



## RPLC Network Proposal 2017- 2018

### General

- Please read the guidelines before making an application.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **August 31, 2017**. Outcomes will be notified by email by September 30, 2017.
- The main description of the research project should be inserted in the relevant section of the form. Please do not change the font size, margins or line spacing of the document.

### Eligibility /Criteria

To be eligible for funding proposals must meet the following criteria:

- The network topic must be relevant to RPLC member interests and ensure policy /practitioner relevance.
- Demonstrate involvement of stakeholders in two of the three regions: Canada, Europe, Mexico, and United States. This must involve a minimum of four active RPLC members drawn from the RPLC partners including cross theme collaboration where relevant.
- Create opportunities for student engagement/early career professionals in all aspects of their activities.
- Ensure that the proposed activities have clear and tangible outputs that will enhance mutual understanding of their specific topic by mobilizing research and knowledge drawing on academic, practitioner and policy perspectives, expertise and connections
- Facilitate comparative (intra- national and international) approaches where appropriate cross –theme engagement in the RPLC context.
- Commit to promoting RPLC through dissemination activities, maximizing participation and engaging with new individuals and organizations from outside RPLC including practitioners and those working in policy.
- At a minimum, each network must generate: a policy brief targeted to policy makers and/or practitioners a webinar; and a brief year-end report on how the funding has been used and the outputs and outcomes achieved.
- Commitment to promote the RPLC through dissemination, reporting of findings and recruiting new members;

### Finance

- The maximum award that can be applied for is CAD \$20,000.
- Eligible costs are detailed in Appendix to this form. In providing details of estimated costs, please note that:
  - Costs should be as accurate and detailed as possible.
  - Amounts should be entered in Canadian Dollars
  - A justification for resources must be given for each of the requested cost items.
- Funding arrangements will need to be established with Brandon University upon approval; funding options depending on the network lead institution's relationship with Brandon University: options (a) include direct transfer of approved amount, (b) invoicing Brandon University once costs are incurred or (c) drawing down on funds directly at Brandon University

### Institutional approval

- Before submission, the application form must be signed off by your institutional representative
- It is the Lead proposer's responsibility to ensure that all the approvals have been granted in advance of the submission deadline.

- Applications submitted to RPLC without institutional approval **will not be considered**.

## Submission

### 1.RPLC Research Network Title:

The Network for Rural Governance

### 2.Applicant/Proposer(s) Details

Lead and Co-Leads should be active members of RPLC. **Leads** (if based in Canada) will have to belong to a SSHRC eligible institution. Leads not based in Canada will have to belong to an active partner institution. It is essential that a Lead is identified with whom RPLC will communicate regarding financial details, outputs, and progress. *Please include Bios of not more than 300 words for those listed in Annex A to the proposal*

	Lead	Co-Lead	Co-lead
<b>Full name/title</b>	Kathleen Kevany, Associate Professor – lead on network proposal	Matteo Vittuari, Associate Professor	
<b>Institution and Department</b>	Dalhousie University- Truro Campus	Università di Bologna Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agro- Alimentari	
<b>Corresponding Address (Inc. post code)</b>	Department of Business & Social Sciences Faculty of Agriculture, Humanities House PO Box 550 Truro, NS, B2N 5E3	Viale Fanin 50, Bologna	
<b>Email address</b>	Kevany@Dal.Ca	matteo.vittuari@unibo.it	
<b>Tel. No.</b>	1-902-893-6725	+39 051 20 9 6161	

### 3. Network Members

List all those who will actively contribute to the delivery of this proposal and its outputs and outcomes. Collaborators may be based at organisations which are not current members of RPLC.

Full name and title	Institution /Organisation	Current Member in RPLC? Y/N	Post Grad/Early Career Researcher <sup>1</sup> Y/N	Email
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<sup>1</sup> Post Grad/Early Career Researchers are defined as individuals who have completed their PhD in the last five years

