

Rural Canada Making a Difference

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Brandon University

Industry Canada
Western Division
Strategic Meeting
October 17 & 18, 2011





Objectives

- Context of change in rural Canada
- RDI history and activities
- Possible linkages between Industry Canada and RDI

Outline

- Rural Canada challenges
- About RDI
- Making connections
- Next steps



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Making Connections



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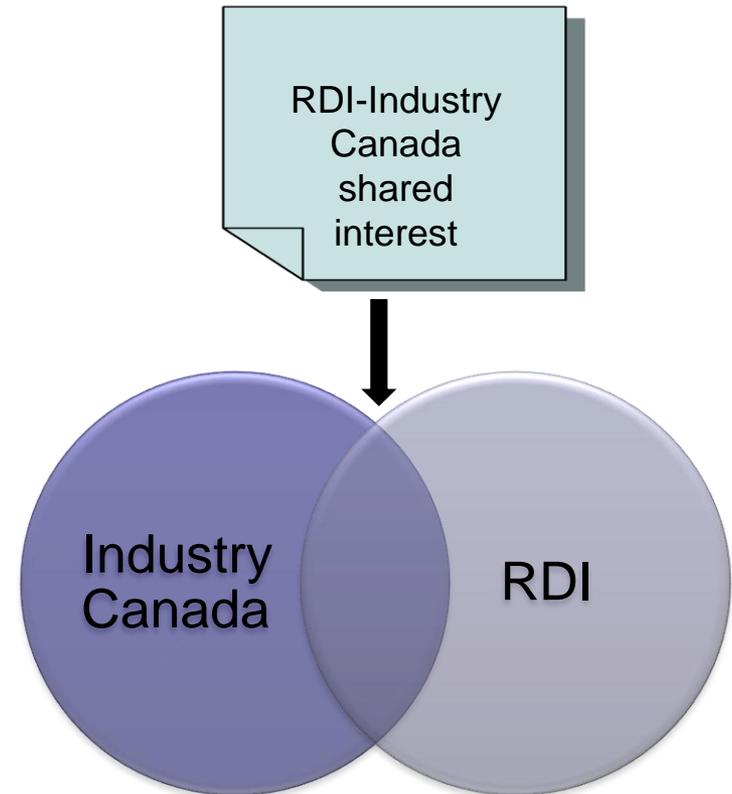


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Begin with the end in mind.

S. Covey

- Listen for overlaps/shared interests
- Record your ideas/overlaps
- One idea/note



Challenges of changes

- **Demographics** – population changes, *urbanization*, aging, Aboriginal growth
- **Economy** – *primary sector*, knowledge economy, income inequality
- **Globalization** – global competition/markets, extended networks, *immigration*
- **Governance** – *local to new regionalism*
- **Environment** – *Natural resources limits*, climate change, technology innovation



