

Usborne, ON

Winterton, NF

Seguin, ON



Néguac, NB

Pic Mobert

Lot 16, PE

Rhineland, MB

Indian Brook, NS

Benito, MB

Springhill, NS

Okanese 82, SK

Blissfield, NB

Spalding, SK

Twillingate, NF

Wood River, SK

Taschereau, QC

Hussar, AB

St-Roch-de-Mékinac, QC

Ferintosh, AB

Ste-Françoise, QC

Girouxville, AB

Cap-à-l'aigle, QC

Tumbler Ridge, BC

Armagh, QC

Mackenzie, BC

St-Damase, QC

Port Alice, BC

N. Plantagenet, ON

Upper Liard



Tweed, ON

Arctic Bay, NV

Carden, ON

Dear NRE Supporter,

Over the past 3 years we have been working together to revitalize rural Canada. We are now able to pass on some of the fruit of that collaboration in the form of the information and insights enclosed in this package. For those of you in the NRE field sites, we hope you will not only recognize yourselves in this material, but learn something about how your community fits within the changing rural economy.

The *Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation* has been operating over the last 13 years in the belief that the path to rural revitalization must involve research and education collaboration with rural people at the centre. The New Rural Economy Project is one manifestation of this: bringing rural people, researchers, the private sector, and policy-makers together to explore how the rural economy has been changing and to identify the options and opportunities emerging for improving rural economies and livelihoods.

Your involvement in this process has meant we have been able to accomplish much more than we anticipated three years ago. Since that time, we have:

- established close working relationships with most of the 32 rural communities identified in the NRE sample;
- collected a significant amount of historical, institutional, and organizational information about those communities;
- prepared a number of reports and presentations regarding the conditions and issues facing rural Canadians;
- established the NRE web site to serve as a central resource for all rural people; and
- conducted annual workshops and conferences, including participants from the NRE communities.

This package of materials is another step in our ongoing collaboration. Please review them and let us know where we are on track, where we are providing useful insights for your situation, and where we are missing the point or wasting our time. Most of all, let us know what needs to be done in the future.

Thank you for your collaboration. We look forward to seeing you at our next conference in Saskatchewan. Information about that event is included with these materials.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bill Reimer  
Research Director, *The New Rural Economy Project*



**Understanding the New Rural Economy: Options and Choices**  
a project of  
**The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation**  
January 2001

The New Rural Economy Project (NRE) is a five year research and education program underway in rural Canada. It is a collaborative undertaking bringing together rural people, policy-analysts, researchers, the business community, and government agencies at all levels to identify and address vital rural issues. It is conducted at the national level with historical and statistical data analysis, and at the local level with case studies involving community and household surveys.

The project involves:

1. **learning forums** to discuss and debate opportunities, options, and choices that include the interests of all rural Canadians and stakeholders;
2. documented **recommendations** for long run rural business performance, inclusive development, and public policy; and,
3. **informed questions** on new issues, unimaginable in the present, but requiring timely answers for the future.

The project is conducted within the framework of 4 research themes:

1. **spatial dynamics** of settlements and activities in rural Canada;
2. processes of **inclusion and exclusion** of rural people and communities;
3. the changing structure of **rural enterprises and institutions**, and
4. processes of change in **natural resources** and their associated communities.

Since its inauguration in May, 1997 the project has held eight national workshops and conferences, prepared a number of major reports, established a Centre for rural data, profiled 32 carefully selected rural sites for research and education activities, and organized a network of more than 30 partners, 22 researchers, 18 universities, and 15 government departments in all provinces and territories of Canada. Through its connection with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), the NRE project has involved over 100 partners and created a research and education network of international stature. Representation from Canada is complemented by colleagues from Europe, Mexico, and Japan.

For further information see the CRRF Web site [www.crrf.ca](http://www.crrf.ca), the NRE Web page [nre.concordia.ca](http://nre.concordia.ca), or contact:

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# N R E

## THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY

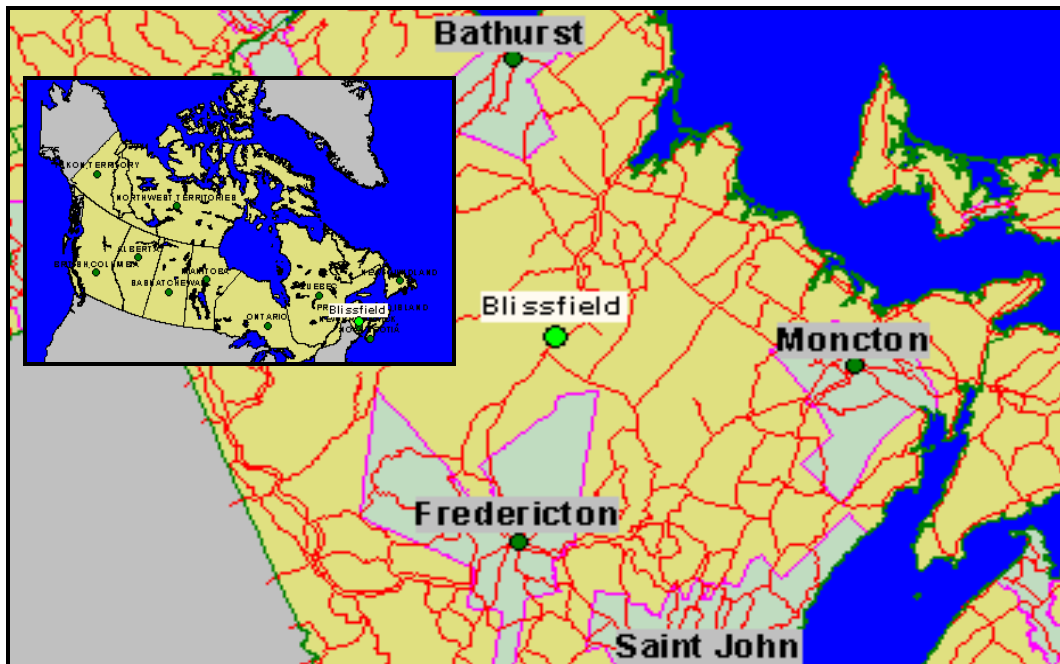


### **Site 6: Blissfield, New Brunswick**

Blissfield is located along the Miramichi River, approximately 5 kilometers north-east of Doaktown, upon which it is dependent for most goods and services. It is an unincorporated parish with fewer than 700 people, built along one of the province's busiest highways, Route 8. The forestry industry is very important. There are four lumber yard sites within a 30 kilometer distance of the Blissfield centroid. The two most dominant have been the Blissfield Lumber Yard, owned and operated by Glen Gilks, a resident of Blissfield; and the Russell and Slim Mill that has undergone numerous rebuilding efforts and that was recently purchased by the Irving Company of New Brunswick. The arrival of Irving to Blissfield was not one that was accepted by all of the residents in the beginning. The purchase was

fought by many people but in the end the mill became the dominant employer for the people of Blissfield.

