Resources of Interest .....	5
The Use of Hospitalists in Small Rural Hospitals .....	3	Upcoming Conference/Meetings .....	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> National Rural Research Workshop: Looking Forward to the future .....	3	Publications, Reports, Articles, etc .....	7
		Contact Us/Submissions .....	7

## The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II

Between 2001 and 2005, The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada study was undertaken to examine and articulate the nature of registered nursing practice in rural and remote practice settings across the country. At that time, rural nursing was rarely included in national and provincial agendas, and there had been little systematic investigation of rural health, including the severe shortage of health care providers. The study broke new ground and charted the field.

Over the last decade, there have been many changes to the health system, including changes in professional roles (e.g., Nurse Practitioners), movement of nurses across the provinces and the transformation of systems of care. Furthermore, the health of rural and northern Canadians continues to be worse overall than in urban areas, and new challenges are coming with our aging population.

And so it is that ten years after the initiation of the study, it is evident that knowledge gaps are emerging. Health Human Resources (HHR) planning and the accessibility, quality and sustainability of rural healthcare continue to be of concern nationally and provincially. There is a pressing need for research on nursing roles and practices within primary health care (PHC). It is timely to build on and update the 2001 study, and enhance the capacity for HHR planning, especially in relation to PHC in rural and remote communities, in a way that reflects national and provincial/territorial needs.

The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada II is a nation-wide study that will take place over four years (2012-2016). The study will examine nursing practice for the full family of nurses (i.e., Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, Licenced Practical Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses) in rural and remote areas across Canada. The Project involves three main research activities: an analysis of 2003 and 2010 Nursing Database (NDB) data; a national survey of nurses in rural and remote areas across Canada; and, production and distribution of knowledge translation materials that report the findings of the NDB analysis and the survey.

The project is led by four researchers, Drs. Martha MacLeod, Judith Kulig, Norma Stewart and Roger Pitblado, with a research team of eleven co-researchers and an advisory team of decision-makers from all provinces and territories. Funding for this first phase of the study is provided by Health Canada.

*For more information, contact the project coordinator:  
Jessica Place, 250-960-5836, [place@unbc.ca](mailto:place@unbc.ca)*

## Notice to members:

### Call for nominations to the board

At the annual general meeting which will be held in Lévis, we will elect next year's board of directors. This year we anticipate 2-3 vacancies. Each term is one year, and involves committing to bimonthly meetings by teleconference. Some board members also serve on committees, such as the communications or ad hoc nominations committee, and others help plan and organize the annual conference. If you would like to join the board but won't be attending the AGM, you can still be considered by sending your nomination to the board, c/o the chair, Dana Edge at [dana.edge@queensu.ca](mailto:dana.edge@queensu.ca)

We welcome representation from across the country, new researchers, including graduate students, and experienced members who contribute from diverse areas of research. Board members can represent both private and public research endeavours. Together we represent Canadian rural health research, responding to policy changes, disseminating information, and hosting an annual conference for policy makers, researchers and community based practitioners who are involved in rural health research. We hope to hear from you!



## The Use of Hospitalists in Small Rural Hospitals

A new policy brief describes the results of a survey of small rural hospitals that use hospitalists (physicians, physician assistants or nurse practitioners who assume responsibility for patient care during inpatient hospital stays).

Researchers found that:

- Hospitalist use by Critical Access Hospitals and other rural hospitals with fewer than 100 beds more than doubled between 2005 and 2009.
- Rural hospitals are using hospitalists for a variety of reasons, including covering call and reducing the workload for their medical staff, improving quality of care, allowing primary care patients to focus on outpatient care, and recruitment and retention of primary care physicians.
- The vast majority of surveyed rural hospitals report that hospitalist use has had positive impacts on quality of care and recruitment and retention of primary care physicians. Assessments of the financial impacts of hospitalist use are more mixed, with half of surveyed hospitals reporting negative impacts or both negative and positive impacts.

