



Presentation Session: Rural Revenue Generation

DATE:

Wednesday, November 16th, 2022

TIME:

3:00-4:30 PM

FORMAT:

Four 15-minute oral presentations followed by a 30-minute discussion

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This session presents different research, case studies, and stories on rural revenue generation in Northern Ontario or other rural, remote, northern, and island communities. It touches on themes such as rural economic development, sustainable rural development, innovative rural business models, lasting rural income generation, and others. It also provides participants with the opportunity to join the discussion, give their input, and share their knowledge, best practices, or stories with the other participants.



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Presentations:

Presentation 1

Time: 3:00–3:15 PM

Title: Remote Controlled: Technology and the Canadian Mining Sector - Part 1: National Perspective

Author: Heather Hall (University of Waterloo)

Abstract: The mining sector in Canada is entering an “age of disruption” where advances in technology have the potential to fundamentally reshape the future of work and the development of rural regions. The mining sector employs hundreds of thousands of people across the country and is the foundational industry for many communities. While the impacts of technology changes could be significant, there is little research on how these changing technologies could impact rural mining communities. The goal of this multi-year, national project is to examine the social and spatial dimensions of emerging technologies in the Canadian mining sector in order to: (1) determine the nature and extent of emerging technologies; (2) examine how these technologies are reshaping the sector; (3) identify what is driving the adoption of emerging technologies; and (4) explore the impacts on the development of rural regions and the potential responses to these impacts. Part 1 will introduce the project, exploring the potential challenges and opportunities facing rural mining communities as technology changes, including shifts in education and skills training and impacts on local business development. The research team will also present the results of a systemic review of the mining literature – what it can tell us, and where we have knowledge gaps.

Presentation 2

Time: 3:15–3:30 PM

Title: Remote Controlled: Technology and the Canadian Mining Sector - Part 2: Systematic Review Findings

Authors: Mackenzie Crabbe (University of Waterloo), Joelena Leader, Heather Hall (University of Waterloo), and Matt Burdett

Abstract: This presentation will present findings of a systematic scoping review focused on understanding current trends in mining innovation over the past five years. More specifically, our team reviewed articles in the Canadian Mining Journal to assess the main drivers, barriers, and opportunities for technology adoption in the Canadian context. Through this research, we have discovered that multiple drivers exist in the adoption of new technologies such as increasing productivity, sustainability, reducing costs, and improving safety. There are also several barriers to adopting new technologies such as technical limitations, lack of skilled workforce, and market volatility. Overall, our research demonstrates that each technology has its own set of drivers and barriers in its adoption that must be fully examined to capture the extent of disruption in the mining sector and examine the potential impacts on communities, as well as the future of work and regional development across Canada.



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Presentations:

Presentation 3

Time: 3:30–3:45 PM

Title: Remote Controlled: Technology and the Canadian Mining Sector - Part 3: Preliminary Case Study Findings

Authors: HHeather Hall (University of Waterloo), Sarah-Patricia Breen (Selkirk College), Kelly Vodden (Memorial University), Brady Reid (University of Waterloo), Joelena Leader, Leanna Butters (Memorial University), Laura Stern (Selkirk College), and Janelle Skeard

Abstract: This presentation will focus on initial results from the four case study regions: Northern Ontario, British Columbia, the Yukon, and Labrador. The research team will present key findings related to technology types, drivers of technologies, and potential implications – good and bad – for the regions in question. Included will be examples of place-specific impacts and responses.

Presentation 4

Time: 3:45–4:00 PM

Title: Remote Controlled: Technology and the Canadian Mining Sector - Part 4: Exploring Technology Adoption in the Mineral Mining Industry in Canada

Author: Mackenzie Crabbe (University of Waterloo)

Abstract: This presentation will present findings from a master's research project exploring the drivers, enablers, and barriers of technology adoption in the mining industry in Canada (excluding Nunavut and NWT). The mining sector has traditionally been viewed as slow to adopt new technologies, and there is a gap in the literature on the factors that drive technology adoption in the mining industry, particularly in Canada. More specifically, this research seeks to answer the following research questions: (1) what technologies are being adopted in the mining sector in Canada; (2) what is driving the adoption of these technologies? (3) what factors are barriers to the adoption of new technologies? and (4) what factors are enablers to the adoption of new technologies? Findings are based on a survey with a variety of mining industry representatives and experts.



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