The region has numerous outfitting groups, inns, and lodges that provide visitors with access to the resources and beauty of the river. The Miramichi River has in recent years seen decreasing salmon stocks which is leading to a decrease in the numbers coming to fish along the river. The region has executed different strategies to help in the regeneration of the river. A catch and release program has been implemented, the Miramichi Salmon Association has formed, and a Watershed Management Committee established, all in an effort to help save the river's ecosystem.



Maps courtesy of Statistics Canada, Geography Division, 1998

Characteristics in 1996	Blissfield	New Brunswick	Canada
Population	674	738 133	28 846 760
1991 to 1996 population change (%)	4.2	2.0	5.7
% of population ages 15 and over	84.3	80.4	79.5
Unemployment rate	46.9	15.5	10.1
Participation rate	59.4	62.2	65.5
% Primary industry	31.0	7.4	5.6
% Secondary industry	20.7	19.8	20
% Tertiary industry	46.5	72.9	74.4
Average number of persons in married or common-law families	2.9	3.1	3.1
Average number of persons in lone-parent families	2.2	2.5	2.6

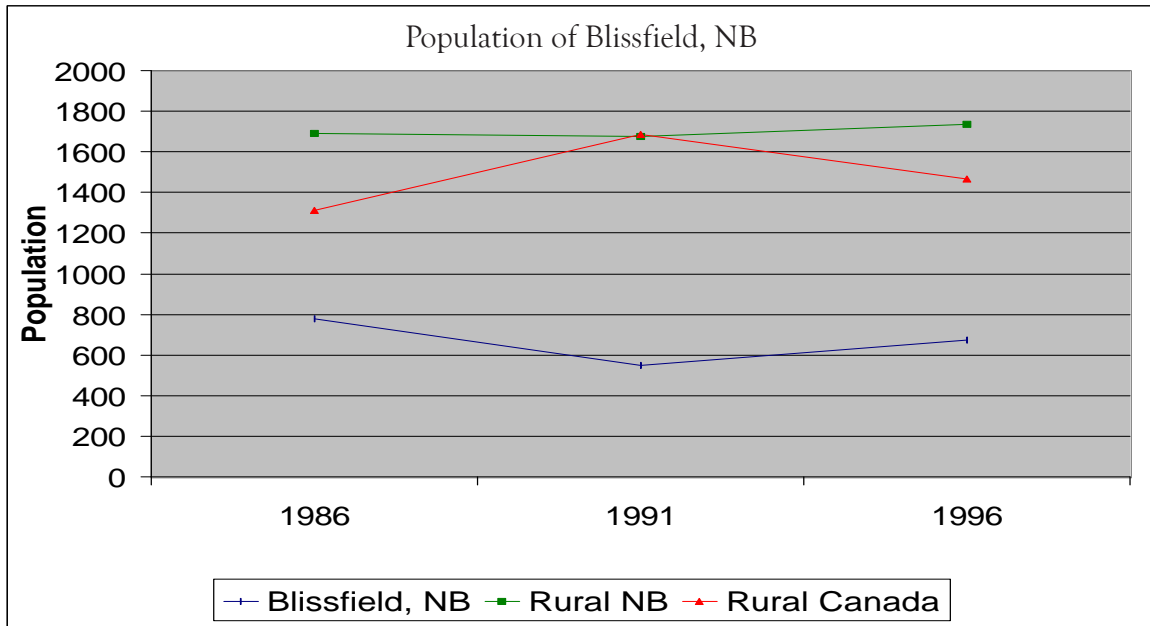
Source: Statistics Canada

The New Rural Economy Project  
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 Telephone: (514) 848-2139  
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 Internet: <http://nre.concordia.ca>

The New Rural Economy project is a research and education initiative of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit association dedicated to improve the quality of life for all rural Canadians.

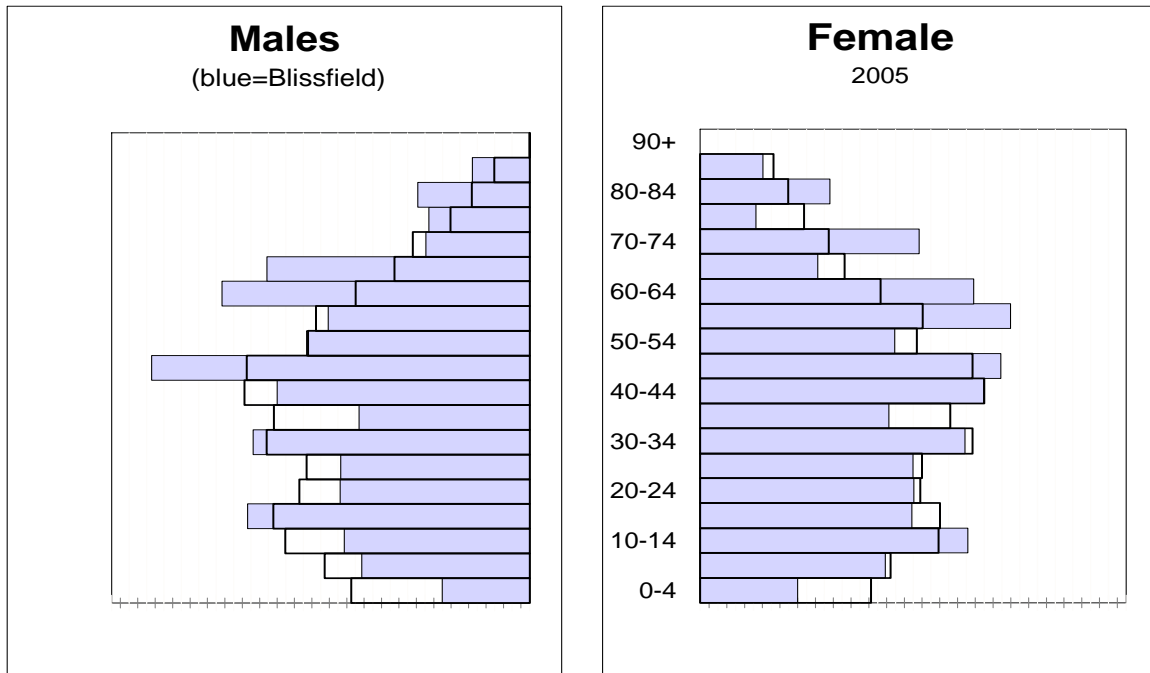


## Population in New Brunswick and Rural Canada



The Population of Blissfield, despite a slight increase over the recent years, remains well below that of rural Canada, including rural New Brunswick.