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Rural Canada - Demographics

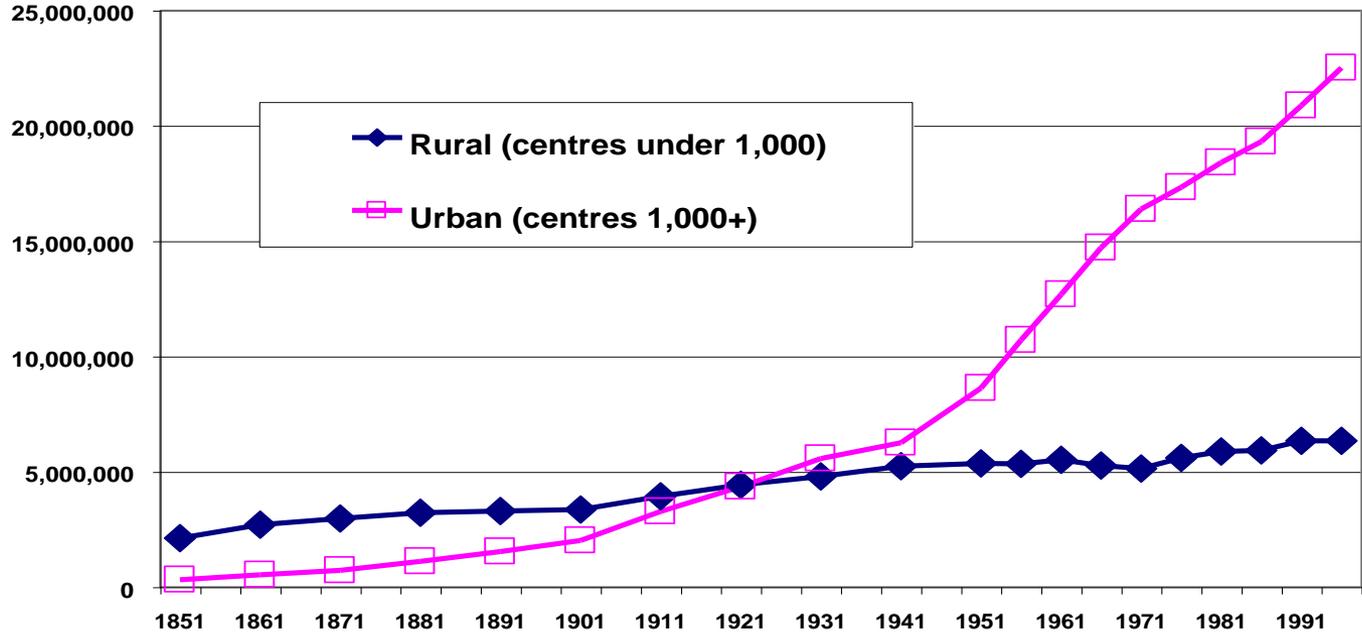
Rural minority - 1931



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Population trends: Rural minority in Canada in 1931



Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Population, 1851 - 1996.

Rural Canada - Demographics

Rural Impacts

- Shifting demands for services
- Labour force challenge (number, capability)
- Transportation challenge
- Shifting values and identity



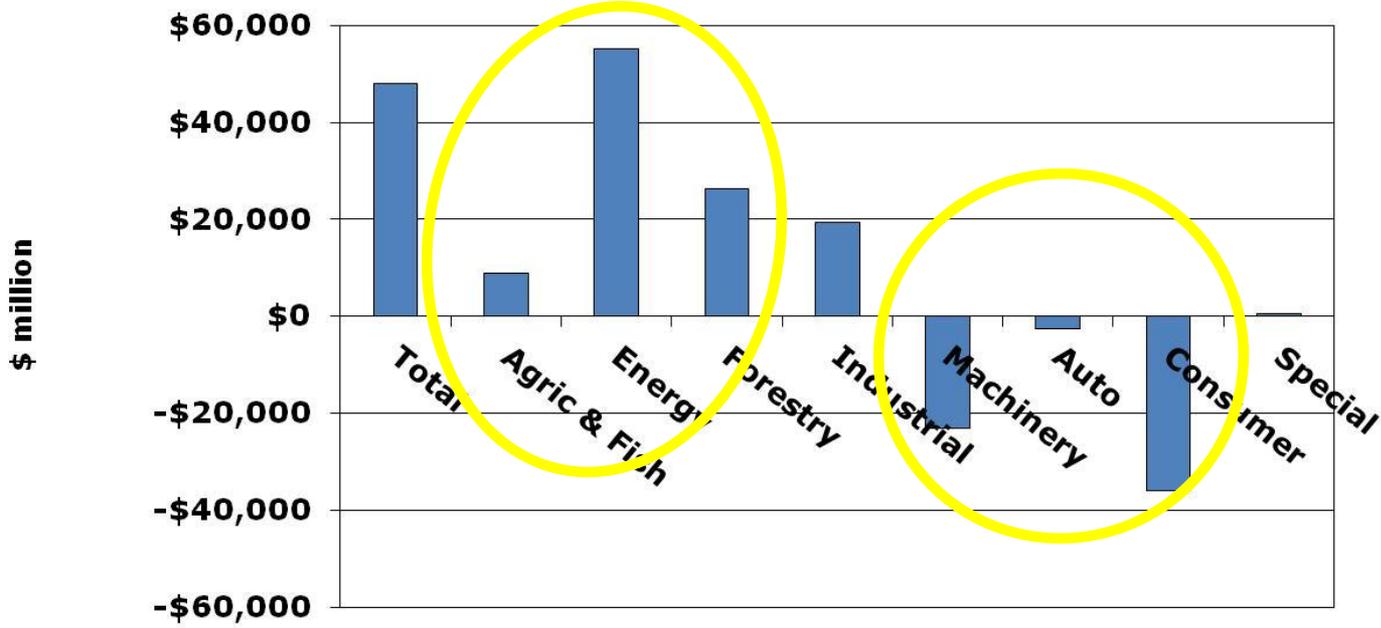
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Rural Canada - Economy

