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
Making Connections

Begin with the end in mind.

S. Covey

• Listen for overlaps/shared interests
• Record your ideas/overlaps
• One idea/note
Rural Canada

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
Rural minority - 1931

Population trends:
Rural minority in Canada in 1931

Rural Impacts

• Shifting demands for services
• Labour force challenge (number, capability)
• Transportation challenge
• Shifting values and identity
Canadian balance of trade 2007

Source: Reimer, 2011
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
Canada has welcomed over 1 million immigrants during the first five years of the millennium.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
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.

2013 immigration drive pop growth
Rural Impact

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

- Increasing municipal inequality
- Increased demands on local governments (e.g., floods in MB)
- Diminished services locally, yet some regional availability
Rural Canada - Environment

- Canada a trading nation research/manufacturing
- Limits emerging on some resources – cod
- Beyond peak oil (Hirch, 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
Rural Canada - Environment

Rural Impacts

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

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

Mandate
- co-create and disseminate knowledge
- grow rural researchers

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

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

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

Research context

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Accessing CED tools for practitioners</th>
<th>Canada’s first online categorization and review system for CED tools</th>
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<td>Reducing greenhouse gases</td>
<td>Shelterbelts for beef farmers</td>
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<td>Rural immigration</td>
<td>Improve retention rates, WISR model, understand community growth patterns</td>
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<td>Invasive species</td>
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<td>Leafy spurge</td>
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<td>Social media tool meets strategy</td>
<td>Systematic implementation of policy</td>
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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**
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
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
Making connections

• Back to you
• Take a minute…
• Select ideas that are
  – High importance
  – High fit for RDI
• Post your ideas
• Discussion
Thank you

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