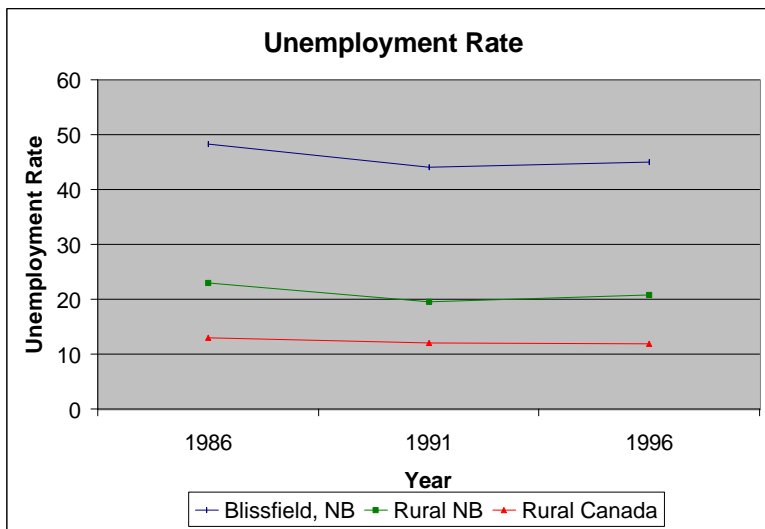
### Population Pyramids\* of Blissfield vs. Rural New Brunswick



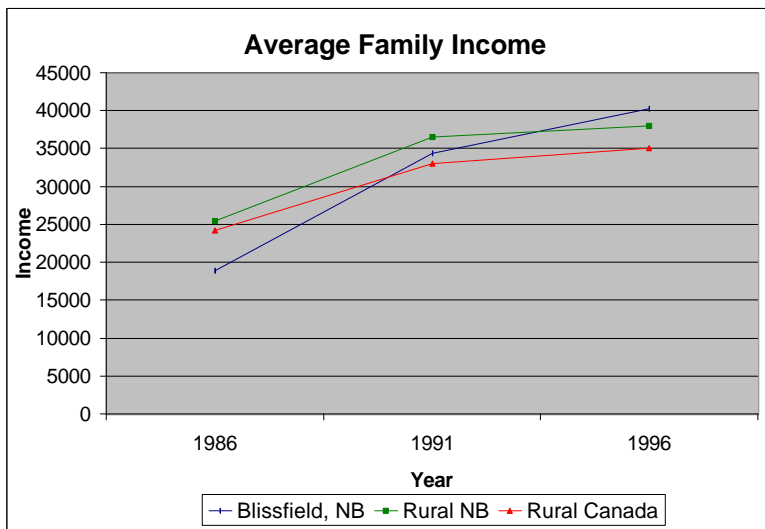
Blissfield will have many more older people than other rural New Brunswick communities especially among males in their 60's. Other communities in rural New Brunswick will also have many more people under age 40 than Blissfield especially among males.

\* Population pyramids are graphs used in social science to show how a population of people is spread out over various age groups. The percentage of people in each age group is represented by a bar. Usually, age groups are along the bottom of the graph and the percentages are on the side, but in this case the pyramid has been turned. Population pyramids are easy to read, providing people with information about what a population looks like and the direction which the population is taking. Normal populations are shaped like a pyramid with a large percentage of young people at the bottom. Rural Canada has a larger older population than a typical urban population. This means that rural Canadian communities should prepare themselves with services and programs to fit an older population.

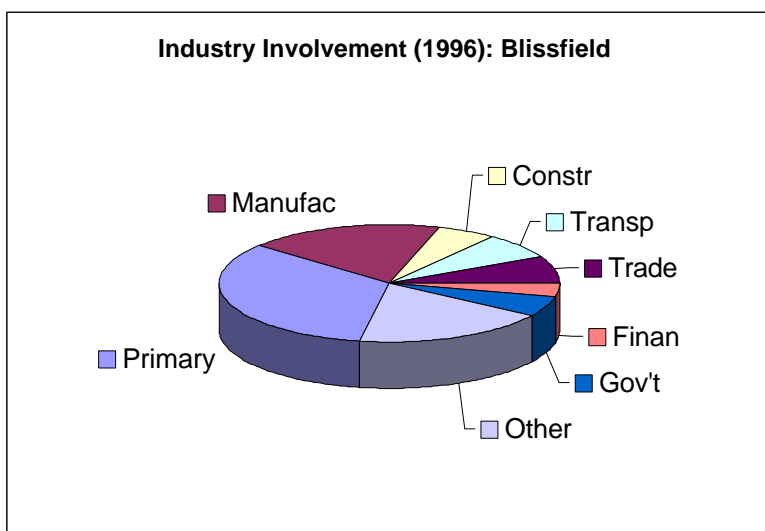
## Blissfield, NB: A Comparison with other Rural Communities



Unemployment rates in Blissfield continue to ride high, placing well above rates in rural New Brunswick and the rest of rural Canada.



Consistent with cross-country trends, the average family income in Blissfield has risen over the past 15 years and is now slightly higher than incomes in rural New Brunswick and the rest of rural Canada.

