



Building Rural Capacity in the New Economy

Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada: Cross-Canada Summary Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
Building Rural Capacity in the New Economy - About the Project	2
About the Services Inventory	3
Availability	6
Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places	7
Education	7
Health	9
Protection Services	12
Legal Services	13
Financial Services	14
Communications	16
Elderly and Childcare Services	17
Government Services	18
Community Services	19
Transportation	21
Recreational Services	22
Shopping	24
Economic Development Organizations	25
Housing	27
Challenges and Opportunities for Rural and Small Town Places	28
Sources of Interest	31
Bibliography	33
Appendix A: Distribution of Services in the Central Place Hierarchy	37
Appendix B: NRE Site Profile Update 2003 Guide	38

BUILDING RURAL CAPACITY IN THE NEW ECONOMY - ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Building Rural Capacity in the New Economy* project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Initiative on the New Economy Program, works closely with residents, service providers, voluntary organizations, business members, and decision makers to identify factors that contribute to building capacity in rural and small town places across Canada. Capacity is the ability of people to mobilize their assets and resources to cope with stress and transition, or to capitalize on opportunities. Such capacity is built from trust and relationships grounded in institutions, organizations, businesses, and services alike. The project is built on four key themes to explore capacity including *local governance*, *communications*, *services*, and the *environment*. This report explores the relationship between services and local capacity.

The Services Research Centre conducted site profile surveys in the summer of 2003. This is the third survey conducted since 1998 with a goal to track services over time. Services play two key functions in building capacity. First, services help rural and small town places to cope with restructuring and transition as a result of economic downturns or plant closures. Job losses stemming from industrial restructuring or closure can place increased demands on local services for education and training, counselling, health care, and other support services. Without such services, residents would have to cope with the additional burden of having to leave their town to access assistance. Job and service losses present a significant challenge to rural and small town places working on revitalization.

Second, services provide opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust. Together, these can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. For example, schools or seniors' centres can act as multi-functional facilities for the community where local volunteer groups, sporting clubs, local theatre, and others can do their work in the absence of other facilities. Another example might be the way that post offices can act as a one-stop shop for a range of government services. This report focuses on the current service provision levels in rural and small town Canada. In particular, this report will compare the availability of services in rural and small town places by region and nationally. The availability of services is examined for 24 sites surveyed across Canada. These include 6 sites in Atlantic Canada, 4 sites in Québec, 5 sites in Ontario, and 9 sites in Western Canada.

Western Canada	Ontario	Québec	Atlantic Canada
Tumbler Ridge, B.C.	Tweed	Cap-à-l'aigle	Néguac, N.B.
Mackenzie, B.C.	Seguin	Ste. Françoise	Blissfield, N.B.
Port Alice, B.C.	North Plantagenet	Taschereau	Springhill, N.S.
Hussar, Alberta	Carden	St. Damase	Lot 16, P.E.I.
Ferintosh, Alberta	Usborne		Winterton, Nfld.
Wood River, Sask.			Twillingate, Nfld.
Spalding, Sask.			
Benito, Manitoba			
Rhineland, Manitoba			

ABOUT THE SERVICES INVENTORY

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation has been conducting research in 32 rural and small town sites across Canada. These sites form a type of “rural observatory” in which aspects of the *Building Rural Capacity in the New Economy* project may be examined. The sites participating in this project reflect the diversity of the Canadian landscape, and include forestry and mining towns, farming communities, and tourism towns. Furthermore, some of these places are located adjacent to metropolitan areas, while others are more isolated. In selecting these sites, a number of factors in the NRE sampling frame matrix were considered including low global exposure versus high global exposure, fluctuating versus stable economies, non-adjacent to metro areas versus metro adjacent, high capability versus low capability, and leading versus lagging (Reimer 2002).

To explore the exposure to global economic processes, sites were classified as high or low exposure to the global economy depending upon the level of employment in industries that are exposed to global economic processes (Reimer 2002). The employment base of census subdivisions was used to categorize places that may have stable versus fluctuating economies (Reimer 2002). This variable explores the proximity of selected sites to metropolitan areas. It is based on Census Sub-Divisions from Statistics Canada (Reimer 2002), and explores the individual skills and institutional infrastructure in the census subdivisions. There was a particular focus on measuring employment in education, health, and government sectors (Reimer 2002). Leading and lagging variables identify the capacity of a place to respond to social and economic restructuring (Halseth *et al.* 2004; Reimer 2002). Leading sites are typically identified by characteristics such as low unemployment, high percentage of income from employment, higher levels of education, lower housing costs, high rates of home ownership, and low levels of divorce and separation rates.

These dimensions were cross-examined to produce a matrix of 32 cells. The next step involved classifying 1,239 of the 4,882 rural Canadian census subdivisions into these cells, followed by randomly selecting one site from each of the cells (Reimer 2004). The final selection of sites was modified to obtain appropriate regional representation (Reimer 2002). Table 1 summarizes the final sites selected for the services inventory study, as well as the representation of the matrix variables.

Table 1: Sites Selected for Services Inventory Study

Community/ Province	Low Global Exposure	High Global Exposure	Stable Economy	Fluctuating Economy	Not Metro Adjacent	Metro Adjacency	High Capabilities	Low Capabilities	Lagging	Leading
Port Alice, B.C.		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy		Not Metro Adjacent			Low Capabilities		Leading
Tumbler Ridge, B.C.		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy	Not Metro Adjacent			Low Capabilities		Leading
Mackenzie, B.C.		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy			Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities			Leading
Hussar, Alta.		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities		Lagging	
Ferintosh, Alta.	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities		Lagging	
Spalding, SK		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy	Not Adjacent		High Capabilities		Lagging	
Wood River, SK		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy	Not Adjacent		High Capabilities			Leading
Benito, Manitoba	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy	Not Adjacent		High Capabilities		Lagging	
Rhineland, Manitoba		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent		Low Capabilities		Leading
Tweed, ON	Low Global Exposure		Stable Economy			Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities		Lagging	
Carden, ON	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities			Leading
Usborne, ON		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities			Leading
Seguin, ON		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy		Not Metro Adjacent		High Capabilities			Leading
North Plantagenet, ON	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent		Low Capabilities		Leading
Cap-à-l'aigle, QC	Low Global Exposure		Stable Economy			Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities			Leading
Ste. Françoise, QC		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy		Metro Adjacent		Low Capabilities	Lagging	
St. Damase, QC		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy			Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities			Leading
Taschereau, QC		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy		Not Metro Adjacent			Low Capabilities	Lagging	
Néguac, NB	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy	Not Adjacent			Low Capabilities	Lagging	
Blissfield, NB		High Global Exposure		Fluctuating Economy	Not Metro Adjacent			Low Capabilities	Lagging	
Lot 16, PEI	Low Global Exposure			Fluctuating Economy	Not Adjacent		High Capabilities			Leading
Springhill, NS	Low Global Exposure		Stable Economy		Not Adjacent		High Capabilities		Lagging	
Winterton, NFLD		High Global Exposure	Stable Economy			Metro Adjacent	High Capabilities		Lagging	
Twillingate, NFLD	Low Global Exposure		Stable Economy		Not Adjacent			Low Capabilities	Lagging	
SUM	11	14	10	14	12	12	15	9	12	12

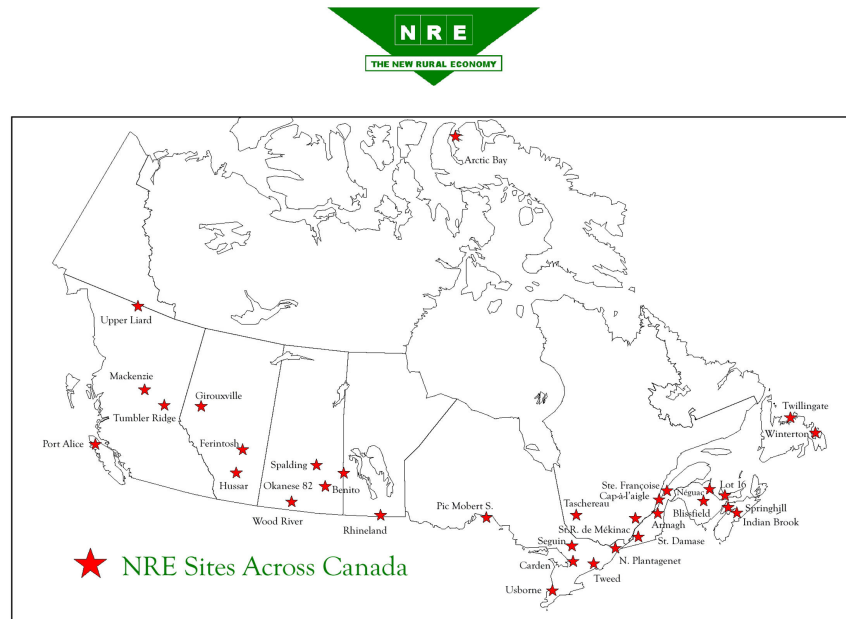
Evaluative Variables

While survey data for this report gives totals for respondent answers, in undertaking an analysis of these responses it is quite typical to use a set of ‘evaluative variables’ that may point out differences from the ‘overall’ pattern of responses. The evaluative variable used in this report included metropolitan adjacency to explore any differences between service provision in communities located adjacent to metropolitan areas versus the availability of services in places that were not adjacent to metropolitan areas.

In the summer of 2005, researchers visited 24 sites to update a service provision inventory. Data were collected to examine the availability of a range of services including:

education
health
protection services
legal
business services
communication
elderly and childcare
government

community
transportation
recreational
basic shopping
commercial shopping
economic development organizations
housing



AVAILABILITY

Copies of all site reports on services availability were distributed within participating sites. Additionally, copies have been posted on the project website (nre.concordia.ca) and on Greg Halseth's website (<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>).

Copies of the larger *Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Canada: Cross-Canada Summary Report* are available in a number of locations. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website: <http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>. Copies are also available on the project website at: nre.concordia.ca.

