

RDI RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

OVERVIEW OF SUPPORTS



The RDI’s strategic priorities include: building regional knowledge, engaging in regional applied research, supporting the use of RDI research and tools, and supporting applied research at our regions’ colleges. In an effort to support applied research that may be community-based and/or not directly aligned with RDI research priorities, the RDI provides data provision, data housing and research advisory services to non-profit organizations and local governments on a first-come-first-serve basis, and as capacities and capabilities allow. The RDI also brokers access to research supports at our region’s colleges, some of which offer support to businesses.

INFORMATION AND DATA PROVISION SERVICES

As part of the State of the Basin and certain applied research projects, the RDI compiles and maintains an extensive suite of datasets specific to the Basin-Boundary region. Data is stored in many forms, including databases, geospatial shapefiles, graphs, tables and reports, some of which is available through the Digital Basin. The RDI can provide local organizations access to much of this data in order to assist with planning, project proposals, and other activities that require informed decisions. This is a free service available to non-profit organizations, community and regional initiatives, and local governments. [Learn more.](#)

DATA HOUSING SERVICES

The RDI manages the Digital Basin, a geospatial portal that houses economic, social, cultural and environmental data specific to the Columbia Basin-Boundary region. RDI may be able to add your dataset to the Digital Basin depending on the capacity of RDI and SGRC researchers to prepare datasets for inclusion in the Digital Basin. The RDI’s services are offered to non-profit organizations, community and local governments at no charge. However, should the request require extensive involvement of the Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre, which houses many of the RDI’s geospatial datasets, service fees may apply. [Learn more.](#)

RESEARCH ADVISORY SERVICES

The RDI team includes Masters level researchers with expertise in diverse subject matter. Stemming from a recognized need to grow the research capacity of the region, the RDI offers advisory services to organizations that are planning to engage in economic, social, cultural or environmental research, as the RDI’s capacities and capabilities allow. Advisory services include: research objectives, project design/methodology, data sources, funding sources, or links to related research underway in the region. This is a free service available to non-profit organizations, community and regional initiatives, and local governments. [Learn more.](#)

COLLEGE BROKERING SERVICES

The RDI works closely with Selkirk College’s Office of Applied Research and College of the Rockies’ Inspire Centre. These applied research and innovation entities are interested in engaging in applied research that addresses community and regional needs and supports the building of a collaborative learning region. To help make the connection, the RDI offers college-brokering services designed to connect your research needs with faculty and student expertise at our regions’ colleges. This is a free service available to non-profit organizations, community and regional initiatives, local governments, and companies. College support may take the form of student in-class or internship research or College faculty¹ *fee for service* research. Participation in fee for service research by RDI researchers will not interfere with or delay RDI annual work plan responsibilities. [Learn more.](#)

RESEARCH IN PARTNERSHIP

The RDI will focus efforts on the advancement of the RDI’s Strategic Plan and related prioritized research projects. Projects identified in annual work plans take priority. If time and capacity allow, the RDI will support research in partnership projects through the provision of advisory and / or direct support to projects at the regional or corridor level. Requests will be evaluated against RDI capability and capacity and alignment with regional research priorities.

¹ This includes RDI researchers outside of RDI-related responsibilities. CBT RDI related funds will not be used for any related projects.

CENTRAL SYSTEM FOR SUPPORT REQUESTS

To access the RDI's Research Support Services or Data and Information Provision Services, to connect with college faculty and students, or to link to regional, provincial and national rural development networks, please submit a request for support via our website: www.cbrdi.ca/research-support. An RDI team member or college faculty member will contact you to follow up on your request.

To discuss the RDI's existing research products or ongoing projects, contact the staff member responsible for your topic of interest.

DR. TERRI MACDONALD (tmacdonald@selkirk.ca)

- Economic development; Business Retention & Expansion, collaboration with colleges, CBT and local governments; RDI operations and governance

LAUREN RETHORET (lrethoret@selkirk.ca)

- Water; air quality; climate; infrastructure; housing; demographics; research advisory and data provision services

NADINE RAYNOLDS (nraynolds@selkirk.ca)

- Recreation; heritage; culture; arts; education and learning; civic engagement; safety

ADRIAN LESLIE (aleslie@selkirk.ca)

- Biodiversity; land management; food

JONATHAN BUTTLE (jbuttle@selkirk.ca)

- Business climate; economic sectors; workforce; health & wellness

SHARON STODDART (sstoddart@selkirk.ca)

- Communications; marketing; RDI administration