Abdul-Rahim Abdulai, Masters Student	Memorial University of Newfoundland-Grenfell Campus	Y	N	<a href="mailto:abduerahima@grenfell.mun.ca">abduerahima@grenfell.mun.ca</a>
Hacer Celik Ates, Associate Professor	Suleyman Demirel University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:hacerates@sdu.edu.tr">hacerates@sdu.edu.tr</a>
Jane Atterton, Rural Policy Centre Manager and Policy Researcher	Rural Policy Centre, SRUC	Y	N	<a href="mailto:jane.Atterton@sruc.ac.uk">jane.Atterton@sruc.ac.uk</a>
Ojo Alex Asunni, Masters Student	Dalhousie University, Truro Agricultural Campus	Y	N	<a href="mailto:oj940201@dal.ca">oj940201@dal.ca</a>
Josephine Bamanya, Masters Student	University of Guelph	Y	N	<a href="mailto:jbamanya@uoguelph.ca">jbamanya@uoguelph.ca</a>
Adriana Bessa, Research Fellow	Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights	Y	N	<a href="mailto:Adriana.bessa@geneva-academy.ch">Adriana.bessa@geneva-academy.ch</a>
Ken Bessant, Associate Professor	Brandon University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:bessant@brandonu.ca">bessant@brandonu.ca</a>
Ray Bollman, Research Affiliate	Rural Development Institute, Brandon University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:rayD.Bollman@sasktel.net">rayD.Bollman@sasktel.net</a>
Jonathon Boron, Masters Student	Simon Fraser University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:jboron@sfu.ca">jboron@sfu.ca</a>
Laurie Brinklow, Co-ordinator of the Institute of Island Studies and the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability	University of Prince Edward Island	Y	Y	<a href="mailto:brinklow@upei.ca">brinklow@upei.ca</a>
Vincent Kuuteryiri Chireh, MAEP Student	Memorial University of Newfoundland - Grenfell Campus	Y	N	<a href="mailto:vkchireh@grenfell.mun.ca">vkchireh@grenfell.mun.ca</a>
Cheron Constance, PhD Candidate	Wageningen University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:cheron.constance@wur.nl">cheron.constance@wur.nl</a>
John Devlin, Associate Professor	University of Guelph	Y	N	<a href="mailto:jdevlin@uoguelph.ca">jdevlin@uoguelph.ca</a>
Karen Foster, Assistant Professor; Canada Research Chair in	Dalhousie University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:Karen.Foster@dal.ca">Karen.Foster@dal.ca</a>

Sustainable Rural Futures for Atlantic Canada				
Valencia Gaspard	University of Guelph	Y	N	<a href="mailto:gaspardv@uoguelph.ca">gaspardv@uoguelph.ca</a>
Ryan Gibson, Assistant Professor	University of Guelph	Y	Y	<a href="mailto:gibsonr@uoguelph.ca">gibsonr@uoguelph.ca</a>
Lars Hallstrom, Professor	University of Alberta	Y	N	<a href="mailto:lars.hallstrom@ualberta.ca">lars.hallstrom@ualberta.ca</a>
Satoshi Ikeda, Associate Professor	Concordia University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:satoshi.ikeda@concordia.ca">satoshi.ikeda@concordia.ca</a>
Mohammad Nazrul Islam, MAEP Student	Memorial University of Newfoundland - Grenfell Campus	Y	N	<a href="mailto:nazrulsust05@gmail.com">nazrulsust05@gmail.com</a>
Bruno Jean, Professor Emeritus	Université du Québec à Rimouski	Y	N	<a href="mailto:bruno_Jean@uqar.ca">bruno_Jean@uqar.ca</a>
Kathleen Kevany, Associate Professor	Dalhousie University, Truro Agricultural Campus	Y	N	<a href="mailto:kkevany@dal.ca">kkevany@dal.ca</a>
Philipp Kneis, Instructor	Oregon State University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:philipp.Kneis@oregonstate.edu">philipp.Kneis@oregonstate.edu</a>
Patrice Leblanc, Dean of Academic Management and Studies Desjardins Chair in Small Community Development	Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Y	N	<a href="mailto:patrice.Lebblanc@uqat.ca">patrice.Lebblanc@uqat.ca</a>
Patrick Lévêque, Chief of Staff	Office of the Third Party, Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island	Y	N	<a href="mailto:plleveque@assembly.pe.ca">plleveque@assembly.pe.ca</a>
Philip Loring, Assistant Professor	University of Saskatchewan	Y	N	<a href="mailto:phil.loring@usask.ca">phil.loring@usask.ca</a>
Brennan Lowery, Doctorate Student	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Y	N	<a href="mailto:bclowery@mun.ca">bclowery@mun.ca</a>
Terri Macdonald, Regional Innovation Chair, RDI	Selkirk College	Y	N	<a href="mailto:tmacdonald@selkirk.ca">tmacdonald@selkirk.ca</a>
Sarah Minnes, Doctorate Student	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Y	N	<a href="mailto:sminnes@grenfell.mun.ca">sminnes@grenfell.mun.ca</a>

