1st Annual Rural Research Workshop

FROM POLICY TO RESEARCH AND BACK AGAIN

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Ottawa, ON

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Discuss two ideas

1. Rural lens: next generation

2. Refreshing policy in rural areas
Intension
• Improve government policy
• Reduce negative impacts
• Increase positive benefits
• Respond to feedback

Context
• Departments internally focused
• No legislative mandate
• Limited political/department support
• RCS broker of ‘rural matters’
• Policy impacts on rural regions
• Consultations, offers programs
• Promotes rural opportunities
• Nation-wide organization
• Rural teams (provinces, territories)
• Other RS (e.g., BC NL)
• International focus on rural - OECD
Rural lens (circa 1994)

Next generation…

• Support a network of rural research centers
• Each adds to rural lens composite
• Review policy impacts
• Share research
• Improve dissemination
• Help others learn & take action
Network of rural research centres

• Diverse expertise
• Construct/deconstruct policy & impacts
• Convene forums
• Grow rural researchers and policy practitioners
Idea…

For some rural areas government policy is modified (e.g., programs, service delivery)

• Which rural areas?
• Modified how?

Differentiated policy response
Which rural areas?

- Experiencing hardship, unique conditions (declining, rapid growth)
- Limited local capacity
- Distant from major market
- Dysfunctional economy (e.g., missing market of no supply yet demand)
Refreshing policy

Modified how?

- Respond to regional needs
- Eg., MB Immigrants (2003-2008)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 centres</td>
<td>7,816</td>
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<td>6 centres</td>
<td>558</td>
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<td>120+ centres</td>
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Differentiated policy response

- **Unit of action**: rural regional
- **Mode**: project charter, applied research
- **Mandate**: Enable and develop
  - Facilitate, partner and coach
  - Long term view
  - Engage community
  - Define concerns & priority actions
  - Match actions with government programs
  - Innovate program delivery to fit region
  - Check in, stay connected
• **Strengthen rural lens** with a network of rural research centres

• **Differentiate policy and service delivery** aimed at enabling and developing rural regions, one project after another
Thank you
Merci