



**Selkirk  
College**

## **BC REGIONAL INNOVATION CHAIR IN RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LEAD RESEARCHER OF THE COLUMBIA BASIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **INSTITUTE**

Selkirk College is now recruiting for a Regional Innovation (RIC) Chair for Rural Economic Development. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to build on the successful start-up of the research chair initiative that was launched in 2006.

Selkirk College has staffed this position for its initial five year start-up period with great success and due to retirement of the current chair is seeking to recruit the next RIC chair.

We are interested in applicants who show leadership skills, have a track record in applied research and technology transfer and in linking knowledge with applications. They should also have a demonstrated commitment to working with community partners.

The Regional Innovation Chair is supported through an endowment established under the [BC Leading Edge Endowment Fund](#). Based on a foundation of applied research and outreach, the goals of the [Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development](#) are to:

- Develop the capacity in the West Kootenay Boundary region for sound decision-making in matters related to economic development, through the provision of relevant research data and analysis, together with related skill and capacity development.
- Assist in the diversification of the regional economy through the promotion of innovation and technology transfer in existing and new enterprises.
- Support provincial and national networks that undertake applied research on the revitalization of high amenity, highly rural communities and regions.

The Regional Innovation Chair also has responsibility for leading the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (RDI). This is a new initiative, supported through a multi year partnership agreement between Selkirk College and the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). In 2008, CBT launched a [State of the Basin Initiative](#), with the first Basin-wide indicator report and website. The work of the RDI will now bring together the responsibility for and assets of CBT's State of the Basin Initiative and Selkirk's Regional Innovation Chair to create a sustained resource for promoting and supporting informed planning, decision-making and citizen engagement in the Columbia Basin and Boundary regions. The RDI, when fully operational will add an additional two research assistants to the RIC chair capacity.

Commitment to and experience in working with rural issues, rural regions and communities, and their organizations and people are necessary assets for this position. A strong record in applied research and administrative experience are also preferred. The selected candidate is expected to show leadership in applied research, creativity in undertaking applied research, and in building community and institutional partnerships to use information to help furthering the interests and well being of residents of the region.

While it is anticipated that this position will be of interest to a spectrum of individuals with a varied range of backgrounds, this opportunity will be of particular interest to those with advanced academic credentials in community and regional planning, economic development, applied geography and/or economics. Practical experience in rural planning and development and or economic development could make you well suited for this opportunity.

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Selkirk College is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

**Duties of the position:**

- Undertake applied research in rural economic development, using innovative methods and best practices.
- Take a leadership role in forging alliances with community partners and other post secondary institutions and research networks.
- Involve students and faculty in planning and implementing an effective applied research program.
- Work with a community advisory group to link the research program with identified regional needs.
- Work with other researchers in the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre.
- Write applications for project funding.
- Undertake specific teaching assignments as may be appropriate from time to time.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD or PhD candidate. A candidate with Master's degree and an exceptional track record will be considered.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively conduct research, meet deadlines and work with multiple timelines.
- Demonstrated ability to work with regional stakeholders.
- Ability to develop grants and proposals.
- A track record in research and technology transfer and in linking knowledge with applications.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

**Submission:**

Please submit the following:

- a) Curriculum vitae that outlines academic, research and professional experience and primary areas of expertise.
- b) A professional portfolio describing activities that show the impact of your expertise and work.
- c) Two letters of recommendation.
- d) A one-page concept paper outlining ideas about how you will enact the role of the Chair.

Applications will be accepted up to March 31st, 2011. Interviews are expected to be held in mid to late April, with the selection of the nominee by the end of April.

An information package is attached. It includes information about Selkirk College and its region and a brief update regarding compensation terms for this position.

For more information, please contact:

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[www.selkirk.ca](http://www.selkirk.ca)

Submissions should be emailed to:  
[postings@selkirk.ca](mailto:postings@selkirk.ca)

Human Resources Department  
Selkirk College  
301 Frank Beinder Way  
Castlegar, BC V1N 4L3  
250-365-1390

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### **1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Terms**

This is a full-time regular position, subject to a one-year probationary period. This includes eight weeks of vacation and four weeks of professional development time.

#### **Salary and benefits**

This position will be compensated based on the terms of the collective agreement in effect between the College and the Selkirk College Faculty Association.

The College offers a generous benefit package, including employer-paid premiums for the Medical Services Plan, Extended Health Benefits, Life Insurance, Long-term Disability and Dental benefits. There are also provisions for various leaves, including one year for parental. For more details, a copy of the current collective agreement can be made available to interested candidates upon request.

#### **Support for applied research**

The core costs for this position will be supported by a permanent endowment. The RIC Chair will have access to a travel budget and some funds towards the cost of a research assistant. The RIC Chair will also have the opportunity to develop other sources of funding in order to provide additional resources to assist in achieving the program's goals.

The Chair will also manage the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute (CBRDI) and work closely with the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC). This state-of-the-art facility provides excellent opportunities to support the work of the Chair, both as a resource that can be accessed on a "sub-contracting" basis for specific projects (the SGRC is self-funding) and as a collegial sounding-board for the Chair.