Norman Ragetlie, Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement	Rural Ontario Institute	Y	N	<a href="mailto:nragetlie@ruralontarioinstitute.ca">nragetlie@ruralontarioinstitute.ca</a>
James Randall, Professor	University of Prince Edward Island	Y	N	<a href="mailto:jarandall@upei.ca">jarandall@upei.ca</a>
Andrea Olive, Assistant Professor	University of Toronto	Y	N	<a href="mailto:andrea.olive@utoronto.ca">andrea.olive@utoronto.ca</a>
Kathleen Parewick, Community Collaboration and Development Coordinator	Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador	Y	N	<a href="mailto:kparewick@municipalnl.ca">kparewick@municipalnl.ca</a>
Karen Refsgaard, Research Director / Deputy Director	Norsk institutt for landbruksøkonomisk forskning	Y	N	<a href="mailto:karen.refsgaard@nilf.no">karen.refsgaard@nilf.no</a>
Francesca Regoli, Faculty Member	Università di Bologna	Y	N	<a href="mailto:francesca.regoli@unibo.it">francesca.regoli@unibo.it</a>
Danielle Robinson, Doctorate Student	BC Rural Network/University of Guelph	Y	N	<a href="mailto:drobin11@uoguelph.ca">drobin11@uoguelph.ca</a>
David Robinson, Associate Professor	Laurentian University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:drobinson@laurentian.ca">drobinson@laurentian.ca</a>
Liz Royer, Source Protection Specialist	Vermont Rural Water Association	Y	N	<a href="mailto:lroyer@vtruralwater.org">lroyer@vtruralwater.org</a>
Sally Shortall, Professor	Queen's University Belfast	Y	N	<a href="mailto:s.shortall@qub.ac.uk">s.shortall@qub.ac.uk</a>
Victoria Soldevila, Assistant Professor	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Y	N	<a href="mailto:mariavictoria.soldevila@urv.cat">mariavictoria.soldevila@urv.cat</a>
Judith Stallmann, Professor	University of Missouri	Y	N	<a href="mailto:StallmannJ@missouri.edu">StallmannJ@missouri.edu</a>
Peter Stoett, Professor	Concordia University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:peter.stoett@concordia.ca">peter.stoett@concordia.ca</a>
Sara Teitelbaum, Faculty Member	Université de Montréal	Y	N	<a href="mailto:sara.teitelbaum@umontreal.ca">sara.teitelbaum@umontreal.ca</a>
Kelly Vodden, Associate Vice President (Grenfell) Research and Graduate Studies	Memorial University	Y	N	<a href="mailto:kvodden@grenfell.mun.ca">kvodden@grenfell.mun.ca</a>

#### 4. Proposed Network Summary

Give a summary of the aims, objectives and anticipated outputs of the proposed network in clear and simple terms (up to 250 words)

The Network for Rural Governance (NfRG) aims to facilitate, promote and enable connections for actors engaged in rural governance. This Network supports activities that further understanding and improvement in the formal and informal mechanisms and tools by which rural communities and regions organize themselves for economic, environmental, political and social-cultural objectives. The NfRG helps to examine the implications of governance structures, processes, and policies that impact rural communities.

Table 1 indicates the directions and research themes that have been selected to guide the work of this network (see below). Multiple topics are likely to be encompassed within these themes., but not all are listed.

**Table 1 – Network for Rural Governance Research Themes**

<p><b>Governance and Policy Development</b> Policy development processes and social, political, and psychological components of community engagement and mobilization. This theme also includes community engagement as it relates to governance practice as well as governance structures and collaborations.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Issues</b> This includes governance components of environmental issues such as rural water and watersheds and climate change adaptation.</p>
<p><b>Food, Health, and Prosperity</b> Focusing on governance considerations within agro-food systems management, food losses and waste, food security and safety, food policy.</p>

Proposed outputs for the first year of NfRG include: webinars, newsletter articles, funding for further networking opportunities; funding for knowledge mobilization (policy briefs, conference presentations); and support for collaborative projects (research project, papers, edited volumes, etc).

