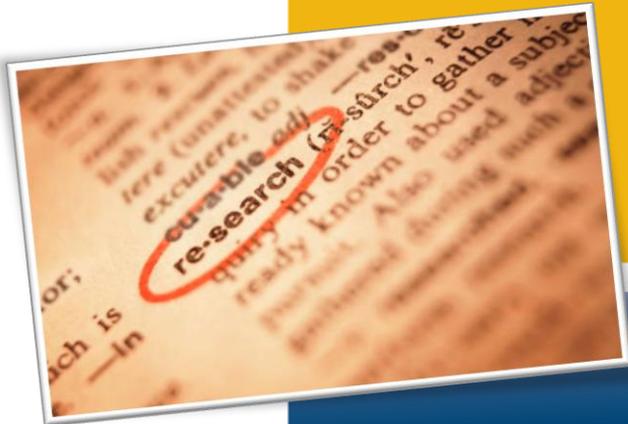




# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rural Research Workshop

## FROM POLICY TO RESEARCH AND BACK AGAIN

May 5, 2011  
Ottawa, ON



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# Discuss two ideas



**Rural lens: next generation**



**Refreshing policy in rural areas**



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## Intension

- Improve government policy
- Reduce negative impacts
- Increase positive benefits
- Respond to feedback

## Context

- Departments internally focused
- No legislative mandate
- Limited political/department support



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# Rural lens (now)



- 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



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## Network of rural research centres

- Diverse expertise
- Construct/deconstruct policy & impacts
- Convene forums
- Grow rural researchers and policy practitioners



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## Idea...

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

- **Which rural areas?**
- **Modified how?**

**Differentiated  
policy response**



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## 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)



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## Modified how?

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

<b>4 centres</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>6 centres</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>120+ centres</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Outside Wpg</b>	<b>10,497</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 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



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- **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



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# Thank you

# Merci