

State of Rural Canada

RPLC Webinar September 20, 2016

Outline

- Introduction
- North
- Atlantic
- Ontario
- Saskatchewan
- British Columbia
- Recommendations
- Policy Responses
- Disucssion

Panelists

- Chris Southcott, Lakehead University
- Robert Greenwood, Harris Institute/Memorial
- Laurie Guimond, Universite Quebec Montreal
- Al Lauzon, University of Guelph
- Heather Hall, University of Waterloo
- Ryan Gibson, University of Guelph
- Laura Ryser, University of Northern BC
- Bill Ashton, University of Brandon, RDI
- Sean Markey, Simon Fraser University

Partners

- Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
- Rural Policy Learning Commons
- Rural Development Institute



Volunteer Team

- Lars Hallstrom
- Jennifer Stonechild
- Wilissa Reist
- Greg Halseth
- Laura Ryser
- Sean Markey
- Bill Ashton
- Wanda Wuttunee
- Stephanie LaBelle
- Ruth Mealy
- Tom Beckley
- Rob Greenwood
- Alvin Sims
- Nina Nunez
- Chris Southcott
- Ashley Mercer
- Pertice Moffitt
- Al Lauzon
- David Douglas
- Norm Regatlie
- Wayne Caldwell
- Jim Randall
- Don Desserud
- Katharine MacDonald
- Bruno Jean
- Laurie Guimond
- Heather Hall
- Rose Olfert
- Amanda Graham
- Ken Coates
- Alida Grelowski
- Roger Hayter
- Glen Schmidt
- Terri Macdonald
- Pat Curran
- Bill Reimer
- Ernest Heapy
- Russ McPherson
- Sarah-Patricia Breen
- Bojan Furst
- Ray Bollman
- Ryan Gibson
- Jo Fitzgibbons
- Mark Watson
- Elizabeth Fast

Report Structure, Intent

- Opinion, reflection vs. statistical report
- Thematic coherent:
 - Demographic, Economic, Infrastructure and Services, Aboriginal
 - Key provincial, territorial issues
 - Analysis, synthesis



Rural Context

- Economic restructuring
- Retreat from rural and the dismantling of rural institutions
- Population impacts
- Rural innovations
- Indigenous revival



Guiding Questions

- How is rural Canada changing?
- How does rural contribute / benefit broader society as a whole?
- What programs and policies are most likely to enhance rural vitality?



State of Rural...

Nunavut, the North

Community	Population 2011	% change from 2011 to 2001	% change from 1991 to 2001
Nanisivik	0	-100.0	-73.8
Grise Fiord	130	-20.2	25.4
Resolute	214	-0.5	25.7
Chesterfield Inlet	313	-9.3	9.2
Whale Cove	407	33.4	29.8
Kimmitut	455	5.1	18.6
Qikiqtarjuaq	520	0.2	12.6
Hall Beach	546	-10.3	15.8
Kugaaruk	771	27.4	47.9
Sanikiluaq	812	18.7	30.0
Arctic Bay	823	27.4	19.0
Coral Harbour	834	17.1	23.2
Taloyoak	899	24.9	24.1
Clyde River	934	19.0	38.9
Repulse Bay	945	54.4	25.4
Gjoa Haven	1279	33.2	22.6
Cape Dorset	1363	18.7	19.5
Pangnirtung	1425	11.7	12.4
Kugluktuk	1450	19.6	14.4
Igloolik	1454	13.1	37.4
Pond Inlet	1549	27.0	25.3
Cambridge Bay	1608	22.8	17.3
Baker Lake	1872	24.2	27.1
Rankin Inlet	2266	4.1	27.6
Arviat	2318	22.1	43.5
Iqaluit	6699	27.9	47.4

Demographics

- Nunavut population young and growing
- Relatively low levels of out-migration
- Challenges related to education and human capital
- Issue of social pathologies

