



# 2020 Year in Review

## To Supporters & Friends of the BC Rural Centre:

2020 was a certainly a memorable year.

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered our lives and created significant social and economic challenges for many. Unfortunately, it also resulted in personal loss and grief for many BC families. To those families, our deepest sympathies for your loss.

As many followers of the BC Rural Centre (BCRC) will know, in 2019 the BC Rural Centre began collaborating with the [Rural Coordination Centre of BC](#) on rural health communication issues. The Rural Coordination Centre of BC (RCCbc) supports and develops provincial initiatives by engaging and coordinating with rural healthcare providers to facilitate the development of local and/or regional solutions to improve rural health care in BC.

In 2020, the BC Rural Centre's work with the RCCbc has primarily centered on facilitating dialogue and information sharing between BC's major health provider organizations and rural organizations and communities. We were also very pleased to be asked to participate in the planning and facilitation of a provincial health and wellness summit held in late June 2020. A multi-organizational effort led by the RCCbc and First Nations Health Authority saw over 900 individuals from across BC participate in the highly successful 2 day summit held via Zoom video conferencing.

As a result, of the COVID-19 pandemic and our partnership with the RCCbc - the vast majority of the BC Rural Centre's work centered on health care issues in 2020. During the year we developed and/or published over 70 articles, webinars and podcasts and participated in over 90 meetings discussing rural health issues. The BC Rural Centre website's [health page](#) includes many of these resources and showcases two informative videos on successful innovations in rural health care. In 2021, we look forward to continuing to work with the RCCbc, the [BC Rural Health Network](#) and other organizations on the critical issue of rural health care.

While rural health care issues dominated our work, we also continued our efforts on other topics of importance to rural communities. Our opinion and commentary on rural issues is often sought out by provincial, regional and local media. We also continued to respond to requests from other organizations and individuals across the province seeking information on rural development tools and resources.

We participated in a [video](#) produced by the provincial government's Connected Communities initiative highlighting the importance of rural internet connectivity and the success of the rural community of Kaslo in creating a community-owned internet provider. We also continued to provide information and presentations to individuals and organizations interested in learning more about community-based investment models. We organized and hosted a [webinar](#) to promote the release of the new BC Community Investment Start-up Guide. The guide was developed by Kootenay Employment Services with support from the BC Rural Centre. Finally, we developed and submitted an application to try and secure government funding to help us be able to offer expanded programs and assistance to BC's rural communities.

There is little doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has created new - and long-lasting – additional challenges for BC's rural communities. However, we will do our best in the coming year to continue to provide highly inspirational and relevant information, tools and resources to achieve our mission to **Inspire → Share Tools → Cultivate Capacity → Facilitate Action** in order to help rural BC communities respond to these challenges and succeed.