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Building Rural Capacity in the New Economy: Service Provision in Rural and Small Town Places

Services play an important role in retaining and attracting residents and businesses as they enhance local quality of life. However, rural and small town places across Canada are experiencing tremendous change stemming from economic and social restructuring in an increasingly global economy. As a result, some small places have been experiencing population declines. At the same time, federal and provincial government policies have been withdrawing some of the service infrastructure that can provide a foundation for revitalizing rural and small town places and assist residents to cope with the stresses associated with change.

Despite their importance, the provision of rural and small town services has long faced the challenge of geography. Large distances, coupled with low population densities, have meant higher service delivery costs per capita (Furuseth 1998; Struthers 1994). Central place and retailing models reinforce how difficult it is for rural and small town places to provide services, especially specialized services (Halseth and Rosenberg 1991; de Souza 1990; Blacksell *et al.* 1988; Pinch 1985). But services are becoming increasingly important as rural and small towns confront accelerated social and economic transition, not just for families, but also for economic activities that will not locate in places without basic educational, medical, or community services (Halseth *et al.* 2003).

Some rural and small town places adjusted to transition through establishing innovative services or diversifying their local economies. These types of innovations suggest one way by which services help to build capacity within a place. Services also help to build capacity by providing opportunities for building relationships, partnerships, and trust, which subsequently can lead to new partnerships and innovative ways for delivering services where they might otherwise not exist. Together, services can help to enhance local quality of life and mitigate out-migration from rural and small town places. This report explores changes in service provision in rural and small town places across Canada between 1998 and 2005.

Educational Services

Inadequate educational services can be one reason for turnover in rural and small town places (Gill and Everitt 1993; Porteous 1976; Jackson and Poushinsky 1971). For example, the absence of a local high school can lead to out-migration of young families. Educational opportunities for retraining are also limited in rural and small town places (Riffel 1975). In addition, post-secondary institutions are not usually within commuting distance. As a result, youth leave to obtain higher education and training in larger towns (Bunce 1991).

However, educational institutions are playing a changing role in maintaining quality of life in rural and small town places. Schools have provided a place for after-school activities by community groups in the absence of other facilities (Carter 1990; Robinson 1990). Rosenfeld and Sheaff (2002) note that schools have provided amenities through their libraries, theatres, and

art galleries in places that would otherwise not have access to such services. They have also played a larger role in economic development for their region. Community colleges can provide skilled and professional workers, act as a broker of services, and act as a repository of information. They can also design programs and services that are relevant and respond to changing local labour market conditions.

Examining change over the last seven years reveals that while the availability of some educational services in these rural and small town places increased, other educational services have declined (Table 1). For example, there has been an increase in the number of sites that have a pre-school or kindergarten. On the other hand, there has been a decline in the percentage of sites that have an elementary school. Cuts in elementary schools are particularly noticeable in rural and small town sites adjacent to metropolitan areas. The loss of educational facilities, though, does not necessarily mean that the community has lost the function of the building altogether, and further research needs to be done to assess if sites were able to capitalize on the opportunity to turn the loss of educational facilities into another community service.

Table 1: Availability of Educational Services – All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Pre-school / kindergarten	*	*	*	*	50.0%	22	62.5%	24
Elementary school	76.0%	25	70.0%	20	63.6%	22	66.7%	24
High school	40.0%	25	35.0%	20	27.3%	22	37.5%	24
CEGEP / community college	13.0%	23	25.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
University	8.0%	25	10.0%	20	0.0%	22	0.0%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Data was not collected for this service that year.

Today, sites represented in the INE services inventory do not have access to many educational services within their communities, especially post-secondary education. Educational services focus mainly on the pre-school or elementary school levels. Results indicate that educational services are available in a greater proportion of sites in Atlantic and Western Canada when compared to the national sample (Table 2).

However, a wider range of educational services are available within 30 minutes of many of the sites. This finding is different from previous research that notes post-secondary educational facilities are not within commuting distance of small places (Bunce 1991). In fact, while the availability of educational services is particularly low in Ontario and Québec, almost all of the Ontario sites can access these educational services within 30 minutes. This question of geographic scale is important. Earlier models, that sought to provide services within sites, have been replaced by urban and market driven models that often ‘rationalize’ services out of rural and small town locations. This summary highlights the outcomes of that shift in the way educational services may not be offered in the study site, but are available within the region.

Table 2: Availability of Education Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Pre-school/kindergarten	62.5	100.0	66.7	100.0	60.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Elementary school	66.7	100.0	66.7	100.0	60.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
High school	37.5	100.0	44.4	100.0	40.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
CEGEP / College	16.7	70.8	22.2	66.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	66.7
University	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: 2005 Site Profile.

Health Services

Health services, including home support, meals-on-wheels, and doctors, have experienced new pressures and demands from seniors migrating to rural and small town areas (James 1999; Everitt and Gfellner 1996; Robinson 1990). As restructuring occurs, closures of hospitals and the centralization of physical and mental health services have been particularly difficult on the elderly and the poor (Liu *et al.* 2001) who do not have access to a vehicle and who may live in places with limited transportation services. However, it is not just the utility of health services that is of concern, but also the potential loss of jobs that can lead to a further out-migration and a decline in the economy.

Health services consist of many highly specialized health professions, such as optometrists, CT scan facilities, and rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. The delivery of specialized, rather than general, health services is not well suited for rural health delivery frameworks where lower population levels cannot sustain these services (Northern and Rural Health Task Force 1995). Furthermore, health professionals are often trained in these highly specialized professions with standardized education as opposed to being trained to be rural health generalists able to offer a wider range of services. Struthers (1994) notes that without a general service model suited to rural and small town places, no services often result.

By examining changes in health care facilities between 1998 and 2005, it appears that access to health care facilities has been declining (Table 3). Cuts have been most noticeable to hospital, ambulance, and emergency services. For example, while 25.0% of the sites had a hospital in 1998, just 12.5% of the sites had one in 2005. The availability of ambulance services has been reduced from 60.9% of sites in 1998 to 41.7% of sites in 2005. Even more concerning is that emergency services were reduced from 60.0% of sites in 2000 to just 16.7% of sites in 2005. While cuts in hospitals were more pronounced in non-adjacent sites, these places experienced an increase in the availability of health centres from 36.4% in 2003 to 58.3% in 2005. These changes may reflect the downgrading of hospitals to health centre status.

Table 3: Availability of Health Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Hospital	25.0%	24	20.0%	20	18.2%	22	12.5%	24
Health centre / CLSC	*	*	*	*	27.3%	22	37.5%	24
Medical clinic	*	*	*	*	40.9%	22	37.5%	24
Blood / urine testing facility	33.3%	24	52.6%	19	36.4%	22	41.7%	24
X-ray facility	29.2%	24	35.0%	20	22.7%	22	20.8%	24
Baby delivery facility	8.7%	23	5.0%	20	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
CT scan facility	0.0%	24	5.0%	20	0.0%	22	0.0%	24
Nursing home	20.8%	24	10.5%	19	13.6%	22	16.7%	24
Pharmacy	*	*	50.0%	20	40.9%	22	37.5%	24
Ambulance	60.9%	23	30.0%	20	36.4%	22	41.7%	24
Emergency services	*	*	60.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Today, health facilities are limited in most of the rural and small town places examined (Table 4). Of particular interest is that fewer than 40% of sites have a health centre, hospital, or pharmacy, and only about 42% of the sites have ambulance services. This carries important implications for residents travelling for medical emergencies or other health care reasons. Medical facilities are generally more available in Atlantic and Western Canada. A greater proportion of sites which are not adjacent to metropolitan areas have health care facilities.

Moving from the local to the regional level, a majority of the sites across Canada are within 30 minutes of most of these health care facilities. In fact, with the exception of a hospital, baby delivery facilities, and a CT scan, all of the health facilities are within 30 minutes of all the sites in Ontario.

Table 4: Availability of Health Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Hospital	12.5	66.7	22.2	66.7	0.0	80.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	50.0
Health centre / CLSC	37.5	95.8	44.4	88.8	20.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Medical clinic	37.5	90.9	55.6	88.8	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	33.3	83.3
Blood / urine testing facility	41.7	91.6	44.4	77.7	20.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
X-ray facility	20.8	83.3	33.3	77.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	83.3
Baby delivery facility	4.2	54.2	11.1	44.4	0.0	80.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
CT scan facility	0.0	45.8	0.0	33.3	0.0	60.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
Nursing Home	16.7	75.0	11.1	55.5	20.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	83.3
Pharmacy	37.5	87.5	33.3	77.8	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	66.7	100.0
Ambulance	41.7	87.5	44.4	88.9	40.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	66.7	100.0
Emergency services	16.7	75.0	22.2	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	66.7

Source: 2005 Site Profile.

When examined over time, it is also apparent that the availability of health care professional services in all the study sites is becoming more difficult (Table 5). Most notably, these places

experienced significant declines in the availability of social workers. On the other hand, more sites have home care visits compared to seven years ago.

For these services, cuts have been more prominent amongst metro-adjacent sites. For instance, while 46.2% of metro-adjacent sites had a doctor in 1998, just 25.0% of these sites had a doctor in 2005. Further, the availability of nurses in metro-adjacent sites went from 38.5% in 1998 to 16.7% in 2005. Interestingly, physiotherapy has become a little more available in these places, especially in non-adjacent sites.

Table 5: Availability of Health Professionals / Programs - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Doctors	45.8%	24	50.0%	20	36.4%	22	41.7%	24
Nurses	45.8%	24	55.0%	20	36.4%	22	41.7%	24
Dentists	33.3%	24	35.0%	20	27.3%	22	25.0%	24
Dental surgeons	16.7%	24	15.0%	20	9.1%	22	8.3%	24
Optometrists	12.5%	24	5.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
Home care visits	47.8%	23	70.0%	20	54.5%	22	70.8%	24
VON	25.0%	8	15.0%	20	13.6%	22	20.8%	24
Social workers	39.1%	23	42.1%	19	22.7%	22	29.2%	24
Public health nurse	*	*	42.1%	19	31.8%	22	37.5%	24
Physiotherapy	*	*	15.0%	20	22.7%	22	25.0%	24
Speech therapy	*	*	20.0%	20	31.8%	22	25.0%	24
Occupational therapy	*	*	20.0%	20	13.6%	22	17.4%	23
Respite care	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	21.7%	23

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

As such, the availability of health care professionals is currently limited in rural and small town places (Table 6). In fact, only home care visits are available in more than half of the sites. Even services often considered as essential, such as doctors, are located in just over 41% of the rural and small town sites across Canada. The limited availability of specialized health care services in these sites overall may be a reflection of pressures to develop health care specialists rather than offer general service models (Collier 1993; Rosenberg 1983). Sites in Atlantic Canada are better equipped with health care professionals when compared to the national sample. Health care professionals are also more available in sites that are not adjacent to metropolitan areas.