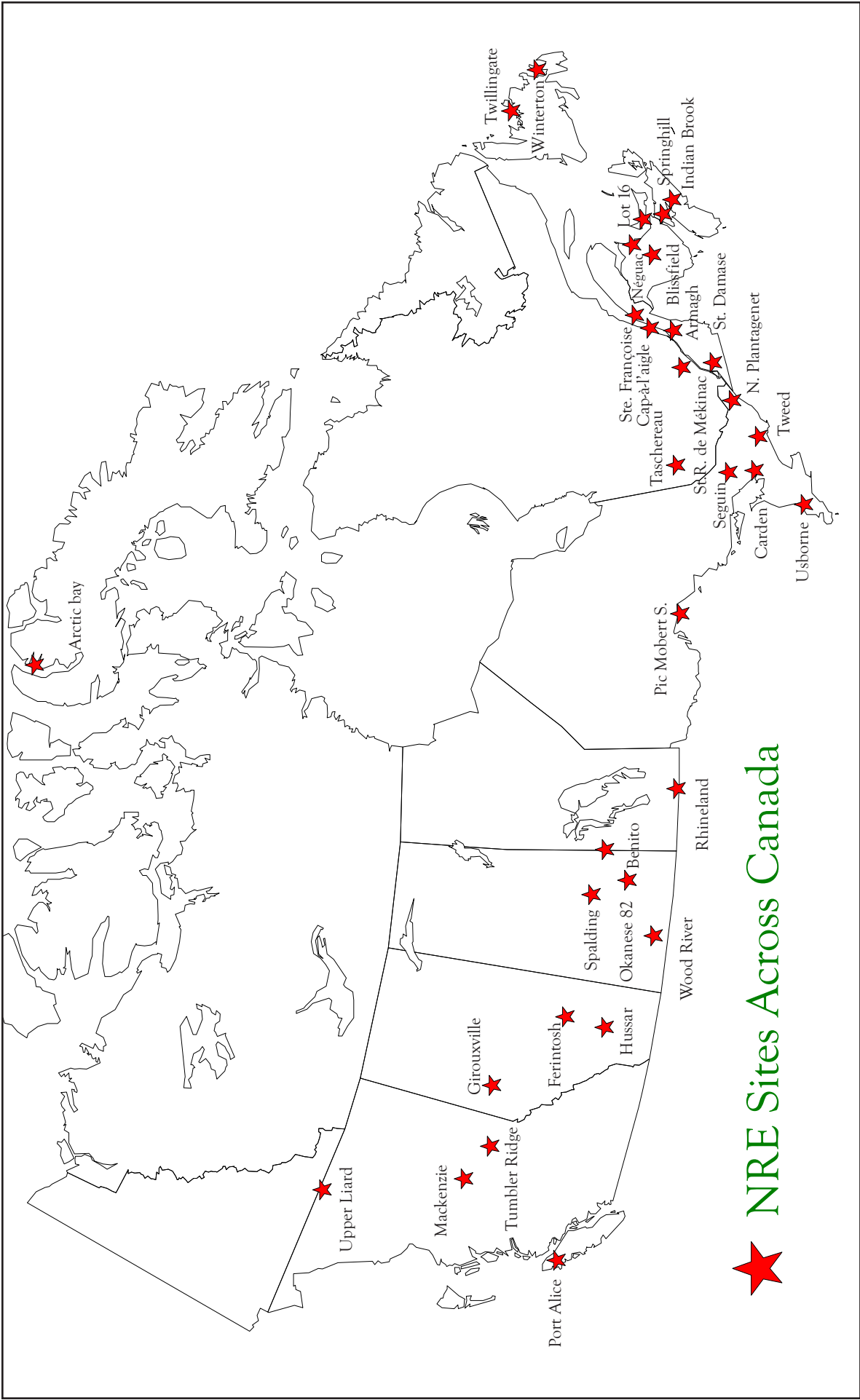


The community of Blissfield has a large number of people employed in primary industry as well as the manufacturing sector.

Every five years, a Canadian Census is done by Statistics Canada to collect as much information about of the Canadian population as possible. When all numbers are collected, they are put into averages and percentages so interested people can access this information and see the general qualities of a community. We have taken information from censuses done in 1986, 1991 and 1996 to show how unemployment and average household income rates have changed over the past 15 years. From the graphs, you can see how these things have changed in your community and compare them to the rest of rural Canada, including your province.

# The NRE in Canada





★ NRE Sites Across Canada



## Impediments to Research and Education in Rural Canada

### The Special Problems of Rural Research

In addition to the usual research problems several difficulties are intensified in the rural context.

- **Distance:** The distance to rural sites and within those sites increases the costs of the research and makes collaboration between sites more difficult.
- **Social Cohesion:** The higher levels of social cohesion in small communities makes it more difficult to develop the level of trust which is necessary for getting beyond superficial data collection and analysis.
- **Sectoral perspectives:** Much of the traditional approach to rural issues has been sectorally based. This makes it difficult to find support for interdepartmental and interdisciplinary approaches to rural research and education

### The CRRF Approach

For over 10 years, CRRF has been developing its approach to overcome these obstacles in its research and education. The NRE Project and our program of workshops and conferences provide strong evidence for the success of this approach. Its basic elements are the following.

- **Collaboration** with all people and groups concerned with rural issues. This is best represented by our policy of *always holding our workshops and conferences in rural areas with the participation of local people and groups*. This policy proactively overcomes the problems of distance and sectoral divisions while building trust with rural people.
- **Comparative Analysis** at both systematic and informal levels. This is best represented by our *design of a national sampling frame and the selection of field sites using this frame*. This approach allows us to separate the idiosyncratic characteristics of rural sites from those which are common and overcomes sectoral and single interest-driven analysis.
- **Long Term Commitment** to the research objectives and to rural people. This is best reflected in our *selection of field sites and*

“Simply sitting down for a cup of coffee or lunch with people gives them the opportunity to talk out their feelings and opinions about what has happened in town. This more casual or informal approach has allowed us to show people within the community that we have time to listen to them, we want to hear their story, and we care about what they think. Sometimes not having an “agenda” while doing research makes a big difference in the types of information you can collect.” (Field Notes, 1999)

“People within the community now often initiate communication or contact with us about significant events happening in the community. As a result, we have become privy to emerging issues before the media reports the event. These emerging issues are often key to local change and local development.” (Field Notes, 1999)

*inclusion of local people in the research activities.* This approach allows us to overcome the imposition of simplistic approaches, builds trust, and develops a learning culture within and between communities.

## **Impediments Created by the Current Organization of Support**

We have encountered significant problems with the implementation of this approach to rural research and education. Many of them are related to the current ways in which support for rural research and education is organized. Some examples of the obstacles are the following. The first three of these problems are explicitly identified by the “*Perspectives Paper on Community Capacity Building*” as prepared for Natural Resources Canada (March 19, 1999).