Governance

- Increased self government but capacity remains an issue

Economy

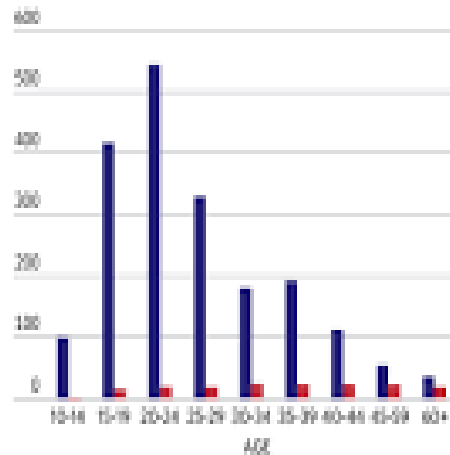
- Importance of mixed economy and public sector expenditures
- Mining increasing in importance
- Crafts, fishing, and tourism
- Interest in social economy

Nunavut's suicide spike

Rate of death by suicide, Inuit men in Nunavut (2004-2008 average) and all men in Canada (2004), by age cohort.

■ INUIT MEN IN NUNAVUT (2004-2008)
■ ALL MEN IN CANADA (2004)

ANNUAL RATE OF DEATH BY SUICIDE/
PER 100,000 POPULATION

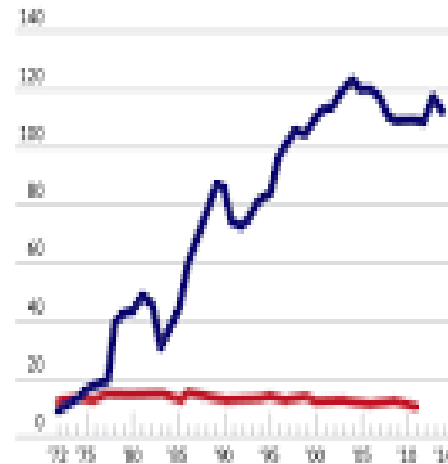


SOURCE: Analysis by Jack Hicks, former suicide prevention adviser for the Nunavut government, based on data from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut and Statistics Canada

Rate of death by suicide, Canada (all) and Inuit in Nunavut (5-year rolling average), 1972-2013.

■ INUIT IN NUNAVUT
■ CANADA (ALL)

ANNUAL RATE OF DEATH BY SUICIDE/
PER 100,000 POPULATION



TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

Challenges:

- Impacts of “historical trauma”
 - Social pathologies such as suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, homicide and assault, and family violence
- Food security
- Infrastructure
 - Housing
 - Energy
 - Water
 - Waste disposal
- Unemployment

State of Rural...

Atlantic

Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada is very rural, by whatever definition (there are many)

Urban adjacency helps

More remote / dispersed

- More transportation is an issue
- More exports matter
- More declining / aging populations

Lots of exceptions: pockets of success

Long-distance commuting: economic gains; family and community challenges

Aboriginal communities have better demographics

- But other social and economic challenges
- And there are lots of exceptions

Atlantic Canada

Rural is resource-based

- Production in many sectors very high
- With higher productivity, more technology, less employment
- Seasonality, dependence on EI continues (same with tourism)
- Mining, energy boom and bust
- Pulp and paper decline

Pockets of successful diversification

- “large-scale” manufacturing
- Small-scale niche production / manufacturing
- Primary processing
- Access to skilled management and labour increasingly difficult

Atlantic Canada

Governance

- Federal and Provincial support for regional development organizations reduced
- Public (and private) services centralizing
- Municipal Government very weak
- Imperative of regional cooperation / service provision (NB implementing new model)
- Community Business Development Corporations one source of continuity (with federal support)
- Social Enterprise, NGOs, Co-ops filling some of capacity gap

“At a crossroads” / “precipice” / “tipping point” / “need for a vision”

Enduring resilience / some committed to rural life style: “it’s not home, but it’s not the city either”

State of Rural...

Ontario

Rural Ontario

- Five types of rural regions: urban fringe communities, agriculture communities, cottage country communities, mining/mill towns, Aboriginal communities
- 393 non-metro communities with 52 that have <100 residents and 288 with 1,000-24,999 residents
- 1.4 million Ontarians live in areas under 10,000 in population and 1.1 million live in communities >10,000 but <100,000

The Demographic Challenge of Non-Metro Ontario

- Non-Metro Ontario has experienced growth of 8.8% between 1985-1991 and 0.5% between 2006-2011
- Future population projections for non-metro CDs: decline of youth (0-19) in all, a decline of young adults (20-44) in half, increases in most for middle aged adults (45-64) and growth in all for those over the age of 64
- Out migration of youth
- Immigration: in 2013 non-metro CDs received 1.5% of all immigrants residing in Ontario (1,601 out of 105,818)

Economic Opportunities and Challenges for Non-metro CDs

- Goods-producing sectors constitute 25.7% employment, with manufacturing declining from 230,000 to 102,000 but construction showing some growth
- Services-producing sectors constitute 72.2% employment, remaining fairly steady and employing just under 900,000
- top employment sectors are health care and social assistance (13.0%), retail trade (12.6%), manufacturing (10.7%), construction (7.8%), and accommodation and food services (7.3%)

State of Rural...

