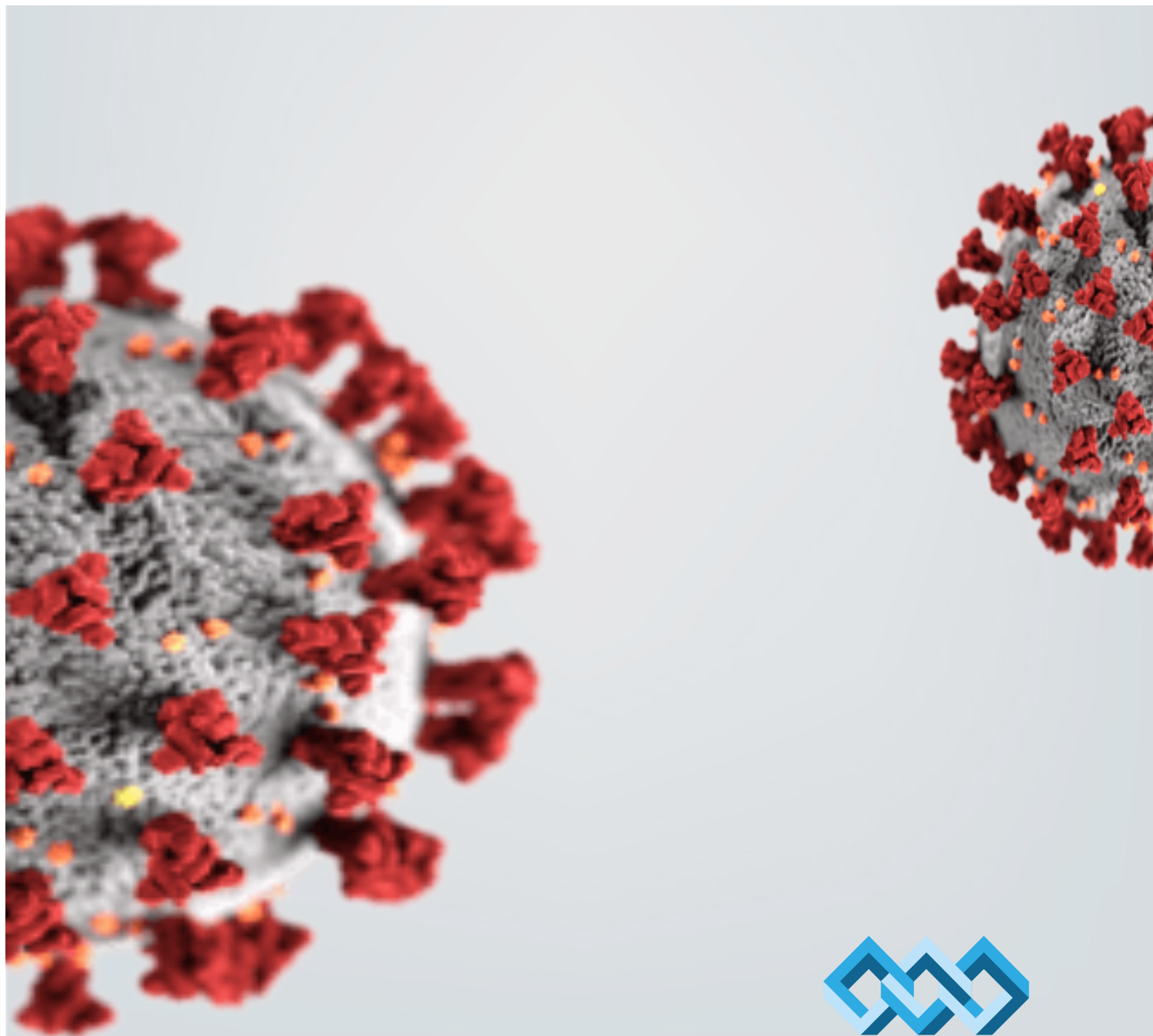


# L'Année PhiLanthropique The PhiLanthropic Year

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PhiLab

Réseau Canadien de recherche partenariale sur la philanthropie  
Canadian Philanthropy Partnership Research Network

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# À propos du PhiLab | About PhiLab