With the exception of dental surgeons, health care professionals are accessible within 30 minutes of most sites. In fact, almost all of the health care services are accessible within 30 minutes of sites in Atlantic Canada and Ontario. A greater share of sites in Western Canada must go beyond 30 minutes to access health care professionals. The reorganization of health services from the local to regional level mirrors the types of spatial shifts noted above for educational services. These two topic areas are particularly important in the analysis of service change because they are almost entirely under the direction of public policy and they account for a large share of public funding.

Table 6: Availability of Health Professionals / Programs - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Doctors	41.7	87.5	44.4	77.7	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	66.7	100.0
Nurses	41.7	100.0	55.6	100.0	20.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Dentists	25.0	79.2	11.1	55.6	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	50.0	100.0
Dental surgeons	8.3	33.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	80.0	25.0	50.0	16.7	16.7
Optometrists	16.7	75.0	22.2	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	66.7
Home care visits	70.8	100.0	88.9	100.0	60.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
VON	20.8	50.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	80.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	100.0
Social workers	29.2	79.2	11.1	44.4	40.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Public health nurse	37.5	95.8	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	50.0	100.0
Physiotherapy	25.0	75.0	11.1	55.6	40.0	80.0	25.0	100.0	33.3	83.3
Speech therapy	25.0	62.5	33.3	66.7	20.0	80.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	50.0
Occupational therapy	17.4	62.5	0.0	50.0	20.0	80.0	25.0	75.0	33.3	66.7
Respite care	21.7	78.3	25.0	55.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	50.0	83.3

Source: 2005 Site Profile.

Protection Services

Protection services contribute to community capacity in many ways. For example, volunteer fire departments and various ‘crime watch’ programs provide opportunities for community involvement and interaction, both of which can build trust and leadership. At a more mechanical level, they can have important implications for the availability of home and business insurance.

For this year’s services inventory, a new category was added to track the availability of police-based victim’s services. Consequently, it is not possible to examine the change in the availability of this service. Regardless, these rural and small town sites have experienced significant drops in the availability of policing services and fire departments (Table 7). Metro-adjacent sites have experienced a greater reduction in both policing services and fire departments since 1998. The implications are longer response times to access more distant locations. However, 911 service has generally increased across the sites since 1998. The growth of 911 services is an interesting application of information technology because, while local residents can dial 911 on their telephone, the dispatcher reviewing the call is often in a distant urban centre.

Table 7: Availability of Protection Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Police (Local / RCMP)	62.5%	24	45.0%	20	22.7%	22	37.5%	24
Fire department	91.3%	23	85.0%	20	68.2%	22	79.2%	24
911 emergency line	60.9%	23	65.0%	20	86.4%	22	83.3%	24
Security services	*	*	*	*	4.5%	22	12.5%	24
Security alarm	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	37.5%	24
Neighbourhood watch	*	*	*	*	31.8%	22	29.2%	24
Rural crime watch	*	*	*	*	13.6%	22	16.7%	24
Victim's services – police based	*	*	*	*	*	*	16.7%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

*Data was not collected for this service that year.

In 2005, some protection services are widely available in the sites across Canada (Table 8). Most notably, fire departments and 911 are in more than three-quarters of the sites. In fact, all of the sites in Ontario and Western Canada have 911 service. There are a greater proportion of sites adjacent to metropolitan areas that have a neighbourhood watch program. More sites that are non-adjacent offer policing, 911 service, security services, security alarm services, rural crime watch programs, and police-based victim's services. With the exception of security services, neighbourhood watch, and rural crime watch, protection services are available within 30 minutes of at least half the sites.

Table 8: Availability of Protection Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Police (Local / RCMP)	37.5	95.8	33.3	88.9	40.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Fire department	79.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
911 emergency line	83.3	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Security services	12.5	37.5	22.2	33.3	20.0	80.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	16.6
Security alarm services	37.5	75.0	44.4	66.7	20.0	100.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	83.3
Neighbourhood watch	29.2	45.8	33.3	44.4	80.0	80.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	33.3
Rural crime watch	16.7	45.8	33.3	55.6	20.0	60.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	16.7
Victim's services – police based	16.7	62.5	33.3	77.8	0.0	80.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	33.3

Source: 2005 Site Profile.

Legal Services

Legal services are another example of specialized services that are typically difficult to offer in rural and small town places (Blacksell *et al.* 1988). The absence of legal services has important implications as residents must commute to go to court, to access assistance in how to prepare wills or purchase real estate, or to have important documents or affidavits signed.

Some legal services have become more difficult to access in these sites (Table 9). There have been consistent reductions in the availability of lawyers since 1998. Non-adjacent sites have experienced a greater decline in the availability of lawyers than metro-adjacent sites.

Table 9: Availability of Legal Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Lawyer	39.1%	23	30.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
Notary	45.5%	22	40.0%	20	40.9%	22	45.8%	24
Court	14.3%	21	15.8%	19	18.2%	22	12.5%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Overall, legal services are very limited in the study sites across Canada (Table 10). In this case, half the sites in Western and Atlantic Canada are able to access a notary public locally. Notary publics and courts were more available in non-adjacent sites.

Table 10: Availability of Legal Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Lawyer	16.7	70.8	11.1	66.7	20.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	66.7
Notary	45.8	87.5	55.6	88.9	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	66.7	83.3
Court	12.5	75.0	22.2	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	16.7	83.3

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

When we change the scale from the local to the regional level, the availability of legal services increases quite dramatically. Like with education and health care, there is a pattern of service availability developing which sees local reductions but maintenance within the region.

Financial Services

Businesses also play a role in providing a range of activities that enhance the quality of life of a place, as well as the economic viability and stability of the place (Bowles 2000; Bruce 2001). Business members also play an important role in community development as they can provide leadership in volunteer groups (Bruce and Halseth 2004). Small local businesses are also an important source for fundraisers and many businesses sponsor specific local organizations or events (McDaniel 2001).

While there have been declines in the number of sites with banks, this decline has not been counteracted with an increased emergence of credit unions (Table 11). Consequently, these rural and small town places have been experiencing a decline in banking services. In fact, sites that are not adjacent to metropolitan areas have seen their banking services availability reduced by

half. Overall, the availability of ATMs and insurance offices slightly increased since 1998. In particular, there has been an increase in the availability of insurance offices in non-adjacent sites.

In exploring public and private sector services, private sector services have not been as marked in their withdrawal from rural and small town locations. Regardless, only ATMs are accessible in more than half of the rural and small town sites. This does not bode well as a foundation for local economic revitalization. However, it may suggest that while the public sector was withdrawing aggressively during the late 1990s, the private sector may have already downsized.

Table 11: Availability of Business Services – All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Banks**	60.0%	25	50.0%	20	36.4%	22	33.3%	24
Credit Union / Caisse Populaire	-	-	50.0%	20	50.0%	22	50.0%	24
ATM	41.7%	24	55.0%	20	50.0%	22	54.2%	24
Micro-financing	18.2%	11	26.3%	19	9.1%	22	16.7%	24
Insurance office	44.0%	25	50.0%	20	50.0%	22	50.0%	24
Industrial park	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	20.8%	24
Real estate	*	*	*	*	18.2%	22	20.8%	24
Industrial/farm association ***	*	*	*	*	9.1%	22	37.5%	24
Accounting	*	*	*	*	50.0%	22	50.0%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

**In 1998, banks and credit unions were not separated, but were counted as the same service.

***In 2003, only farm associations were tracked. In 2005, farm and industrial associations were both tracked and combined in this category.

Overall, credit unions, ATMs, insurance offices, and accounting offices are found in half the sites across Canada (Table 12). Western Canada and Atlantic Canada sites appear to be better situated with respect to financial services. It is important to note, however, that all sites in Québec have access to a Caisse Populaire. This has important implications for not just retaining residents, but also for retaining and attracting businesses as well since local banking and financial advice is so important to small and medium sized businesses. A greater proportion of non-adjacent sites have an ATM, micro-financing, and an insurance office. More metro-adjacent sites offer an industrial park, real estate office, and accounting services.

All financial services are within 30 minutes of at least half the sites across Canada. Moreover, with the exception of micro-financing, financial services are within 30 minutes of all the sites in Ontario. However, most sites in Québec and Atlantic Canada must go beyond 30 minutes to access micro-financing services. Coupled with data above that financial service reductions have not been as dramatic as some of the earlier noted public services, the results suggest that perhaps the private sector simply ‘re-scaled’ its rural and small town services to the serve ‘regions’ earlier in time.

Table 12: Availability of Business Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Banks	33.3	87.5	33.3	77.8	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	50.0	100.0
Credit Union / Caisse Populaire	50.0	91.7	55.6	77.8	20.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	100.0
ATM	54.2	95.8	66.7	100.0	60.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	50.0	100.0
Micro-financing	16.7	50.0	44.4	66.7	0.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Insurance office	50.0	95.8	55.6	88.9	40.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Industrial park	20.8	70.8	33.3	55.6	0.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	16.7	66.7
Real estate office	20.8	75.0	22.2	77.8	40.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	0.0	50.0
Industrial/farm assoc.	37.5	66.7	55.6	77.8	40.0	100.0	25.0	25.0	16.7	50.0
Accounting	50.0	87.5	44.4	88.9	60.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	66.7	83.3

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Communication Services

Connectivity is crucial in the new economy. Communication services also add to local quality of life as they allow residents to maintain contact with family and friends, and to access a wider range of entertainment and information options (Bergen 1977). With improved communication infrastructure, rural and small town places can improve local employment opportunities (Halseth *et al.* 2004; Johnson and Rasker 1995), and support business networks (Henderson 2001).