- **Short-term Contracts:** Contract arrangements that are limited to 6, 12, or even 18 months create significant problems for establishing the level of commitment necessary to move beyond superficial representations of rural communities.
- **Product-driven Contracts:** Product-driven contracts typically have a narrow definition of “products”. They usually exclude, for example, meetings to resolve local conflicts, focus groups, or local workshops: all activities which help to build capacity, but do not produce immediate products to mark that growth. Most valuable products take a long time and considerable attention to develop.
- **No Core Funding:** Quality rural research requires sustained support to maintain regular contact with the field sites, to provide a consistent presence as a communication centre, and to be able to coordinate events in diverse parts of the country. This requires funding for field researchers, integrative analysis, and project management. *Overhead on multiple small contracts cannot support this need.* Small research contracts (under \$25,000) have been inadequate to provide core funding. With projects this size, all of the funds are typically required for research related to the contract products. *Regionally funded contracts do not support this need* since they are limited to regional interests.
- **Inconsistent Policy on Workshop and Conference Funding:** In spite of the rhetoric regarding the value of Partnership, we have been penalized in our collaboration with others. For example, CRRF and the Université Rurale, responded to the call for Partnership by combining their conference activities, yet CRRF was denied funding on the grounds that money was allocated to the Université Rurale. Such a policy discourages collaboration.

Petroleum and mining exploration, agricultural research, and forestry management all support long periods of time without specific products. Why is it difficult to get the same recognition for social research and education?



## Effective rural policies needed

Public policy has failed to address the concerns of rural Canada, with minor exceptions. Time and again since 1945, successive federal governments ignored or neglected the basic needs of rural regions, applied unsuitable theories, and simply did not understand what rural Canada is.

Rural Canada is more than a string of farming and fishing communities. It is more than a supplier of raw goods. It is closely connected to towns and cities. Rural populations contribute substantially to the national economy.

Rural Canada is home to one-third of Canadians. Cities can not survive without it. Massive amounts of goods and services flow to urban areas in addition to the traditional products of lumber, wheat and fish. The people and their jobs are as diverse and as modern as those in cities.

Unhappily, governments have believed that rural problems are solely resource based. Narrow thinking has generated two types of programs: get the land and ocean to produce more; and give people money in an attempt to make their lives more equal to others. Instead of addressing root problems, band-aid policies tried to close the standard-of-living gap. That didn't work.

### Public sympathy for rural Canada does not translate into policies that are good for rural Canada.

As people continued to move to towns and cities, policy-makers ignored rural regions in order to promote urban industrial expansion. A wave of federal privatization has closed post offices, military bases and rail lines. Provinces have slashed funding to schools and hospitals. In all, rural

Canadians feel battered and betrayed as jobs, services and subsidies have been lost.

A few exceptions exist. Programs with some success have a few things in common: rural communities took initiative and control of the programs; planning was done at the community level; and cooperation with other communities was sought. The goal of these programs was to develop expertise *within* the community, not to import it from outside the community. This is where the future lies.

*These insights are based on a report by Dr. Brett Fairbairn entitled A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policy and Programmes in Canada, 1945-1995). It can be found via the NRE website (<http://nre.concordia.ca>) or by contacting the New Rural Economy Project at (514) 848-2139. The NRE is an initiative of the CRRF.*



## Rural residents require services, but are flexible on distance

People in rural communities do not demand the same ease of access to services as city dwellers. They know that living in the country has its trade-offs. While residents require the same services, they are willing to travel greater distances to reach them. Yet, they have not been well-served by governments that have cut social spending without knowing the rural impact.

**Government services provide economic, institutional, social, cultural and personal support to people in ways that contribute to their well-being.**

These findings are part of a preliminary report on access to government services in rural Canada. Data from 25 communities is used to examine how far rural people are from schools, hospitals, doctors, lawyers, transportation, government offices, second-hand stores, banks, and more.

**Between 1986 and 1996 the average distance to birthing facilities increased from 30 km to 50km in the 20 sites sampled.**

Clearly, a vehicle is necessary to rural residents. Youth and the elderly are most likely to be without vehicles. The average distance is 10 kilometres to a bus stop, 31 kilometres to a train station – the same average distance as it is to a hospital. Distances were longer for communities with a poor economic outlook. In one community, residents must travel 100 kilometres to a hospital. In another, the nearest nursing home is 445 kilometres away. Residents said access to grocery stores and emergency response facilities were the two services most in need of improvement.

Not surprisingly, the closest services are those provided by the municipalities. Playing fields, rinks and libraries are often within walking distance, or just a few kilometres away.

However, residents in communities with a fluctuating economy must travel further for services.

People felt their concerns did not match those of elected officials. While residents are happy to have access to services without a building on site, many elected officials prefer a storefront presence as a source of tax revenue, jobs and proof of their community's strength.

*This information is taken from the study entitled "Access to Government Services in Rural Canada". Copies of the report can be found via the NRE web site (<http://nre.concordia.ca>) or by contacting the New Rural Economy Project at (514) 848-2139. This research was supported by the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation.*





## Rural Communities Are Shrinking In the Global Economy

### *What does that mean?*

The term ‘global economy’ refers to manufacturing, communications, finance, insurance and business service industries. Local economies, on the other hand, include construction, transportation, retail trade, accommodation, trade, and real estate services. Rural communities exposed to the global economy faced shrinking populations between 1986 and 1996. Statistics Canada data shows that the population of communities depending on industries connected to the global economy decreased by more than 6%. However, communities that were connected to local markets experienced population growth of almost 5% over the same period.