### Contact:

**Michelle Casey, MS**

**Upper Midwest Rural Health  
Research Center and the  
University of North Dakota**

<http://www.uppermidwestrhc.org/pubs/>

## CRHRS Co-hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> National Rural Research Workshop: Looking Forward to the Future

*By Juanita Bascu*

In May 2012, the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA), the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and the Canadian Rural Health Research Society (CRHRS) joined together to host the 2nd national Rural Research Workshop (RRW2012) "Policy and Research in Community Investment." The event took place in Ottawa on May 24-25, 2012 and was well attended by rural community practitioners, academics, graduate students, policy makers, and other stakeholders interested in examining rural community investment.

Innovative topics at the workshop ranged from governance, globalization, community economic development, communication technologies, and rural health services. Dr. Lou Hammond Ketilson from the University of Saskatchewan launched the event with an informative keynote address on the social and economic investments of Canadian cooperatives in support of rural communities. Dr. William Reimer from Concordia University opened day two by providing a keynote summary of the workshop findings and highlighted the main themes and challenges in moving forward with regards to rural community revitalization.

The workshop provided an interactive setting for networking, collaborating and examining the complex relationship between policy and research in rural community revitalization. Dr. Dana Edge, Chair of the CRHRS, provided insightful comments on a discussant panel and addressed recent policy changes, capacity building and virtual networks, and the need for community-based research to promote health in rural communities. An agenda building session concluded the workshop with a strong emphasis on looking forward to the future and building capacity to support policy and research in rural community investment.

## Current Events Update: Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat Hit by Recent Federal Cuts

At the 2nd annual Rural Revitalization Workshop in Ottawa we learned that the Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat will lose most of its staff following the recent federal budget cuts. The RCS is responsible for Canada's rural action plan, for continuing statistical monitoring of Canada's cooperatives sector, for guidance and policy concerning cooperatives, and for assisting other federal departments with rural policy. Partners

at the workshop were very concerned about what this might mean for both rural policy and the cooperatives sector, including the data collection which the Secretariat conducts. It also opens doubt about whether there will be another Rural Revitalization Workshop, given that the Secretariat has very ably steered this meeting since Statistics Canada closed its rural division. See the Rural Ontario Institute's open letter to the Minister at <http://ruralontarioinstitute.ca/blog/post/Implications-of-the-Federal-Budget-and-The-Rural-and-Cooperatives-Secretariat.aspx>."

## Alerts from the Rural Health Research Gateway

**Title:** *Agricultural Migrant Workers and Their Integration in Canada*

**Abstract:** Every year, 30,000 agricultural migrant workers arrive in Canada as part of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program and the Low Skill Pilot Project. Although the TFWP is intended to address short-term labour demands, most of these workers return to the same communities year after year, sometimes for more than 25 years. As a result, growing numbers of migrant farm workers are permanently temporary.

**Source:** *IRPP.*

**Title:** *Increasing The Resilience of BC's Rural Communities to Natural Disturbances and Climate Change*

**Abstract:** Rural forest-based communities are especially vulnerable to changes in natural disturbance regimes influenced by climate change because their economic, social, and cultural aspects of life are closely linked to the local environment and climate.

**Source:** *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management.*

**Title:** *Is telemonitoring an option against shortage of physicians in rural regions?*

**Abstract:** General practitioners (GP) in rural areas of Germany are struggling to find successors for their private practices. Telemonitoring at home offers an option to support remaining GPs and specialists in ambulatory care.

**Source:** *BMC Health Services Research.*

**Title:** *Second homes, amenity migration and rural exclusion in Washington State*

**Abstract:** Our research explores second-home owners as contributors to processes of amenity migration. (...) second-home owners' desire for privacy and escape is reflected in patterns of spatial isolation among second homes in the study area. These patterns have poten-

tially significant ecological effects.

**Source:** *Landscape and Urban Planning.*

**Title:** *Rural Wealth Creation, Concepts, Strategies, and Measures*

**Abstract:** This report presents a conceptual framework for rural wealth creation, drawing upon the U.S. and international development literature. The framework emphasizes the importance of multiple types of assets (physical, financial, human, intellectual, natural, social, political, and cultural capital) and the economic, institutional, and policy context in which rural wealth strategies are devised.

**Source:** *ERS/USDA.*

**Title:** *What's on Your Plate? The Hidden Costs of Industrial Animal Agriculture in Canada*

**Abstract:** WSPA has released a report that discusses the impacts of intensive livestock operations (ILO) on health, the environment, animal welfare and rural Canada.