Communication services, including analog and digital cell phone services, have become increasingly available in the sites examined across Canada (Table 13). Notably, the availability of digital cell phone service has almost doubled from being available in 40.9% of the sites in 2003 to 83.3% of the sites in 2005. Increases in the availability of digital cell phone services have been more pronounced in non-adjacent sites. For example, digital cell phone services increased from 54.5% in 2003 to 91.7% in 2005 amongst metro-adjacent sites. However, a more pronounced increase was experienced in non-adjacent sites where the availability of digital cell phone services changed from 27.3% in 2003 to 75.0% in 2005.

Table 13: Availability of Communication Services - All Sites

Service	2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Cell phone – analog	86.4%	22	91.7%	24
Cell phone – digital	40.9%	22	83.3%	24

Source: Site Profiles 2003, 2005.

Overall, analog cell phone service is widely available across the study sites in Canada (Table 14). Just over 83% of the sites also enjoy digital cell phone service. Of particular interest is that all sites in Ontario have access to both analog and digital cell phone service, and all of the Québec and Atlantic sites have access to analog service. More sites adjacent to metropolitan areas offer analog and digital cell phone services.

Table 14: Availability of Communication Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Cell phone – analog	91.7	91.7	77.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cell phone – digital	83.3	91.7	77.8	88.9	100.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	83.3	100.0

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Elderly and Childcare Services

Childcare services provide an important part of the educational and care services in rural and small town places. Childcare also provides men and women with children an opportunity to participate in the labour force. Unfortunately, some rural and small town places have limited childcare options, particularly for nightshift workers or those whose schedules frequently rotate (Bunce 1991). Preston *et al.* (2000: 8) explain that shift workers rely more on other family members and relatives for childcare and less on formal daycare services with limited hours. Riffel (1975) further asserts that resource towns could provide more daycare to allow women to take advantage of employment and recreation opportunities. Other services of importance are seniors' services. These can include nursing homes and retirement homes. Such services are particularly important given the aging of the Canadian population and that many rural and small town places are not yet well equipped to deal with seniors' needs (Hanlon and Halseth 2005).

The availability of retirement homes has slightly fluctuated over the seven year period (Table 15). In particular, the availability of retirement homes has been declining in non-adjacent areas, but has been increasing in metro-adjacent sites. This will pose challenges for places striving to meet the needs of a growing senior population and will limit opportunities for those places that wish to take advantage of the economic opportunities of retirement migration (Hodge 1990; Hodge 1987). This will also place additional pressures on existing services and community groups (often informal or voluntary groups) that are coping with any new demands stemming from an aging population or an in-migration of seniors.

Table 15: Availability of Child and Elderly Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Daycare	50.0%	24	50.0%	20	45.5%	22	54.2%	24
Senior citizen's nursing home	*	*	*	*	18.2%	22	20.8%	24
Senior citizen's retirement home	41.7%	24	45.0%	20	31.8%	22	37.5%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

An inventory of 24 sites across Canada in 2005 indicates that many are not equipped to meet the needs of seniors (Table 16). As a result, while some services are provided by formal groups recorded in site profiles, there is considerable informal care offered by family and friends. In

particular, sites in Western Canada are less equipped with these formal services. However, none of the Québec sites have a nursing home for seniors. Instead, Québec sites are better equipped to provide daycare than other regions as all of the Québec sites offer this service, while 75% also have a senior citizen's retirement home. While a nursing home is more widely available in non-adjacent sites, daycare centres and retirement homes are more available in sites adjacent to metropolitan areas. When we change the spatial scale, child and elderly services are available within 30 minutes of the majority of sites across Canada. More notably, all of these services are within 30 minutes of all of the sites in Ontario and Québec.

Table 16: Availability of Child and Elderly Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Daycare	54.2	79.2	44.4	66.7	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	66.7
Senior citizen's nursing home	20.8	87.5	11.1	66.7	20.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Senior citizen's retirement home	37.5	83.3	33.3	66.7	40.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	16.7	83.3

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Government Services

Town halls and post offices are the most frequently available government services in rural and small town places. Post offices not only provide a service and identity, but also opportunities for routine social interaction to build relationships and share information. Other government services play an important role in community capacity by providing a local source of expertise and knowledge upon which the community can draw.

Over the past seven years, government services have become more difficult to access in the study sites (Table 17). For example, while 20% of the sites were able to access employment insurance services where they lived in 1998, only 4.2% of the sites have access in 2005. This has important implications for rural and small town places as employment insurance offices have provided a key service that people turn to during times of considerable stress associated with economic and social restructuring. Provincial auto license offices and social assistance offices have also become more difficult to access. Furthermore, social assistance offices in metro-adjacent sites have been cut in half between 1998 and 2005. The decline of town halls may be a reflection of municipal amalgamation in some provinces. Only postal services have been consistently maintained over our study period. This pattern represents a challenge for rural and small town places as the closure of local offices reduces the number of well-paid jobs in the community. Furthermore, when these professionals leave, it also represents a loss of community skills, capacity, and leadership (Lawrence *et al.* 2001).

Table 17: Availability of Government Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Employment Insurance	20.0%	25	10.0%	20	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
Provincial auto license office	25.0%	24	30.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
Social assistance office	32.0%	25	25.0%	20	22.7%	22	16.7%	24
Town hall	83.3%	24	90.0%	20	68.2%	22	70.8%	24
Post office	*	*	80.0%	20	81.8%	22	83.3%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The rural and small town sites examined do not have access to many government services overall, although the listed government services are offered by a greater proportion of sites in Western Canada (Table 18). In fact, all of the sites in Western Canada and Québec have post offices. The low level of town halls in Ontario sites is likely a reflection of municipal amalgamation of these sites with nearby places. Of particular concern to sites experiencing social and economic restructuring is that only 4.2% of the sites have an employment insurance office. Furthermore, few sites have social assistance offices. Consequently, during economic change, households experiencing stress will have to go outside the site for services or advice to help them cope.

A greater proportion of non-adjacent sites offer employment insurance, a provincial auto license office, and social assistance services. When changing the spatial scale, government services are more readily accessible within 30 minutes of most sites. Access to government services within 30 minutes is particularly high for sites in Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

Table 18: Availability of Government Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Employment Insurance	4.2	66.7	0.0	44.4	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	16.7	83.3
Provincial auto license office	16.7	83.3	44.4	88.9	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	66.7
Social assistance office	16.7	70.8	22.2	55.6	0.0	80.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	83.3
Town hall	70.8	100.0	88.9	100.0	40.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Post office	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Community Services

Community services can provide an important foundation from which to build relationships, and can be important sources of support to draw upon during times of economic and social stress. New services were added to the inventory in 2005, including women's safe houses, community-based victim's services, and churches. As such, there is no comparable data yet available to examine changes in these services. Some services, notably senior's drop-in centres, have become increasingly available in the rural and small town sites examined over the last couple of years

(Table 19). Youth drop-in centres have become more available in sites adjacent to metropolitan areas. However, other services including second hand stores, food banks, and women's drop-in centres have become more difficult to access since 2003. For example, the availability of second hand stores changed from 45.5% of metro-adjacent sites in 2003 to just 25.0% of these sites in 2005. Moreover, half-way houses in all of these sites have been reduced from 21.1% in 1998 to just 4.2% in 2005.

Table 19: Availability of Community Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Food bank	16.7%	24	20.0%	20	31.8%	22	25.0%	24
Clothing exchange / depot	33.3%	24	25.0%	20	18.2%	22	29.2%	24
Second hand stores	30.4%	23	35.0%	20	40.9%	22	29.2%	24
Youth drop-in centre	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	25.0%	24
Women's drop-in centre	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	16.7%	24
Senior's drop-in centre	*	*	*	*	31.8%	22	41.7%	24
Half-way house	21.1%	19	26.3%	19	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
Women's resource centre	*	*	*	*	9.1%	22	8.3%	24
Women's safe house	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.3%	24
Personal aid services	37.5%	24	35.0%	20	31.8%	22	37.5%	24
Victim's services—community based	*	*	*	*	*	*	25.0%	24
Churches	*	*	*	*	*	*	95.8%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

Community services are not widely available in the rural and small town places examined (Table 20). However, half of the sites in Western Canada and Ontario have a senior's drop-in centre, while half of the sites in Québec and Atlantic Canada have personal aid services. Further, a greater proportion of metro-adjacent sites offer community services.

Table 20: Availability of Community Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Food bank	25.0	79.2	33.3	66.7	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	16.7	83.3
Clothing exchange / depot	29.2	75.0	33.3	66.7	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	33.3	66.7
Second hand stores	29.2	79.2	33.3	66.7	20.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	33.3	66.7
Youth drop-in centre	25.0	66.7	44.4	77.8	20.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	16.7	50.0
Women's drop-in centre	16.7	45.8	44.4	44.4	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Senior's drop-in centre	41.7	66.7	55.6	77.8	60.0	100.0	25.0	50.0	16.7	33.3
Half-way house	4.2	29.2	0.0	0.0	20.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	16.7
Women's resource centre	8.3	58.3	11.1	44.4	0.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	0.0	33.3
Women's safe house	8.3	58.3	22.2	55.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	16.7
Personal aid services	37.5	87.5	33.3	77.8	20.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	83.3
Victim's services										
— comm. based	25.0	58.3	44.4	66.7	0.0	80.0	25.0	25.0	16.7	50.0
Churches	95.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

With the exception of half-way houses and women's drop-in centres, community services are within 30 minutes of at least half the sites across Canada. In fact, all of the community services that were tracked are accessible within 30 minutes of all the sites in Ontario. However, sites in Western Canada that did not have a women's drop-in centre or a half-way house were also less likely to have these services available within 30 minutes in comparison to other regions.

Transportation Services

Transportation infrastructure can have important implications not only for attracting economic activity to a place, but also for enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable groups in rural and small town places. Transportation services, especially freight services, can play an important role in attracting industry by providing additional options to export products. However, without adequate and affordable transportation options, mobility can be difficult for women, seniors, or those with disabilities to move within the community and to access services in adjacent centres (Bunce 1991). All of the findings noted above with respect to the shift from local to regional service availability further highlight the importance of the transportation issue. Being mobile enables citizens to have access to services, to be involved in the community, and to develop local friendships and support networks (Metz 2000).