#### **Funding**

The RIC is funded through a permanent \$2.5 million endowment. The CBRDI is funded for an eight year period to an amount up to \$250,000 per annum.

### **2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

Selkirk College is located in the southeast corner of British Columbia. Its largest campus and administrative centre is in Castlegar. The College also has three campuses in Nelson, one campus each in Trail and Grand Forks and Extension Centres in Kaslo and Nakusp.

The College is organized into two main divisions: Academic and Student Development and Finance and Administration, each headed by a Vice President.

Responsibility for applied research falls within the Academic and Student Development division, and reports directly to the Vice President. Working with the Vice president are four Deans of Instruction and a Director of Student and Enrolment Services/Registrar who share responsibilities for programs, student access and support services, the Library, the Registrar's office, continuing education, and contract training. The college offers 68+ credentialed programs at the associate certificate, certificate, diploma, advanced diploma, and bachelors degree levels.

The instructional and applied research functions are housed within:

- School of Developmental Education
- School of Business and Aviation
- School of Digital Media, Music and Information Technology
- School of Health and Human Services
- School of Hospitality and Tourism
- School of Industry and Trades Training
- School of Renewable Resources
- School of University Arts and Sciences
- West Kootenay Teacher Education Program (UBC)
- Kootenay School of the Arts
- Selkirk International
- The Mir Centre for Peace
- The Teaching and Learning Institute
- The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre

Selkirk College has over 600 employees, equivalent to over 300 full-time persons. It serves approximately 12,000 students each year in credit and non-credit programs.

### **The West Kootenay/Boundary Region**

The West Kootenay Boundary region is about halfway between Vancouver and Calgary, in the southeast corner of British Columbia. The area enjoys a pleasant four-season climate and is famous for its natural beauty. The area has numerous small cities and towns, among them: Nelson, Castlegar, Grand Forks and Trail.

The West Kootenay Boundary region is located in amenity rich south eastern British Columbia. There are literally hundreds of recreational opportunities just steps away from all of Selkirk College's campus locations. The natural beauty of the region becomes a year-round outdoor playground including activities such as skiing, biking, snowboarding, horseback riding, and golf. Offering a very high quality of life, the region's communities provide their residents with an unequalled opportunity to benefit from rich social and environmental surroundings. With a strong sense of identify and welcoming spirit, the West Kootenay Boundary region provides Canadians with a great alternative to the often stressful urban life.

The Kootenay Boundary region is endowed with a clean environment, a relaxed pace of life, low crime, and good schools. Discover our communities for yourself. We invite you to visit the web sites noted below. If you have already visited the Kootenays, you already know what we are talking about.

The communities of the West Kootenay Boundary have historically been based on resource extraction, originally mining but more recently on forestry. The slow decline in employment and overall centralization of resource industries is being offset in most of our communities by an increasingly diverse economy that includes knowledge and tourism based small businesses. The region's physical and social amenities have allowed most communities to maintain population levels, replacing departing households with new people coming from urban areas. The region is also proud of its ability to attract back many of its youth that leave the area for higher education.

Nonetheless, the region faces the challenge of strengthening the economic health of its communities and proving better and more secure jobs for its residents. This is particularly true for some of our communities that are less rich in amenities or are located further from essential services.

For more information about the area, visit these web sites:

<http://www.nelsonbc.ca/>;  
<http://discovernelson.com>  
<http://www.castlegar.com/index.html>  
<http://www.trail.ca/>  
<http://www.slocanvalley.ca>  
<http://boundary.bc.ca>  
<http://rossland.com>

## **COMMITMENT TO APPLIED RESEARCH**

### **The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre**

Research is a growing focus at Selkirk College. At present, the main locus of research is through the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre ("SGRC"). The Centre is both an applied research centre and a technology-training centre, with a mandate for applied research, training and applications development using geospatial/geomatics technologies. Areas of specialization include: geographic information systems, database design and management, internet mapping, application development and remote sensing.

Other areas of research interest include: sustainable forest management, wildlife, natural hazard mapping, biodiversity, environmental planning, waste management, renewable energy, natural resources and avalanche hazard prediction.

The SGRC has been in operation since January 2004. It employs two full-time instructor-researchers, both with post-graduate degrees, and a research assistant. There are also a number of part-time instructors, the number of which varies with the needs of various projects and programs. The SGRC was instrumental in assisting Selkirk College to achieve NSERC status.

The SGRC also has informal associations with private researchers in the area, many of whom have expressed an interest in a more formal association. Guidelines for managing these arrangements are being developed.

### **The Mir Centre for Peace**

The MIR Centre for Peace is just beginning to develop greater applied research capacity in the areas of peace and restorative justice.

### **Other Applied Research**

Selkirk College is building research capacity through the excellent work of a number of key faculty members.

For the past two years, Dr. Delia Roberts, from our Science faculty, has been conducting research aimed at reducing injuries and enhancing performance of tree planters; this research has been sponsored by the Forest Industry Safety Association and Weyerhaeuser Canada.