

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Prioritizing Connections that Matter for
Sustaining Rural, Island, and Northern
Communities



FONDATION
CANADIENNE POUR LA
REVITALISATION RURALE
—
CANADIAN
RURAL REVITALIZATION
FOUNDATION



GRENFELL
CAMPUS



Relational Wellness: Prioritizing Connections that Matter for Sustaining Rural, Island, and Northern Communities

Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador
16-18 June 2026

Preliminary Conference Program

June 16 (Tuesday)

Times	Activities
9.00 am - 5.00 pm	Rural Business Productivity Workshop
3.00 - 5.00 pm	Partnerships and Early Career Researcher Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rethinking transformation for climate action and relational community sustainability: Learning from Msit No'kmaq - Lowery, Hurley, Blanchard-White, Andrews, Vodden, Chuenpagdee
7:00 pm	CRRF/NAF Conference Opening Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Keynote: Dr. Erica (Samms) Hurley on relational wellness

June 17 (Wednesday)

Times	Activities
8.00 am	Registration Opens
8.00 - 9.00 am	Breakfast
8.30 - 9.00 am	Conference Opening Remarks
9.00 - 10.00 am	Navigating the New Rural Realities - Prospects for Policy and Practice in Turbulent Futures

– Draft Program - 13 April 2026 –

10.00 - 10.30 am	Break and Poster Viewing
10.30 am - 12.00 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 1</p> <p>1A: Resilient Rural Futures: Rethinking Rural Economies and Livelihoods in an Era of Change</p> <p>1B: Research Partnerships and Policy</p> <p>1C: Disrupting Health Systems</p> <p>1D: Culture, Arts, and Place-attachment</p> <p>1E: Municipal Rural Economic Development</p>
12.00 - 1.30 pm	<p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Russel, Intergenerational relationships and rural aging in place,
1.30 - 3.00 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 2</p> <p>2A: Innovative Rural Economies, Technology, and Innovation</p> <p>2B: Indigenous Research Partnerships</p> <p>2C: Aging, Health, and Well-being in Rural Places</p> <p>2D: Arts, Culture, and Place-Attachment</p> <p>2E: Major Project Impact Assessment Workshop</p>
3.00 - 3.30 pm	Break and Poster Viewing
3.30 - 5.00 pm	<p>Concurrent Session 3</p> <p>3A: Innovative Rural Economies 1: Entrepreneurial Thinking Through a Community Lens: From Ideas to Advancing Circular Economy</p> <p>3B: Role of Philanthropy in Rural Resilience and Development</p> <p>3C: Partnerships Panel - Indigenous Research Partnerships: Reflections from the Marine Biomass Innovation Project</p> <p>3D: Imagining Thriving Futures: Coastal Communities and Inclusive Belonging</p> <p>3E: Major Project Impact Assessment Workshop</p>
7.00 pm	Banquet

June 18 (Thursday)

Times	Activities
8.00 am	Registration Opens
8.00 - 9.00 am	Breakfast
8.30 - 9.00 am	Conference Opening Remarks
9.00 - 10.00 am	Plenary - Etuaptmumk: Healing Relationships with the Land and Water
10.00 - 10.30 am	Break and Poster Viewing
10.30 am - 11.30 am	<p>Concurrent Session 4</p> <p>4A: Rural Food Security</p> <p>4B: Interactive Session is informed by a GrenThe participatory interactive session is designed to happen in the Participatory Community Media PopUp - Campbell</p> <p>4C: Panel Discussion - Age-friendly community planning in rural and remote Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <p>4D: Panel Discussion - North Where the Sled Dogs Howl: Exploring Storytelling, Environmental Connection, and Rural Tourism through Dog Mushing</p> <p>4E: Futures Studies and the North Atlantic: Coastal Community Applications and Insights</p>

– Draft Program - 13 April 2026 –

11.30 am - 12.30 pm	Concurrent Session 5 5A: Workshop: Cross Winds: Charting a Sustainable Course with Communities in Turbulent Times - Mercer, Gerstenblatt, Pirbek 5B: Mental Health and Aging 5C: Connecting Communities through Place, Art, and Science: Interdisciplinary and Community-based Approaches to Cultural-Ecosystem Services - Jekanowski 5D: Arts and Tourism 5E “What I Wore Through It” A participatory storytelling session on clothing, care, and wellbeing - Adedokun-Awojodu 5F: Innovative Rural Economies
12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 - 4.30 pm	Field trips
4.30 pm	Start of the Shore to Shore Conference