Saskatchewan

1

Demographics

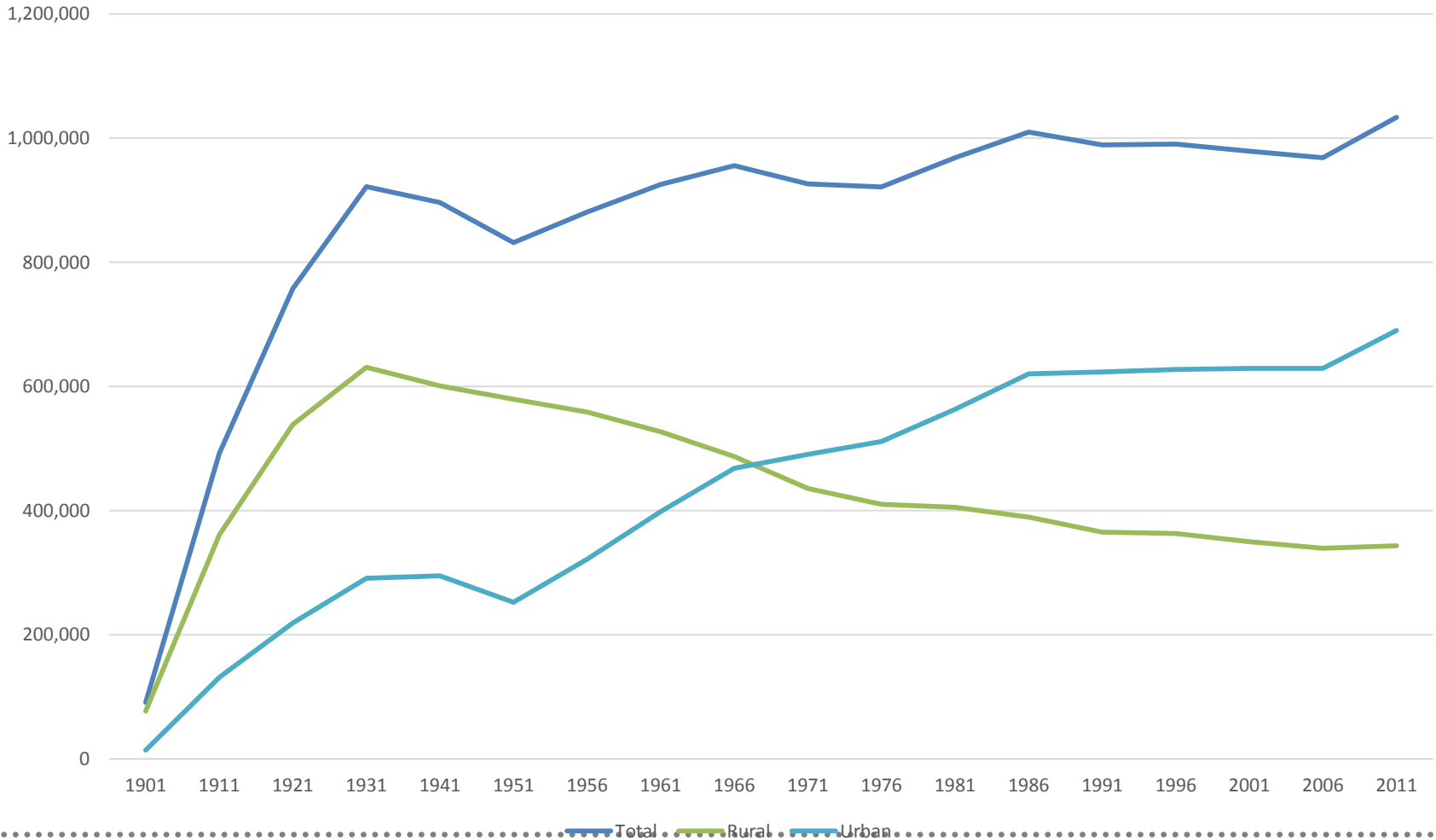
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Governance & Infrastructure

