

The Atlantic RURAL Centre was established in 2004 with funding from the Canadian Institute for Health Research in partnership with the Atlantic Environmental Sciences Network of Environment Canada. One of seven Centres in Canada, it promotes research development, collaboration, and knowledge translation between researchers, government agencies, concerned citizens and rural Atlantic Canadians on themes of physical and social environments and human health. Spanning 11 universities across Atlantic Canada, our mission is to enhance our understanding of these factors as well as to improve the capacity of rural Atlantic Canadians to respond to these challenges.

Our interdisciplinary approach addresses three major research thematic areas. They are:

- Social Transition and Vulnerability
 - Rural deprivation, isolation and mental health, needs of special rural populations (e.g. rural youth, First Nations, etc.), access to primary health care; community resiliency
- Rural Employment
 - Mobility for work, youth unemployment, issues of seasonal employment, rural occupational risks and exposures, and resource reliant industries
- Air & Water Quality
 - Rural air quality and air shed management, arsenic and biological contamination of drinking water groundwater sources, indoor air quality in relation to the external environment.

Current Initiatives

- Major Collaborative Research on Health Resource Planning, Resource Reliant Communities, Rural Mental Health, Resiliency of Children in War-Torn Areas, Water Quality and Rural Watershed Management and Health, Deindustrialization and Deprivation – an International Comparative Analysis
- Fellowships and Internships (through RURAL Centre, CIHR and NSERC funding)
- Pilot Project Funding (through RURAL Centre, also in collaboration with Atlantic Metropolis Centre)
- Environmental Health Laboratory
- Masters of Public Health program development

Future Initiatives

As the Centre continues to grow and bring researchers together, we will continue to build linkages with the communities we serve; bring researchers together by offering sustainable funding through contracts/grants; and strive to build relevance through expanding our partnerships with governmental agencies and communities.

<http://www.theruralcentre.com>

