

Alberta Rural Development Network Conference

Creating Rural Connections

May 11-13, 2010

University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta

For more information: go to www.ardn.ca,
call toll-free 1-877-987-1006 or email exec.assist@ardn.ca.

Albertans involved in rural development as researchers or in the community will want to attend the *Creating Rural Connections* conference organized by the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN).

The conference features a combination of keynote and concurrent presentations as well as interactive discussion groups, poster sessions and networking opportunities.

Keynote Speakers Include:

Mark Anielski, author of *The Economics of Happiness*; Roger Gibbins, president and CEO of Canada West Foundation, speaking on *The Rural West in an Urban World*; and Doug Griffiths, MLA Battle River-Wainwright, whose topic is *13 Ways to Kill a Community*.

Concurrent sessions will focus on the themes of natural resource management/sustainability and leadership/community capacity building.

The ARDN conference is expected to attract leaders in research and post-secondary education, and community leaders and program developers from municipal and provincial governments, business and industry, and non-profit organizations.

“This conference emphasizes the link between research, education and community success, and provides extensive opportunities for networking, exchange and collaboration,” said Dee Ann Benard, ARDN’s executive director. “We hope it will lead to the development of new collaborative relationships between rural communities and post-secondary institutions that will help move rural communities in the direction they would like to go.”

The ARDN has representation from all 21 publicly-funded, publicly-governed post-secondary institutions in Alberta. It was formed in 2006 and became fully active in 2009 when it received a three year grant from Rural Alberta’s Development Fund. The conference is the first of many activities, events and research projects being planned.