**Figure 1:** Average population change of rural communities by exposure to the global economy

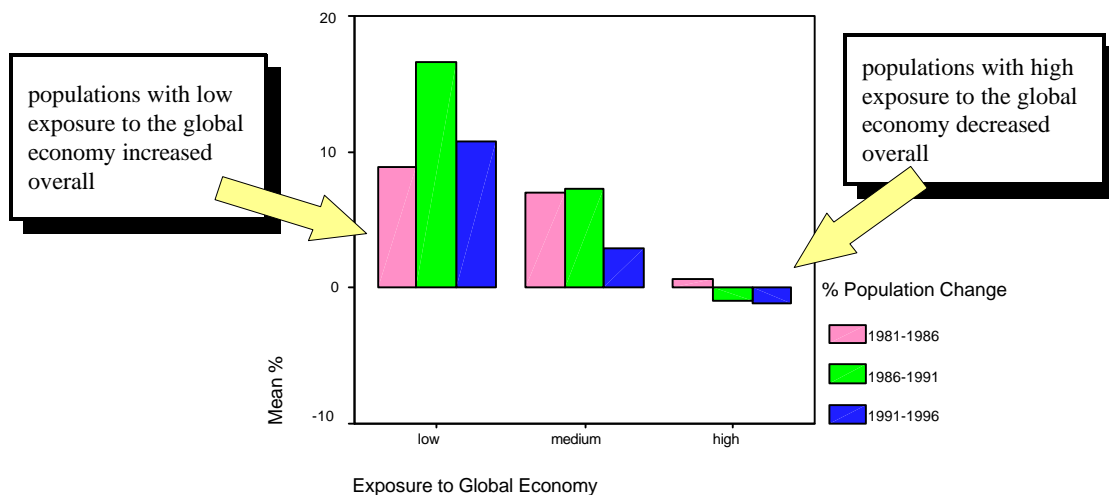


Figure 1 shows how exposure to the global economy can have a negative impact on rural communities, especially when those communities rely on the international trade of resources.

***What options do rural communities have?***

Rural communities that rely on resource trade may have to decide which is more important: a growing population or the money that comes from international trade. The NRE believes that it is a good idea for such communities to consider diversifying their economic interests in order to balance some of the negative effects of global trade. Another option is to prepare their *infrastructure* and services for a declining population.

***Does the government have a role to play as well?***

Provincial and national policy-makers should provide communities with the support required to make the changes mentioned above. In addition, governments should consider what happens to the economic and social life of a community when the population decreases. This means thinking about including the consideration of the social aspects of their economic policies.

These results reflect processes of crucial importance to both rural and urban Canadians. The research and education in the New Rural Economy Project is designed to foster debate on these issues and provide the information that is necessary for the debate.

**How the New Rural Economy Project differentiates  
between the Global Economy and Local Economy**

<p><b>Examples of global economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• primary industries and related services</li><li>• manufacturing</li><li>• communications and other utilities</li><li>• finance</li><li>• insurance</li><li>• business services</li></ul>	<p><b>Examples of local economy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• construction</li><li>• transportation and storage</li><li>• wholesale trade</li><li>• retail trade</li><li>• real estate and insurance</li><li>• government services</li><li>• accommodation, food and beverage services</li></ul>
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## Rural volunteering under threat

Volunteering is a gauge of rural community cohesion. The more volunteering exists, the more likely it is that people have formed strong bonds. Volunteers are rewarded with immediate, positive feedback from those they help and most groups provide direct services that would not exist otherwise, such as fire protection and youth programs.

**Volunteer organizations are essential to the fabric of the community – they are glue that holds together many disparate parts.**

Interviews with 71 volunteer groups in nine rural communities revealed two major problems. First, it is difficult to recruit and keep volunteers. As membership shrinks, the remaining volunteers struggle to maintain services, leaving no time to boost membership. Second, funding operations, programs and special projects are a challenge.

Funding from provincial government agencies is by far the most sought-after source, and many groups rely on the province for operating costs. Municipalities are easier to approach, and may offer office space or publicity, but haven't the dollars. Federal programs seem too far out of reach, and much of their assistance is limited to short-term employment programs.

While close to two-thirds of the volunteer groups had received provincial funding in the past, few secured long-term arrangements. Complex applications for yearly funding are a huge drain on time and energy of volunteers and staff. This limits future planning. Even successful applications can be discouraging. Instead of earning unfettered money for proven programs, groups are often hampered by strings attached to cash. Many are forced to modify their goals.

**40 percent of groups that apply for provincial funding are successful.**

Groups with unsuccessful applications often didn't know why they were refused, or even the criteria upon which their application was judged.

### What would help?

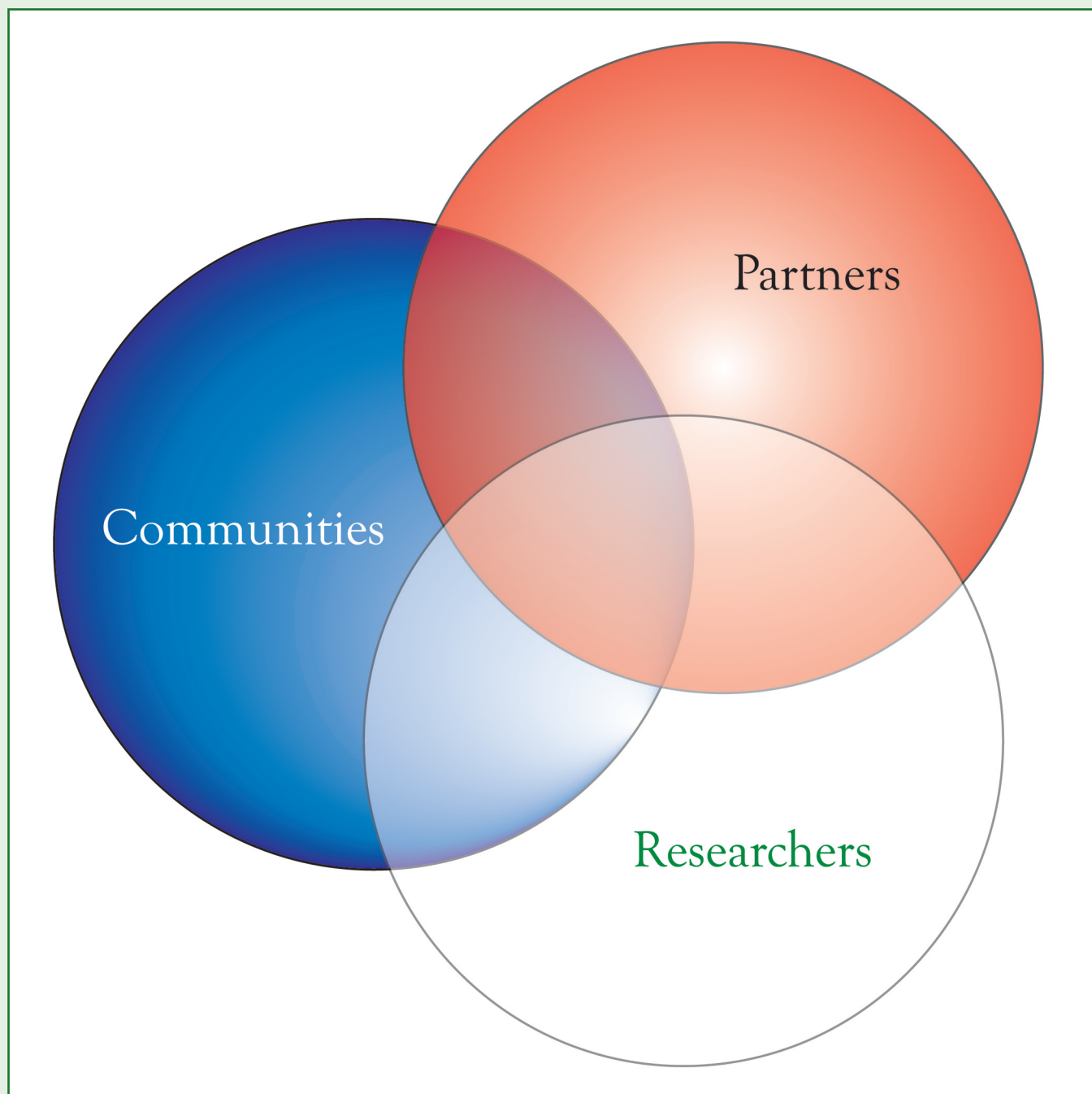
Volunteer groups need information on how to increase membership. Governments must resist the temptation to rely on the Internet until it is more available to rural citizens. They also need to be more open about what makes an application successful.