**Source:** *WSPA.*

**Title:** *Scoping a Vision for the Future for Rural and Regional Australia*

**Abstract:** For the past 6 months NIRRA has been undertaking a scoping projection Visioning the Future of Rural and Regional Australia. A discussion paper has now been completed, which provides a broad overview of many of the issues relating to, and the concerns facing, rural and regional Australia."

**Source:** *National Institute for Rural & Regional Australia.*

**Title:** *Rural Parliaments in Europe*

**Abstract:** In October 2011, researchers at SAC were asked by the Scottish Government to carry out a study of existing Rural Parliaments in Europe. The aim of



the study was to 'enhance understanding of how and why Rural Parliaments operate, and the outcomes they generate, through examining *international examples*'.

**Source:** SAC Rural Policy Centre.

**Title:** Close to the land: Connecting northern Indigenous communities and southern farming communities through food sovereignty

**Abstract:** Southern rural farming communities and northern Indigenous communities in the Prairie Provinces of Canada each experience the Globalized Agri-Food System (GAFS) as detrimental to their food sovereignty."

**Source:** University of Manitoba.

**Title:** Perspectives of Northern Researchers, Residents and Educators on Science Education and Outreach in Yukon

**Abstract:** International Polar Year 2007-2008 renewed interest in and funding for circumpolar research. One unique element of this International Polar Year was the focus on education and outreach initiatives. This study explores outreach stakeholders' perspectives on conducting science outreach with northern Canadian schools."

**Source:** Dalhousie University.

**Title:** Nurses to Promote Rural Women's Health: A Pilot Study.

**Abstract:** In this ongoing research, 70 policy documents are being analyzed, and 20 public health nurses and 14 managers in 3 health units in southwest Ontario are being interviewed to address the following research objectives: 1) Analyse policy documents relevant to rural public health nursing in Ontario to determine relevance regarding rural women's health 2) Identify organizational attributes that enable or impede the work of public health nurses to improve rural women's health, and 3) Critically examine public

health nurses' roles and practices that will improve rural women's health.

**Source:** Leipert, B., Regan, S., & Plunkett, R. *Policies and Practices of Rural Public Health*

**Title:** Experiences of families living in rural and remote BC with a child with a disability or developmental delay

**Abstract:** The primary purpose of this study was to gain a deeper understanding and describe the unique experience of raising a child with a disability or developmental delay when the family lives in a rural or remote community, from the perspective of the parent.

**Source:** University of British Columbia.

## Additional Resources of Interest

- Informing Rural Primary Care Workforce Policy: What Does the Evidence Tell Us?: A Review of Rural Health Research Center Literature, 2000-2010. Duluth, Minnesota: Rural Health Research and Policy Centers.
- <http://www.ruralcenter.org/minnesota-web-recruitment/resources/informing-rural-primary-care-workforce-policy-what-does-evidence>
- For additional services and information, see the Rural Health Research Gateway web site at <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/>.
- To subscribe to the Rural Health Research Alerts - <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/alerts/>

## Upcoming Conferences/ Meetings

### **Rural Linkages: Intercolaborative Practice for Safe & Healthy Communities**

Sponsored the Alberta Rural Development Network and Athabasca University, September 28, 2012, Edmonton, Alberta

Rural Professional Practice: Linkages between Human Services Disciplines. A one day facilitated conference for Albertan rural human services personnel funded by the Alberta Rural Development Network and facilitated by JL Malone & P Jerry of Athabasca.

<http://www.athabascau.ca/rurallinkages2012/details/>

### **Developing Connections for Sustainable Futures – Networking the Bush**

University of Southern Queensland, Australia, September 26-28, 2012

The 28th SPERA national conference will be a key means of building and strengthening Australia's rural network and in doing so draws together an increasing body of work focussed on improved education outcomes in the bush. SPERA, the Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia, is Australia's leading professional development or learning organisation and advocate for rural education. Call for abstracts is closed.