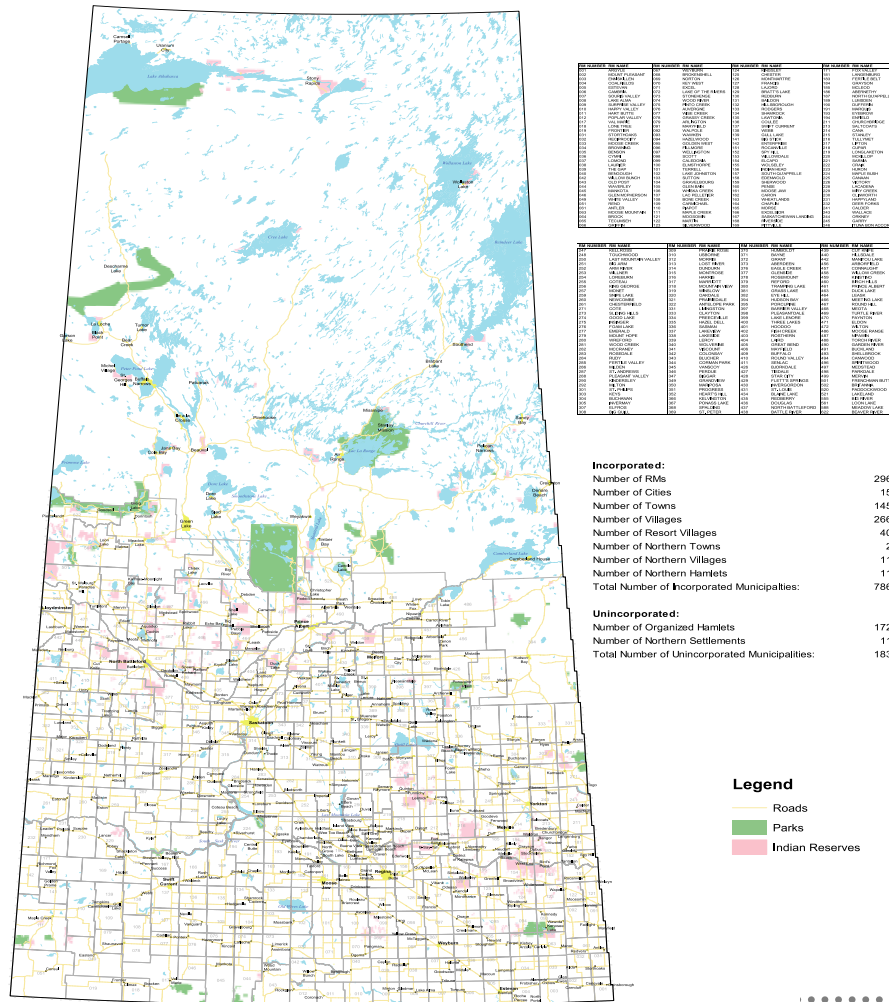
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Centralized Decision-making

Rural Demographic Trends



Saskatchewan Municipalities



781 incorporated municipalities in Saskatchewan

Rural municipalities experiencing decline

190,000 kilometers of
rural roads

Access and connectivity in the North

Concerns for the future of rural enterprise regions

By: Ashley Wills
March 28, 2012

As part of the provincial budget, enterprise regions will no longer receive funding, which means it's now up for individual communities to decide if the program should continue.

State of Rural...