It would help if all government departments used the same application forms. Even better, government agencies should consider the benefits of committing to long-term funding, and remove unnecessary strictures from grants.

*These insights are based on 3 reports prepared with the assistance of the Canadian Rural Partnerships Program of the Federal Government.*

*Copies of the reports can be found via the NRE website (<http://nre.concordia.ca>) or by contacting the New Rural Economy Project at (514) 848-2139. A guidebook for rural communities is available.*





The 32 NRE Sites:

Winterton, NF  
 Twillingate, NF  
 Lot 16, PE  
 Indian Brook, NS  
 Springhill, NS  
 Blissfield, NB  
 Néguaç, NB  
 Armagh, QC  
 Ste-Françoise, QC  
 Cap-à-l'aigle, QC  
 St-Damase, QC  
 St-Roch-de-Mékinac, QC  
 Taschereau, QC

North Plantagenet, ON  
 Tweed, ON  
 Carden, ON  
 Usborne, ON  
 Seguin, ON  
 Pic Moberg S., ON  
 Rhineland, MB  
 Benito, MB  
 Okanese 82, SK  
 Spalding, SK  
 Wood River, SK  
 Hussar, AB  
 Ferintosh, AB  
 Girouxville, AB  
 Tumbler Ridge, BC  
 Mackenzie, BC  
 Port Alice, BC  
 Upper Liard, YK  
 Arctic Bay, NV

*Participating Research Organizations:*

Concordia University  
 Dalhousie University  
 Laurentian University  
 Memorial University  
 Northern and Rural Health Research Institute, Laurentian University  
 Peer Diagnostics Ltd., Alberta  
 Rural and Small Town Programme, Mount Allison University  
 Sir Wilfred Grenfell College  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of Guelph  
 University of Manitoba  
 University of Moncton  
 University of New Brunswick  
 University of Northern British Columbia  
 Université du Québec à Montréal  
 Université du Québec à Rimouski  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières  
 Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

*Partners:*

Alberta Agriculture Initiatives Program  
 Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency  
 Agricultural Statistics Division, Statistics Canada  
 Arkleton Centre for Rural Research, Scotland  
 Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, Dalhousie University  
 British Columbia Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives, and Volunteers  
 Centre for the Study of Cooperatives, Saskatchewan  
 Chaire Desjardins en développement des petites collectivités,  
 Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
 Canadian Rural Partnership  
 Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment  
 Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
 Government of Ontario  
 Government of Newfoundland  
 Government of Alberta  
 Human Resources Development Canada  
 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
 International Association for Comparative Research into Rural Community Sustainability  
 FedNOR, Industry Canada  
 Institute for Rural Revitalization in the 21st Century, Japan  
 Interdepartmental Working Group on Rural Canada  
 "Coasts Under Stress" Research Project  
 Northern Health Research Centre, Laurentian University  
 Natural Resources Canada  
 Office of Rural Health, Health Canada  
 Pacific Resources Centre, Vancouver  
 Rural and Small Town Programme, New Brunswick  
 Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada  
 Rural Development Institute, Manitoba  
 Social Science and Humanities Research Council

The New Rural Economy Project builds links between researchers, government and private sector partners, and community residents who share a common goal of addressing the changing needs of rural Canadians. The project helps combine resources for research and suggests policies to revitalize rural communities. Above all else, the NRE is committed to helping communities help themselves.



\*\*\* The NRE Rural Data Centre \*\*\*

<http://nre.concordia.ca>

## Information Available

### Census-Based Information

*Census Subdivisions* (1986, 1991, 1996)

Census information at the level of census subdivisions (CSD) is available for all of Canada. We have this data for 1986, 1991, and 1996. It has been used to prepare an update to the Rural Canada Profile of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Rural and Remote Canada (cf. NRE Web site).

*Constant Boundary CSDs* (1986, 1991, 1996)

In addition, we have created a subset of the CSD data files including only those CSDs that have had no boundary changes over the three years. This allows comparisons to be made on a longitudinal basis.

*NRE Field Site Census Information* (1986, 1991, 1996)

A special file has been prepared for the 32 NRE field sites (plus Blenheim, ON). It includes all of the CSD information for these sites

The list of variables in these databases is provided on the NRE web site. It includes rural/urban classifications based on OECD, HRDC, and Statistics Canada categories.

The census-based information in raw form is available to NRE researchers at those institutions that have agreements with the Data Liberation Initiative of Statistics Canada. It is in SPSS format.

### Taxfiler Information

We have information from the 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 taxfiles for all of the 32 NRE field sites plus Blenheim, ON. This contains primarily income data, but includes some information regarding family structure as well. It was used to prepare a report on taxfiler data (cf. NRE web site)

The taxfiler information is available to NRE researchers in SPSS format.