Canadian balance of trade 2007

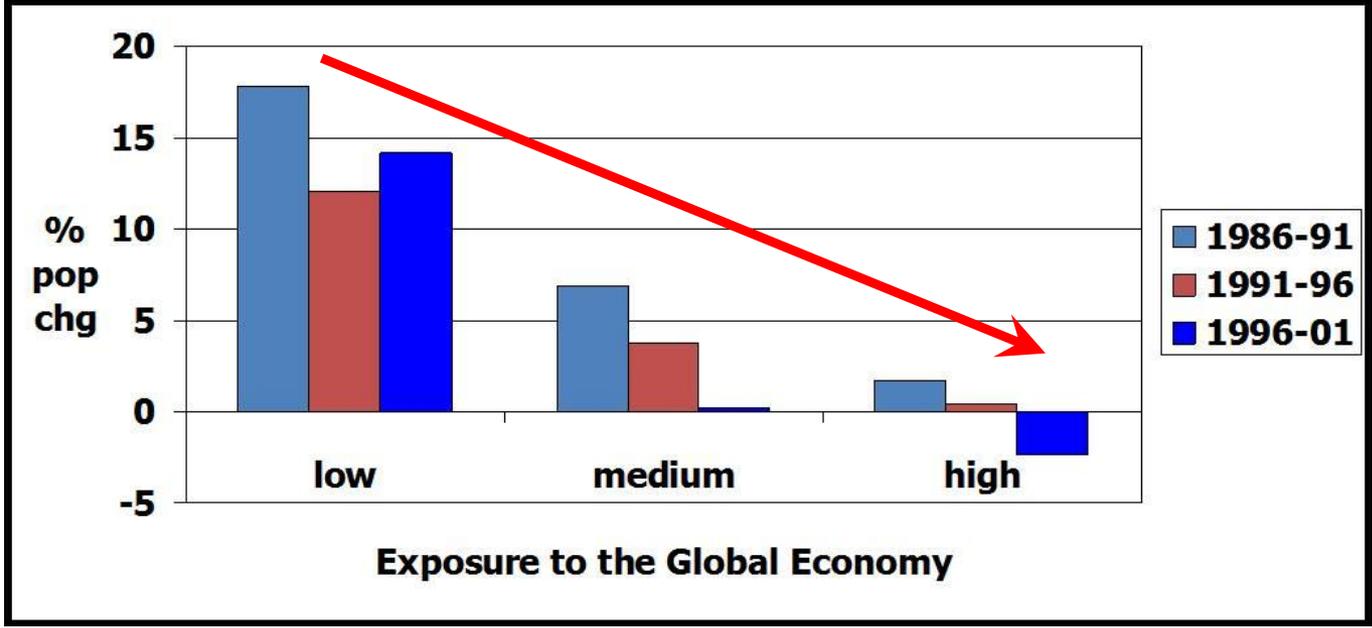


Source: Reimer, 2011



Rural Canada - Economy

Global exposure means low population growth



Source: Reimer, 2011



Rural Impacts

- Decline in population in resource-dependent communities
- Decrease income levels & increasing income gaps
- Increase stress
- Housing and infrastructure crisis