## 5. Description of the Network

- Topic the proposal seeks to address
- Background or rationale for a network
- Aims and objectives of the proposed network
- Process of engagement
- Relevance for the RPLC

Maximum word limit: 500 words

### Topics the proposal seeks to address

Rural Governance with the focus on the research themes described above in Section 4.

### Rationale for a network, aims, and objectives

This network has been built from the current RPLC Governance Team. This networks aim is to bring together people interested in rural governance issues, to build on and find synergies with current research and practice.

### Process of engagement

The NfRG already has a well-established network meeting schedule to ensure network members are getting the full benefit of the network. The NfRG also sends out monthly update emails, that includes sections on upcoming conferences and workshops other members will be at. This ensures network members do not miss any opportunity to meet.

An important part of the NfRG is the ability to be either a passive or active member. This allows us to know what members we can target for increased networking and knowledge mobilization activities. We would like to continue to develop this network. Proposed methods of engagement include:

- Webinars
- Social Media (RPLC Twitter/Facebook/Instagram)
- Traditional media stories, like OpEds and other routes for increasing public awareness of rural issues
- RPLC Newsletter articles from network members
- Conference presentations
- Meetings with policy officials and networking with those engaged in rural governance

#### Relevance for the RPLC

We are currently an active team passionate about rural issues. We directly link and contribute to RPLC’s mandate to build on the good things that people are already doing through collaboration and network. The NfRG aims to add to the research and action regarding rural policy as it applies to governance issues.

## 6. Strategic fit of the Network with RPLC

- Contributes to and an impact on **the strategic objectives** and outputs and outcomes of the RPLC:
  - **Build a cohort of highly qualified researchers, policy analysts, and community leaders** through experiential, international, comparative, and collaborative learning
  - **Increase opportunities to exchange insights** for organizations, students, researchers, practitioners, and policy decision-makers regarding the nature and processes of rural-related policy innovations
  - **Add to existing research knowledge** regarding rural, regional, and northern conditions, rural-urban interdependence, and the policies and programs relating to them
  - **Increase the mobilization of this knowledge** to the wider population of researchers, practitioners, policy decision-makers, and citizens who are stakeholders in policy development and evaluation
  - **Strengthen networks, relationships, and institutional/community capacities** to evaluate and develop appropriate policy for increasing prosperity under changing conditions in rural, regional, and northern areas
  - **Ensure the integration of Canadians<sup>2</sup> into international research and policy networks** through exchanges, presentations, knowledge transfers, and media activities.

Please identify how the proposed network aligns with RPLC’s strategic objectives in 200 words or less per objective.

RPLC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED NETWORK’S CONTRIBUTIONS
<b>Build a cohort of highly qualified researchers, policy analysts, and community leaders</b>	The Governance Team has allocated funding in 2016-2017 to 15 students for conference presentations, policy briefs and literature reviews. Furthermore, we have engaged students on various tasks within the Governance Team such as team support and a sub-committee on rural research centres. We will continue as a network to provide such opportunities, through policy brief funding, networking opportunities, and other venues for collaboration and learning for high qualified personnel.
<b>Increase opportunities to exchange</b>	<u>Overview of Activities in 2016/2017 as the Governance Team:</u>

<sup>2</sup> As these strategic priorities were defined during the initial application to SSHRC, Priority 6 is Canadian-focused

insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 webinars (5 more planned for Fall/Winter 2017/2018)</li> <li>• 4 RPLC newsletter articles</li> <li>• Funding for 13 members to attend conferences</li> <li>• 2 policy briefs (currently in progress)</li> <li>• 3 literature reviews (currently in progress)</li> <li>• 23 new members</li> <li>• 4 team meetings</li> <li>• Monthly team e-mails</li> </ul>
Add to existing research knowledge	As network the NfRG would like to continue to add to existing knowledge by funding policy briefs. Furthermore, it is a strategic aim of the network to mobilize our outputs into further outputs (journal articles, edited volumes, etc.) and outcomes (greater collaborations, expanding of professional networks, etc). These efforts will both add to existing research knowledge and help mobilize knowledge created.
Increase the mobilization of this knowledge	As mentioned, the NfRG will be facilitating knowledge mobilization and avenues for influence on policy through: policy briefs, the policy fellow position, future meetings with senior government, webinars, monthly e-mails, RPLC newsletter articles, RPLC social media, and team meetings.
Strengthen networks, relationships, and institutional/community capacities	<p>The Governance Team has had great success in 2016-17 as a theme team of the RPLC in mobilizing research and knowledge through webinars, conference presentations, policy briefs and literature reviews. We have requested more collaborative methods of dissemination and engagement in every output we have delivered. For example, our latest webinar was a collaboration between Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, academic researchers from 3 provinces and universities, and a senior Quebec government official.</p> <p>For more information on the ways we have been active we suggest you visit our webpage on the RPLC website: <a href="http://rplc-capr.ca/about-the-network/themes/governance/">http://rplc-capr.ca/about-the-network/themes/governance/</a></p>
Ensure the integration of Canadians into international research and policy networks	Our previous funding opportunities for literature reviews and policy brief funding gave preference for comparative studies. As a network, we encourage comparative studies from various jurisdictions about rural policy- making. An agenda item we will be including in each meeting of our network meetings is inviting a new network member to speak on a topic of interest. This will open up discussions among the network from different jurisdictional, political, and geographical perspectives.

## 7. Outcomes and Outputs

Include a description of each planned output, outcome, publications and other forms of dissemination planned for the network along with any details already known (timeline, target # of participants, member inclusions etc). *Insert additional rows in the table as needed.*

RPLC NETWORK OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS	Description, Audience & Details (150 words max)
Webinar (required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical reflections on British Columbia's Regional District Model (early</li> </ul>



	<p>September 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This will be in collaboration with Kelly Vodden’s Canadian Regional Development project and Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador</li> <li>● Water Talks Series (in collaboration with the Natural Resource Development Team and our Policy Fellows) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable Funding for Rural Watershed Stewardship (September 2017, at CRRF)</li> <li>○ Rural Water Infrastructure (January 2018)</li> <li>○ Rural Source Water Protection (March 2018)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Evolution of Rural Governance in Ireland (Fall 2017, TBA)</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Brief (required)</b>	<p>The NfRG would like to support network members in the completion of 3 targeted policy (@ \$1,000 each) briefs related to at least one of the networks core areas of focus. These policy briefs are intended to identify and capitalize on policy windows using current research from team members. Completed policy briefs will be sent to the target government and will be posted on the RPLC website.</p>
<b>Annual Report (required)</b>	<p>It will be a strategic aim of the network to mobilize our outputs into further outputs (journal articles, edited volumes, etc.) and outcomes (greater collaborations, expanding of professional networks, etc). The following deliverables, impact and evaluations will be used to assess these outputs and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Connections made to rural governance topics and agents in the network and outside of the network</li> <li>● Attendance at relevant meetings and conferences</li> <li>● Asset mapping and cataloguing of connections and deliverables</li> <li>● Story telling by members of the differences made in their work by connecting with the RPLC and Governance Network</li> <li>● Quantitative measures of attendees to webinars, meetings, member list, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Fellow</b>	<p>The Policy Fellow initiative is designed to recognize policy actors that are making substantial contributions to rural policy, in whatever jurisdiction they may be working. This initiative facilitates the engagement of public policy actors within the RPLC network and among RPLC activities. The typical length of appointment would be 6-12 months and it is anticipated the time commitment of a RPLC Policy Fellow would include service to the network 3-4 hours per month. The policy fellow will be allocated <b>\$3,000</b> to support efforts made in this role (e.g., travel costs). This is not intended as pay; it is offered to offset costs.</p> <p><b><i>Expectations</i></b></p> <p>It is expected the Policy Fellow would work towards advancing the mandate and vision of RPLC. Within the NfRG, RPLC Policy Fellows would be appointed to contribute within their expertise and within a theme area listed above. While policy engagement may vary by specialty, potential activities of a Policy Fellow could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● connecting with and/or mentoring graduate students interested in governance related topics</li> <li>● justifying new governance research topics</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assisting in advancing governance policy</li> <li>• advising on policy briefs</li> <li>• helping to ground policy discussions in the perspectives of rural practitioners</li> <li>• attending and presenting at select conferences</li> <li>• contributing to articles, blog posts, and knowledge mobilization events</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Selection Criteria and Process</i></b></p> <p>Team members are encouraged to circulate this call for applicants among their networks, as well as identifying and reaching out to potential applicants. The Governance Public Policy Fellow must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a practitioner or researcher working within one of the NfRG research themes: policy development; environmental issues; and food, health, and prosperity.</li> <li>• Have an interest in advancing the discourse on governance with a focus on at least one of the themes.</li> <li>• Candidates must have a strong understanding of the rural context.</li> </ul> <p>The NfRG can appoint one fellow per fiscal year. Applicants who wish to be considered must provide a two-page description of themselves and their ideas around potential activities they would like to engage with and how they feel they can contribute to the RPLC mandate and vision. The selection committee will be made up of the Team Lead, Team Support and one other NfRG.</p> <p><b>*Due to the late start of the first Policy Fellow, Patrick Leveque will continue as the NfRG Policy Fellow until March 30, 2018.</b></p>
<p><b>Increased conference/networking opportunities</b></p>	<p>The NfRG would like to allocate <b>\$9,000</b> toward funding to attend conferences or other networking events (e.g., workshops, community discussion, etc) as well as in some cases funding for student research travel (e.g., when they will be meeting up with other RPLC members).</p> <p>In the case of a competition, funding requests will be given preference that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align with the NfRG mission statement</li> <li>• Includes a presentation or poster being presented relevant to rural governance research</li> <li>• Is for an event or conference that provides an opportunity to meet with the RPLC network</li> </ul> <p>In particular each year the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation hosts an annual conference. Funding for this conference will be a priority for our network.</p>