### NRE Site Profiles

This datafile includes all of the information collected during the first stage of the NRE project. 25 of the 32 field sites have been profiled. The information includes historical descriptions of the sites, physical services and infrastructure (sewage, water, media, internet, roads), detailed information on social services (availability and access), local businesses, trade, community prospects, resource base, amenities, and major demographic changes. It was used to prepare the report on access to government services (cf. NRE Web site).

These data are available to NRE researchers in Filemaker Pro format with a subset of information in SPSS format. Filemaker Pro can be used to produce Excel, Lotus, and Quattro Files.

### **NRE Study of Voluntary Associations**

This datafile includes information from 9 of the NRE field sites regarding voluntary organizations: their goals, structure, activities, membership, finances, clients, challenges, networks, resources, and issues regarding government funding. It was used to produce the reports on role of voluntary organizations in rural Canada (cf. NRE Web site).

These data are available to NRE researchers in SPSS, Excel, Lotus, or Quattro format.

### **NRE Site Data - summer 2000**

These datafiles include information from key informants in 20 of the NRE field sites regarding:

- characteristics of small and medium-sized enterprises;
- characteristics of cooperatives;
- characteristics of important local institutions;
- important events in the history of the site;
- the role of the voluntary sector; and
- impressions of the site.

### **NRE Site Study of Community Capacity - summer 2000**

This datafile includes interview transcripts and survey data regarding community capacity from 9 of the NRE study sites.

### **NRE Site Flyers**

These flyers provide brief descriptions of each field site in the NRE sample. They include selected population, family, and economic data for each site, a map, and photograph. They are available through the NRE Web site.

### **Photo Gallery**

The NRE Web site includes a photo gallery for several of the field sites and other NRE-related activities.

For more information on the NRE Rural Data Centre, please communicate with Bill Reimer, (514) 848-2139, [reimer@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:reimer@vax2.concordia.ca) or Roger Desormeaux, Data Curator [nre@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:nre@vax2.concordia.ca)

The NRE Data Centre is supported by the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, Statistics Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, and Concordia University.

# Understanding the New Rural Economy: Options and Choices

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January, 2001

### Administrative Infrastructure

1. **Research Business Plan** prepared
2. Steering Committee established: P. Apedaile; T. Beckley; D. Bruce; G. Halseth; B. Jean; B. Reimer; D. Wilkinson.
3. Data Curator hired (Roger des Ormeaux)
4. Network of Researchers established: 22 core researchers; 18 universities
5. Initial Partners Welcomed: HRDC, Rural Secretariat, DIAND, Statistics Canada, OMAFRA, FedNOR, Gov't of NFLD, Alberta Government, Centre for the Study of Cooperatives, Concordia University, McGill University

### Research Products

1. **Sampling Frame** designed and **32 Sites Identified** on 5 critical dimensions:
2. Data Centre expanded with site profiles, reports, photo gallery, and other research tools
3. **Site Profiles** prepared for 25 field sites
4. **Rural Canada Database** under development (1986, 1991, 1996)
5. Report: **A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policy and Programmes in Canada, 1945-1995**
6. Report: **Analysis of Leading and Lagging CSDs in Rural Canada**
7. Report: **Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities: An Exploratory Review**
8. Report: **Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada: Field Site Findings**
9. Report: **Predictability and Trapping: Under Conditions of Globalization of Agricultural Trade**
10. Report: **Review of the Literature Relating to the Role and Impact of Government Involvement in Rural Canada**
11. Book: **Dynamics of the New Rural Economy: An Exploration of Community-Sponsored Research from Huron County** (edited by Tony Fuller and Paul Nichol, 1999) Guelph: University of Guelph
12. Report: **Voluntary Organizations in Rural Canada: Survey Results**
13. Report: **An Education Strategy for Voluntary Organizations in Rural Canada**
14. Report: **Leading and Lagging Sites in Rural Canada: a Literature Review**
15. Report: **Leading and Lagging CSDs: Statistical Summary**
16. Report: **An Analysis of the NRE Sample Sites Using Taxfiler Data**
17. Report: **Self-Employment in Rural Canada: Statistical Summary**
18. Report: **Rural SMEs: A Review of the Literature**
19. Report: **Cooperatives in Rural Development - Literature Review**
20. Report: **A Sample frame for Rural Canada: Design and Evaluation**
21. Report: **The Role of Small Businesses in Community Economic Development**
22. Report: **The Long Run Role of Institutions in Fostering Community Economic Development: A Comparison of Leading and Lagging in Rural Communities**
22. Book: **Gouvernance et territoires ruraux. Éléments d'un débat sur la responsabilité du développement.** (Sous la direction de Mario Carrier et Serge Côté, 2000) Ste Foy: Presses de l'Université du Québec
23. Report: **How Researchers Approached Communities and Implemented the Protocols in 26 Sites Across Canada**
24. Report: **Factors of Growth in Rural Regions: Identifying Policy Priorities - Canadian Case Studies**
25. Network/Learning Forums: **CRRF National Workshops** (North Bay ON, 1997; St. Donat QC, 1998; Newtown NF, 1999; Nanaimo BC, 2000) **CRRF National Conferences** (Charlottown, PEI, 1997; Nelson BC, 1998; Trois Pistoles QC, 1999; Alfred ON, 2000)

### Current and Planned Projects

1. Conceptualizing and Measuring Community Capacity
2. Complex and Dynamic Systems in Rural Canada
3. Social Cohesion in Rural Canada
4. NRE Annual Spring Workshop (Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB April 28 - May 3, 2001)
5. CRRF National Conference (St. Peter's College Meunster, SK: October 21-27, 2000)

NOTE: items in **bold** can be found via the CRRF web page: [www.crrf.ca](http://www.crrf.ca) or the NRE web page: [nre.concordia.ca](http://nre.concordia.ca)  
Items in *italics* are available to NRE researchers and partners via the NRE web page



**NRE**

**THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY**

## Coming Attractions.....

### Summer Research:

NRE Researchers are preparing to return to do household surveys in twenty communities in Summer 2001. We will be continuing our research on:

- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Community Capacity
- Social Cohesion

PLUS, we will be investigating new areas, such as:

- Health Care
- How rural agricultural communities have adapted to change

### Fall Conference:

Why not join us at our October 2001 conference in Muenster, Saskatchewan?

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The NRE Project is an initiative of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation



The New Rural Economy: Options and Choices  
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