While most services have been experiencing cutbacks, transportation services have been expanding in our study sites since 1998 (Table 21). While the availability of airports and helicopter ports have been decreasing in metro-adjacent sites since 2003, the availability of airports and helicopter ports have been increasing in non-adjacent sites. These expansions in transportation infrastructure are encouraging both for economic and social development.

Table 21: Availability of Transport Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Local bus transit	*	*	*	*	0.0%	22	0.0%	24
Inter-community bus station	*	*	*	*	31.8%	22	29.2%	24
Train – passenger	0.0%	25	5.0%	20	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
Train – freight	31.6%	19	25.0%	20	36.4%	22	29.2%	24
Airport	4.0%	25	15.0%	20	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
Helicopter port	18.2%	22	20.0%	20	22.7%	22	25.0%	24
Boat / ferry terminal	13.3%	15	10.5%	19	18.2%	22	25.0%	24
Taxi	17.4%	23	25.0%	20	27.3%	22	25.0%	24
Gas station	*	*	*	*	86.4%	22	87.5%	24
Automobile repair	*	*	*	*	63.6%	22	70.8%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

The higher availability of gas stations and automobile repair services in these places reflects Canada's general reliance on the automobile (Table 22). Other transportation services are less frequently available, most notably local transit service, passenger rail service, boat / ferry

services, and airport service. However, there are regional differences. Sites in Western Canada offer a greater variety of transportation services. In fact, while the majority of sites in other regions do not have inter-community bus service or freight train services, most sites in Western Canada have these services.

Table 22: Availability of Transport Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Local bus transit	0.0	20.8	0.0	11.1	0.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inter-community bus station	29.2	79.2	55.6	77.8	0.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	16.7	66.6
Train – passenger	4.2	29.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	0.0	50.0	16.7	16.7
Train – freight	29.2	62.5	55.6	77.8	0.0	80.0	25.0	75.0	16.7	16.7
Airport	16.7	50.0	33.3	66.7	20.0	60.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	16.7
Helicopter port	25.0	58.3	33.3	55.6	20.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	83.3
Boat / ferry terminal	25.0	41.7	11.1	22.2	20.0	80.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	50.0
Taxi	25.0	75.0	33.3	77.8	20.0	80.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	60.0
Gas station	87.5	100.0	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Automobile repair	70.8	95.8	88.9	100.0	80.0	100.0	50.0	75.0	50.0	100.0

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Most of these services are within 30 minutes of most of the sites in the national sample. Close accessibility is particularly important for transportation services, such as inter-community bus, freight train, and airport services that provide a foundation for attracting economic activity. These transportation networks are also important to reduce resident feelings of isolation, and to improve access to increasingly regionalized services.

A greater proportion of sites adjacent to metropolitan areas offer inter-community bus service, freight train service, boat and ferry terminals, and gas stations. Non-adjacent sites are more likely to offer passenger train services, an airport, a helicopter port, taxis, and auto repair shop services.

Recreational Services

For the most part, recreational services have been declining in the rural and small town places included in this study (Table 23). For example, there have been noticeable reductions in the availability of curling rinks, cinemas, and skiing trails. In fact, curling rinks have been reduced by half in non-adjacent sites. Further, while 63.6% of non-adjacent sites had skiing trails in 2003, just 41.7% of these sites had skiing trails in 2005. There has been a general increase in municipal parks since 1998, and an increase in tennis courts since tracking began in 2003. Of interest, while theatres had declined in the sites between 1998 and 2003, the availability of theatres in 2005 is now stronger than seven years ago.

Table 23: Availability of Recreational Services - All Sites

Service	1998		2000		2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Curling rink	62.5%	16	45.0%	20	31.8%	22	37.5%	24
Bowling lanes	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	20.8%	24
Indoor municipal swimming pool	*	*	*	*	13.6%	22	12.5%	24
Outdoor municipal swimming pool	*	*	*	*	18.2%	22	8.3%	24
Indoor municipal skating rink	*	*	*	*	50.0%	22	54.2%	24
Outdoor municipal skating rink	*	*	*	*	31.8%	22	33.3%	24
Community playing field	83.3%	24	90.0%	20	81.8%	22	79.2%	24
Community gym	52.4%	21	50.0%	20	50.0%	22	50.0%	24
Community centre	87.0%	23	95.0%	20	81.8%	22	75.0%	24
Private athletic club	*	*	*	*	13.6%	22	15.0%	20
Municipal athletic club	*	*	*	*	18.2%	22	20.8%	24
Theatre (live performance)	26.1%	23	25.0%	20	13.6%	22	33.3%	24
Cinema (movie theatre)	8.7%	23	15.0%	20	4.5%	22	0.0%	24
Museum	*	*	40.0%	20	36.4%	22	41.7%	24
Library	75.0%	24	85.0%	20	77.3%	22	79.2%	24
Municipal parks	70.8%	24	85.0%	20	77.3%	22	79.2%	24
Provincial parks	*	*	*	*	22.7%	22	20.8%	24
National parks	*	*	*	*	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
Tennis courts	*	*	*	*	31.8%	22	45.8%	24
Skiing trails	*	*	*	*	50.0%	22	37.5%	24
Hiking trails	*	*	*	*	63.6%	22	62.5%	24
Golf courses	*	*	*	*	36.4%	22	37.5%	24
Campgrounds	*	*	*	*	68.2%	22	66.7%	24

Source: Site Profiles 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.

* Information was not collected for this service that year.

However, when examining all of the sites, recreational services show the greatest availability compared to any other service category (Table 24). This bodes well for the retention and attraction of residents, as well as the overall quality of life of these places. More notable recreational services available in the study sites include indoor municipal skating rinks, community playing fields, community centres, libraries, municipal parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds. Many of these services can be important places for personal and family activities, as well as being locations where events can be held to foster a sense of community.

Recreational services less frequently available across Canada include fitness facilities, such as athletic clubs and swimming pools, as well as entertainment facilities such as cinemas. A greater range of recreational services are available in a majority of sites in Western Canada and Ontario. However, there are strengths within each region. For example, all of the sites in Québec and Ontario have a library. All Ontario sites also offer a community playing field, a community centre, and municipal parks. All of the sites in Western Canada offer municipal parks and campgrounds. A greater majority of sites in Atlantic Canada have bowling lanes, hiking trails, and museums. Recreational services are also available within 30 minutes of a high proportion of sites in the national sample. A greater proportion of non-adjacent sites offer most of the recreational services.

Table 24: Availability of Recreational Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Curling rink	37.5	83.3	77.8	100.0	40.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	66.7
Bowling lanes	20.8	70.8	22.2	55.6	20.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	66.7
Indoor mun. swimming pool	12.5	66.7	22.2	44.4	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	16.7	66.7
Outdoor mun. swimming pool	8.3	58.3	11.1	66.7	20.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	33.3
Indoor municipal skating rink	54.2	100.0	77.8	100.0	40.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Outdoor municipal skating rink	33.3	62.5	22.2	55.6	40.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	16.7	33.3
Community playing field	79.2	100.0	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Community gym	50.0	95.8	77.8	100.0	20.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	33.3	55.6
Community centre	75.0	87.5	77.8	88.9	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	66.7
Private athletic club	15.0	60.0	11.1	44.4	20.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	60.0
Municipal athletic club	20.8	75.0	44.4	88.9	0.0	60.0	0.0	75.0	16.7	66.7
Theatre (live performance)	33.3	70.8	55.6	66.7	20.0	80.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	83.3
Cinema (movie theatre)	0.0	62.5	0.0	44.4	0.0	80.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0
Museum	41.7	79.2	44.4	77.8	40.0	60.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	83.3
Library	79.2	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Municipal parks	79.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Provincial parks	20.8	58.3	11.1	44.4	40.0	80.0	25.0	100.0	16.7	33.3
National parks	4.2	8.3	0.0	0.0	20.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tennis courts	45.8	87.5	44.4	88.9	60.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	33.3	66.7
Skiing trails	37.5	79.2	33.3	77.8	60.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	50.0	66.7
Hiking trails	62.5	95.8	55.6	88.9	80.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	83.3	100.0
Golf courses	37.5	83.3	55.6	88.9	60.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	16.7	66.7
Campgrounds	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	60.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Shopping Services

Shopping services contribute to the success of the local economy and are considered to be an important gauge of the economic health of rural and small town places (Senf 1989). Shopping is also an important recreational activity and provides opportunities for social interaction (Thomas and Bromley 2002; Conkling and Yeates 1976). Low levels of shopping services can lead to out-of-town shopping (and considerable economic leakage) and perhaps even out-migration (Halseth and Sullivan 2000).

The services inventory indicates that most sites across Canada offer shopping services that residents would need to access on a more frequent basis, notably grocery and liquor stores (Table 25). Since 2003, all of the basic shopping services have been increasing in the sites examined across Canada. When metro-adjacency status was explored, the increasing availability of farmer's markets became more pronounced amongst metro-adjacent sites, while bakeries became more widely available in non-adjacent sites.

Table 25: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - All Sites

Service	2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Grocery store	68.2%	22	70.8%	24
Farmer's market	13.6%	22	25.0%	24
Liquor store	54.5%	22	62.5%	24
Bakery	27.3%	22	37.5%	24

Source: Site Profiles 2003, 2005.

A greater proportion of sites in Western Canada have a grocery store and a liquor store, while more Atlantic sites have a bakery (Table 26). Non-adjacent sites are more likely to have a range of basic shopping services. Basic shopping services are within 30 minutes of most sites in the national sample. In fact, basic shopping services are accessible within 30 minutes of all sites in Ontario. This bodes well for reducing out-migration due to limited shopping services.

Table 26: Availability of Basic Shopping Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Grocery store	70.8	100.0	88.9	100.0	60.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Farmer's market	25.0	66.7	11.1	55.6	60.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	66.7
Liquor store	62.5	100.0	88.9	100.0	60.0	100.0	25.0	100.0	50.0	100.0
Bakery	37.5	87.5	44.4	88.9	40.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	50.0	83.3

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Economic Development Organizations

Economic development organizations can play an important role in promoting the community to attract not only additional businesses, but also to attract a wider population base (Halseth and Sullivan 2003). Not only is there a limited range of economic development organizations in the sites, but those that do exist are not widely available. Certain services, such as local business development corporations and tourism associations have declined in these sites since 2003 (Table 27). However, the availability of financial / business consulting groups has been increasing in these sites since 2003. As organizations such as Chambers of Commerce or tourism associations are comprised of local business individuals, they are important sources of information, organization, and support to draw upon during economic and social restructuring. New programs being tracked this year include general retraining programs, retraining programs for women, and women's leadership groups.

