

The Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)

**Presented to the Portage College
Board of Governors
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What is the ARDN?

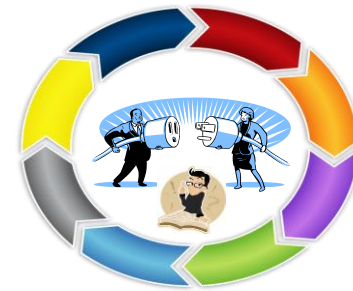
- Created through a voluntary partnership of Alberta's public post-secondary institutions (PSIs)
 - Currently has 9 post secondary members, including Portage College
- Launched April 1, 2009; currently has 5 employees: 4 Full-Time and 1 Part-Time
 - Located in a co-working space with other non-profits in Edmonton
- Originally a 3 year project funded by RADF
 - Core funding ran out in mid-2013; funding is now all project-based
- The ARDN Board Chair is Trent Keough
 - Board is made up of PSI reps

ARND Mandate

ARND uses the combined expertise of Alberta's post-secondary institutions to support rural development & help rural communities grow through research & learning

ARND has Two Key Objectives

**Provincial
Connector**



**Solution
Generator**

ARDN Key Areas of Focus

- **Vulnerable Populations**
 - Rural homeless and low income rural Albertans
 - First Nations youth
 - Mental health issues
- **Workforce Development**
 - Rural business retention and expansion
 - First Nations youth
 - In-house training for businesses using students/ BR&E
- **Municipal Sustainability**
 - Development and implementation of best practices
 - Access to services (e.g. legal)
 - Transportation
 - Affordable housing

Projects with Portage College

Current examples:

- Bringing Women Building Futures to northern Alberta Colleges
- Sustainable Housing Initiative – building affordable housing for students and residents
- Addressing student (and others') mental health
 - Including gambling addictions treatment research
- Rural business retention and expansion using students

A few past examples:

- Pipeline training inventory
- Trades Warriors Network for Aboriginal youth/ students
- Food incubator stakeholder consultation

Success Factors

Portage College's commitment, interest and compatibility

- Trent Keough is highly committed to ARDN. He is the current board chair and has served on a number of ARDN working group since ARDN's inception
- Keen desire to work with ARDN; partnerships are usually intentional, but also occasionally opportunistic or political
- Willingness to be flexible and adaptive
- Always willing to seek the win-win
- ARDN's key pillars, specific capabilities and areas of specialty are relevant to Portage College
 - ARDN works in both official languages
 - ARDN has projects pertinent to students, Indigenous peoples, and rural based-women

Questions & Discussion

