



2. Primary industries are shedding labour

Resource-based industries are continuing to replace people with machines, requiring fewer people to be employed even as the level of production has increased. Thus, many resource-based communities are continuing to experience population declines.

Implications: These communities need to find something new to export or sell to maintain their employment base (because the resource-based industries will keep shipping more and more commodities with less and less labour). In the long run, continuous reliance on mechanized resource-based industries is expected to increase wage and income disparity between these industries and other sectors within rural communities (Heckscher-Ohlin, Polèse and Shearmur).

Strategies to consider:

- Find new potential regional, national, or global markets for potential new products and services.
- Identify new products or services that can be produced in this community and sold into these markets.
- Build local skills for the new products and services

Questions to ask:

- What are possible metro niche markets that entrepreneurs can sell into (or that metro residents would come to buy, such as a riding school, mental health centre, or a white water rafting experience)?
- What local skills are available for creating new jobs?
- What local “assets” can the community enhance or build?
- What municipal, provincial, or federal government policies or programs would facilitate the implementation of the above strategies?