Table 27: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - All Sites

Service	2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Business Development Bank of Canada	0.0%	22	0.0%	24
Chamber of Commerce	18.2%	22	20.8%	24
Local business development corporation	18.2%	22	8.3%	24
Economic / community trust	4.5%	22	4.2%	24
Economic institutes / research centres	0.0%	22	0.0%	24
Career training / placement programs	13.6%	22	12.5%	24
Financial / business consulting	27.3%	22	37.5%	24
Real estate boards	0.0%	22	0.0%	24
Tourism associations	27.3%	22	9.1%	24
Rotary clubs	18.2%	22	16.7%	24
Retraining programs – general	*	*	8.3%	24
Retraining programs – women	*	*	0.0%	24
Women’s leadership groups	*	*	41.7%	24

Source: Site Profiles 2003, 2005.

Most regions have their own strengths in terms of economic development organizations available in regional sites. Economic development organizations appear to have a stronger presence in sites in Western Canada (Table 28). For example, at least half of the sites in Western Canada have financial or business consulting services. Half of the sites in Québec and Atlantic Canada have women’s leadership groups. There is a greater availability of economic development organizations in non-adjacent sites, including local business development corporations, tourism associations, general retraining programs, and women’s leadership groups. Nevertheless, there are a lower proportion of economic development organizations within 30 minutes of most sites in comparison to other service categories. The limited availability of these services puts increasing pressure on local clubs and organizations which are active to the point where they may create fatigue and burnout. Furthermore, the lack of economic development organizations at a regional level signifies an absence of critical support structures for business and development investment or mentoring.

Table 28: Availability of Economic / Development Organizations - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Business Dev. Bank of Canada	0.0	8.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chamber of Commerce	20.8	70.8	33.3	66.7	20.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	16.7	50.0
Local bus. dev. corp.	8.3	62.5	22.2	55.6	0.0	80.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	50.0
Economic / community trust	4.2	33.3	11.1	44.4	0.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Career training / placmt prgm	12.5	66.7	22.2	66.7	20.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
Financial / business consulting	37.5	75.0	55.6	77.8	20.0	100.0	25.0	50.0	33.3	66.7
Real estate boards	0.0	45.8	0.0	22.2	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	16.7
Tourism associations	12.5	62.5	0.0	33.3	20.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	83.3
Rotary clubs	16.7	50.0	11.1	44.4	20.0	100.0	25.0	25.0	16.7	33.3
Retraining programs – general	8.3	62.5	0.0	44.4	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	33.3
Retraining programs – women	0.0	37.5	0.0	44.4	0.0	80.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Women's leadership groups	41.7	70.8	44.4	66.7	20.0	80.0	50.0	75.0	50.0	66.7

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Housing

Housing has been used as an incentive to attract residents to rural and small town places (Riffel 1975). However, lack of housing options is a problem in rural and small town places that can lead to out-migration (Porteous 1976). Housing options, notably social housing, can improve the quality of life of more vulnerable citizens, including seniors or those with disabilities.

The services inventory indicates that social housing does not appear to be widely available in our rural and small town sites across Canada (Table 29). In a more positive finding, assisted or subsidized housing for seniors is now available in half of the sites examined across Canada. These changes largely occurred in metro-adjacent sites where 27.3% of the sites had subsidized senior housing in 2003 compared to 50.0% in 2005.

Table 29: Availability of Social Housing Services - All Sites

Service	2003		2005	
	Yes	N=	Yes	N=
Co-op Housing	13.6%	22	8.3%	24
Rent Supplement Units	22.7%	22	20.8%	24
Assisted / Subsidized Housing for Seniors	31.8%	22	50.0%	24
Assisted / Subsidized Housing for Families	31.8%	22	29.2%	24
Assisted / Subsidized Housing for Single People	9.1%	22	12.5%	24
Assisted / Subsidized Housing for Disabled / Special Needs	13.6%	22	12.5%	24

Source: Site Profiles 2003, 2005.

The availability of social housing varies across Canada (Table 30). A greater proportion of sites in Western Canada and Atlantic Canada offer the widest range of social housing options. In fact, half of the sites in Western Canada have assisted or subsidized housing for seniors, while 50% of the sites in Atlantic Canada have assisted or subsidized housing for families. Limited social

housing options are available in sites in Ontario and Québec. Overall, social housing shows a stronger presence in non-adjacent sites.

Table 30: Availability of Social Housing Services - 2005

Services	Canada		West		Ontario		Québec		Atlantic	
	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins	% in Site	% Within 30 Mins
Co-op Housing	8.3	45.8	11.1	33.3	0.0	80.0	0.0	25.0	16.7	50.0
Rent Supplement Units	20.8	66.7	33.3	55.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	75.0	33.3	50.0
Asstd / Sub. Housing - Seniors	50.0	83.3	66.7	77.8	40.0	100.0	50.0	75.0	33.3	83.3
Asstd / Sub. Housing - Families	29.2	79.2	44.4	77.8	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	83.3
Asstd / Sub. Housing - Singles	12.5	58.3	22.2	55.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	16.7	50.0
Asstd / Sub. Housing - Disabled / Special Needs	12.5	66.7	22.2	55.6	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	16.7	66.7

Source: 2005 Site Profiles.

Findings indicate that social housing is available within 30 minutes of most sites. Notably, with the exception of co-op housing, social housing is within 30 minutes of all sites in Ontario, even though very little social housing exists in these sites themselves. Consequently, communities may experience out-migration of vulnerable groups during periods of social and economic restructuring or as residents age, as social housing provides critical social support and can enhance quality of life.

Challenges and Opportunities

Rural and small town places across Canada face a number of challenges in coping with on-going social and economic restructuring. There is a clear trend of services withdrawal from rural and small town places. Few services are available in a majority of the national sample. In particular, health care facilities, legal services, elderly care services, community services, transportation services, economic development organizations, and social housing are very limited in these rural and small town places. Only 28 out of 127 (22.0%) services are available in more than half of the sites. Service cutbacks are more widely experienced across the public sector over the past 7 years.

Findings indicate there is a shift from services available within the sites to services available within the region. There are strong regional differences in the availability of services. A strength of sites in Western Canada is that a greater proportion are able to offer a wider range of protection, business, government, community, transportation, and recreation services. Furthermore, all sites in Western Canada have access to a fire department, 911 service, post offices, churches, and campgrounds. However, sites in Western Canada that do not offer services are more likely to have to travel beyond 30 minutes to access these services.

A challenge for Ontario sites is that youth must leave to access high school and post-secondary education. These sites should also be concerned about the limited availability of elderly care services, something that may lead to the out-migration of seniors, particularly in places with

aging populations. There is also a more limited range of health care services, community services, and social housing. However, all Ontario sites have analog and digital cell phone service, a library, a community playing field, a community centre, a municipal park, and churches. Furthermore, while sites in Ontario do not offer the same range of services as other regions, a greater proportion of these sites are able to access most services within 30 minutes.

Similar to Ontario, sites in Québec face the challenge that youth must leave the community to access high school and post-secondary education. This may lead to youth out-migration. Furthermore, few Québec sites offer a range of health, legal, recreational, transportation, shopping, or financial services, as well as economic development organizations. However, a strength of sites in Québec is that all of them offer 911 service, analog cell phone service, daycare, retirement homes, a library, a post office, a church, as well as banking services through the Caisse Populaire.

A greater proportion of Atlantic sites offer a wider range of social housing, as well as educational, health, and legal services. A concern may be the lack of availability of economic development organizations in these sites. Many services, however, such as financial and government services, are within commuting distance of the majority of the Atlantic sites examined.

New services were added to the services inventory in 2005. Consequently, it was not possible to explore changing service levels in these new additions. Larger declines, however, were experienced in ambulance, emergency services, policing services, fire departments, as well as lawyers, banks, employment insurance offices, social assistance offices, town halls, half-way houses, and curling rinks. Despite the overall decline in service availability within sites, 86.6% of all tracked services remain accessible within 30 minutes of at least half the sites examined. Fortunately, some services have been growing in rural and small town places. Notable services that have become more widely available since they were first tracked included pre-school / kindergarten, health centres, blood / urine testing facilities, home care visits, 911 service, security alarms, ATMs, digital cell phone service, senior's drop-in centres, live theatre, tennis courts, financial / business consulting, all basic shopping services, and subsidized housing for seniors. The 911 and ATM services are a somewhat mixed blessing as they often replace a local service that had employed local people.

All sites regardless of whether they were adjacent or non-adjacent to metropolitan areas have experienced declines in service provision. Sites adjacent to metropolitan areas are more likely to have experienced service declines in elementary schools, doctors, nurses, dentists, dental surgeons, social workers, ambulance and emergency services, policing services, fire departments, social assistance offices, town halls, and half-way houses. Non-adjacent sites are more likely to have experienced declines in hospitals, nursing homes, neighbourhood watch, lawyers, banking, accounting, senior care facilities, drop-in centres for women, clothing exchange depots, curling rinks, skiing trails, tourism associations, and assisted / subsidized housing for disabled / special needs.

The change in service availability has included not just reductions within sites but also likely relocation to a regional centre. This change in spatial scale is important for a number of reasons. First, it fits with the application of urban / market based models even while these are not necessarily well tuned to the context and circumstances of rural / small town life. In addition, this change in scale shifts the costs of service provision to residents who have to travel. This is a shift that may be especially difficult for vulnerable populations. Then there is the issue of how the public sector may be following an earlier regional rationalization by the private sector and the question of whether long term policy consequences should be evaluated in the same way as corporate quarterly profits. Finally, programs to assist with rural revitalization will need to keep this shift in mind. While funds are typically allocated to sites, benefits may now need to be evaluated at a regional scale.

