

## **RPLC-Natural Resource Development Team Public Policy Fellow – Call for Applications**

Public policy is a critical component to advancing rural policies. Actors involved in public policy (e.g., local government, community groups) hold tremendous experiences, capacities, and skills. The RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellow initiative is designed to recognize public policy actors that are making a substantial contribution to rural policy, whether at the local, regional, provincial, national, or international scale. This initiative facilitates the engagement of public policy actors within the RPLC-NRD network and RPLC-NRD activities, as well as RPLC activities generally.

### **Opportunities/Objectives**

RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellows will contribute to activities that support and advance the overarching RPLC vision. The specific objectives of the RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellow position include the following:

- Facilitating connections between RPLC Public Policy Fellows and rural scholars, rural practitioners, and rural organizations.
- Stimulating RPLC-NRD Team activities with fresh eyes and new perspectives
- Contributing to capacity building of highly qualified students, researchers, policy analysts, and community leaders.
- Increasing opportunities to exchange insights, particularly related to comparative rural issues.
- Advancing existing research and practice knowledge.
- Increasing the mobilization of this knowledge.
- Strengthening networks and institutional and community capacities.
- Facilitating the integration of Canadian and international research and policy networks.

### **Responsibility of Fellows**

RPLC Public Policy Fellows will be appointed to work with a specific RPLC research/knowledge mobilization team or on specific RPLC-NRD Team initiatives. Each RPLC team will negotiate the specific responsibilities in partnership with the Public Policy Fellow. It is expected the Public Policy Fellow would work towards advancing the mandate and vision of RPLC. It is anticipated the time commitment of a RPLC Public Policy Fellow would not exceed 1-2 hours per month. Potential activities include:

- connecting with graduate students interested in rural policy;
- identifying new comparative rural policy research topics;
- assisting in advancing rural policy; and
- helping to ground policy discussions in the perspectives of rural practitioners.

### **Length of Appointment**

The typical length of appointment would be 6-12 months. The length of appointment can be negotiated between the RPLC-NRD Team and the individual fellow. Upon mutual desire, RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellow can be renewed for one additional year.

## **Remuneration**

The position of RPLC-NRD Public Policy Fellow carries no remuneration. However, it is anticipated that RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellows would be able to access funds to offset expenses related to participating in a key rural policy event during their position. We recognize Public Policy Fellows from community-based organizations, local government, and nonprofit organizations may not have funds to support participation in rural policy events. In these cases, the RPLC-NRD Team will strive to cover all associated participation expenses. There is no expectation of a financial contribution from the Public Policy Fellows' organization.

## **Recognition**

All RPLC-NRD Team Public Policy Fellows will be recognized in the following ways:

- Profile and photograph on the RPLC-NRD website;
- Introduced in an RPLC newsletter;
- Press release to rural news agencies; and
- RPLC annual reports.

The RPLC-NRD Team will also recognize Public Policy Fellows' home organizations through the website, newsletters, press releases, and RPLC annual reports.

## ***Selection Criteria and Process***

Team members are encouraged to circulate this call for applicants among their networks, as well as identifying and reaching out to potential applicants. The Natural Resource Development Public Policy Fellow must meet the following criteria:

- be located in a rural area
- be a practitioner in one or more of the following areas:
  - Land
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Food and food security
  - Climate change
  - Natural resources and rural communities
  - Natural resource industry and trade
- have an interest in advancing the discourse on natural resource development

The Natural Resource Development Team can nominate 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.

***Applications must be received by January 31, 2016.*** Please send applications to [sbreen@selkirk.ca](mailto:sbreen@selkirk.ca) and include “NRD Policy Fellow” in the subject line.