Launched in January 2013, the ACSRC hopes to provide a valuable resource of previous ICSPs to rural communities, an up-to-date source of information and a mechanism that may support rural sustainability as communities shift from plans to implementation. We hope this inventory and sharing of ICSPs will foster collaboration and information exchange among the many and diverse rural communities in Canada, so that they may learn from and support each other in their quest for sustainability.

Moving forward, the ACSRC will continue to add and modify the CSPI to enhance the user experience.

**Canadian Sustainability Plan Inventory (CSPI) Launches**

The CSPI is the most comprehensive searchable online inventory of sustainability plans in Canada. The CSPI can be accessed via [http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/cspi/](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/cspi/)

Sustainability in rural communities of Canada has received increased attention at the local and national scales. Canada’s Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) made sustainability planning a key part of infrastructure and socio-economic development of communities across Canada. Slated to ultimately invest approximately $13 billion in sustainable municipal infrastructure such as transit, waste management, water and green energy by 2015, the GTF also provided support to municipalities for the development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs).

Many communities have now completed ICSPs or a provincial variant and these represent a wide range of approaches, toolkits, strategies and content within Alberta and from across the country. As such, there is no single solution or model for sustainability planning. Indeed, there is considerable variation in emphases among the targeted dimensions of sustainability and these emphases vary by region and by population size. This inventory provides a means for rural communities, researchers, and development practitioners to access how other communities from across Canada have approached sustainability planning in terms of process, content and areas of concentration.

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**HESJE INTERNSHIPS**

The ACSRC was pleased to assist with the supervision of two Hesje Interns during the Summer of 2013. The internship was established thanks to the Hesje Management Award, which strives to establish a summer internship that will enable the Augustana Bachelor of Management program to build supportive connections with the not-for-profit sector; providing meaningful learning experiences for students; and develop expertise in a distinctive program niche. This year’s award recipients were Chris Danderfer and Kathleen O’Connor.

Mr. Danderfer, 3rd year B.Mgt student, worked with the Camrose Open Door Association. The Camrose Open Door provides short term and transitional supportive housing focused on youth aged 16-24. It also offers counselling, skill development, work experience and outreach services (drop in and through a 24-hour helpline). His primary tasks were to assist with marketing and financial projections for Café Connections, a venture of the Open Door, along with researching transitional housing programs.

Ms. O’Connor, 4th year B.Mgt student, worked with Habitat for Humanity Camrose. Habitat Camrose strives to build decent, simple and affordable homes in partnership with families and the community. Habitat for Humanity Camrose is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada and Habitat for Humanity International. Kathleen assisted with Fund Development.

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Camrose Open Door Youth Homelessness & Housing Assessment

The ACSRC, in collaboration with the Camrose Open Door Association and researchers at the University of Alberta, conducted a youth homelessness and housing needs assessment in the Spring/Summer of 2013. The purpose of this assessment was to establish the nature, scope and potential opportunities and challenges facing rural youth homeless in the Camrose region.

The research team found that youths aged 16 to 24 who are unable to live with their parents/guardians are increasingly vulnerable to becoming homeless due to an insufficient supply of affordable rental housing in Camrose and surrounding areas. Furthermore, this youth population faces a number of additional challenges and service requirements due to mental health and addiction problems, exposure to abuse and family violence, lack of educational and employment opportunities and/or having been in conflict with the law.

This project is a first step toward a thorough analysis of the needs of homeless and at-risk youth in order to identify gaps in service and to develop a strategic action plan for the Open Door to create transitional housing and support services for this target population.

For more information or to review the report, please visit the Open Door website: http://www.camroseopendoor.com/

Science without Borders (Brazil) Summer Intern

The University of Alberta has a goal to enhance research connections and encourage greater student mobility with Brazil, specifically through the Science Without Borders program. Launched in 2011, the Science Without Borders program provides Brazilian students with government scholarships to study and conduct research abroad at the undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral level.

This Summer the ACSRC had the great pleasure to host one student participating in the program, Lucas Rodrigo R. Mattos. Mr. Mattos worked with the Centre as an intern all summer putting his computer science studies to good use as he assisted with website design and implementation on the CSPI. His work was key in setting up a map-based interface for the site (expected to launch this Fall).

He is originally from Belo Horizonte, Brazil where he is a student at the Universidade Federa de Minas Gerais. He is spending all of 2013 studying at the Augustana Campus.