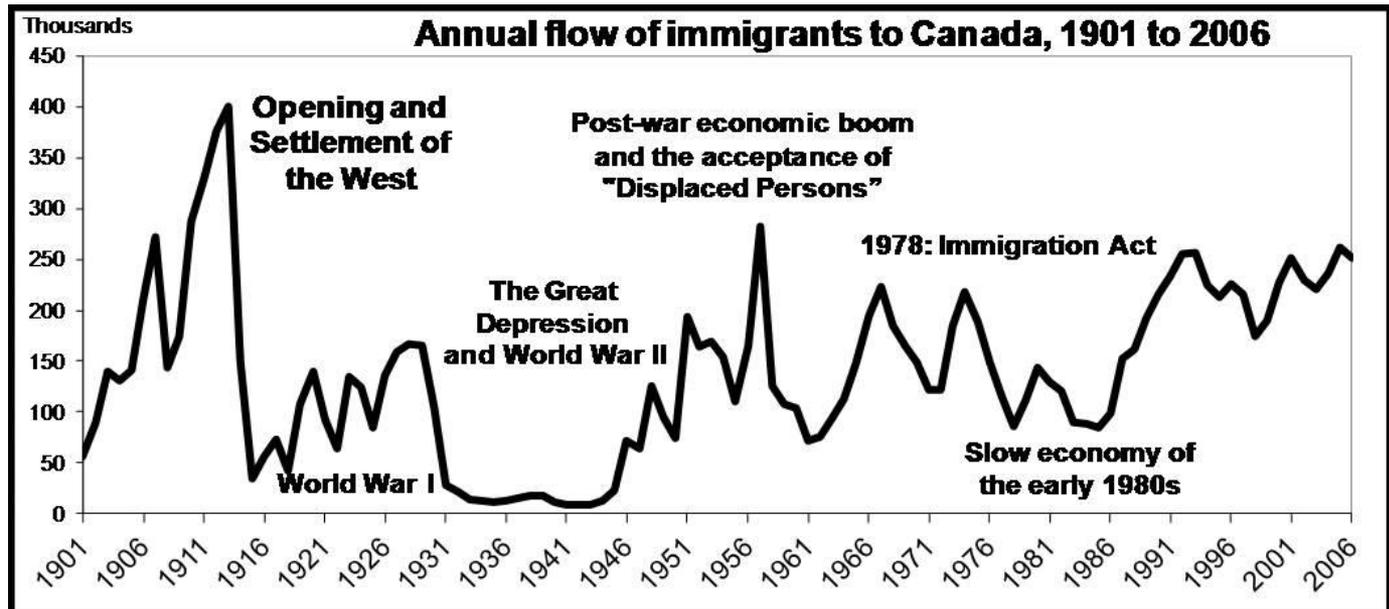
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Rural Canada - Globalization

Canada has welcomed over 1 million immigrants during the first five years of the millennium



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



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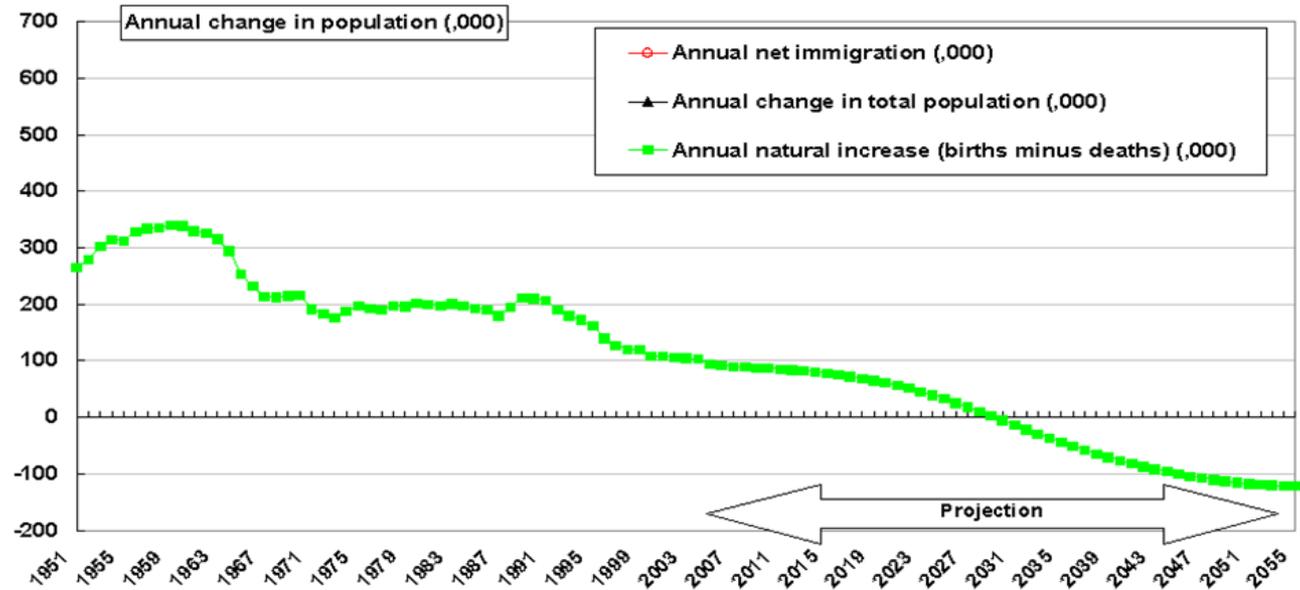


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Rural Canada - Globalization



Natural balance (births minus deaths) is projected to be negative in about 2030: then, all of Canada's population growth would come from immigration



Source: Statistics Canada (2005) Population projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-529-XIE). (www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=91-529-XIE#formatdisp)



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2013 immigration drive pop growth