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Le Réseau canadien de recherche partenariale sur la philanthropie (PhiLab), anciennement Laboratoire montréalais de recherche sur la philanthropie canadienne, a été pensé en 2014 dans le cadre de la conception de la demande de financement du projet développement de partenariat CRSH intitulé “Innovation sociale, changement sociétal et Fondations subventionnaires canadiennes”. Ce financement a été reconduit en 2018 sous le nom “Evaluation du rôle et des actions de fondations subventionnaires canadiennes en réponse à l’enjeu des inégalités sociales et des défis environnementaux”. Depuis ses débuts, le Réseau constitue un lieu de recherche, de partage d’information et de mobilisation des connaissances des fondations canadiennes. Des recherches conduites en partenariat permettent la coproduction de nouvelles connaissances dédiées à une diversité d’acteurs : des représentants gouvernementaux, des chercheurs universitaires, des représentants du secteur philanthropique et leurs organisations affiliées ou partenaires.

Le Réseau regroupe des chercheurs, des décideurs et des membres de la communauté philanthropique à travers le monde afin de partager des informations, des ressources et des idées.

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The Canadian network of partnership-oriented research on philanthropy (PhiLab), previously called the Montreal Research Laboratory on Canadian philanthropy, was thought up in 2014 as part of the conception of a funding request by the NRCC partnership development project called “Social innovation, social change, and Canadian Grantmaking Foundations”. From its beginning, the Network was a place for research, information exchange and mobilization of Canadian foundations’ knowledge. Research conducted in partnership allows for the co-production of new knowledge dedicated to a diversity of actors: government representatives, university researchers, representatives of the philanthropic sector and their affiliate organizations or partners.

The Network brings together researchers, decision-makers and members of the philanthropic community from around the world in order to share information, resources, and ideas.

## Prochaine publication

Next publication

Volume #2 en juin 2020 / June 2020



Social Sciences and Humanities  
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Canada

# WESTERN HUB

## *Response to COVID–19 through not-for-profit and rural applied research initiatives in the BC interior*



Par | By:

**Adela Tesarek Kincaid, Ph.D.**, and Western Hub member

**James Tucker**, business student at the Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC) and Selkirk College

*Dr. Adela Tesarek Kincaid is a Faculty Researcher at the Applied Research and Innovation Center (ARIC) and Instructor at Selkirk College and brings expertise on rural community-based research. She conducts participatory research in sustainability with local not-for-profits and leads a dedicated student research team of ten. She holds a PhD in human geography and is a published author in the methodological area of situational analysis which she has applied to animal-based wellness programs that account for Indigenous relationships with animals.*

*James Tucker is a research intern and business student at the Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC) and Selkirk College. He is currently in the process of completing a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree, with particular interests including market finance and economics, media technology, property development, and international law. His educational background also includes web and database programming, digital media, and modern design.*



During the time of the COVID – 19 pandemic, not-for-profits across Canada are providing much needed support for individuals, organizations, governments and the economy. In the Kootenays of rural interior British Columbia, not-for-profits have partnered with the Selkirk College Interdisciplinary Applied Research Internship team under the leadership of Dr. Adela Tesarek Kincaid to work towards supporting local rural communities amidst the pandemic. It is vital that local governments and organizations develop an economic resiliency framework that prepares them for, and responds to, economic disruptions in order to ensure that they are able to support their community through a period of rapid change and transition.

Image: United Nations COVID-19 Response

### COVID - 19 connections to the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)

The COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies the importance of a sustainable and equitable future and the importance of connectivity that the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) propose. Working towards the SDGs could help better navigate similar crises that are complex and include both health and human components while working towards a more equitable and supported network across the globe (United Nations, March 2020). The pandemic has clearly highlighted the widening disparities when economic activities are interrupted; exposed local, regional, national and global concern over food production and distribution; emphasized the limitations of globalization and thereby bringing to light the importance of international cooperation on public health; and stressed the increased risk of infection that lower economic populations face as a result of high population density and poor sanitation.

To provide local, regional, provincial, federal and international linkages and supports, this COVID - 19 research engages ten student research assistant interns at the Selkirk College Applied Research and Innovation Center that work within an embedded United Nations Sustainability Goals (SDGs) framework. Aligned with the SDGs, the vision identified by local communities is to provide, "...productive employment and decent work for all and promot[e] micro, small and medium - sized enterprises". Given the vast rural geography of the research area and the difficulties the geography poses to connecting local communities throughout the region (as a result of mountain passes, ferry crossings and other natural and geographic barriers), the work proposed here is specifically linked to Sustainable Development Goal 17. This goal "recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals...to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships" (paragraph 3 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction>).