British Columbia

Re-examining Governance Roles

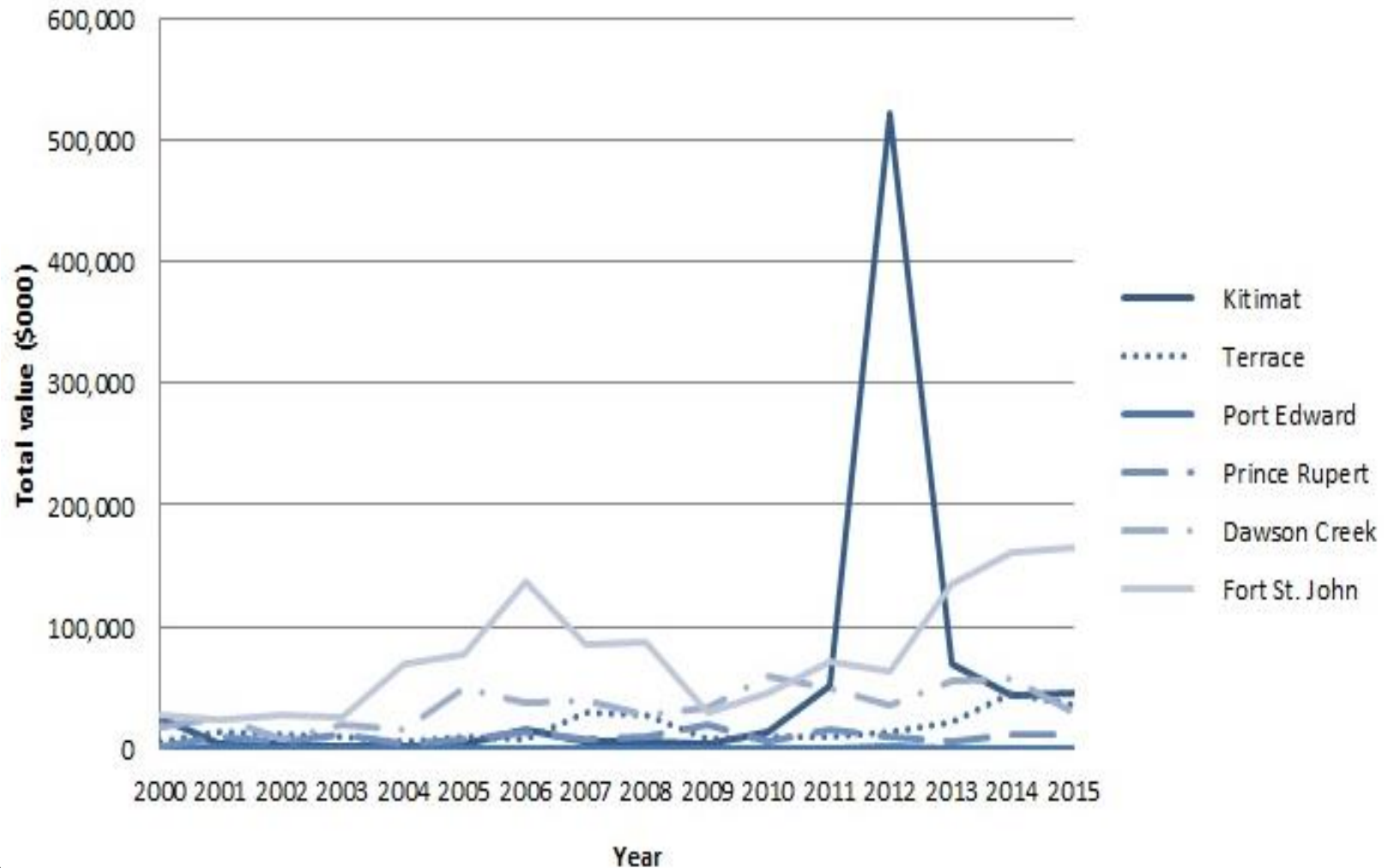
A turbulent landscape:

- Keynesian to neoliberal policy shift
- Local gov't struggle with perceived responsibility for social issues
- Service clubs / community groups need to renew vision / mandates (i.e. parks, housing, transit, etc.)
- Industry restructuring community programs
- Unsettled land claims – Tsilhqot'in decision
 - Lands excluded from gov't jurisdiction
- Lack of governance structures to understand cumulative socio-economic impacts
 - Local / regional level

Limited Re-Investment in Rural BC

- Limited re-investment in capacity / infrastructure
 - Post-war investments replaced with lack of investment
 - Aging infrastructure (i.e. transportation / housing)

Total Building Permits for Kitimat, 2000 to 2015



Limited Re-Investment in Rural BC

- Limited re-investment in capacity / infrastructure
 - Post-war investments replaced with lack of investment
 - Aging infrastructure (i.e. transportation / housing)
- Ownership of assets / leases
 - Example: Neighbourhood Learning Centres
 - Senior gov'ts retain ownership
 - Impedes long-term capacity / resilience of groups
- Limited investment in civil society / voluntary sector.....