[http://www.spera.asn.au/articles.php?req=read&article\\_id=169](http://www.spera.asn.au/articles.php?req=read&article_id=169)

### **Innovation and Modernising the Rural Economy - OECD 8th Rural Development Policy Conference**

Krasnoyarsk, Russia, October 3-5, 2012

This year the conference will focus on two themes: Innovation in the context of rural areas and Modernising the rural economy. Within these two policy streams several topics will be discussed, including:

- Skill building - moving from lifetime employment

**6 • Summer 2012**

- to lifetime employability in rural areas
- Diversification - broadening the local economy
- Strong rural markets - improving the competitiveness of rural economies
- Innovation - exploring new rural governance models
- Innovation systems and processes - enhancing the links between producers and end users
- Identifying mechanisms to support innovation in rural areas

<http://www.mountaintrip.eu/archive/oecd-8th-rural-development-conference-3-5-october-2012-krasnoyarsk-russia-mt.html>

### **Quebec International Summit of Cooperatives “The Amazing Power of Cooperatives”**

Quebec City, Canada, October 8-11, 2012

During the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives, decision-makers and influential figures from the international cooperative and mutualist community will be meeting in Quebec City, Canada, to participate in the 2012 International Summit of Cooperatives.

The Summit's theme is “The Amazing Power of Cooperatives” and its mission is to offer solutions that will promote the development and performance of cooperatives and mutuals so that they are better prepared to meet the economic and financial challenges they face. The 2012 International Summit of Cooperatives will be a milestone event for current and future leaders committed to consolidating the influence of the cooperative and mutualist movement on the global economic and political stage.

<http://www.2012intlsummit.coop/site/home>

### **Regional Realities and Approaches**

Olds, Alberta, October 11-13, 2012

This is a must-attend conference held in partnership with Olds College and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. Regions. What are they? Do they matter? How do they affect rural communities in Alberta and across Canada?

**Rural Health Research News**

With the theme “Regional Realities and Approaches” guiding the Creating Rural Connections 2012 Conference and Tradeshow, these and other questions will be explored through keynote speakers, presentations and posters, workshops and discussions, and panel sessions. Held from October 11 to 13, 2012 at Olds College in Olds, Alberta, the Alberta Rural Development Network is hosting this national conference in partnership with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation and Olds College.  
<http://www.ardn.ca/>

## **Rural Medicine Australia 2012 – Demonstrating the Diversity**

Fremantle, Western Australia, October 26-28, 2012

Conference and Scientific Forum: This is the peak annual national conference for rural doctors and other professionals working in rural and remote communities. Rural Medicine Australia 2012 will include the biennial scientific forum on rural and remote medicine. The program will feature research presentations in a variety streams, discussion forms, workshops, and skills updates. You can read the preliminary outline on the Program page. The three day conference will be preceded by one-day and two-day procedural workshops accredited for continuing professional development.

<http://www.acrrm.com.au/>

## **Publications, Reports, Articles, etc.**

*The following publications and notices are provided to the newsletter committee from our CRHRSC members.*

Leipert, B., Regan, S., & Plunkett, R. Policies and Practices Relevant to Rural Public Health Nurses to Promote Rural Women’s Health. Presentation at the 6th National Community Health Nurses Conference, Toronto, Ontario, May 14-16, 2012.

Leipert, B., Regan, S., & Plunkett, R. Working Through and Around: Policies and Practices Relevant to Rural Public Health Nurses to Promote Rural Women’s

Health. Presentation at the Second National Rural Research Workshop “Policy and Research in Community Investment”, Ottawa, Ontario, May 24-25, 2012.

Malone, J.L. (2012). Ethical professional practice: Multigenerational trauma in a rural Aboriginal community. *Rural and Remote Health*, 12(1), 1891.

Malone, J.L. (2011). Professional practice out of the urban context: Defining Canadian Rural Psychology. *Canadian Psychology*, 52(4), 289-295.

Malone, J.L., & Dyck, K.G. (2011). Professional ethics in rural and northern Canadian psychology. *Canadian Psychology*, 52(3), 206-214

## contact us / submissions

### Rural Health Research NEWS

Publisher ..... CCHSA, University of Saskatchewan

Editor ..... Kyle Whitfield

Committee Members .... Silvia Vilches  
Kyle Whitfield  
Cheryl Zawaduk

Please forward submissions to:  
Kylie Whitfield: [kyle.whitfield@ualberta.ca](mailto:kyle.whitfield@ualberta.ca) or  
Silvia Vilches: [Silvia\\_Vilches@sfu.ca](mailto:Silvia_Vilches@sfu.ca)