### Connecting Applied Research, COVID-19 and Not-for-Profit Organizations

Rural not-for-profit organizations that are supporting COVID - 19 research alongside the interdisciplinary research team. Organizations include: Community Futures Central Kootenay, Central Kootenay Food Policy Council, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, and Kootenay Rockies Tourism as well as other local not-for-profits that provide capacity building for local governments and organizations. The pandemic will continue to place additional strain on small rural local governments and organizations who will have increasing and ongoing capacity needs during COVID - 19. Working in partnership with not-for-profits has provided open communication and opportunities for community consultations addressing research needs related to COVID - 19. The applied research team provides research support to not-for-profits through qualitative and quantitative data gathering, data analysis, compiling data from existing databases, result dissemination, creation of rigorous research methods for projects, and the creation and support of local research networks.

Community economic resilience focuses on maintaining economic and social well-being while finding ways to adjust or adapt to change. The projects listed below are in response to the pandemic and have direct impact on local communities. All applied research under this portfolio is initiated through not-for-profit partnerships and is based on identified community needs.

- developing a planning toolkit for economic resiliency for 8 rural communities in partnership with the Director, Jeremy Stone, of Simon Fraser University - Community Economic Development
- place-based food security in the Kootenays that includes identifying local food networks, local food transportation, delivery and supply chains
- economic mapping of rural organizations in the Kootenays and small businesses and their needs during COVID - 19
- local shifts to local tourism, community tourism, and eco-tourism during the pandemic

The not-for-profit applied research model described here also supports emerging research opportunities in a rural setting for post-diploma and undergraduate

students. The interdisciplinary internship research team has fostered research relationships with local not-for-profits and filled much needed research gaps in rural communities. These project opportunities have also augmented student learning during the pandemic. The continued relationship building with not-for-profits is expected to result in increased learning experiences for students and workplace placements as well as needed supports for a transitioning economy.

### Applied Research Impact for Rural Communities

Rural communities face unique challenges and these challenges are further exasperated during times of instability (Nicoleta, Teodor, Anca, Ioana, Roxana-Saida, & Camelia, 2018). The development of a valid supportive framework is an important component of long-term adaptation and resilience in communities (Marius, Cristina, Elena, & Ioan, 2018). Resiliency “refers to a rural area’s ability to cope with its inherent economic, ecological and cultural vulnerability” (Heijman, Hagelaar, & Heide, 2007). Rural community challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic can easily affect resiliency and result in population shifts that might lead to people moving away and thereby increase vulnerability. Historically, rural communities have struggled in creating their own response to the issues that impact them directly. Chambers (2013) explains that ‘outsiders’ tend to wield the decision-making power in rural development. These ‘outsiders’ may create an inaccurate representation of the rural world in their publications and policy recommendations. Inaccuracies could be the result of rushed and hurried visits from urban centres, rather than a direct and comprehensive analysis from someone more involved in the rural communities themselves (Chambers, 2013). This research response to COVID – 19 situated at the Selkirk College Applied Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC) will seek to provide an accurate voice with adequate support and resources for local community goals, with projects focused on several main themes: food security, economic resiliency, and sustainable community development. Understanding these factors plays a critical role in determining the immediate and long-term economic impact of COVID-19 in rural areas. Any successful intervention requires an intimate understanding of local economic factors, backed by quantitative and qualitative research that provides rural communities with the means to ensure that action is timely, effective, and free from disproportionate

‘outsider’ influence. This evidence-based approach will support communities in building lasting resiliency, both to the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 and future challenges.

Local applied research is well positioned to provide knowledge that will sustain informed policy-making and planning amidst COVID -19 by supporting the shifting landscape in rural community economic planning. The projects identified above have provided practical tools for communities by responding to specifically identified local needs connected to the pandemic.

These applied research partnerships provide the capacity to link geographically dispersed communities and to share ‘lessons learned’ and research results among not-for-profits. Current efforts include the creation of a regional model that would directly respond to current community needs as well as continue to strengthen the network of not-for-profits in the region and thus the support that they provide for rural social/health infrastructure. ■

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