A Smarter Rural BC?

- Policy calls for collaborative shared service arrangements
 - Ambiguous definition
 - Support for transition / coordination is limited
- Limited investment in social infrastructure
- Limited flexibility doesn't recognize rural context
 - Administrative, heating / utility, travel costs
 - Don't understand low program numbers
 - Reporting processes still function in silos
- Not responsive to regional waves.....

Recommendations...

Recommendation #1

- **Provincial and Federal governments must develop new and robust visions and policy frameworks for rural Canada.**



Recommendation #2

- **Rural communities must be active participants in understanding, planning and investing in their own futures.**
- From Case-making to Place-making!



Recommendation #3

- **All Canadians must participate in the window of opportunity that follows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to acknowledge and seek serious corrective steps to heal the “historical trauma” suffered by Aboriginal peoples in this country.**



Policy Responses

Ryan Gibson

Assistant Professor

**School of Environmental Design and Rural
Development**

University of Guelph

Heather Hall

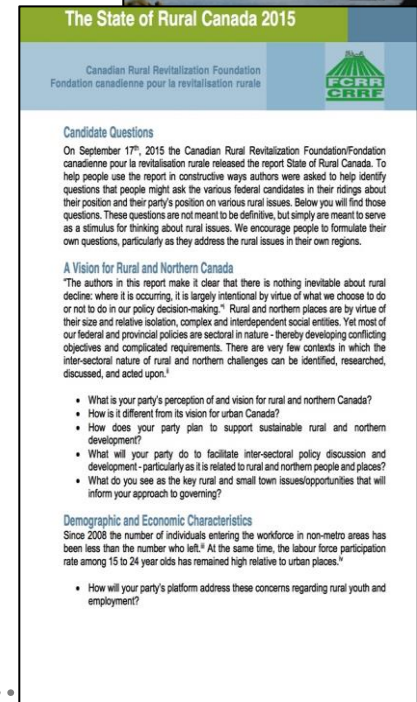
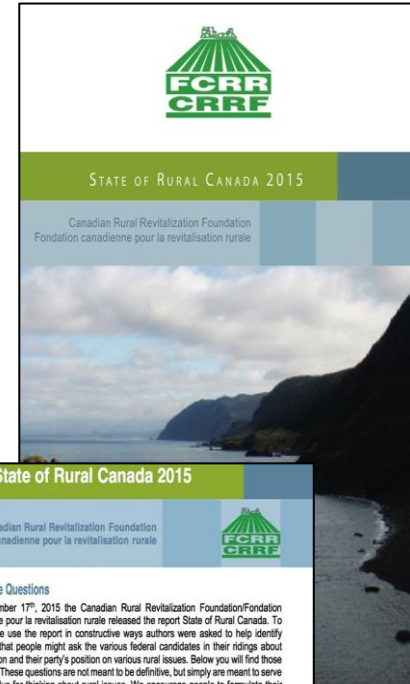
Assistant Professor

**School of Environment, Enterprise and
Development**

University of Waterloo

Responses to SORC

- **15,839** unique downloads
- 2015 federal election candidate questions
- SORC Report circulated to MPs and Senators; meetings being requested to discuss implications
- Informal discussions with provincial departments
- Presentations delivered across the country



Policy Context

- Rural policy context largely unchanged since report issued
- Commodity price downturn deepens
- Some provinces still shifting away from rural development

Policy Opportunities

- New federal government, new initiatives
- Upcoming provincial and municipal elections
- Innovative rural research with new evidence
- Foster connections among rural stakeholders

Questions????

- What should the future of rural development look like at the federal level?
 - Department, program, other?
- Does having a federal rural development (institution, policy, program) matter?
- What are examples of rural innovation in your region?

Rural Engagement



- **Crossroads...**
- **Authentic engagement**
- **Rural leadership**
- **Rural participation**

State of Rural Canada: www.sorc.crrf.ca

**Rural Policy Learning Commons:
www.rplc-capr.ca**

**Canadian Rural Revitalization
Foundation: www.crrf.ca**

**Rural Routes Podcasts –
www.ruralroutespodcasts.com**

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