

N R E

THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY



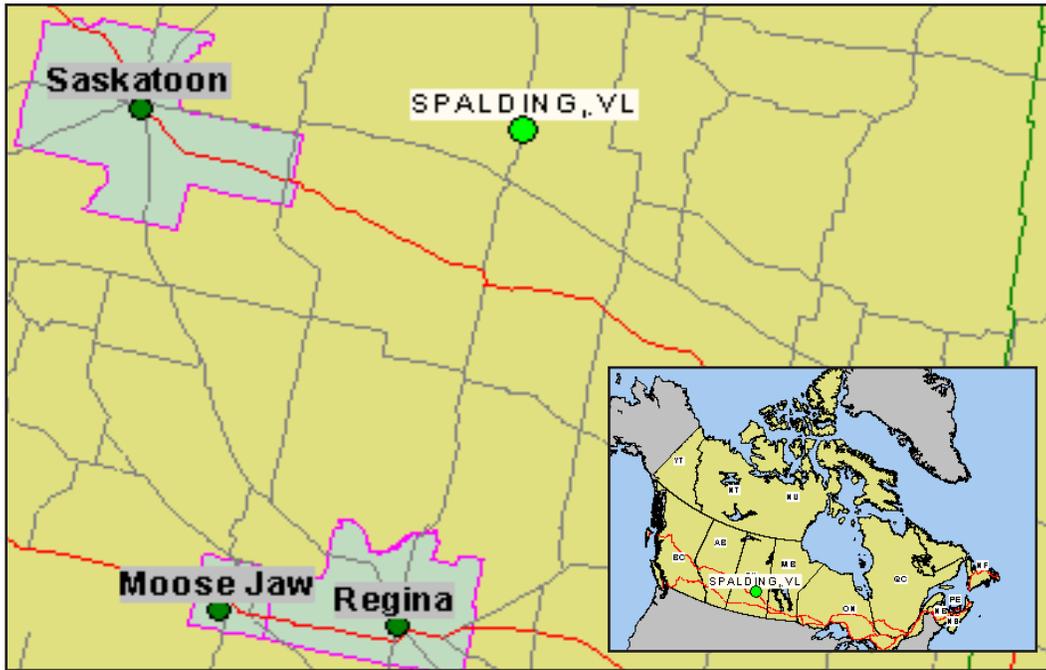
Site 23: Spalding, Saskatchewan

The village of Spalding is located 167 km Northeast of Saskatoon in central Saskatchewan. Spalding has a population of 281 and is a service center for the surrounding Spalding Rural Municipality, with a total population of 1049. The region has highly productive cropland and a historic focus on agriculture.

However the region is also notable for its high concentration of small agricultural manufacturing industries, which offer employment for people living in Spalding and in the region. An innovative business using Geographical Information Systems to link truckers to farmers for grain transportation is located in Spalding. This illustrates how new technologies

can create business opportunities in small rural communities.

Despite this, Spalding is experiencing rural depopulation as many of its young people move to larger centers. More farms consolidate and families decrease in size. The closing of its high school in 1986 as well as the downsizing of the hospital in 1996 to a community health centre has meant a loss of employment and business in the region. The community recently learned its elementary school would close. Although Spalding is able to provide essential services to its residents, many people travel to Humboldt, 54 km Southwest, or even as far as Saskatoon for other services.



Maps courtesy of Statistics Canada, Geography Division, 2000

<i>Characteristics in 1996</i>	<i>Spalding</i>	<i>Saskatchewan</i>	<i>Canada</i>
Population	281	990 237	28 846 761
1991 to 1996 population change (%)	-2.1	0.1	5.7
% of population ages 15 and over	80.3	76.9	79.5
Unemployment rate	0	7.2	10.1
Participation rate	41.3	67.3	65.5
% Primary industry	10.5	18.8	5.6
% Secondary industry	26.3	11.3	20
% Tertiary industry	63.2	69.9	74.4
Average number of persons in married or common-law families	2.8	3.2	3.1
Average number of persons in lone-parent families	2.8	2.7	2.6

Source: Statistics Canada

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