Overall, tracking in these rural and small town places indicates that service provision is declining. Such changes in service provision are occurring in an arena of social and economic restructuring in an increasingly global economy. This places pressures on residents and businesses who must travel to nearby centres to access certain services. The challenge for rural and small town Canada will be to enhance local quality of life that will retain residents and businesses within these places. Each region has demonstrated strengths in service provision that provides a foundation for retaining residents. The new challenge for these places will be to explore innovative ways, through new technologies or partnerships, to provide services that will be important to their communities in an era of increased specialization and professionalization of services.

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Appendix A: Distribution of Services in the Central Place Hierarchy

Low Order Centres	Central Place Hierarchy
	Hamlet: offers limited services -gas stations and eating and drinking establishments.
	Minimum Convenience Centre: offers hamlet services + a hardware store, drug store, a bank, and two other convenience functions.
	Full Convenience Centre: offers a minimum convenience centre + laundry or dry cleaning, jewelry, appliances or furniture, clothing, lumber, building materials, shoes and garden supplies, and a hotel or motel.
	Partial Shopping Centre: offers a full convenience centre + some specialty goods and services like camera stores, florists, radio, TV stores, and women's accessories.
	Complete Shopping Centre: offers a partial shopping centre + additional specialty goods and services.
	Secondary Wholesale Retail Centre: offers a complete shopping centre + provides less than 32 different kinds of function services in conjunction with different types of wholesaling activities. Wholesale activities include automotive supplies, bulk oil, chemicals, paint, dry goods, apparel, electrical goods, groceries, hardware, industrial, farm machinery, plumbing, heating / air conditioning, professional, service equipment, paper, tobacco, beer, drugs, lumber, and construction material.
	Primary Wholesale Retail Centre: offers a secondary wholesale-retail centre + more than 32 different kinds of function services in conjunction with 14 different types of wholesaling activities.
	Metropolitan Centre: offers the widest range of services.
High Order Centres	

Adapted from: de Souza 1990; Conkling and Yeates 1976.

Appendix B: NRE Site Profile Update 2005

Your Name: _____

Community Name: _____

NRE Cell Number: _____

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Site Profile update is to determine if there have been any changes in access to services since our last profile.

2. SITE DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

2.1 Please complete the following information from the 2001 Census of Population.

Population	Site:		
	Total	Male	Female
Population in 2001			
Population in 1996			
1996 to 2001 population change (%)			
Total - All persons			
Age 0-4			
Age 5-14			
Age 15-19			
Age 20-24			
Age 25-44			
Age 45-54			
Age 55-64			
Age 65-74			
Age 75-84			
Age 85 and over			
Median age of the population			

Common Law Status	Total	Male	Female
Total - Population 15 years and over			
Not in a common law relationship			
In a common law relationship			

Legal Marital Status	Total	Male	Female
Total - Population 15 years and over			
Single			
Married			
Separated			
Divorced			
Widowed			

Language(s) First Learned and Still Understood	Total	Male	Female
Total - All persons			
English only			
French only			
Both English and French			
Other languages			

Mobility Status - Place of Residence 5 Years Ago	Total	Male	Female
Total population 5 years and over			
Lived at the same address 5 years ago			
Lived within the same province / territory 5 years ago, but change address			
Lived in a different province / territory or country 5 years ago			

Selected Family Characteristics	Total
Total number of families	
Number of married-couple families	
Number of common-law couple families	
Number of lone-parent families	
Number of female lone-parent families	
Number of male lone-parent families	

Selected Occupied Private Dwelling Characteristics	Total
Total number of dwellings	
Number of owned dwellings	
Number of rented dwellings	

Labour Force Indicators	Total	Male	Female
Participation rate			
Employment rate			
Unemployment rate			

Earnings	Total	Male	Female
Average earnings (all persons with earnings (\$))			
Average earnings (worked full year, full time (\$))			

Immigration Characteristics	Total	Male	Female
Total - all persons			
Canadian-born population			
Foreign-born population			
Immigrated before 1991			
Immigrated between 1991 and 2001			

Aboriginal Population	Total	Male	Female
Total - All persons			
Aboriginal identity population			

Visible Minority Status	Total	Male	Female
Total population by visible minority status			
Visible minority population			

2.2 For elementary schools, high schools, community colleges, and continuing education available within the Site, please collect:

- the mailing address of the institution,
- the name of the principal,
- the name of the school board,
- number of students in each grade, and
- operational languages within the school including language immersion programs.

Note: It can be difficult to collect school information during the end of the school year or during summer. Therefore, it is very important that you contact the school ahead of time to have this information ready for you when you arrive in the site in May or early June.

2.

3.	4. Element ary School #1	5. Element ary School #2	6. High School	7. Commu nity College	8. Continui ng Education Institution
9. Name of institution	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
15. Mailing address of institution	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
21. Name of principal	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
27. Name of school board	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.
33. # of students - kindergarten	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.
39. # of students - grade 1	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.
45. # of students - grade 2	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
51. # of students - grade 3	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.
57. # of students - grade 4	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.
63. # of students - grade 5	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.
69. # of students - grade 6	70.	71.	72.	73.	74.
75. # of students - grade 7	76.	77.	78.	79.	80.
81. # of students - grade 8	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.
87. # of students - grade 9	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.
93. # of students - grade 10	94.	95.	96.	97.	98.
99. # of students - grade 11	100.	101.	102.	103.	104.
105. # of students - grade 12	106.	107.	108.	109.	110.
111. # of	112.	113.	114.	115.	116.

students - community college					
117. # of students - continuing education	118.	119.	120.	121.	122.
123. Operatio nal language(s) of the school	124.	125.	126.	127.	128.
129. Identify immersion programs	130.	131.	132.	133.	134.

135. DESCRIPTION OF SITE BOUNDARIES

Update the site geography description. Describe any changes with the following:

- \$ the site boundaries (amalgamation), landscape, and relationship to settlement / roads (i.e. development of a new highway connector), etc.
- \$ the immediate setting of the Site (adjacent landscape and settlements).
- \$ maps (of the Site) (of the site within the region).

Please type changes to site boundary description here

4. SITE HISTORY - MAJOR EVENTS & STORIES

Begin by reviewing the Site Profile created in 1998, 2000, and 2003. You can download this from the NRE website, or look at your copy from before. See if there are any other major events, which should be added to this Site history. In particular, you should note important businesses that have closed or opened; the impacts of provincial and federal decisions (i.e. military base closure); the re-routing of a highway; new events or festivals (or ones that no longer operate); etc.

Please type major events that have occurred in the Site since 2003 in this box.

5. SOCIAL SERVICES - AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

1. For each item determine whether or not it is located within the Site (Yes/No column).
2. For services located in the Site, please note if they are available on a full-time (F) basis, part-time (P) basis, such as monthly or bi-annually, or seasonal (S) basis.
3. If it is not, please indicate where the nearest services are located (which place column), and how far it is by car.
4. Add any additional relevant comments. For example, perhaps the elementary school has closed since 2000, or there has been a change in who provides a particular service. The key is to ask AWhat has changed?@ of the person(s) you are speaking to.

ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability? F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	If Ano@, how far?				Comments:
			Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which place?	Kms
EDUCATION							
Pre-school / Kindergarten							
Elementary School							
High School							
CÉGEP/Community College / Univ. College							
University							
Continuing Education and Extension Courses							
Other Educational Institutions							
HEALTH							
Hospital							
Health Centre / CLSC							

ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability? F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	If Ano@, how far?				Comments:
			Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which place?	Kms
Medical Clinic							
Blood/Urine Testing Facility							
X-Ray Facility							
Baby Delivery Facility							
CT Scan Facility							
Nursing Home							
Doctor(s)							if yes, specify #
Nurse(s)							if yes, specify #
Dentist(s)							if yes, specify #
Dental Surgeon(s)							if yes, specify #
Optometrist(s)							if yes, specify #
Home Care/Visits							
Victorian Order of Nurses							if yes, specify #
Social Worker(s)							if yes, specify #
Pharmacy							
Ambulance							
Hospital Emergency Services							
Public Health Nurse							if yes, specify #
Rehabilitation - Physiotherapy							
Rehabilitation - Speech Therapy							

ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability?	If Ano@, how far?				Comments:
		F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which place?	Kms
Rehabilitation - Occupational Therapy							
Respite care							
Alternative health care services							
Pre-natal care programs (i.e. parenting classes, yoga, etc.)							Please specify:
Post-natal care programs							
Out-patient services - transportation							
PROTECTION SERVICES							
Police (local / RCMP)							if yes, specify #
Fire Department (state if comprised of volunteers, paid staff, or both):							if yes, specify #
911 Emergency Line							
Other Emergency Line							
Security Services							
Security Alarm Services (for homes and businesses)							
Neighbourhood Watch							
Rural Crime Watch							
Victim's Services (police-based, i.e. legal counsel, grief support)							
LEGAL							
Lawyer							if yes, specify #
	Yes/ No	If Ayes@,	If Ano@, how far?				Comments:

ITEM	No	availability?					
		F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which place?	Kms
Notary							if yes, specify #
Court (specify type)							if yes, specify #
FINANCIAL / BUSINESS							
Bank							if yes, specify #
Credit Union / Caisse Populaire							
ATM Machine							
Micro-Financing Group							
Insurance Office							
Industrial Park							
Real Estate Office							
Farming / Fishing / Other Industrial Association							
Accounting							
COMMUNICATION SERVICES							
Cell Phone Service - Analog							
Cell Phone Service - Digital							
BASIC SHOPPING SERVICES							
Grocery Store							if yes, specify #
Farmers= Market							
Liquor Store							
Bakery							
ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability?	If Ano@, how far?			Comments:	

		F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which place?	Kms	
SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DAYCARE								
Daycare								
Senior Citizens= Nursing Home								
Senior Citizens' Retirement Home								
GOVERNMENT								
Employment Insurance Office								
Provincial Automobile Licence Office								
Social Assistance Office								
Town Hall								
Band Council								
Post Office								
COMMUNITY SERVICES								
Food Bank								
Clothing Exchange or Depot								
Second-Hand Stores (profit & charitable)								
Drop-In Centre - Youth								
Drop-In Centre - Women								
Drop-In Centre - Seniors								
Halfway House								
ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability?	If Ano@, how far?			Comments:		
		F: Full-time	Adjacent	Within	More	Which	Kms	

		P: Part-time S: Seasonal		30 min	than 30 min	place?		
Women's Resource Centre								
Women's Safe House / Shelter								
Personal Aid Services (counseling, family distress, etc.)								
Victim's Services (community-based)								
Churches								if yes, specify #
TRANSPORT								
Local Bus Transit Service								
Inter-Community Bus Station								
Train - Passenger								
Train - Freight								
Airport								
Helicopter Port								
Boat / Ferry Terminal								
Taxi								
Gas Station								
Automobile Repair Services								
RECREATION FACILITIES								
Curling Rink								
Bowling Lanes								
Municipal Swimming Pool (indoor)								
Municipal Swimming Pool (outdoor)								
ITEM	Yes/ No	If Ayes@, availability?	If Ano@, how far?			Comments:		
		F: Full-time P: Part-time	Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30	Which place?	Kms	

6.2 New businesses opened since summer 2003:

List <i>new</i> business that <i>opened</i> since summer 2003	Did this service exist before?	If yes, who provided the service?