**8. Project Timetable and Activities (insert rows as necessary)**

Networks may propose either a six month (October 2017 – March 2018) or a eighteen month (October 2017 – March 2019) timeline frame.

Date Period	Description of Network Activity		
Early September 2017	Webinar: Critical reflections on British Columbia's Regional District Model		
September 2017, at CRRF	Webinar: Sustainable Funding for Rural Watershed Stewardship		
January 2018	Webinar: Rural Water Infrastructure		
January 12, 2018	Conference/networking funding deadline		
February 2018	Network meeting		
February 1, 2018	Policy brief funding deadline		
March 2018	Webinar: Rural Source Water Protection		
April 2018	Hiring of new Policy Fellow		
May 12, 2018	Conference/networking funding deadline		
April 2018	Network meeting		
June 2018	Network meeting		
October 2018	Network meeting		
TBA	Webinar: Evolution of Rural Governance in Ireland		
<b>Start date</b>	October 1, 2017	<b>Anticipated end date</b>	March 31, 2019

## 9.Finance

How much are you applying for: \$ CAD:

SSHRC Categories for Budgets	Requested	Other Sources	Total
<b>Personnel Expenses</b> <i>(Total A)</i>			
<b>Student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>		<b>\$8,000</b>
Undergraduate			
Masters (2 policy briefs)	\$2000		\$2000
Doctorate (1 policy briefs; team support)	\$6,000		\$6,000
<b>Non-student salaries and benefits/Stipends</b>			
Postdoctoral			
Other			
<b>Travel and subsistence costs</b> <i>(Total B)</i>	<b>\$12,000</b>		<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Applicant/Team member(s)</b>			
Canadian travel (conference network funding/policy fellow)	\$7,000		\$7,000
Foreign travel	\$5,000		\$5,000
<b>Students</b>			

	Canadian travel		
	Foreign travel		
<b>Other expenses</b> <i>(Total C)</i>			
	<b>Professional/Technical services</b> (team lead support)		
	<b>Supplies</b>		
	<b>Non-disposable equipment</b>		
	Computer hardware		
	Other		
	<b>Other expenses (specify)</b>		
<b>Total - All expenses</b> <i>(Totals A+B+C)</i>		<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

## Annex A Biography of Leads and Co-Leads

( 300 words maximum for each person listed )

Kathleen Kevany is a researcher on factors that examine community building, vibrancy, resiliency, sustainability and prosperity. She also is investigating approaches for rural development and sustainable food systems. Kathleen is an Associate Professor at Dalhousie University and is the Director of the Rural Research Centre. She has been a member of the RPLC since its inception as a co-applicant. Her graduate students have worked on rural return-migration and youth inclusion along with farmers' markets and rural economic development.

Matteo Vittuari is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences with the Academic discipline: AGR/01 Agricultural Economics and Rural Appraisal. His work has been involved in evaluating food systems and undertaking economics as well as social and political studies of ways to increase viability and sustainability for rural communities and food entrepreneurs.