Rural Impact

- Vulnerable to misinformed perceptions
- Retaining immigrants
- Expanding traditional local networks, and new networks



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Rural Governance Challenge

- **People** – fewer, older, aging quicker
- **Poorer** – increased income gap
- **Disparity** – legislation, fiscal, large/small centres
- **Fractured decision making** - increased remote control
- **Limited discussion** – evolution of local government, new regionalism of provincial/municipal government



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Rural Impact

- Increasing municipal inequality
- Increased demands on local governments (eg., floods in MB)
- Diminished services locally, yet some regional availability

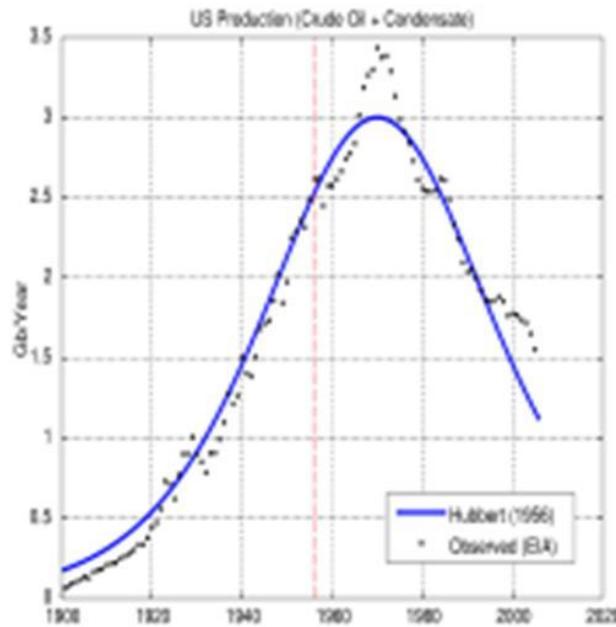


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Rural Canada - Environment



- Canada a trading nation research/manufacturing
- Limits emerging on some resources – cod
- Beyond peak oil (Hirsch, 2005)
 - Peak oil will happen
 - Transition 20 yrs
- Climate events more extreme

Manitoba farmers are continuing to face adverse growing conditions. Producers began the growing season tormented by high water tables and overland flooding. Now, they are facing droughts and hail storms.

Service Canada Labour Market Bulletin – Manitoba, September 2011



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Rural Impacts

- Big changes looming – resources
- Vulnerability to extreme weather – disasters
- Opportunity for alternate services – bio energy, more diverse sources
- Demand management remain important



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Rural Development Institute



Mission

- Use applied research to identify issues, define responses, and take action
- Support rural networks – local, Canadian, OECD

“Applied research is a systematic approach for solving practical problems” Wikipedia

Mandate

- co-create and disseminate knowledge
- grow rural researchers

Organization

- 20 years of applied research
- 13+ research affiliates, 5 FTE, 4 project managers, 4 grad researchers
- project funding, MAFRI link (leverage \$)



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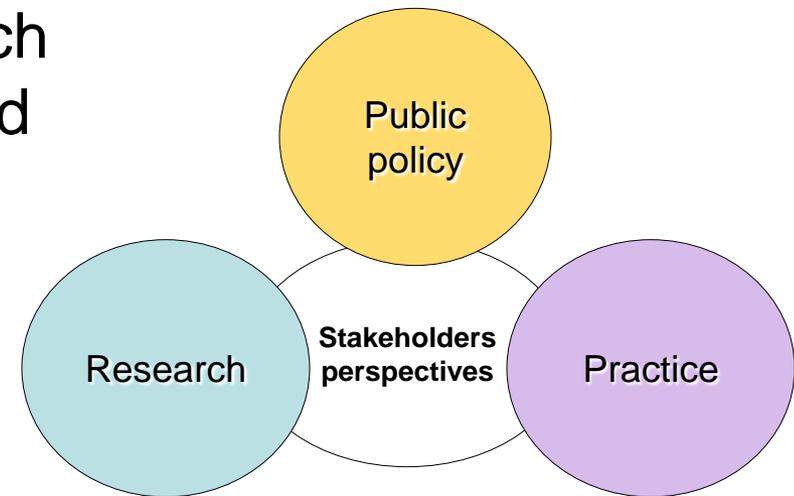


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Research approach

- Engage communities
- Involve multi stakeholders
- Conducting research
- Informing policy and practices



Research context

- Rural, northern, remote
- International rural comparisons (OECD)