6.3 Businesses closed since summer 2003:

List businesses that <i>closed</i> since summer 2003	Is there anyone else in the community who can provide this service?	If yes, who can provide this service?

6.4 Where is retail activity concentrated? (E.g. >Main Street=, dispersed retail activity).

Please insert your response in here.

6.5 What is the site's dominant economic base? (E.g. forestry, agriculture, fishing, tourism, manufacturing, mixed services). Please collect Statistics Canada data that depicts labour force by industry. Also ask key contacts (Chamber of Commerce, local government official, etc.) what they feel is the site's dominant economic base.

Characteristics	Site:
All industries, labour force 15 years and over	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, labour force 15 years and over	
Mining and oil and gas extraction, labour force 15 years and over	
Utilities, labour force 15 years and over	
Construction, labour force 15 years and over	
Manufacturing, labour force 15 years and over	
Wholesale trade, labour force 15 years and over	
Retail trade, labour force 15 years and over	
Transportation and warehousing, labour force 15 years and over	
Information and cultural industries, labour force 15 years and over	
Finance and insurance, labour force 15 years and over	
Real estate and rental and leasing, labour force 15 years and over	
Professional, scientific and technical services, labour force 15 years and over	
Management of companies and enterprises, labour force 15 years and over	
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services, labour force 15 years and over	
Educational services, labour force 15 years and over	
Health care and social assistance, labour force 15 years and over	
Arts, entertainment and recreation, labour force 15 years and over	
Accommodation and food services, labour force 15 years and over	
Other services (except public administration), labour force 15 years and over	
Public administration, labour force 15 years and over	

7. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

We want to have a better understanding of the local government structure and tax base that affects local operations.

7.1 What percentage of tax base is residential, commercial, or industrial?

Please insert your response here.

7.2 Describe the structure of local government.

Does the Site have an elected council?	Yes or No:
If yes, what is the structure of this council?	
How many are elected?	Specify # elected:
How many elected officials are men?	Specify # elected <i>men</i> :
How many elected officials are women?	Specify # elected <i>women</i> :
If no, what is the form of local governance that manages local services?	

7.3 Has amalgamation occurred in the site since 1998, and if so, how has the amalgamation affected the government structure or representation of the community?

Please insert your response here.

8. COMMERCIAL SHOPPING

We want to determine the level of retail / commercial shopping in the Site, and the distance and time to travel to any higher levels of retail / commercial shopping. We are roughly following Hodge / Stabler's retail classification scheme.

For example, if the community is a full convenience centre, write *Ayes@* in the Yes/No column beside that description. Then for each of the four descriptions of more extensive retail / commercial centres, identify the nearest community people in the Site would travel to for that level of shopping, and how far that is by personal automobile.

ITEM	Yes /No	If >yes=, availability? F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal	If >no=, how far?				Comments:
			Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which community?	
minimum convenience centre (gas and basic groceries)							
full convenience centre (minimum plus some general merchandise, full grocery store, implement dealers)							
partial shopping centre (above plus selected merchandise - small malls)							
complete shopping centre (above plus extensive retail merchandise - large malls)							
secondary wholesale-retail centre (above plus some wholesale)							
primary wholesale-retail centre (above plus central wholesale outlets)							

9. ECONOMIC / DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH GOVERNANCE LINKAGES

ITEM	Yes /No	If >yes=, availability?	If >no=, how far?					Comments:
			Adjacent	Within 30 min	More than 30 min	Which community?	Kms	
		F: Full-time P: Part-time S: Seasonal						
Business Development Bank of Canada / Banque de Development du Canada								
Community Futures Development Corporations - Western Canada, Ontario, and Quebec only								
Community Business Development Centres - Atlantic Canada only								
Federal / Provincial Economic Development Agencies - ACOA - Regional Economic Development Board, etc. - Atlantic Canada only: please specify.								
Chamber of Commerce								
Aboriginal Business Development Services								
Local Business Development Corporations								
Economic / Community Trust (ie. Columbia Basin Trust)								

61

61

[illegible]

Appendix: Glossary of Terms

Section 5

Hospital: Provides the widest range of medical services. A hospital is open 24 hours a day, will conduct surgeries, and will accommodate over night stays.

Health Centre / CLSC: A health centre is not open 24 hours a day and will not perform major surgeries. A health centre will provide access to medical physicians, nurses, public health nurses, as well as other specialists such as a psychologist or a social worker.

Medical Clinic: This is also referred to as a walk in clinic where residents access medical care by a physician. Services include consultation and referral. There are no special medical services, programs, or counselling available.

Respite Care: This is care provided for short-term or extended periods of time for relief of family members providing regular extensive care to a family member. Respite care provides rest for the caregiver.

Victorian Order of Nurses - VON: They provide services for home care, life style education for adolescent parents, palliative care, crisis intervention, respite care, and foot care. While there are VON offices across Canada, there are more VONs in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. <http://www.von.ca>.

Occupational Therapy: A practitioner trained in the promotion and maintenance of helping workers to return to work. They also provide assistance in self-care, productivity, and leisure. They may work with individual therapy, policy development, environmental modifications, staff education, or with management.

Other Emergency Line: In towns with no 911 service, there may be an alternative emergency number. In some cases, this emergency number will be a long distance number to a nearby centre, which will dispatch an emergency service.

Notary Public: These individuals are authorized to administer oaths, attest to the authenticity of signatures, and certify deeds, wills, and passports.

Micro-financing: Specializing in providing small business loans.

Halfway House: According to the John Howard Society of Alberta (2001), a halfway house is a community based residential facility for offenders who, having been sentenced to a term of incarceration, are serving a portion of their sentence under supervision in the community. Alternatively, a halfway house may also provide shelter for abused women in transition.

Women's Safe House / Shelter: Places for women who are or may be at risk for violence, threats, and / or abuse. These include transition houses, safe home networks, safe home networks (trained community members who provide shelter in their homes), and second stage homes which provide more long-term independent living for women and children coming out of transition houses.

Second Hand Stores: Consumers can purchase second hand items, such as clothing, furniture, and toys.

Clothing Exchange or Depot: This is usually organized by volunteers where people can bring in used clothes and exchange them. This service is usually free of charge. A popular clothing exchange is for children's clothing. You may find these to be operated out of a home or a church.

Senior Citizen Nursing Home: Public sector housing for seniors, usually owned by a community group or non-profit organization, and usually providing a minor medical component.

Senior Citizen Retirement Home: Private sector housing for seniors, privately owned and operated, usually providing no minor medical component.

Section 8

Central Place functions below are adapted from de Souza (1990), Conkling and Yeates (1976), and Garner and Yeates (1971). The examples provide illustrations of services across this hierarchy.©

Hamlets:

- These places have limited services like gasoline service stations and eating and drinking establishments.

Minimum convenience centre:

- Hamlet services +
- a hardware store, drug store, a bank, and two other convenience functions, such as a variety store.

Full convenience centre:

- Minimum convenience centre +
- laundry or dry cleaning, jewelry, appliances or furniture, clothing, lumber, building materials, shoes and garden supplies, and a hotel or motel.

Partial shopping centre:

- Full convenience centre +
- some specialty goods and services like camera stores, florists, radio, TV stores, and women's accessories.

Complete shopping centre:

- Partial shopping centre +
- additional specialty goods and services.

Secondary wholesale-retail centre:

- Complete shopping centre +
- provides **less than** 32 different kinds of function services in conjunction with different types of wholesaling activities. Wholesale activities include automotive supplies, bulk oil, chemicals, paint, dry goods, apparel, electrical goods, groceries, hardware, industrial, farm machinery, plumbing, heating / air conditioning, professional, service equipment, paper, tobacco, beer, drugs, lumber, and construction material.

Primary wholesale-retail centre:

- Secondary wholesale-retail centre +
- **more than** 32 different kinds of function services in conjunction with 14 different types of wholesaling activities.

Metropolitan retail centre: This centre offers the widest range of services.

Section 9

Community Futures Development Corporation: Community Futures Development Corporation is funded through a partnership with the federal and provincial governments, and fosters local entrepreneurship, as well as promotes and coordinates community development initiatives. They offer entrepreneurial programs, business counseling, loan programs and business information to community members interested in expanding or starting a business. CFDCs can be found across Canada.

Community Business Development Centres: CBDCs assist to create small businesses and expand or modernize existing businesses by providing financial and technical services to entrepreneurs. CBDCs are only found in Atlantic Canada.

Regional Economic Development Board: REDBs develop and coordinate strategic economic plans; coordinate business development; provide support to organizations and communities within the zone; coordinate social and economic initiatives within the zone; and promote public participation and education. REDBs are only found in Atlantic Canada.

Local Business Development Corporations: These organizations are grass roots, bottom up, locally developed business development groups. Example: Woodriver: Lafleche Economic Loans Cooperative - This organization helps small businesses to start or to upgrade. Loans are given at a low interest rate. The community screens potential loans and sets its own interest rate. Interest collected goes into the cooperative, and they put it back into the community.

Career Training and Placement Programs: These refer to non-government programs in career training and job placement.

Section 10

Rent Supplement Units: These are housing units owned by the private sector. They receive a subsidy directly from the government, and then rent the units at a reduced rent to a qualified household.