

## DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE CREATIVE ECONOMY SEMINAR

### The rural creative economy: Agenda for research

Dr. Yolande Chan - QSB, Dr. Betsy Donald – Queen's University, Craig Desjardins - Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington CFDC and Dr. Kevin Stolarick – Martin Prosperity Institute  
May 25, 2010, 12-1 pm

#### Seminar Abstract

This seminar completes a five-part series of creative economy discussions. Having addressed creative economy theory, practice and policy, the attention now shifts to the creation of a research agenda. Panel members will present findings from recent research on the creative economy in rural Eastern Ontario. They will discuss implications for research and action moving forward, and invite both researchers and practitioners to address challenging business and economic issues. The goal will be to look forward to address emerging research and business needs.

#### Key Discussion Points

- How do we move from ideas into action? Examples:
  - Continue community involvement through seminars/conferences/workshops.
    - Creative Economies seminar series.
    - KIS Showcase/Discovery workshops.
      - Success stories.
      - Queen's business consulting.
  - Monieson Centre/OMAFRA/ U of Guelph Rural Research Priorities project.
- How do we contrast different geographical regions and success stories so the research is publishable in high quality journals? How do you develop generalizable findings out of local stories and idiosyncrasies?
  - Build the research across space – make it a big project.
  - Collaborate with researchers in different regions to ask similar research questions and produce data that can support generalizable findings.
  - Make use of statistical data. Combine quantitative and qualitative data.
- There are many points of excellence at Queen's. There is a wealth of knowledge and technological development/research happening across the university. How can others in the university engage with research happening in local communities?
  - Work regionally or mega-regionally rather than just locally.
    - Use Kingston as a hub of a larger wheel.
  - Sponsor, promote and participate in dialogue events that connect academics with business and community leaders.
    - Develop an Eastern Ontario ideas conference similar to the IDEAS Boston events. ([www.ideasboston.com](http://www.ideasboston.com))
    - Sponsor a themed event where a group of academics, business and community leaders each speak for about 15 minutes.
  - Connect with a nexus like The Monieson Centre.
  - Use success stories to let people see advances in Eastern Ontario economic development.
    - Partner with artists, film makers, creative writers, to produce these success stories in different formats.
    - Create short films and presentations.
    - Government of Canada/Province of Ontario may have funding for this.