



Rural Alberta Innovation and Learning Commons

Alberta's premier forum for rural knowledge exchange and network development.

Olds College, Olds Alberta – September 29 to October 1, 2017

The RAIL Commons is a 3 day conference that will provide in-depth information creating a strong foundation for understanding rural economic and community development. With a full day and half of sessions covering topics including broadband connectivity; women in municipal politics; quality of life for rural seniors; engaging rural youth; flood management; farmland conservation and fragmentation; assessing cumulative environmental, community and health impacts of resource development and much more, the weekend promises to hold learning opportunities for everyone. There is also time for rural community delegates to network and share with each other; from the opening network reception to the main Gala dinner.

"We are very excited to present this second RAIL Commons with our partnering sponsor ATCO," says Lars Hallstrom, Director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) and organizer of the conference. "This event provides a unique avenue for rural training and professional development."

Friday, September 29, 2017: Join us for a pre-conference grant writing workshop and opening reception.

Saturday September 30, 2017: attend a key note speaker Claudine Louis from Maskwacis Cultural College and five sets of concurrent sessions at Olds College campus, Olds, Alberta. Wrapping up day one is the panel "Beer and Beyond: Entrepreneurship and Community Development via Microbreweries." Beer from the featured breweries will be available at the Friday and Saturday evening events. In the evening, enjoy the Commons Gala Dinner.

Sunday October 1, 2017 key note speaker Roger Epp will present *Reconciliation Where it Matters: Resetting Relations in Rural Alberta*. As a writer and speaker, Dr. Epp has explored what it means to live and teach as a multi-generational settler on Treaty 6 land with a sense of memory and care. Those explorations include the books *We Are All Treaty People: Prairie Essays* and *Writing Off the Rural West*, as well as a documentary, "The Canadian Clearances," co-produced for CBC Radio. His writing has also appeared in such diverse periodicals as the *Western Producer*, the *Small Farmer's Journal*, and the *Toronto Star*. He was an invited honorary witness at hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Early bird registration closes August 13.

For more information and to register for the RAIL-Commons visit www.rail-commons.ca.

Join us for an all-in-one weekend of rural professional development.