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Projects	Impacts
Accessing CED tools for practitioners	Canada's first online categorization and review system for CED tools
Reducing greenhouse gases	Shelterbelts for beef farmers
Rural immigration	Improve retention rates, WISR model, understand community growth patterns
Invasive species Leafy spurge	New MB council EIA @
Social media tool meets strategy	Systematic implementation of policy

Emerging Topics

- **Regional** problem solving (local & govt)
- **Differential policy responses** (govt)
- **Policy implementation approach** - social media and social marketing
- **Applied disaster and emergency studies** (ADES) as rural development
- **Digital Economy and Broadband**
- **Aboriginal, northern, remote CED**



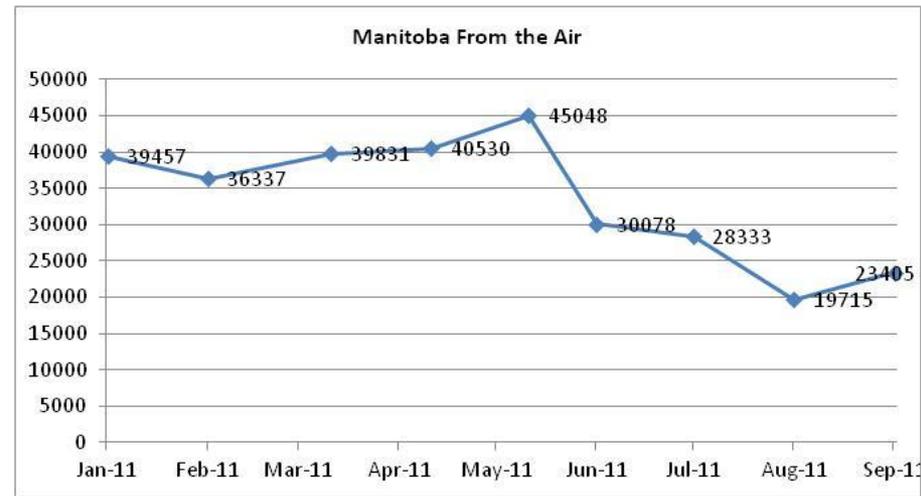
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Improving access to knowledge

- 15 journal articles
- 9 book chapters
- 10 books
- 171 reports
- 25 newsletters
- 8 fact sheets
- 8 websites
- 191 presentations



New

Journal of Rural & Community Development



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Support faculty in rural research

- 93 faculty peer reviewed articles, books, chapters, reports & presentations

Involve students

- 31 students, 116+ articles, reports, presentations, \$300k in student wages

Interact with rural networks

- CRRF, CRRN, CCEDNet, Rural Development Network (Fed. Gov), Rural Teams (MB, SK, AB), Rural research centres



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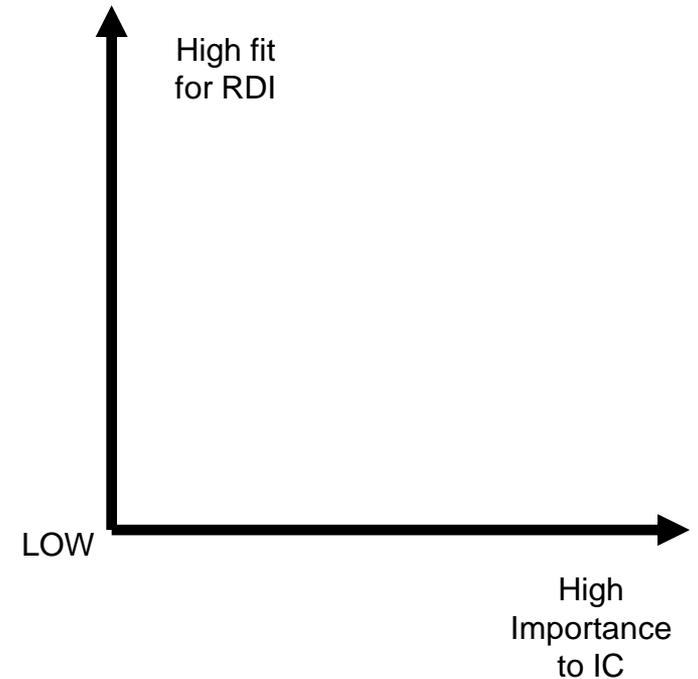


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Making connections



- Back to you
- Take a minute...
- Select ideas that are
 - **High importance**
 - **High fit for RDI**
- Post your ideas
- Discussion



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Thank you

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